

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES
(CIVVIH) – ICOMOS

3RD CONFERENCE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

**LIVING IN WOODEN HERITAGE:
REVIVING CRAFTSMANSHIP**

LEAVE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER

Raivis Austrīņš

**STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING
HISTORIC CITIES' RESILIENCE TO
DISASTERS**

SEPTEMBER 10-15, 2025

KULDIGA, LATVIA



CIVVIH
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Background

- Handcrafted timber frames
- Logbuildings
- Conservation and preservation



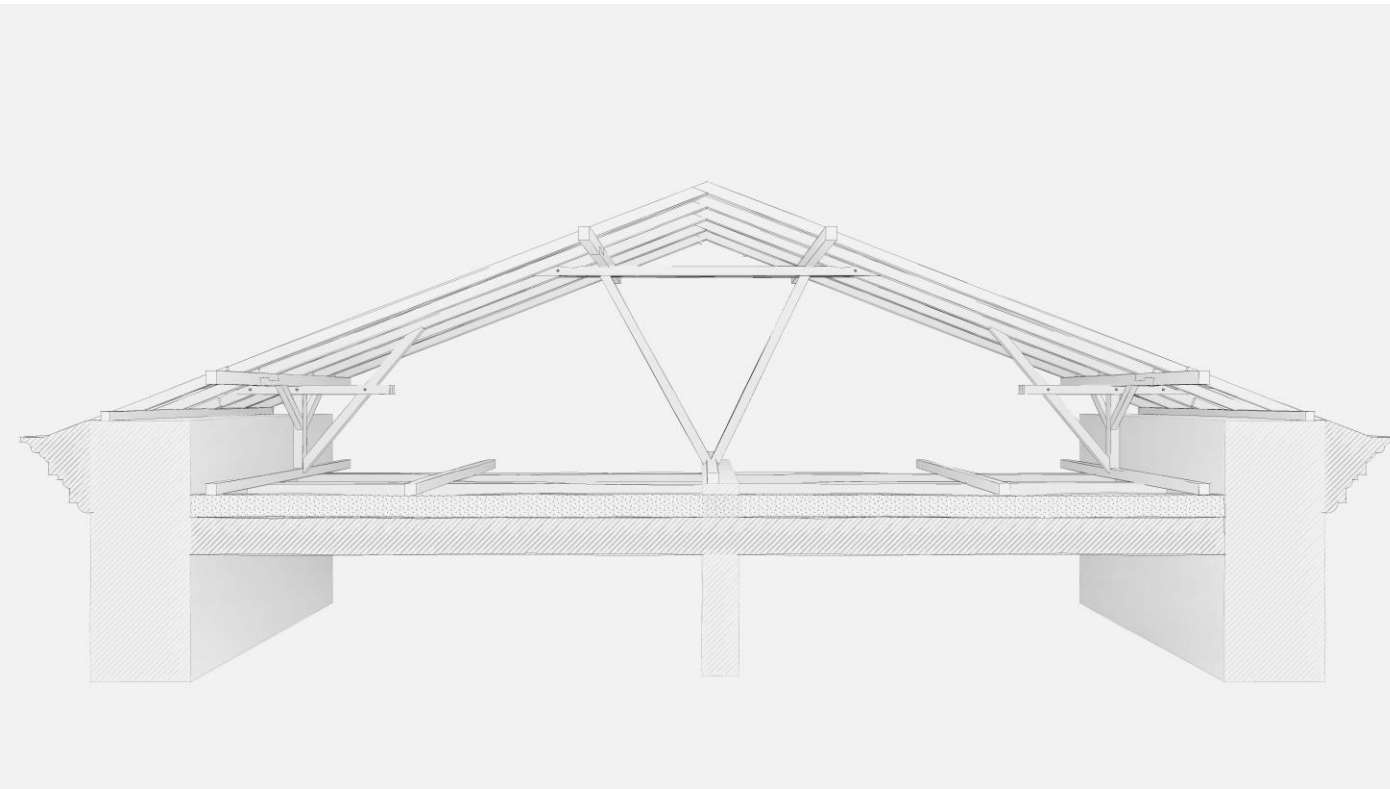
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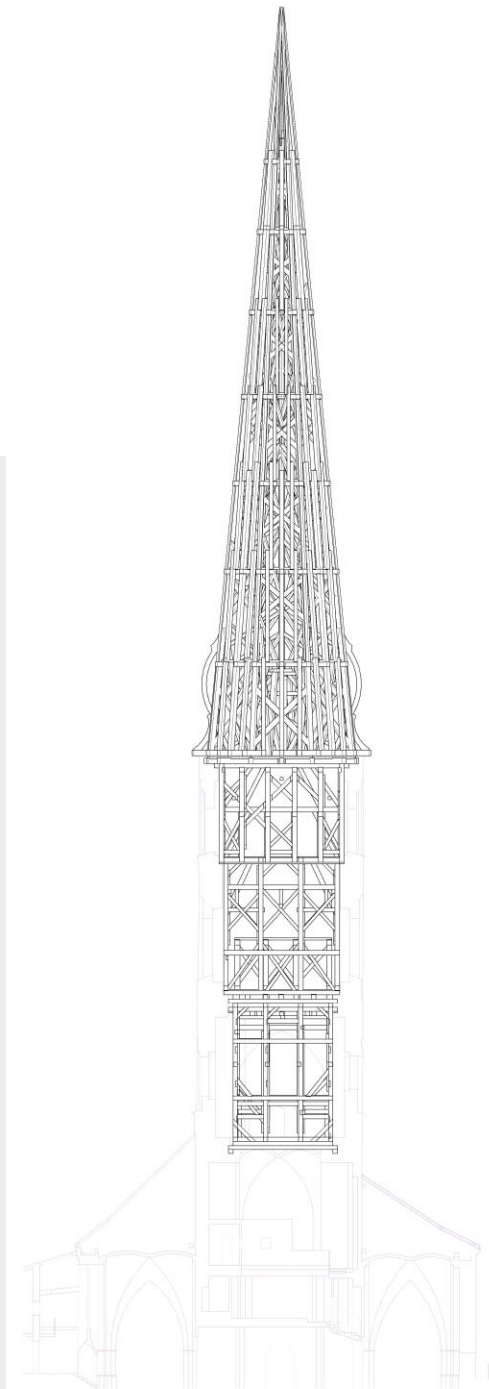
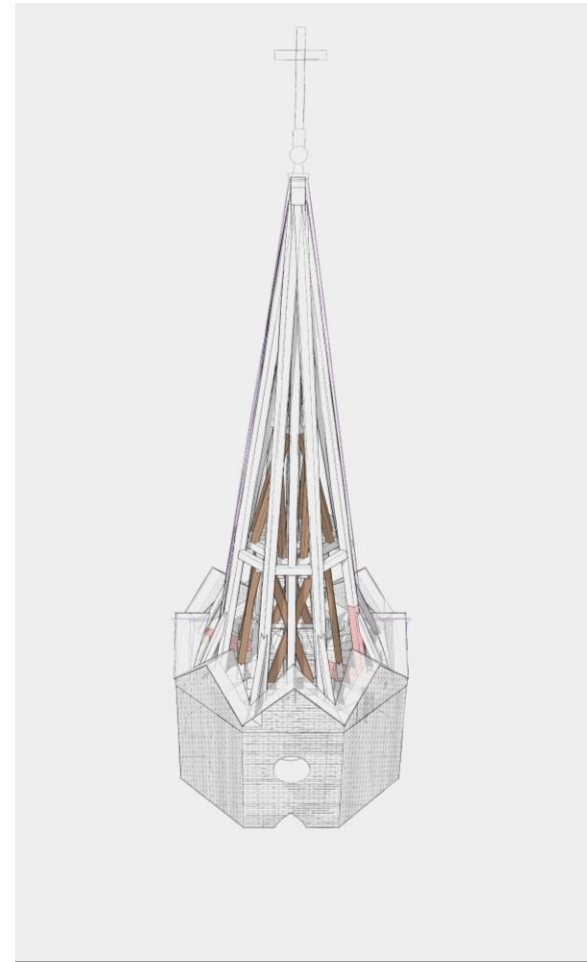
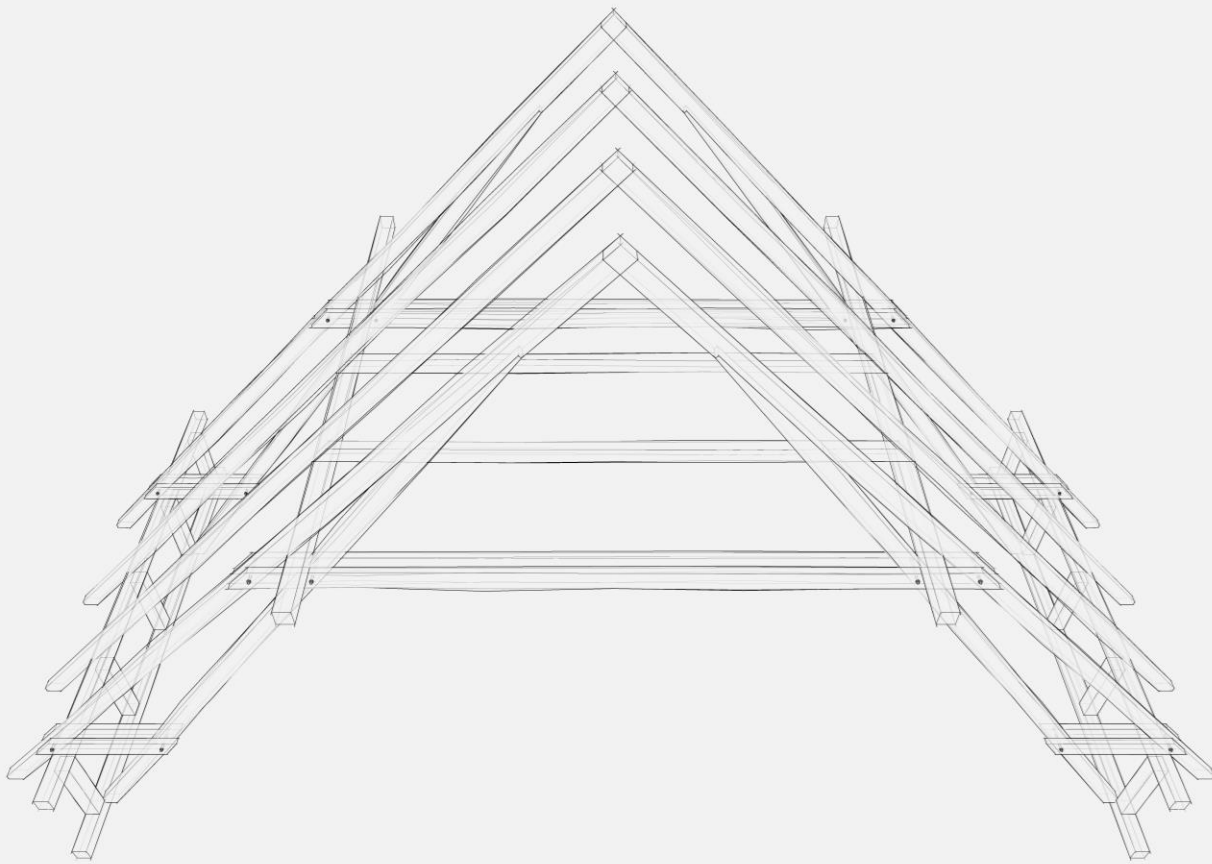
Background

