Skilled trade, agriculture & community:
A conversation with skilled trade influencer and master carpenter Jule Rombey

To Jule Rombey, skilled trade is more than working with wood; it's a profession, a mission and a way of life. On Instagram, she shares her daily work, trade projects and ideas about sustainability and community with over 80,000 followers. As a "master at 21" and founder of #TeamHandwerkHilft, she's a strong voice for her generation. We spoke with her about challenges, community, agricultural connections and both her perspective on A+A 2025 and the central role of safety and health protection.

A+A: Jule, your Instagram profile speaks for itself: 80,000 followers! How crucial is this digital dialogue with your community to you, and how do you see the modern skilled trades?

Jule Rombey: The dialogue is a great deal to me. In my opinion, this is what social media is about: It's not just a platform where I share my everyday life and inspire people to several projects – it's a place where people come together, exchange ideas and talk shop. I'm always happy when I can support others with tips and experiences – in return, I get valuable feedback and helpful advice from my community.

A+A: You took on big responsibility at an early age by becoming a master carpenter at only 21. How early did you foresee this path?

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Jule Rombey: Skilled trade was part of my life from an early age. My dad is a master carpenter himself and had his workshop in our garage. Therefore, I got many insights into his daily work as a child. Since I finished my apprenticeship in the family business, I conducted my first client meetings at 16 and was involved in all the processes. My decision to attend the master's school at Ebern – 500 km from home – was the decisive factor. I knew I wanted to take the step while I was still young – a challenge, but I felt ready for it. Now, it feels good and reassuring to know that I am fully prepared to take over the family business at any time.

A+A: With #TeamHandwerkHilft, you strongly support social causes. Can you explain what it is about and how the project came to life?

Jule Rombey: As “Miss Handwerk 2020”, I supported master painter Sven Vyn Dyk from Frankfurt (Oder) in his initiative “Schüler radeln für das Handwerk” (EN: Students cycle for the skilled trades”). Our goal was to raise awareness for the skilled trades and collect donations, together with students. I wanted the skilled trades to be an active part, so we took 105 ninth graders to the most westerly point in Germany (Selfkant), where the students could “earn” donations by completing several challenges. That day was such a big success that we knew: This action day should take place every year on World Children’s Day. In the meantime, we’re a dedicated team organizing impressive events with large machines such as excavators and cherry pickers. We looked for an organization in the region and fell in love with KinderChancenTafel in Oberbruch. They support ten grade schoolers who have no educational opportunities within their family. Thats how our slogan was born: "#TeamHandwerkHilft –

Together for Education & Equal Opportunities". For 2026, we foresee the renovation of an entire building, allowing the support of 20 children until they start their professional careers. We certainly have big plans here.

A+A: You also have connections to agriculture. How did that come about, and what safety aspects do you see here compared to the skilled trades?

Jule Rombey: Yes, that's right, my partner runs a farming operation, and I help out regularly, especially during the potato harvest, at the picking belt, by cultivating the soil and even driving the tractor on our land. For me, it's a good balance to my work at the workshop: being outdoors, close to the production of our food. I can also see the importance of safety, whether it's handling machinery, managing long working days or in terms of noise and dust protection. It's absolutely in line with the A+A topics: protective clothing and ergonomics are as central to agriculture as they are to skilled trades or the industry; people only talk less about it.

A+A: Looking ahead to A+A 2025: What role does innovation in PPE play for you, and what topic will be your focus?

Jule Rombey: I'm very much looking forward to the intense dialogue with professionals about safety, ergonomics, innovation and sustainability. I want to show that the skilled trades are digital and up to date, while highlighting how closely social responsibility, young talent support and understanding of work in agriculture and construction are interconnected. I'm curious about the new developments in PPE that make everyday work more comfortable and safer. I hope to take away many inspiring ideas that my community will find exciting.

A+A: When young people start a career in the skilled trades today, what message would you like to share with them, especially in terms of long-term career perspectives?

Jule Rombey: I want to show that the skilled trade offers real opportunities for the future – it's creative, responsible and full of chances. Anyone starting here should know from the start: safety and health are no side issues but the foundation for enjoying work over the long term. Those who take good care of themselves can use their strengths more effectively and really make a difference.

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