



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Department of Ethnology

Institute of Ethnology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University
National Technical Museum
and
National Heritage Institute

are organizing the International Conference of

Historic Interiors and the Speech of Materials
within the *Speech of Materials* DGP0POVV030 MK ČR project

Date: **October 17–19, 2022**

Venue: **Prague, National Technical Museum, Lecture Hall**

Motto: **Study – Feel – Protect – Share – Develop**

“Each element of historic interior is an irreplaceable multi-layer message for future generations.”

Quality crafted products have been, continue to be and will continue to be an integral part of our lifestyle. They are one of the significant signs of the stylistic development, territorial identification and, therefore, an important proof of the cultural level of society. It is just a deep understanding of the applied material, a sense of functional use and technological skills that, in conjunction with the artistic inventiveness, give the craft products their unique and timeless quality. However, the active practice of many crafts is hastily disappearing and the European production is often replaced by the imports of substitute materials. Apart from the archival sources and living craftsmen, the sources of knowledge of endangered crafts are mainly the artifacts preserved in the rich collections of memory institutions and especially in the authentic historic interiors.

Over the course of five years, the *Speech of Materials* project has monitored the selected endangered crafts and the somewhat neglected craft specializations which are perceived to have an extremely valuable cultural and historical potential. It has mapped the most important examples of the artifacts implemented using the selected historical technologies in the collections of castles and chateaux. The project focused on the written and iconographic sources as well as results of the new technological research and implementation of the knowledge acquired during the rehabilitation of historic interiors, especially of former aristocratic residences. Among the crafts, the predominant trades monitored were construction joinery, parquet laying, furniture making, smithery, plasterwork, staffage – gilding, stove building, upholstery, stained glass, and weaving. In the case of selected crafts, attention was also paid to the typology of individual elements and their preservation in museum collection funds. An integral part of the qualitative empirical research aimed to identify the causes and factors that are the source of transmission, modification or disappearance of the traditional craft technologies.



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In the international debate on the phenomenon of authenticity and its conception in different periods and in different perspectives, the focus on the knowledge of historical crafts and reflection on their current possibilities and prospects in caring for the preserved historic interior is one of the key topics of the care of historical monuments. The final international conference of *Historic Interiors and the Speech of Materials* will address this topic in many contexts.

Topics

I.

Definition of terms – historic interiors, authenticity, original technology, quality of materials

Sources of knowledge – archival sources, iconography, authentic objects

Signifying features – the influence of the quality of applied materials and technologies on the appearance of historic interiors

II.

Building elements as an integral part of the historic interiors

Historic interiors as a source of inspiration for the contemporary lifestyle – quality, lasting values, sustainability

III.

Authentic traditional technologies and materials, their research and use (the fields monitored by the project)

IV.

The impact of detailed knowledge of traditional materials and technologies on the rehabilitation of historic structures (restoration of the immovable and movable monuments)

V.

The reconstruction of historic interiors or parts thereof using the knowledge of original technologies and materials



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The conference will take place in the building of the National Technical Museum in Prague. The last day will be devoted to excursions into the historic interiors of the buildings managed by the National Heritage Institute.

If you are interested in presenting a paper on the above topics, please send the title and the abstract of your paper in 1000 characters (approx. 200 words).

Title and abstract submission deadline: March 31, 2022

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