



NEWS RELEASE

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An International Timber Framing Project at Skansen w Sanoku, the Ethnographic Museum in Sanok, Poland

The Timber Framers Guild is pleased to announce the launch of a major international community-service building project. After 4 years of research and planning we are now funded to mobilize as part of a much larger project undertaken by HandsHouse Studios on behalf of the The Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

May 23-July 1, 2011– All are welcome to join us, stipends and expenses are available for active Guild members qualified to lead. Send an email to polandproject@tfguild.org for the rigorous application particulars.

This unique project offers an extraordinary educational experience. The process will provide an unprecedented opportunity to recover the material cultural heritage of the destroyed wooden synagogues of Poland.

The Project: We are commissioned to build a replica of the complex timberframe and log framing of the roof of Gwoździec synagogue, a remarkable wooden synagogue built in the Polish Lithuanian Empire in 1731. None of these extraordinary wooden synagogues survive. The Gwoździec Synagogue was destroyed during WW-I. We do have some very high quality documentation by Alois Breier from around 1914.

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 of the Museum's presentation of the 1000-year history of Polish Jews, will rise from the Museum's Core Exhibition and soar up into the grand public space of the Museum building, opening in 2013.

We are assembling an international team of timber framers, log builders, students, conservation architects, architectural historians, and other experts to recover the knowledge of how to build such structures by actually building it. Members of the Timber Framers Guild (www.tfguild.org), and our allied organizations in Europe will host the reconstruction of this unique timber framed roof structure using period-appropriate (and contemporary) tools and techniques. This building project will produce, in addition to the roof itself, quality technical data on the regional timber and log traditions, and a documentary film.

The Work Site: The Skansen at Sanok, an outdoor building and cultural museum in the European tradition has an extensive collection representing the typical systems of village and farm life and land, bringing together more than 100 wooden buildings from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, including sacred objects (the seventeenth-century church, two eighteenth-century churches and several picturesque chapels), public buildings (village school, an inn), and industrial facilities (water mill, wind mills, forges). Buildings are fully furnished and open to the project participants. Docents are available for interpretation.

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Learn more about the Guild at <http://tfguild.org/>

Learn more about HandsHouse at <http://handshouse.org/>

Learn more about the Museum at <http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/en/cms/museum/>

Learn more about the Skansen at <http://www.skansen.sanok.pl/>