

MAKING/HISTORY

The Wooden Synagogue Replication Project

Re-Building a 17th century Wooden Synagogue with the
Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Over 200 magnificent Wooden Synagogues of Poland
were destroyed by the end of World War II.

This travel program is a **ONCE IN A LIFETIME** opportunity for beginning and advanced students from all disciplines to work with an international team to build a 85% scale replica of the Gwoździec Synagogue timber frame roof structure and the vaulted painted ceiling for permanent core exhibition at the **Museum of the History of Polish Jews** in Warsaw, Poland.



Handhouse Studio
www.handhouse.org



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MAKING/HISTORY

The Synagogue Replication Travel Programs 2011

Handhouse Studio / The Museum of the History of Polish Jews

are creating international workshops to build and paint the Gwoździec Synagogue Timber-Frame Roof Structure and Wooden Painted Vaulted Ceiling for Core Exhibition at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Poland.



The 1/2 scale study of the north Gwoździec Synagogue ceiling, painted in a Handhouse Studio workshop - 2006

Timber Frame Roof Travel Program Schedules- 18 day workshops

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Group 1 - May 23 - June 12

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Group 2 - May 31 - June 18

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Group 3 - June 13 - July 1

University of California San Diego

Group 4 - June 13 - July 1

Painted Ceiling Travel Program Schedules - Tentative

Maryland Institute College of Art

Group 5 - July 3 - July 21

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Group 6 - July 21 - Aug 8

Oberlin College & Kent State University

Group 7 - Aug 8 - Aug 26



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Course Description:

These travel programs are studio courses open to beginning and advanced students from all disciplines but particularly students of art, architecture, history, anthropology, Jewish studies, material culture, building arts, international studies, and Polish language.

Students will travel to Poland to participate in the Handhouse Studio / Museum of the History of Polish Jews international workshops to create a 85% scale replica of the timber roof structure and polychrome wooden ceiling from the now lost 17th century wooden Gwoździec Synagogue. The completed roof structure will be installed in the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews and become a major part of the permanent core exhibition, set within the stunning architectural space of the Museum's modern building. The Museum is scheduled to open 2013 in Warsaw on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto facing the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising monument.



Architectural rendering of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews , Warsaw, Poland

Timber Frame Workshop Travel Programs, Students will work alongside an international team of traditional carpenters from the Timber Framers Guild (www.tfguild.org), architects, artist, historians and educators to help with the reconstruction of the unique timber frame roof structure of the Gwoździec synagogue using period tools and techniques, as well as experience contemporary Polish life, visit historically important sites, and investigate the varied origins of Polish and Jewish Culture.

Ceiling Painting Workshop Travel Programs, Students will work alongside an international team of architects, artist, historians and educators to participate with the painting of the wooden ceiling panels for the Gwoździec synagogue using traditional painting techniques, as well as experience contemporary Polish life, visit historically important sites, and investigate the varied origins of Polish and Jewish Culture.

MAKING/HISTORY

The Synagogue Replication Travel Programs 2011

The Timber Frame Workshop will be located in Sanok, a charming city on a hill overlooking the San River on the edge of the Carpathian Mountains in southeastern Poland. Students will actively participate in the reconstruction of the 17th Century wooden Polish synagogue roof structure at the Folk Architecture Museum in Sanok, the largest open-air ethnographic architectural museum in Poland. All of the nearly 200, 17th and 18th century wooden synagogues built throughout the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth were destroyed by the end of World War II, yet the vernacular wooden architectural style - both aesthetically and structurally - are still apparent in many other existing wooden structures in Poland. Students will uncover vital Jewish art and architectural history and culture prevalent in Poland prior to its systematic destruction in WWII. The timber roof structure will be installed in the Core Exhibition at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.

The Painted Ceiling Workshops will be located in three cities throughout Poland. Handhouse Studio and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will coordinate with these selected communities to use appropriate existing masonry synagogues in the cities as locations for the workshops of the Gwoździec synagogue ceiling painting. Possible communities include Kraków, Kazimierz Dolny, Sejny, Wrocław, Lesko, Zamość, Szczepieszyn, Łańcut, and Tykocin. These workshop events will serve as teaching platform not only for students creating the paintings, but also for the local community. Demonstrations of the painting process open to the public will bring attention to local synagogues, the history of the people who worshipped in them, and the urgency of preserving existing masonry synagogues throughout Poland like those in which the workshops are being conducted. The ceiling painting will be installed into the timber roof structure as part of the core exhibition at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.



