

Green Career Profile



Name: Patrik Fojt

Organisation: Přírodní stavitel
(Natural Builder)

Job title: Master builder, Carpenter

What I do in my job: I am a freelancer and I help young families to build a house that suits their lifestyle and values. Housing that is affordable, whose burden on the environment is as small as possible, and which doesn't destroy the landscape.

The green competences I use to act sustainably in my job are....

- Being able to construct a building using various natural materials means it is necessary to have knowledge of the characteristics of the materials, as well as having the experience and skills to work with them.
- Sourcing materials locally for the buildings is important for sustainability. It means I must have knowledge of what sort of materials are available and work well in different places.
- When I build I also think it is important to consider the long term life of the building and its materials. For example I would consider whether the building could be used for different purposes in the future, or if the materials which have been used could be recycled or reused.
- Seeing things from different perspectives is important in building as you have to balance the needs of the builder, the architect and those who will live there, and also money! So you must not being afraid to use alternatives.

The core values I take into my work are....

- **Respect** to traditions, to the craft, to nature and landscape, and to people in general.
- **Open mindedness** – I am happy to experience new technologies, new materials, meet new inspiring people... it seems to be necessary in the communication and sharing of ideas and experience.
- **Passion** for working with natural materials such wood, soil, straw etc. and passion for hand crafting rather than using machines.

I have been inspired to work sustainably through...

When I was a child I spent lots of time outdoors and in nature which gave me an understanding and respect for the natural world, and a belief that it is important to have as small an impact as possible. I have also spent some time in Malaysia, which taught me a lot.

Meeting inspiring people throughout my life who have shown me new things, or shown me different ways to look at the world.

Key definitions:

- **Competences** - *The skills, knowledge and understanding, qualities and attributes, sets of values beliefs and attitudes which lead to effective [...] performance in a given context, situation or role.* (Woodall & Winstanley, 1998)
- **Green competences** – *Competences for environmentally and socially sustainable behaviour at work*