



2017 TFG  
Conference

# Traditional & Modern Thatching

*Thomas Gerner & Magnus Frimer-Larsen*

*Danish Guild of Thatchers / Trillium Dell Timberworks*

*Denmark*

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In Europe, thatching is having a renaissance because of a very good environmental and sustainability profile. Today, thatchers are working with architects and developers to make it the preferred roof of the future. The modern thatched roof is fireproof, long-lasting (50 years), and offers almost unlimited possibilities in application.

The first part of the presentation will focus on the thatching technique, from its historic roots to its modern form (the invention of the thatching screw in Denmark in the mid-1980s is a technical watershed). We will present and work with technical cross-section drawings and pictures of the thatching process. The demonstration later in the day will be a hands-on continuation of this part.

The second part will then focus on the recent developments in Europe, primarily the Netherlands, where architectural experiments and political breakthroughs (in fire regulations, mainly) have paved the way for a massive growth in the industry. This portion of the talk will contain a cavalcade of pictures from significant projects and inspire potential future use of thatched roofs in the United States.

## **About the Speakers**

### **Thomas Gerner**

Thomas Gerner has been thatching for 18 years, working in Denmark, Holland, and Italy. He is the Chairman of the Danish Thatching Guild. He is also a board member of the International Thatching Society (ITS) and the Office of the Thatched Roof in Denmark.

### **Magnus Frimer-Larsen**

Magnus Frimer-Larsen is a designer at Trillium Dell Timberworks. The son of a Danish reed thatcher, Mr. Frimer-Larsen is keen to present this undying trade, so defining to his native region, and to pose the question: what does it have to do with North American timber framing?