

Crafts, professions of excellence

WOOD CONSTRUCTION IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Related professional: Vojtěch Zadina

Workshop: Wood construction Vojtěch Zadina

Wooden buildings are as much a part of our culture as folk costumes or Christmas traditions. For centuries, people have lived in buildings made of wood to provide shelter from the weather and enemies. A house made of oak poles intertwined with branches with a primitive truss appeared in our latitudes around 4000 BC, during the Early Stone Age. This ancestor of today's wooden houses was built at a time when the population abandoned the nomadic way of life and took up farming. Many years later, at the turn of the millennium and in the early Middle Ages, the Celts in our territory built light wooden buildings with stone foundations and a gable roof reaching down to the ground. For example, the remains of the Celtic oppidum Závist on the southern outskirts of Prague have been preserved to this day. From around the beginning of the Middle Ages, there was a greater differentiation of dwelling types depending on the material available at certain latitudes. While stone and earthen houses were being built in the south of Europe, wood craftsmanship, new technologies and the construction of dwellings and sacred buildings made of wood developed in our country. A new way of building a house using solid timber construction is emerging - timber framing. Timber-framed buildings are made up of a system of horizontally stacked beams later joined at the corners by a herringbone bond and sealed with moss and earth. In the High Middle Ages, a new technology of timbering came to us together with German settlers. The timber-framed buildings (half-timbered buildings) can still be seen today in western Bohemia and the borderlands. While wooden buildings remained in the countryside, in the towns they were replaced by stone and brick buildings over time, mostly as a result of the unfortunate experience of large-scale fires. However, wood is still used in the construction of partitions, ceilings and roofs.



Source: *KELTOI, obč. sdružení. (n.d.). Archaeopark Prášíly. keltoi.cz.*
<https://www.regiontourist.cz/co-podniknout/archeopark-prasily/>



Source: Roubenka Branná. (n.d.). Roubenka Branná. www.ceskehory.cz.

<https://roubenka-branna.cz>

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

Communication is a very essential skill, as construction is always about collaboration and effective task assignment.

The choice of materials, processes, tools, machinery and equipment is also essential.

Technical reasoning: measurements, calculations and drawings.

Reading and using technical documents - drawings, instructions and work procedures.

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

Gypsum board, osb board (Oriented Strand Board), Medium-density fibreboard" (MDF), wood panelling and deck boards. But in modern construction, a myriad of different insulation materials, plastic components and the like are also used.

What markets are associated with these professions?

Interior design, conservation. General construction - every truss is essentially a timber building.



Source: Miroslav Jančík. (2020, January 11). Reconstructed Libušín.
https://www.idnes.cz/zlin/zpravy/chata-libusin-pozar-obnova-barva-pustevny-beskydy-jurkovic.A200109_525437_zlin-zpravy_ras

Describe how wood construction is involved in the markets offered above.

Timber buildings are included in almost 95 percent of buildings overall.



Source: Dřevovýroba Wimmer. (n.d.).
Construction-roof-manufacturing-wimmer-woodmaking.
<https://drevovyrobawimmer.cz/krovy/>

What other sectors are wood buildings associated with, or can they work with?

timber harvesting, forestry, architecture and construction, arts and crafts, recreation

What formal education is available to teach this craft in Czech Republic:

Brno Polytechnic Secondary School
<https://www.jilova.cz/pro-uchazece/obory/maturitni/drevostavby/>

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

Wood-based construction at Mendel University
<https://ldf.mendelu.cz/studijni-programy/stavby-na-bazi-dreva-2/?rup=aHR0cHM6Ly9sZGYubWVuZGVsdS5jei91Y2hhemVjL3N0dWRpam5pLXByb2dyYW15Lz9wc249Mjc1NCZ0PW1hc3RlcnM%3D&psn=0>

Wood Structures and Wood-Based Buildings at the Faculty of Forestry in Prague
<https://www.fld.czu.cz/cs/r-6825-studium/r-6832-co-muzete-studovat/r-14183-magisterske-studium/r-7555-magisterske-studijni-programy/r-14179-drevene-konstrukce-a-stavby-na-bazi-dreva>

Higher Vocational School in Volyn
<https://www.evolyne.cz/web/>