Gwozdziec painted ceiling workshop - Handhouse Studio - 2008



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Course Objective:

- To demonstrate what can be learned about the world of Polish Jews from the process of rebuilding a wooden synagogue, a quintessential expression of Polish-Jewish symbiosis during the early modern period.
- To enlarge the scope of sources and methods for studying the history of Polish Jews and demonstrate how built form is a material expression of social processes shaping the relationship of Jews to people among whom they lived
- To provide a rare opportunity to participate in a historically significant replication project that will become part of a major museum exhibition.
- To provide a rare opportunity for students to dialogue with the public as active participants in the reconstruction of a significant historic object.
- To engage students in a process of reasoning from material culture, by reverse engineering and rebuilding, as a way to understand how core values, concepts, and social relationships are literally crafted into built form.
- To develop understanding of the relationship between technology and culture.
- To learn a wide range of hands on skills
- To show how architectural form materializes the knowledge required to make it.
- To learn values of teamwork and group participation
- To learn about: history of Jews in Poland, history of Poland, material culture, wooden cultural heritage and architecture.

Course Content:

- Hands-on participation and demonstration in workshops.
- Lectures, presentations and discussions
- Field trips to important cultural and historical sites and museum visits
- Cultural activities including period music, dance performances and culinary experiences.

Timber Frame Workshop: Students will actively participate in building the timber frame roof structure, learning a wide range of woodworking skills, timber log conversion, layout techniques, joinery, structure, tool, tool maintenance and safety.

Painted Ceiling Workshop: Students will actively participate in preparation of the panels with traditional gesso, reviewing the archival documentation of the original Gwozdziec ceiling, layout and transfer of the researched images to the panels, preparation of paints and pigments, painting with traditional distemper paints made of pigment and rabbit skin glue, participating in lectures, demonstrations and all stages necessary to complete their painting section.



Gwozdziec timber frame roof workshop - Handhouse Studio - 2006

MAKING/HISTORY

The Wooden Synagogue Replication Projects

The History of the Handhouse and wooden synagogue projects:

Handhouse Studio has been working on wooden synagogue projects since 2004, creating an exceptionally rich knowledge base and a tested educational model for rebuilding the ceiling and roof of the Gwoździec Synagogue through college coursework and workshops on the subject of the wooden synagogues. From 2004 to 2009, Handhouse has developed four college travel programs with Massachusetts College of Art and Design called "Documenting Historic Wooden Architecture of Poland"



2011 - 2012, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and Handhouse Studio will rebuild components of an exquisite 17th-century wooden synagogue. This historic structure will be set within the stunning architectural space of the Museum's modern building. The Museum is under construction on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto facing the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising monument. None of these extraordinary wooden synagogues survive. The Nazis burned the last of them to the ground in 1939. But, we do have excellent documentation that will allow us to reconstruct one of the most beautiful of these architectural treasures, the Gwoździec wooden synagogue. We plan to rebuild its polychrome ceiling and timber-framed roof to 85% scale, using traditional tools, techniques, and materials.

The wooden synagogue is a perfect expression of the Golden Age of Polish Jewry during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Gwoździec ceiling and roof, a centerpiece in our presentation of the 1000-year history of Polish Jews, will extend up from the Core Exhibition into the grand public space of the Museum's modern building. The building was designed by Ilmari Lahdelma and Rainer Mahlamäki of Finland, winners of an international competition, the first in Poland for a public institution. From the Core Exhibition, visitors will look up at the polychrome ceiling, while from the grand public space of this modern building, they will look through a cutaway in the roof and see the marvelous timber frame structure within.

This truly unique project offers an exceptional educational experience. First, we will bring together an international team of students, conservation architects, architectural historians, master timber carpenters, and other experts to recover the knowledge of how to build such structures by actually building the roof structure and vaulted ceiling panels through a six week workshop. Second, we will divide the vaulted ceiling panels into eight sections and we will paint the panels in empty synagogues in eight different locations in Poland. We will encourage participation of local townspeople, with the goal of stimulating local interest in the Jewish past of these towns, connecting Jews around the world that descend from those places with those living there today, and fostering collaborative efforts to preserve the memory of Jewish life in Poland. The Handhouse principle of "learn by building" demonstrates the power of architecture to build community and foster historical awareness and appreciation.



