Thomas Philip Holt

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Current

PhD Candidate October 2021 - Present

National Centre for Scientific Research, Demokritos

I am an Early Stage Research Fellow for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network PlaCe. My work will explore the architecture and mortar technology in the eastern Mediterranean region, aiming to compare and evaluate the development of building techniques and technological solutions chosen by craftspeople through time. It will focus on the interpretation of physical, chemical and mechanical properties of mortars produced through the centuries. The investigation will consider respective social contexts, material use and initial performance requirements, along with potential cultural interactions and imported technological solutions

Professional Experience

Specialist Historic Building Surveyor

September 2020 - September 2021

Hutton and Rostron Environment Investigations Ltd

H+R are recognised experts in architectural conservation. Working as a specialist historic building surveyor for H+R, I provided investigative consultancy regarding structural composition and building material condition for private clients, developers and engineers. I conducted surveys independently and as part of a wider project team, including but not limited to: timber condition investigations, damp investigations, residual moisture profiling and facade assessments. I produced reports enabling clients to minimise defects and manage risk, providing recommendations alongside illustrative CAD drawings/ plans. These reports often serve to discharge major warranty providers conditions. My role required a strong comprehension of building pathology, and exposure working on significant projects across the country aided me in developing an ever-growing understanding of the built environment. Notable completed surveys include that on Tottenham House, Smithfield Market and the British Museum.

Surveyor

January 2020 - September 2020

Vesta Construction Group Ltd

Vesta Construction Group is a Main Contractor operating in Central London, executing contracts and completing commercial works for some of the city's most recognisable surveying practices. The company specialises in external refurbishments and facade restoration but also has a comprehensive portfolio of completed CAT A and internal industrial works. As a contracts surveyor, I trained towards performing role as a Contractor's QS. I typically worked on tender submissions and executed contracts valued in the region of 100k-500k, assisting in the management of contracts exceeding this value bracket. As part of my role, I also contract managed projects for both Vesta and specialist internal stonemasonry division DG Stone Ltd. I gained significant experience as part of the contract management team based on-site full-time at Berkeley St. Edward's 9 Millbank Development in Westminster ensuring early project success with the completion of facade works, roof works and column reinstatement to the Grade II listed Imperial Chemical House.

Contracts Manager

May 2019 - January 2020

Between Time Ltd

Between Time are a Hertfordshire-based contractors specialising in traditional building methods. As contracts manager, I was responsible for overseeing works to historic buildings and listed properties through to completion. Duties involved scheduling works - managing in-house teams of skilled craftsmen including bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, flint workers and decorators, also liaising with subcontractors - ensuring that contract details were fully met. Works were largely private and domestic, but often projects on behalf of conservation architects required the execution of JCT forms of contract. I became comfortable with CDM, HSWA and Management Regulations. The job role entailed the management of relationships with clients, suppliers and conservation officers. My construction knowledge was founded through attending estimate visits, carrying out rapid condition surveys, and procuring specialist building materials. I also fulfilled health and safety requirements, completing risk assessments and method statements for each of my contracts.

Previous Education

MSc, Built Environment: Sustainable Heritage

Sept 2018 - Sept 2019

University College London

Thesis Title - "Historic Mortar Analyses: A review of current practice in consideration of analyses completed on samples collected on sites across London, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire". RICS and IHBC accredited postgraduate course of study.

BA, Archaeology and History

The University of Sheffield

Sept 2015 - Jun 2018

Thesis Title - "The Landscape of Rural Tinsley: An archaeological and documentary study into the impact of the eighteenth-century agricultural revolution". Thesis publication within the Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society. Recipient of both the Robert Kiln Prize and the Hunter Society Prize.