- Surveys of historic structures
- Measuring and inspecting wooden structures



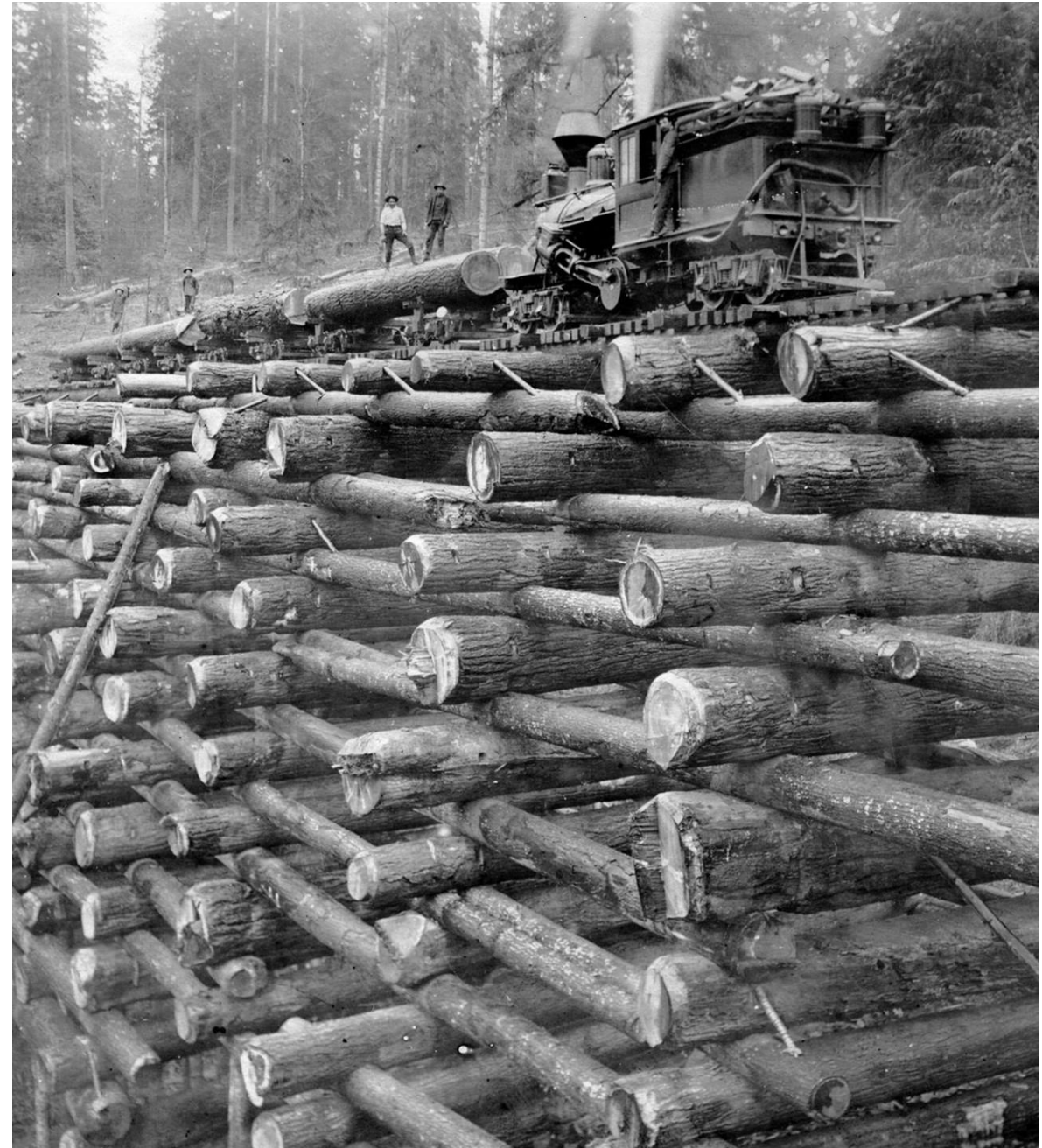
Background

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Challenges in Craftsmanship

- Shortage of skilled craftsmen and craft businesses
- Clear and measurable quality criteria in craftsmanship
- Different interpretations of what craft means



Kārļa Mīlenbaha street. Talsi. Latvia



Kārļa Mīlenbaha street 12. Talsi



It wasn't supposed to happen, but it did

- On the night of February 5, 2021, a fire broke out on the top floor of the building



