Lapstrake Boatbuilding

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Building a Glued Lapstrake Rangeley Lake Boat - Page 1: Design . Tuition: $1,200 (two-week course). Note: Previous woodworking or boatbuilding experience is required. Lapstrake construction. John Henry Rushton is well known for his love of building wooden boats. Rushton is a well-known builder and teacher of boatbuilding techniques. He has published several books on the subject, and his influence is evident in the design of the boatbuilding program at the Wooden Boat School in Maine.

Before turning to the details of the project, it is important to understand the basic principles of lapstrake construction. Lapstrake construction involves the overlapping of hull planks, which allows for a strong and watertight hull. The planks are typically cut to fit precisely along the lines of the boat's hull, and are then glued and nailed in place. This method of construction is particularly well-suited for wooden boats, as it allows for a high degree of customization and flexibility in design.

One of the key advantages of lapstrake construction is its ability to create a strong and durable hull. The overlapping of the planks helps to distribute the forces of the water evenly across the hull, reducing the risk of damage from impact or wave action. Additionally, the overlapping of the planks creates a natural seal, which helps to keep water out of the boat and maintain its buoyancy.

Another significant benefit of lapstrake construction is its flexibility. Because the planks are cut to fit precisely along the lines of the boat's hull, it is possible to make changes to the design of the boat after it has been built. This makes lapstrake construction an excellent choice for builders who want to create a custom boat that meets their specific needs and preferences.

In addition to the technical aspects of lapstrake construction, the Wooden Boat School in Maine also offers a range of educational programs and resources for builders. These programs include classes on traditional boatbuilding techniques, as well as courses on modern boatbuilding methods. The school also provides a range of tools and materials for builders to use in their projects, and offers a variety of resources for builders to explore and learn from.

Overall, the Wooden Boat School in Maine is a great resource for builders who are interested in learning about and practicing traditional boatbuilding techniques. With its focus on quality instruction and hands-on learning, the school is an excellent choice for builders who want to develop their skills and create beautiful wooden boats.