



PRESERVATION OF THE CULTURAL HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE BALTIC SEA FISHING INDUSTRY - RESTORATION OF THE SEASIDE OPEN-AIR MUSEUM'S UNIQUE COLLECTION OF BOATS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT HOUSE FROM 2018 TO 2021

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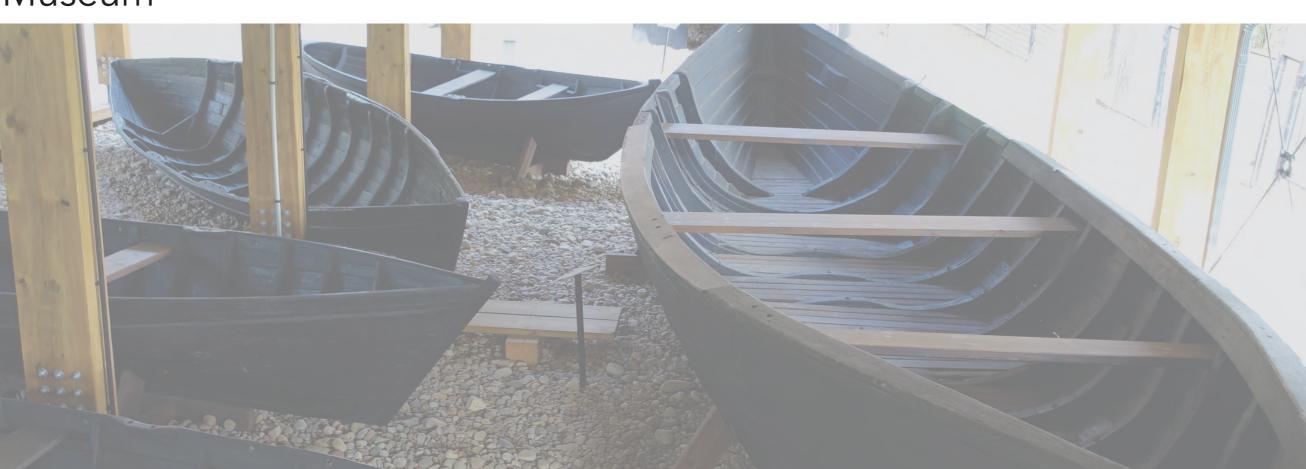
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Restorer of wood aigars.vejkrigeris@inbox.lv Ventspils Museum, Seaside Open-Air Museum Photographs: ANITA BÜRKOVSKA, **AIGARS VĒJKRĪGERIS**

INTRODUCTION

The Seaside Open-Air Museum in Ventspils was established as the Sea Fishing Industry Open-Air Museum in 1954. 3 June 2022 marked 60 years since the museum opened its door to visitors. Back then, the first director of the museum, Andrejs Šulcs, started shaping the museum's collection: the first fishermen's boats, along with the houses and auxiliary buildings of the Kurzeme Region's fishermen were transferred to the museum. The collection of the Seaside Open-Air Museum currently contains more than 26,000 units.

The collection of fishermen's boats has expanded most significantly and now includes 21 pieces. The boats were used not only in our district but also in the area around Talsi, Tukums and at the seaside of Liepāja and Rīga.



RESTORATION

al fishing artefacts.

Museum (2021);

Museum (2018).

eral partnership.

(EMFF).

Projects:

A decision was made to attract fi-

nancing to preserve this unique part

of the collection and to develop proj-

ects for its restoration - renovation of

the boats and restoration of individu-

1) Boat shelter construction at the

Ventspils Seaside Open-Air Museum

2) Preservation of the Cultural Histori-

cal Heritage of the Baltic Sea Fishing

Industry: Restoration of the Collec-

tion of Boats at the Seaside Open-Air

3) Renewal of Items from Historical

Fishing Boats, Cutter and Old Sailing

Ships and the Development of an Ex-

position at the Seaside Open-Air

ried out under two projects.

Restoration of the boats was car-

All the projects implemented

The BOAT HOUSE construction

were supported by the Ventspils City

Council and co-funded by the Euro-

pean Maritime and Fisheries Fund

work was undertaken by SIA BUVFIR-

MA INBUV, while the functions of the

contracting authority were carried

out by the Ventspils Communal Ad-

ministration, with the Ventspils

Museum being the client for the proj-

ect. The project was developed by the SIA Balts un melns architectural

studio. The restoration work was un-

dertaken by the OM Yachtland gen-

the Boat House, form the newest part

of the exposition at the Seaside

Open-Air Museum. There are 19 fish-

ing boats in total: a cutter, motor-

boats, a rescue boat, and three

pieces of fishing equipment (a boat's

motor, a winch and a fragment of the

mast of a sailing ship). After the resto-

ration, they are now permanently lo-

cated at the new Boat House. The

construction of the Boat House was

completed on 4 June 2021.