It wasn't supposed to happen, but it did

- The fire was stopped with the help of firefighters;
- At least half of the roof structure was seriously damaged by the fire;
- Firefighters flooded the house with water;
- After few days, the water pipe broke from the cold.



Kārļa Mīlenbaha street 12. Talsi



20th century 1920s.



1958.



2024.

Wrongdoing and its consequences

- Inappropriate insulating materials;
- Poor circulation of air;
- Household waste,
- *Serpula lacrymans*, *Penicillium* sp; *Cladosporium* sp.

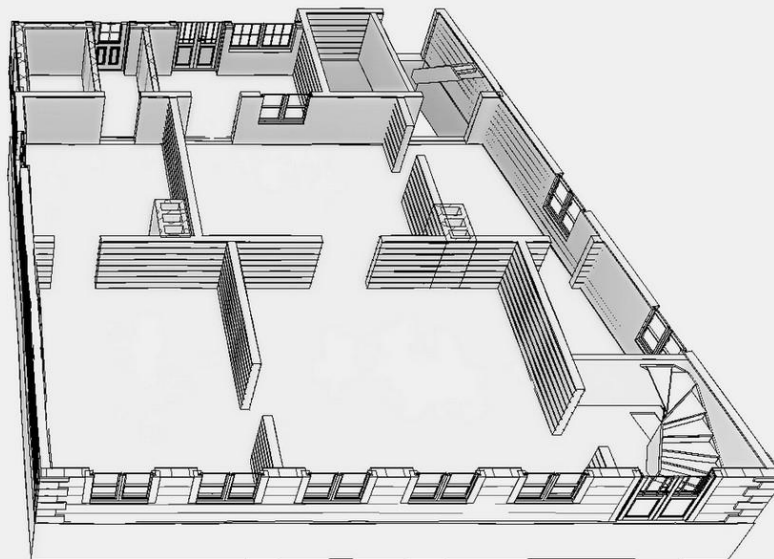
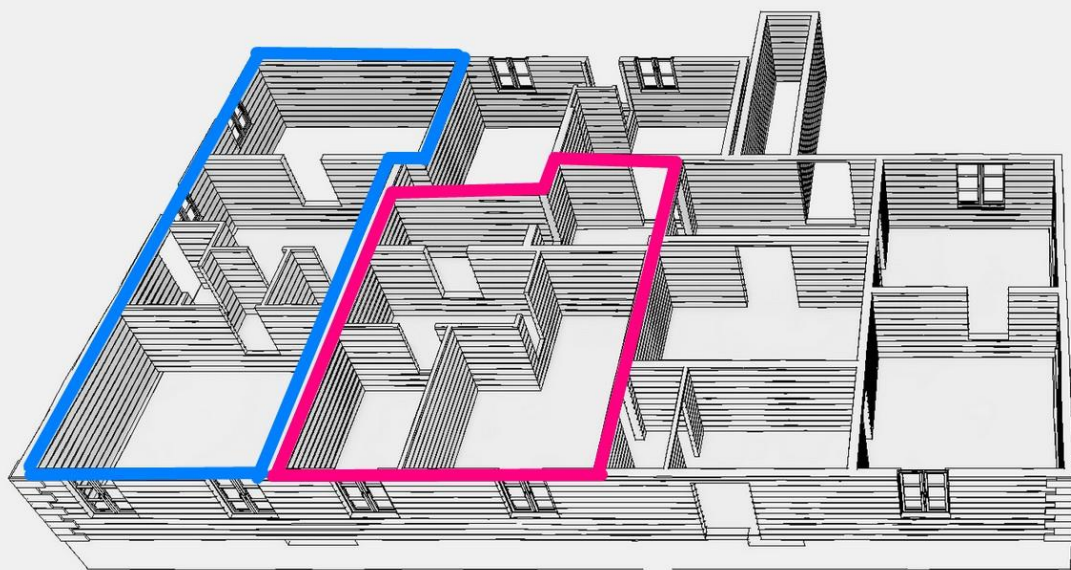


