

The educational and training center on wooden architecture conservation

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In 2014 the educational and training center on wooden architecture conservation was opened on the basis of the Kizhi Open Air Museum.

The unique experience of the restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration, one of the symbols of Russia, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Kizhi Pogost", has become a prerequisite for the establishment of the center.

The highest level of professional skills of the museum restorers is recognized by domestic and foreign experts.

The team of the museum restorers masters not only traditional carpentry techniques but also modern restoration methods and is ready to transfer the accumulated experience to the future generations.

The training programs are aimed at both professionals, who will be able to raise the skill level getting thoroughly acquainted with all the subtleties of the Transfiguration church restoration, and at those who have just started to comprehend the secrets of carpentry.



The training includes both theoretical and practical lessons under the guidance of experienced masters on the basis of specially equipped workshops of the Carpenter center on Kizhi Island.



In autumn 2014 our center welcomed the first group of students. From the review of the students of the College of Architecture, Design and Reengineering № 26, Moscow:

"The practice program was developed considering all significant aspects referring to restoration and conservation of architectural monuments and museum items. At the same time, the leading experts of the museum trained the students. Information was presented from different perspectives: architecture, history, ethnography, practice, conservation and restoration. The developed course is the unique educational product, which can attract both professionals and newcomers".



At the 39th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (Bonn, Germany) the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Kizhi Open Air Museum signed a Memorandum on cooperation in the field of wooden architecture conservation and restoration.

A year after the beginning of the work of the center we summarize the results. During this period our students have got acquainted with the basic carpentry techniques, learned the history of creation of monuments of the Russian North. They could apply their theoretical knowledge during workshops: learned how to date monuments, measured the structures and made their 3D models, helped to catalog immovable monuments of the main exposition of the museum, and worked in the Carpenter center.

The center was presented at the European Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation "Denkmal-2014" and the All-Russian Conference "Educational tourism and historic and cultural heritage: museum practices and future development – 2015".



From the review of the students:

- "A wonderful and amazing place for the people from the whole Earth to learn about the traditions, architecture and secrets of carpentry" (Civil engineering college, Petrozavodsk)
- "The training is conducted in cooperation with the professionals. It is an ideal process of learning and a place where knowledge obtained at the university can be applied for the first time" (Saint Petersburg State University of Architecture)

Permanent teachers of the training center:



Svetlana Vorob'eva, Candidate of Philology, Head of the Department of History and Ethnography



Alexander Lubimtsev, Head of the Service for Immovable Monuments



Margarita Kisternaya, PhD in Technical Sciences, Expert in the Cultural Heritage Conservation



Andrey Kovalchuk, Head of the Carpenter Center



In spring 2015 carpenter-restorer Markus Wolf (Germany) visited our center. He made a bow member, which will be used for the restoration of one of the Transfiguration Church domes.

"We are amazed at how carefully and thoughtfully the restorers relate to the preservation of culture of historic wooden structures. They give all their skill and energies to it" (M. Wolf).



Andresh Nashleshtadt, experienced restorer (Norway), told the students about restoration of monuments in Norway.



We are waiting for you in our training center from May till October 2016!

Learn more about the training program: <http://kizhi.karelia.ru/info/about/training>.

Send applications to: training@kizhi.karelia.ru. Feel free to contact us with questions: +7(8142) 79-98-18