The restored boats, together with



Fig. 1 The former boat pavilions, surrounded by old pines, prior to demolition



Fig. 2 Boat pavilions before demolition

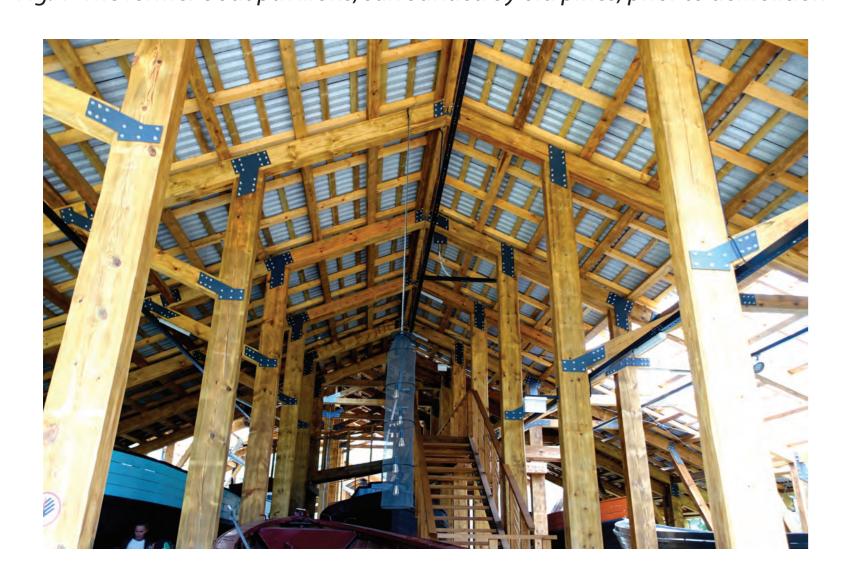




Fig. 3, 4 The new Boat House building of the Seaside Open-Air Museum

The place for the new Boat House was successfully

chosen in the museum territory. During autumn and winter, it was found that it is insufficient with the roof

alone over the exhibits. Rain and snow, especially from

the northern side, filled the restored exhibits with



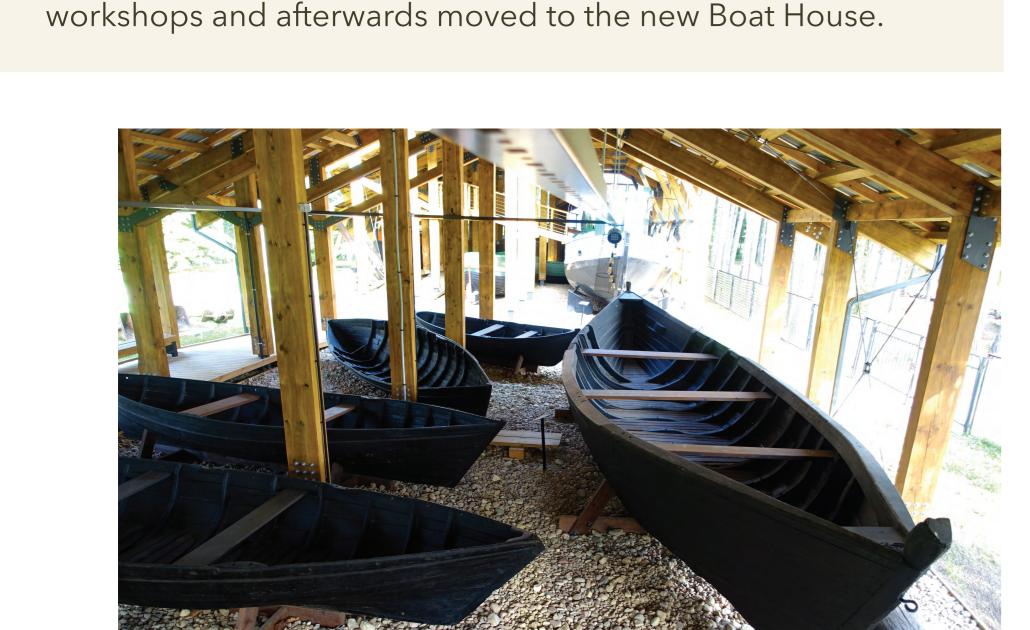
Fig. 5, 6 Exhibits of the Boat House in winter 2022/2003

An additional solution will have to be found so that the northern end can be covered during autumn and winter. The boats are negatively affected by weather conditions as the building is of open-type design.





Fig. 7, 8 Boat transportation to the restoration workshop



The restoration of the boats and building the Boat House

also provided good experience for museum employees: prior to the restoration the boats were transferred to restoration

Fig. 9 Layout of the boats in the new Boat House. All the restored exhibits are under one roof. Each boat has its own history. Oskar's boat (pictured right) after its restoration. Oskar's boat was featured in the movie Fisherman's Son (Zvejnieka dēls, 1939).



Fig. 10 The Seaside Open-Air Museum's collection has been expanded by the **fishing boat Aira** that was used at the end of World War II to help many people escape from the coast of Northern Kurzeme to Sweden.



Fig. 11 On 24 August 2022, the Boat House received a Certificate of Recognition in the Best Wooden Building of Latvia 2021 category.



rainwater and snow.



