

Crafts, professions of excellence

STOVE MAKING

Related professional – Jan Křivonožka
Workshop : Kamnářství Křivonožka



Stovemaking is one of the oldest crafts and was formerly associated with the pottery profession. The craft came to the Bohemian Kingdom in the 13th century, but did not begin to spread until the 15th century. Until the 19th century, tile stoves were mainly built by nobility, merchants and wealthy people in their homes or castles. It wasn't until after 1800 that the stove entered the classic home and led to it practically becoming part of the urban dwelling, which is why we often find them in brown or green colors from that era. After the Second World War, requests began to decline as the general trend directed towards central heating. Moreover, stoves were seen as a bourgeois relic. At the end of the

1990s there was a dynamic development of the stove-making profession, when people started to buy stoves for their cottages. This helped to create the forgotten stove-makers' guild.

What are the skills and expertise of professionals in this profession?

Professional knowledge, such as locksmithing elements in construction, technology of tile work, designing and creating technical documentation by computer (CAD etc.), knowledge of

refractory building and ceramic materials, technology of masonry work, work safety, fire protection and work hygiene related to masonry work, technical drawing in construction.

Skills: computer competence, competence to drive a car, economic competence, creativity, independence, reading and working with technical drawings, dexterity.



Which materials are used in this craft? Are they local materials?

Ceramic material (fireclay, stove clay, tiles), glaze, bricks, sand and clay.

Stove clay can usually be purchased in the local areas where the stove maker works.

What specific tools are used in the craft?

There is a ceramic mould for the individual stove and a wooden plate for pushing the stove out, a stove kiln, a glaze, a space for the fired stove to cool, a spoon and spatula, a hammer,

What markets are related to this profession?

Interior design, music and instrument making, construction, fashion accessories, art, set and sound design, sports, other.

Describe how the craft is involved in the markets offered above.

Stoves are part of the construction industry, as a type of heating and in some cases, also replace electrical appliances for cooking. Interior design is the creation of specific interiors where the tiled stove serves as a design element. The art is linked to the uniqueness and artistic concept of each stove.

What other sectors are these crafts linked to or can work with?

Tourism, cultural heritage, cultural buildings, stove firing industry, stove clay industry.



Is there a formal education available to teach this craft in your country/region?

Secondary Vocational School of Construction and Horticulture in Jarovo, Prague.

<https://www.stredniskoly.cz/skola/600017702.html> - Secondary School of Construction and Woodworking, Ostrava

<https://www.spsstavebni.cz/> - Střední industrial school of construction Pardubice

<https://www.skolajarov.cz/> - Secondary Vocational School Jarov

<https://www.souplzen.cz/> - Construction School Pilsen

If there is a "Guild", please provide its name and web link.

Yes, there is a Guild of Stove makers of the Czech Republic:

<https://www.cechkamnaru.cz/>