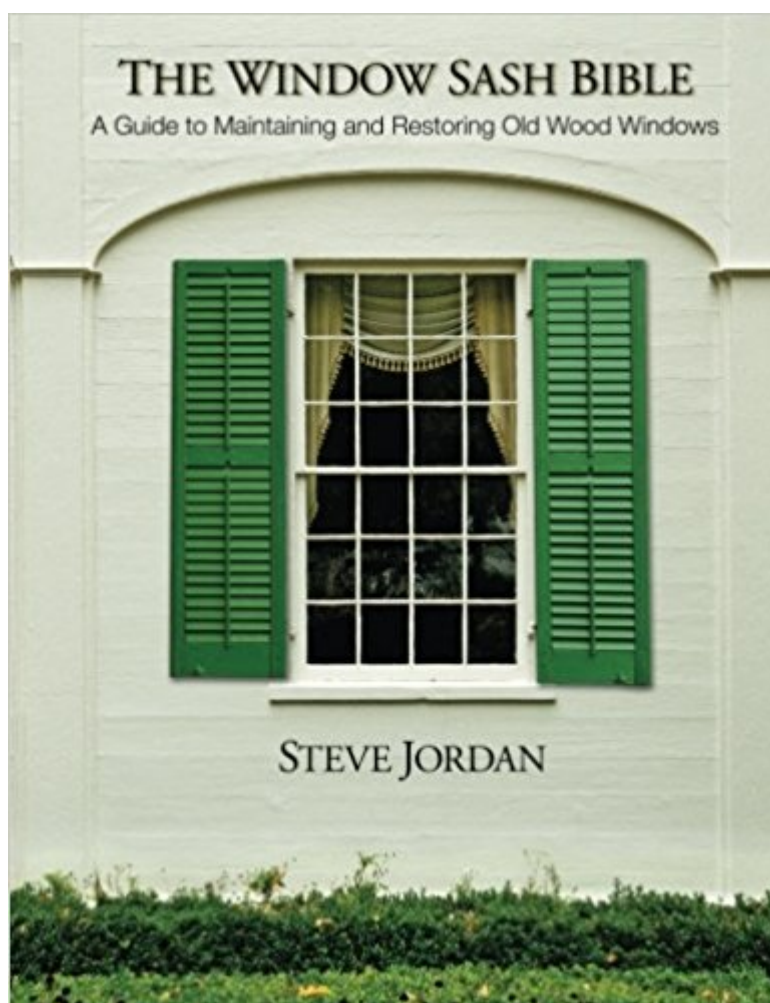


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The Window Sash Bible: A A Guide To Maintaining And Restoring Old Wood Windows



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

THE book to refer to when repairing your own or someone else's windows. I'm an architect and have not found a more knowledgeable 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.

This book is complete in every detail, and has earned high praise from both a historic preservation professional I know and one of our state's best window preservation specialists. It's well written and thorough. The asides are interesting, the appendices specific. Some color photos (or clearer photos) would have been nice. Only caveat: as a complete beginner, I could have used numbered step-by-step lists to make approaching a project less intimidating, since the process is involved. Still, all the information is in there, and reading it all isn't the worst way to learn. Grateful that this book is available as we tackle our old house's windows! The author does provide contact information and invite you to contact him, as well. Will save that "lifeline" for only the most dire of circumstances, but it shows great faith in the reader.

I am a landlord with multiple old homes (100 years +) some of which are in a preservaton 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.

Helpful as I rehab a 1915 house on a limited budget. 11 windows to make useful. Slightly overwhelmed at first reading, but I believe I can do it! Love the pictures, helpful hints, and resources.

I have a growing collection of window restoration books and this book is a welcome addition!

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