

Department of Conservation of Buildings & Areas
Chalmers University of Technology
Gothenburg, Sweden

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With reference to the work of Window Craftsmen Hans & Sonja Allbäck

Over the seven years I have known the Allbäcks my contacts with them, both professionally and personally, have been pleasant in every respect.

I have made use of their special know-how on my courses for vocational teachers at high school level, and more recently in the basic training of students attending the architecture course at Chalmers. We are also conducting a joint project on window renovation. This project is supported financially by the Swedish National Council for Building Research.

Their methods and inventions for window renovation are well-known. However, it is probably not as well known that the foundation to this know-how lies in their thorough understanding of the materials and techniques involved in window renovation problems.

The Allbäck's approach to, and techniques for, renovation and restoration make a high degree of respect possible for the existing materials' properties as regards historical, technical and aesthetical values. At the same time, the renovated item is given greatly improved ability to survive the stresses of time.

An approach of this kind not only requires a thorough knowledge of glass, wood, paint and metal. It also requires, to a very high degree, knowledge of the materials' properties when they are combined to form the unit that constitutes a window, and under the various stresses to which it is exposed. It is, above all, the Allbäck's continuous development of this know-how which makes it so valuable for me to turn to them.

Boris Schönbeck

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