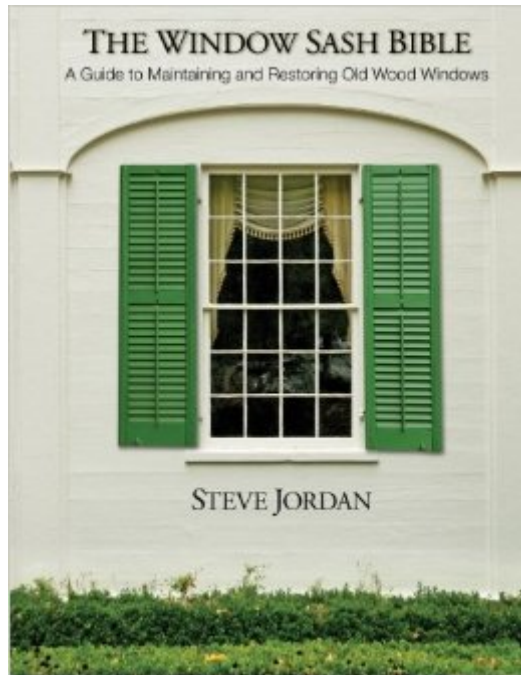


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The Window Sash Bible: A A Guide To Maintaining And Restoring Old Wood Windows



Synopsis

The Window Sash Bible is about the repair, maintenance, restoration and improvement of old or historic windows made from about 1800 to 1940. With so much misinformation provided by replacement window contractors and vendors, this book aids homeowners, do-it-yourselfers, carpenters, architects, designers, preservation commission members, and anyone in the old-house business make sound decisions about windows. Since most homeowners are unaware of their alternatives, The Window Sash Bible provides an array of options to save money, energy, and historic windows for decades to come. The information is gleaned from my experience as a window repair contractor and old-house enthusiast, from other craftsmen, books, catalogues, journals, trade manuals, and ah-ha moments. Most of the recommendations are based on available materials and simple techniques that were once common. Whether doing the work yourself or hiring it done, the Window Sash Bible will help you understand how to evaluate any problems and how to undertake the repair process. Instructions range from simple tasks that anyone can do like replacing broken cords and cutting glass to repairs requiring intermediate wood working skills, for example, making a new sash rail. The book begins with window and glass history and nomenclature. Familiarity with the pieces and parts prepares you to discuss your windows knowledgably with vendors, contractors, or other professionals and also sheds light on how your windows are supposed to work. Basic repairs and putty work include removing sashes, installing new sash cords and other balances, glazing (puttying), replacing broken glass, and everything you need to know about finding and using old wavy glass. Almost any old window can be retrofitted with effective weatherstrips. You'll learn how to weather-seal your windows with materials that are usually superior to those found on new and replacement windows. Choose materials and techniques to last ten years or for the 50 year solution. After learning all you need to know about durable and inferior wood species, carpentry instructions range from a simple Dutchman repair to replacing a broken muntin or meeting rail. You'll also learn the ins-and-outs of long lasting epoxy repairs and patches. Thinking about putting those old wood storms and screens on the curb? Confused if your ugly aluminum storms are worth keeping? Learn how to convert your old wood storms into efficient, handy combination units or how to extend the life of your aluminum storms by renewing the weather seals. And what about painting? Did you know that your painter is often your window's worst enemy and that inappropriate painting techniques and poor choices of paint are the leading cause of sticky windows and ineffective weatherseals? You'll find instructions for painting inside and out, the best and worst choices for paint, and precautions to keep everyone safe from lead dust and debris. The Window Sash Bible promotes environmental friendly solutions for window maintenance, repair, and restoration. After

reading it, you'll understand why most replacements are unnecessary and why your existing windows are superior to any you may replace them with.

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Customer Reviews

At long last, we have all of Steve Jordan's deep experience and wisdom with historic windows and their restoration in one book. This well written, well organized, and well illustrated volume is an essential guide to anyone wanting to understand and value historic windows as important character defining features of old houses and learn techniques for their repair and restoration. My great hope is that this book will help stop the widespread and mostly unnecessary replacement of historic windows by bringing people to their senses and giving them practical ways to maintain and preserve them. Bravo! Steven Engelhart, Executive Director Adirondack Architectural Heritage

I've worked in the restoration industry for 20 years and have turned to Steve Jordan countless times for help and knowledge pertaining to many topics related to old houses. His well of knowledge of all things historic is deep, and he's generous with this knowledge. This book is an excellent resource for me and my staff (we offer salvage & restoration parts) but it is also a great tool for any old house owner. This book answers so many of the questions posed to us by homeowners over the years, my only complaint is: Steve, what took you so long? :)

THE book to refer to when repairing your own or someone else's windows. I'm an architect and have not found a more knowledgible guide to all things windows than Mr. Jordan. This book sits at

my right hand when detailing repairs to traditional windows.

Our local HPC is able to use The Window Sash Bible as a reference for homeowners convinced that new windows are their only alternative. Mr. Jordan demonstrates clearly and concisely how to maintain and repair original windows in older homes. Additionally, he shows convincingly what the benefits of retaining original windows are.

I am in the process of working on a very large, 100 year old building with tons of windows in need of restoration. This is the second reference I've gotten on window restoration. The first book, 'Old Windows Made Easy' by Scott Sidler was a good intro to this subject, but definitely basic. While I found Mr. Jordan's Window Sash Bible to have a lot more practical and useful information for the majority of problems that you would encounter, I really wouldn't call this a "Bible". I say this because there is a section that briefly addresses rebuilding a broken sash. Mr. Jordan discusses relatively minor repairs, but when it comes to major repair of a sash, he actually tells the reader to read another book by John Leeke regarding that subject. I was a bit turned off by this, as I got his book hoping to address all problems on this subject. Perhaps that was a bit naive on my part, but then I don't expect your book to be called "The Window Sash Bible" if it doesn't go into depth regarding these types of repairs.

Steve Jordan has many years of experience in the care and preservation of windows. I own several old homes and this book has helped me better understand how they work, how to fix them, and best of all, how to maintain them so they last many generations. His clear and concise explanations include many photographs that support his quest for helping the homeowner. This book is a must-own!

I am a landlord with multiple old homes (100 years +) some of which are in a preservation district. As a result, I have had these windows refurbished and restored at a fraction of the cost of new windows. This book will be a welcome and invaluable reference to maintaining and preserving these properties for years to come.

Very thorough. The pictures and/or the printing could be a bit better but at least they are real pics and not a studio shot. Many of the windows look caked with paint just like the real world.

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