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Handhouse Studio is a not-for-profit, innovative, educational organization that creates adventurous hands-on projects through community-service, building projects with non-profit partners around the world and is a Cooperating Institute with the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Professional and Continuing Education Program. Handhouse creates projects outside of the traditional classroom that energize history through the reconstruction of large historical objects. Handhouse collaborates with educational organizations and institutions providing faculty and students the opportunity to work with scholars, educators, historians, architects, engineers, anthropologists, archeologists, artists, craftsman, and builders in a wide range of historical subjects. Our intense workshops create a dynamic learning experience where everyone contributes to the process and everyone learns.

Handhouse was co-founded by Rick Brown and Laura Brown in 2002. In its few years of operation it has gained international recognition for its pedagogical method of connecting institutions and organizations to carry out bold and complex educational built projects. Handhouse reaches large audiences regionally, nationally, and internationally through exhibitions, lectures, films, workshops, and publications in magazines such as National Geographic, Archeology Today, Smithsonian, Fine Homebuilding, Timber Frame Magazine, South Shore Living, and through local and national news media. Handhouse has collaborated with film companies such as PBS's NOVA, Discovery Channel, England's Channel 4, Frances Channel 5, Czech television, and BBC. www.handhouse.org

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews will present the 1000-year history of Polish Jews and the civilization that they created and is scheduled to open in 2012, Understandably, the Shoah and the void that it has left, have overshadowed this story. By presenting the civilization that Jews created in the very place where they created it, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will convey the enormity of what was lost. Standing on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will honor those who died by remembering how they lived.

The Museum, the first public-private partnership of its type in Poland and joint effort of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, the Government of Poland, and the City of Warsaw, will fulfill its educational mission not only through its Core Exhibition, but also through its Educational Centre, public programs, and facilities, including a resource center, mediateque, large auditorium, two cinematheques, rooms for conferences and workshops, and galleries for temporary and traveling exhibitions. In the Museum's multi-media narrative exhibition, which is more a "theatre of history" than a conventional exhibition of objects, visitors will discover the vibrancy of what was once the largest Jewish community in the world and center of the Jewish Diaspora. The single most spectacular element in the Core Exhibition will be the Gwozdziec wooden synagogue ceiling and roof. www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/index.php?lang=en

The Timber Framers Guild was established in 1984 as a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to understanding and promoting the centuries-old craft called timber framing. Since its foundation, the Guild is proactive in learning through exploration, practice, and archival discovery. Guild workshops, ranging in scope from the construction of a classic 120 foot long covered bridge, to the creation of play structures built in children's workshops, provide the opportunity to learning by doing. These events blend the talents of everyone from professional framers, designers and engineers to interested beginners. Since 1985, the Guild membership has grown sixfold, maintaining a regular program of international and regional conferences, sponsoring project workshops, and publishing a monthly newsletter, *Scantlings*, and a quarterly journal, *Timber Framing*. www.tfguild.org

PROGRAM DETAILS AND POLICY

Participation

This Handhouse Studio / MassArt travel program accepts applications from undergraduate and graduate students and adult education programs at all levels and in all majors. It is a Studio Course open to beginning and advanced students from all disciplines but particularly students of art, architecture, history, anthropology, Jewish studies, material culture, building arts, international studies, and Polish language.

Credit

This course is a 3-credit undergraduate or graduate studio elective through the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Students who want to earn credit must register for *Making/HISTORY: The Wooden Synagogue Project Poland Travel Program - 3DTD 302* through the Massachusetts College of Art and Design with the Cooperating Institution Program Registration Form.

Contact Stephen Clark, Project Manager
Cooperating Institute Liaison, 617.879.7168, sclark@massart.edu.
\$150 per undergraduate credit - \$195 per graduate credit

Travel Program Fee

\$3,300.00 – without credit

The travel program fee covers international flights round trip from Boston Logan Airport to Poland, in-country Poland travel, lodging (generally double or triple occupancy with bath or shower) admissions to museums and sites, and all required activities during program, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), all materials and tools for participating in workshop and a student travel insurance plan. This fee does not cover: tips, personal purchases, any activity that is not a required part of the course and any travel expenses incurred outside the group travel dates.

Flight deviations: Due to group flight purchase restrictions, deviations from the outbound/inbound group flight cannot be guaranteed. Individuals who wish to be considered for a deviation must receive advanced permission from their faculty leader and director of the project. Any and all expenses incurred by a deviation are at the expense of the individual traveler.

Financial Assistance

In most cases, your state and federal financial aid award may be applied toward the travel course fee. Make an appointment with the Office of Student Financial Assistance at your college or university to learn how and for information about loan options.

