Traditional Building Crafts Education: A Plan in Progress

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Abstract

The field of Historic Preservation has discovered that craftspeople that are educated in Historic Preservation philosophy and techniques are sorely needed to preserve our nation’s historic structures. Traditional Building Crafts education in the United States has largely been taught through one-on-one apprenticeships\(^1\) or vocational schools. In addition, many training programs were developed ad hoc – after a historic structure had been architecturally compromised. Historic Preservation craftspeople, architects, advocates, contractors, unions and educators, to name a few groups, must collaborate to develop a proactive rather than reactive educational crafts program. In-depth research is still needed to first assess the economic potential for the Traditional Building Crafts industry. The thesis has formed the groundwork for such an assessment as well as a proposed framework for creating Traditional Building Crafts educational initiatives of the future.