

THE ARTISANS OF VENICE (IT)

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The artisans living and working in insular Venice are represented by Confartigianato Imprese Venezia, the trade association founded in 1945 which has provided support for 1500 artisans and small entrepreneurs, promoting the city's manufacturing history and valorising the traditional crafts of the various trade categories, with a specific focus on family-based businesses, who are the motor of the local economy.

An articulated range of services supporting the competitiveness and digital innovation of companies has been added over time to the historical trade union and sector coordination functions. In parallel to this, training activities have been significantly developed, with continuous education courses for members and projects aimed at the preservation and recovery of artistic and traditional crafts, in compliance with the recent regional law no. 34/2018 *Norms for the protection, development and promotion of crafts from the Veneto region*.

The strengthening of artisan activities which are the repository of a know-how that is currently in danger of being lost as a result of contingent difficulties and an insufficient generational turnover, is also functional to the development of a quality strategy concerning maintenance interventions on the built heritage of Venice, since the revival of the use of traditional materials and techniques can serve to oppose the widespread tendency to replace historical structures, especially in the case of non-listed buildings.

It is with this in mind that a series of collaborative initiatives were conceived between Iuav University of Venice and Confartigianato Imprese Venezia which have involved the two institutions in theoretical-operational workshops, visits to production sites and research on traditional worksite practices, as well as in international exchange seminars in collaboration with institutions historically engaged in the preservation of craft heritage and skills.

A Memorandum of Understanding was recently entered upon which is aimed at sustaining the synergy between the academic and artisan worlds, especially with the purpose of activating forms of apprenticeship for architectural students at both artisan workshops and construction companies (scientific supervisors: Angela Squassina, Iuav University of Venice and Enrico Vettore, Confartigianato Imprese Venezia).

The consolidation of the practice of transmitting local traditional knowledge and skills - otherwise destined to be lost forever - aspires to a sort of 'passing of the baton' between the current custodians of Venetian building knowledge and the future generation of professionals entrusted with the preservation of the city's heritage. The cultural and operational involvement of artisans is also part of a careful and attentive approach to the cultural, social and economic dynamics of the area, which could also trigger dynamics favourable to the local labour context.



WEB LINK

www.artigianivenezia.it

USERS

Professionals, students

CREDITS

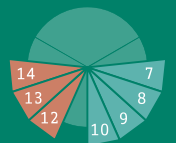
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VERSUS SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

7. Transmitting and sharing building cultures
8. Encouraging creativity
9. Recognising intangible values
10. Encouraging social cohesion
12. Promoting local activities
13. Optimising construction efforts
14. Extending lifetime



Post-graduate students from the Specialisation School in Architectural and Landscape Heritage of the Iuav University of Venice (Italy) together with young students of the School of Construction from Padova during practical tests on traditional building techniques

(credits: Simon Richards, 2022)

Clock restoration phase. Venice, church of Saint Giacometto

(credits: Confartigianato Venezia, 2022)