



FOCUS AREA: Tradition Trades & Materials Use

Wednesday, October 21 Salve Regina 1- 3pm
12:30 Opening Remarks- Kris Turgeon, NRF Historic Trades Manager Elevation as Craft - Why Climate Adaptation Demands a New Preservation Trade Christopher Bailow- Principal Architect, Bailow Architects This talk argues that climate adaptation is not limited by technical capability, but by the absence of an established craft for elevation. It examines how regulatory systems, risk perception, and lack of shared practice create barriers to early action and proposes that elevation is beginning to transition into a new form of preservation work. Drawing on field experience and ongoing research, the presentation reframes buildings as movable systems and preservation institutions as potential incubators for this emerging discipline. By treating elevation as a craft, the work becomes more legible, teachable, and scalable in response to increasing environmental pressure. Timber Frames: Movable, Resilient, Sustainable, Beautiful Arron Sturgis- Preservation Timber Framing, Rick Geddes- Geddes Building Movers This talk will focus on the timber frame as both historic artifact and superb structure for lifting, moving, and repurposing. Traditional timber frame joinery systems will be explored within the context of how easily and effectively they can be moved out of harms way. Specific moving methods and techniques will be presented, explored, and explained. Issues centered on context, adaptive re-use, dismantling, and demonstration will be discussed. Building Resilient Solutions: Reducing Disaster Anxiety Through Action Kerry Shackelford, Courtney Magill- Building Resilient Solutions Building stewardship can lead to anxiety: the rising costs of building materials, balancing budgets between cyclical maintenance and emergency repairs, etc. This is compounded when the stress of the unknown future due to climate change and potential flooding is considered. What keeps anxiety at bay is action; action driven by collaboration and data. Building Resilient Solutions (BRS) has built a lab and a team of professionals that can study specific buildings and building materials. BRS, through several partnerships, has control-tested building assemblies in the lab to know which types of historic and non-historic building materials can weather a storm, resist warping and cupping, and can dry out to be salvaged.
Thursday, October 22 Site Visits- Point Neighborhood 2:30-4pm
Participants will visit flood-vulnerable colonial properties in the historic Point neighborhood and see the physical threats to these structures and adaptation strategies to protect. The drop-in events expand on speaker presentations from Wednesday using NRF colonial-era properties as points of discussion. Properties are a short walk apart. These sessions allow participants to discuss with tradesmen their approach to complex site issues.

51 Bridge Street- ca. 1795 & 1860

Building Resilient Solutions: Moisture Monitoring Demonstration-

Moisture monitoring systems have been collecting moisture data on this property. Field experts will explain how data is collected via their on-site monitoring system, and how these systems identify where water vulnerabilities exist in a building. Presenters will also share results from their testing lab where historic materials were tested again flood scenarios.

American College of Building Arts (ACBA) - traditional plaster and timber framing

ACBA students and staff will bring their expertise to Newport.

- *Water & Rot in Flood Prone Historic Property Basements-* Timber frame instructor, Andrew Vice, will assess the below grade frame of this building and discuss repair options for stability.
- *Plaster vs Drywall- who wins against water?-* ACBA's students will display their plaster skills and discuss the differences in materials use to restore and maintain historic properties.

6 Cross Street- ca. 1720

The Elements of Elevating a Historic Building- Arron Sturgis and Rick Geddes

Based on an assessment of the building structure and surrounding materials, timber frame experts will discuss options for moving this property and others like it.

Concurrent Tours in Point Neighborhood (separate registration is required)

Hunter House Resiliency Tours: Behind the scenes tour of Hunter House (1748), one of the finest examples of Georgian Colonial architecture from the mid-18th century. Located directly on Newport Harbor, the siting of Hunter House is part of its historical significance yet also making it particularly vulnerable to climate change, sea level rise, and coastal storms. The Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC) will share near, mid, and long-term resiliency strategies proposed for the property in a recent study.

Recent Design Projects: Kirby Construction: Join Kirby Perkins Construction for a discussion and tour of recent resiliency projects in Newport. An award-winning construction company serving Southern New England, Kirby Perkins, specializes in historic restoration. Among its project portfolio is protecting and restoring historic buildings from the effects of water inundation and sea level rise, including the recent elevation of the Pitt's Head Tavern in Newport's Historic Point district.

RISING: A Keeping History Above Water Resiliency Walk: Join contemporary artist Ava Reynolds on a guided walk of her current urban exhibition RISING, an installation visualizing sea level rise and presented as part of the *Keeping History Above Water* 10th Anniversary celebrations. Ava's pieces, spread across several NRF flood-vulnerable colonial properties, bring attention to the reach of the flood zone in Newport and the impact of water on the future of historic resources.