Wrongdoing and its consequences



Kārļa Mīlenbaha street 10. Talsi

- Apartment Nr. 2
- Apartment Nr. 6



2 Wooden houses in Talsi, Latvia

- K. Mīlenbaha street 10 – Early 19th century.
- K. Mīlenbaha street 12 – Around 1863.



K. Mīlenbaha 10



K. Mīlenbaha 12

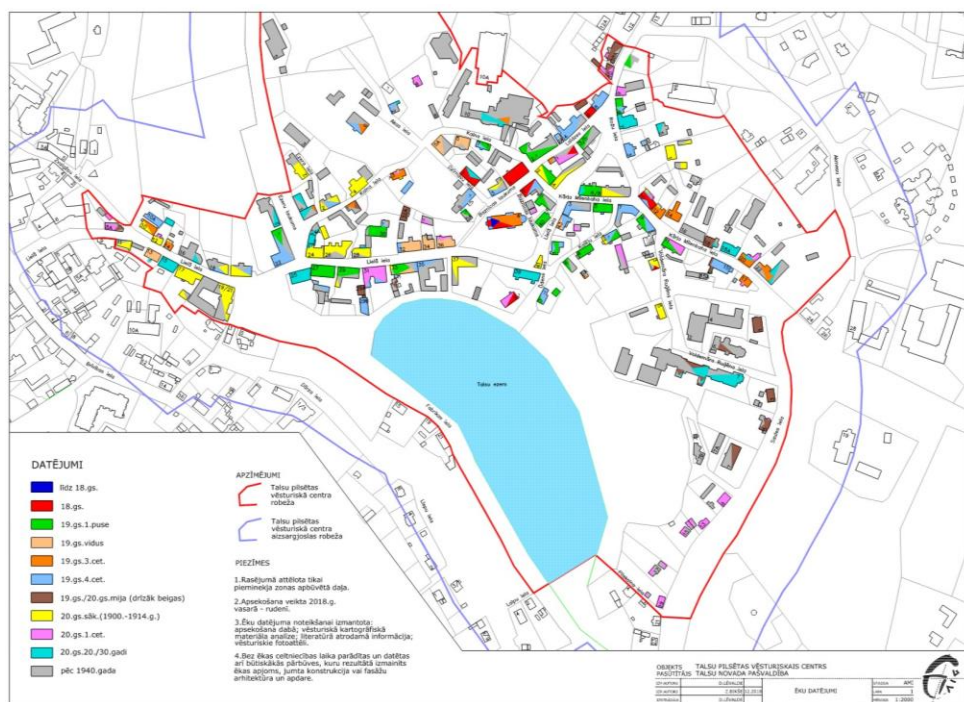


Summary

- Skilled craftsmen
- Appropriate building materials
- Complex ownership structures
- Limited local government support
- Scarcity of qualified specialists
- Co-financing for building research, design, and preservation
- Effective communication



The historic center of Talsi



"We are carpenters and we are used to fix things!"

/Patrick Moore. The Professional School of Practical Stereotomy/

