

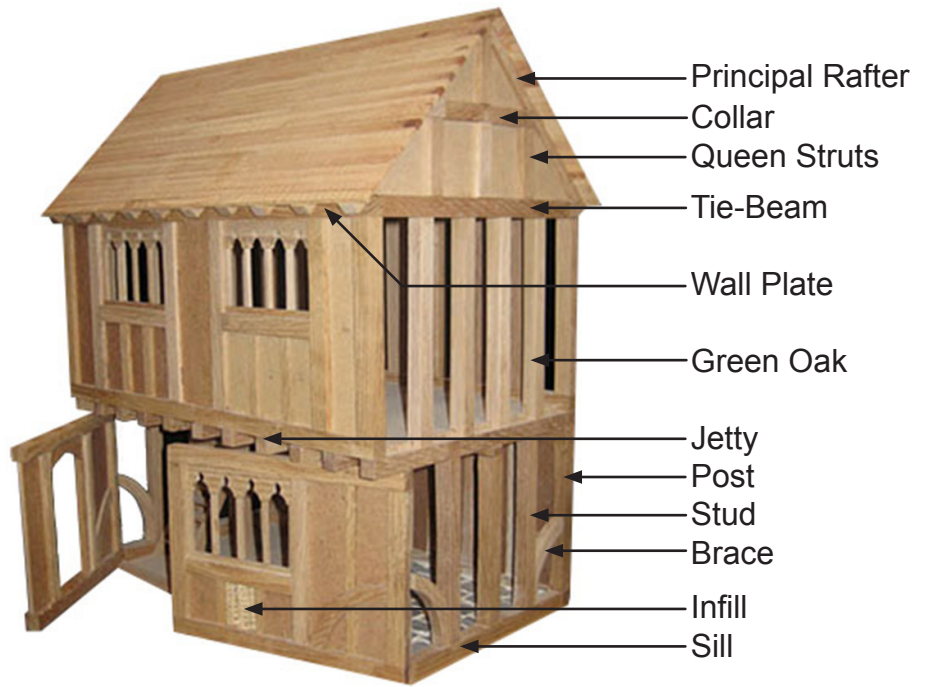
Construction

Most of Britain was a vast forest until cleared by man, timber was therefore the main construction material for millennia, with styles developed locally.

Many large oak framed houses have survived whilst the cheaper peasants dwellings have long since rotted.

Other materials used for construction were local, such as clay based Cob in the West Country.

Clay was then formed into blocks and fired as the Romans had previously done.

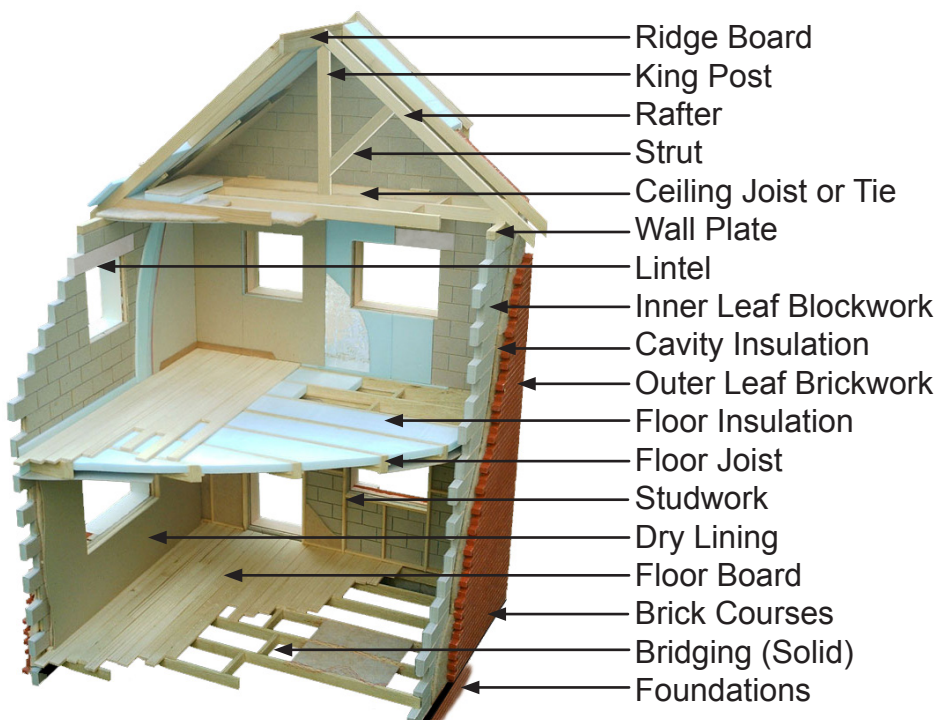


Bricks eventually became cheaper than wood throughout the country.

Early walls were of 9" solid brick, mainly with an English bond of one course stretchers followed by a course of headers.



Cavity walls were introduced in the 1880s and became common place by the 1920s due to their increased resistance to driving rain and their speed of construction.



The industrial revolution saw the introduction of steel framing that allowed more flexibility in design.

Structures can use a space frame consisting of homogeneous components.

Whilst larger buildings tend to use primary and secondary beams or even tertiary beams, sometimes made of wood.