Responsibilities for Travel Course Participants:

Submission of all required forms, documents and payment by given deadlines.
Adherence to all Handhouse Studio / MassArt travel course program policies, including abidance to the MassArt Student Code of Contact and adherence to the directives and supervision of the travel course faculty/staff leaders during the full period of travel.

Passports

All participants in Handhouse Studio / MassArt Travel Course must possess a passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the expected date of travel. Currently, the processing time for a new U.S. passport application and renewals is 10 – 12 weeks. If you need to renew or apply for a passport, you should do it immediately.

NOTE: Participants who possess a non U.S. passport, may have additional requirements (such as a visa) to travel to a particular country.



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HOW TO APPLY

Application

Your full application for the *Making/HISTORY* Travel Program includes your completed Application Form, Statement of Purpose, and the names and contact information for two references. Forms included in this program package.

March 15 : Application submission deadline . After this date, applications could be subject to a late fee. Upon acceptance, applicant must pay a \$750.00 program deposit fee

April 15: FINAL PAYMENT DUE - with completed health forms.

There are several sections of the travel program. Applicants should select the sections they prefer in order of preference. Placement will be determined by number of openings in that sections and on a first come first serve basis. Applications are reviewed and approved by the faculty leader of each travel section.

All checks made out to:
Handhouse Studio, Inc. - Making History
8 Meadow Farm Way
Norwell, MA 02061

For more information about Handhouse Studio go to: www.handhouse.org.

Any and all questions regarding: *Making/HISTORY*: The Wooden Synagogue Project
Part I -the Timber Frame Workshop in Poland in 2011,
Part II - the Painted Ceiling workshops in Poland in 2011 and 2012 ,

Contact :

Professor Rick Brown
President, Handhouse Studio and 3-D Faculty at Mass College of Art
8 Meadow Farm Way
Norwell, MA 02061
rick@handhouse.org
Richard.Brown@massart.edu
781 354 1218
781 826 7314

For information regarding The Museum of the History of Polish Jews contact:

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett
Leader, Core Exhibition Development Team
Museum of the History of Polish Jews
u. Mazowiecka 13, 2nd fl
00-052 Warszawa
POLAND
bkg@nyu.edu

For information regarding The Timber Framers Guild go to www.tfguild.org



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The Synagogue Replication Travel Programs 2011

Application Form

Making / History: Poland Travel Program 2011 - 3DTD 302

Select travel program in order of preference: - these dates may be subject to change

Timber Frame Travel Programs

- ___ Group 1 - May 25 - June 13
- ___ Group 2 - May 31 - June 18
- ___ Group 3 - June 12 - July 1
- ___ Group 4 - June 12 - July 1

Painted Ceiling Travel Programs

- ___ Group 5 - July 3 - July 21
- ___ Group 6 - July 21 - Aug 8
- ___ Group 7 - Aug 8 - Aug 26

Last: _____ First : _____ Middle _____
(Name must be exactly as it appears on your passport)

Email _____

Permanent Mailing Address:

Number and Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Local Mailing Address:

Number and Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Social Security # ____/____/____ Gender _____

Passport Number _____ Country Issued _____ Expiration Date _____

College /University _____ College ID Number _____

Major / Department _____ Year of Study _____

I certify that the information on this application is correct and I understand that if I am selected to participate in this program I shall be subject to all the rules, regulations and requirements regarding conduct and scholarship at Massachusetts College of Art and Handhouse Studio.

Signature: _____ Date _____



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OF POLISH
JEWS

MAKING/HISTORY

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Statement of Purpose

Please provide a one page minimum typed statement which describes your motivation for participating in this course, as well as how your presence will contribute to the program.

As this course involves living and working with others, you are expected to be a flexible and cooperative member of the travel group. If you have previous experience traveling or working as part of a student group, please include this information.

This statement will be used to determine your appropriateness for this course. Please attach your essay to the application and make sure your name is clearly included on each page.

References

Please provide the names and contact information of two faculty or staff who may be contacted to speak to Making History Travel Program faculty regarding your commitment to this program. Names of faculty we may contact as a reference for you:

1. Name: _____
Department or Area _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____
2. Name: _____
Department or Area _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____

Mail Application, Statement of Purpose, and References to:

Making History - Poland Travel Program
Handhouse Studio, Inc.
8 Meadow Farm Way,
Norwell, MA 02061.



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