

HISTORY AND THEORY 2



ASSIGNMENT 2

Dissertation Proposal

M5X01981

W. Holland 1703148

Question:

Do traditional metalworking skills and techniques of the blacksmith have a place within modern architecture?

Introduction

I have always been drawn to the tactile and visual qualities of handmade objects; this inclination, led me to study the ancient craft of blacksmithing, I was lucky to be tutored by master craftsmen taught to control the elemental power of fire to change metals from soulless entities into dynamic materials that can be manipulated to take infinite form. This ancient craft has changed little over the last millennia, but the world outside of the forge has evolved and moved on and the techniques used within the construction industry have changed beyond all recognition, which leads me to the question; is my craft and that of the other traditional crafts still relevant in the modern world?

Methodology

In order to produce a relevant analysis on the state of the craft today, I will look to gather information on the craft skills and techniques and materials used in the construction of architectural iron work on historical buildings and compare these to modern techniques and materials. first-hand information will be collected by conducting Interviews and questionnaires with craftsmen and construction teachers in addition gathering information from architects and quantity surveyors to discover the reasons and views of why they would choose one construction method, material choices and the aesthetic over another when commissioning work.

I will also look for relevant articles within publications and journals to see if there is a wider trend in the demise of skills across the construction industry

Aims and Objectives

The main purpose of this research will be to determine if the craft is in decline or is primed for a modern resurgence.

The objectives will be;

1. Identity the traditional craft skills used within the construction industry.
2. Compare traditional construction methods with the modern alternatives.
3. Try to determine if there is a loss of skills and if there is what are the contributing factors.
4. Identify the reasons architects and QS would or would not choose to commission forge work
5. Identify ways in which the craft could develop to make it more relevant
6. Compare the advantages of traditional methods vs modern methods of construction.

Limitations

There are many factors that will limit the scale of my research;

1. Time; The dissertation will need to be completed 12 months from today in order to be marked as part of my part 1 degree
2. Economics; fiscal resources I will limit my access to paid journals and articles. I will need to utilise free resources through the university and personal contacts. Finances will also limit my ability to conduct interviews in person as well as limit the scope of any questionnaires sent out to gauge the state of the industry
3. Response rate; I will be limited to the level of responses I receive to questionnaires or interviews and I will thus need to make assumptions based on the replies that I do receive.
4. Word count: a fixed word count will limit the scope of both the question, answer and arguments that can be raised.

Ethical Considerations

The ethical elements with regards to the dissertation will be;

1. Data protection, confidentiality
2. Permission to quote primary verbal research.
3. Integrity with citing other people's work when included

Timeframe

I will aim to conduct the initial research over the summer of 2019 with a view to formulate conclusions and a draft version before the end of the autumn term, following a revision I will aim to fill in any weak points and conclude a final version for submission by May 2020.

Conclusion

I hope that in conducting this piece of research I can produce a piece of work which can be submitted to educators and professionals, to help inform them of ways in which they could fill in skills gaps or market traditional methods as an alternative means of construction to help keep the craft alive.

References:

images	
Quotes	

Bibliography

Date Accessed	Source
	Loos, A. Ariadne Press, 1998, "Ornament and Crime: selected Essays" Masheck, J. 2013 " Adolf Loos – The Art of Architecture"