

# Call for Mini-Papers on Contemporary and Historical Flood Resilient Construction Techniques and Materials



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## Editors

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*Email submissions to*  
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following the instructions below by **August 31, 2016**.

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**In April of 2016, the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) (Newport, Rhode Island, USA) organized the Keeping History Above Water Conference (KHAW)**, which attracted 350 attendees from historic communities whose built history and cultural landscapes are threatened by rising waters. This was not a conference about climate change, but about what preservationists/conservationists, engineers, city planners, legislators, insurers, historic home owners and other decision makers need to know about climate change (sea level rise in particular) and what can be done to protect historic buildings, landscapes and neighborhoods from the increasing threat of inundation.

**NRF is now in the process of creating an edited book on the threats of rising sea level/riverine flooding to historic buildings, places, and landscapes and how changes to and potential erasure of these resources can be mitigated.** This foundational text will be based on selected papers from the presenters at the KHAW conference, invited papers, and open submissions. The book will be published by a reputable, scholarly press with a practitioner and academic audience in mind.

## Topic of the mini-papers

We are seeking mini-papers on flood resilient construction techniques and materials from around the globe. The techniques and materials featured should be from the near or distant past or focus on contemporary, cutting-edge approaches. Papers that address contemporary approaches should describe case studies that directly affect historic resources or could be applied to historic resources (i.e., existing construction).

Papers should be about 500 to 1,000 words and include the following details:

1. Author(s) name, affiliation, and contact information.
2. Describe the case: at a minimum, this should be the type of building/resource that experienced the flooding event, the date of its construction and major modifications, its location, and the building technique/material examined.
3. A summary of the historical or contemporary construction material and/or technique.
4. A brief description of the event that caused the water inundation.
5. The character and degree of the damage caused by inundation.
6. Recovery and/or repair techniques to address and/or prevent damage.
7. A summary of how resilient the construction technique was to inundation.
8. A minimum of three and a maximum of six photos illustrating one or more of the areas, above. The photos must have a minimum resolution of 1900 x 1200 pixels; 2880 x 1800 pixels or more is desirable. (For the initial submission, low resolution images are required; see below.)
9. Provide captions for all photos and reference them in your text. Indicate authorship for each photo. It is the responsibility for the submitting author(s) to obtain publication permission from the owner of each photo.

For instance, a paper on this topic might describe a building, built in 1860, that survived Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the overall performance of its lath and plaster system; a description of traditional, lime plaster finishes and their low solubility in water compared to gypsum-based wall board; that the overall damage was minimal once the wall dried; interventions consisted of the mechanical dehumidifying of the building followed by patches and painting; and a summary that describes how well the system performed in a flooding event compared to contemporary construction.

Alternatively, a paper approaching a contemporary construction system/material might describe a building, originally constructed in 1901 in which a contemporary flood vent system was installed in its foundation.

## **Instructions**

Submissions should consist of a single MS Word, ODF/ODT, or PDF file with the text and the three to six photographs placed in the same file. (Do not submit photographs as separate files.) Reduce the size of the photos to approximately 800 x 600 pixels before placing them in the file in order to make the file size sufficiently small to send via email. If accepted, we will ask for your original text file (if necessary) and full size photos as separate files. Email your single file to [historyabovewater@newportrestoration.org](mailto:historyabovewater@newportrestoration.org).