

Newsletter

NUMBER 7

September 1995



COTAC
CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

1995 promises to be a very exciting year for COTAC with our involvement in the Premier UK Construction industry exhibition INTERBUILD at the NEC in November. It is particularly appropriate as the exhibition celebrates its centenary this year. We shall be exhibiting in conjunction with the Network and others as well as organising our annual International Conference at Birmingham and hope to see many of you at either or both.

This issue includes the report of an interesting initiative in Wales, where the National Trust held a Workshop in conjunction with the Council of Europe bringing together a group of International and UK experts to investigate the feasibility of establishing a craft training centre at a historic estate in the Aeron valley. York Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies update us on the past and future years and Heritage Lincolnshire share with us their experience of a Building Preservation Trust project to save a deteriorating listed building in the County. A new organisation has been established in the last few months, The Traditional Paint Forum, and we give their main aims and objectives together with arrangements for a first annual conference and workshop.

Jamie Vans the Training Manager for Woodchester Mansion Trust tells us of the proposals to use the main repairs to this Grade I Building as opportunities for Masterclass training at the site. The visit to Hatherleigh Church in North Devon as part of the Care of Ecclesiastical Buildings Module of the Plymouth University Masters course gives some insight into the damage wreaked on historic buildings by recent storms. Roger France provides a thought provoking article on definitions and standards in conservation and we have a follow-up report on the hugely successful public opening of St Pancras Chambers

trailed in the last issue.

A summary of progress is provided by a selection of our eight Network members, together with a review of the RESTOREX exhibition at Olympia. A short report describes proceedings at the William Morris Craft Fellowship awards held on one of many steaming hot days this summer in the splendid surroundings of St Mary-Le-Strand. The launch of the *Journal of Architectural Conservation* at De Montfort University is reviewed together with details of the new MSc course in Conservation Science available at the University.

Details of various other seminars, conferences and courses include the University of Central England one-day conference on Developments in Education and Training for Professionals in the Built Environment in September; the ICOMOS (UK) Conference on Historic Cities and Sustainable Tourism at Bath early October; Timber Finishes seminar in London mid-November; the English Heritage *Modern Matters* Conference at the RIBA at the end October/beginning of November, and the RESTORATION 95 and 96 exhibition and conferences in the USA.

I trust that all our readers have enjoyed the summer and that those in the education world are duly refreshed and ready to embark on the new academic year with renewed enthusiasm.

As ever we will be pleased to receive articles for the next issue and the copy date is Friday 8 December. It would be much appreciated if contributions could be word-processed and submitted on 3.5" computer floppy disk, ideally in WordPerfect 5.1/6.0, ASCII or compatible format.

Graham Lee



Llanerchaeron. John Nash designed estate house in the "picturesque" style. Owned by the National Trust.

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Council of Europe Professional Exchange to the National Trust's Llanerchaeron Estate, Aberaeron, Dyfed, 23rd-27th July 1995

Background

Llanerchaeron was left to the National Trust in 1989 in the will of John P Ponsonby Lewes. The Property is of major regional importance as an unspoilt example of a typical self-sustaining agricultural estate.

The principal house is of international importance as a largely unaltered John Nash designed villa, built in the early part of his career in Wales between 1794 and 1796. The service wing, courtyard, outbuildings, model home farm, stables and kennels also survive intact, though some are in poor repair. This core area is set within a small but carefully designed park in the outstandingly beautiful Vale of Aeron and is laid out in picturesque style, taking advantage of the natural features of the landscape.

The history of the estate is one of great continuity, which, in itself, represents a valuable social record of life in a West Wales rural community, and the relationship between a Welsh landowning family, the farm tenants and the rural folk.

In 1994, the National Trust decided to undertake a restoration and repair programme with the aim of re-establishing

Llanerchaeron as a small working estate. This is no mean task, not only because of the huge amount of work required, but also because the estate has been accepted without endowment and with only a small annual income. The National Trust cannot afford to support the running costs or the substantial repair work out of its general funds. Instead, new sources of capital and income must be found if the estate is to survive.

It was decided to take the opportunity of using the restoration process as a resource for training in traditional building craft skills and also other rural skills, thus raising the standard of skill in the community and also stimulating a greater interest locally in the care and maintenance of historic and vernacular buildings. The National Trust in South Wales already has a well established training structure through a long running rural skills training scheme which includes sixteen trainers and assessors, two internal verifiers and an external verifier in forestry and environmental conservation (landscapes and eco systems) NVQs.

The Task

With the training structure already in place, as outlined above, it



Bailiff's house and concrete greenhouse in walled garden at Llanerchaeron.

was felt the logical step to extend the scheme into historic building repair skills. Investigations very quickly brought the Trust into contact with COTAC and the National Conservation Training Network, and also the Council of Europe and the proposal to establish a European foundation for the promotion of practical building craft skills. A number of networked centres is already established and Llanerchaeron was offered the opportunity of a professional exchange from those already running the centres to help test the feasibility of establishing Llanerchaeron within the network.

The task given to the Council of Europe was to prepare a report for presentation to the National Trust on the feasibility of establishing Llanerchaeron as one of a network of building craft skill training centres throughout Europe.

The Workshop

On arrival, the experts were given a brief introduction to the work of The National Trust in Wales. The first day of the workshop concentrated on putting the Llanerchaeron Estate in context and included presentations by a number of potential partner organisations to the venture including Cadw, CITB, local architects and Coleg Ceredigion, the local Community College with a building training course.

This was followed by presentations by each of the European experts on their own experiences from which issues were drawn, which became the subject of workshops the following day. The workshops included consideration of facilities required, the skill level aimed for, the type of administration, the overall direction of the courses, the subject areas and craft skills for consideration, the funding requirement and the target markets. The experts then went on to produce a report on the outcome of the workshops for consideration by the National Trust.

The Result

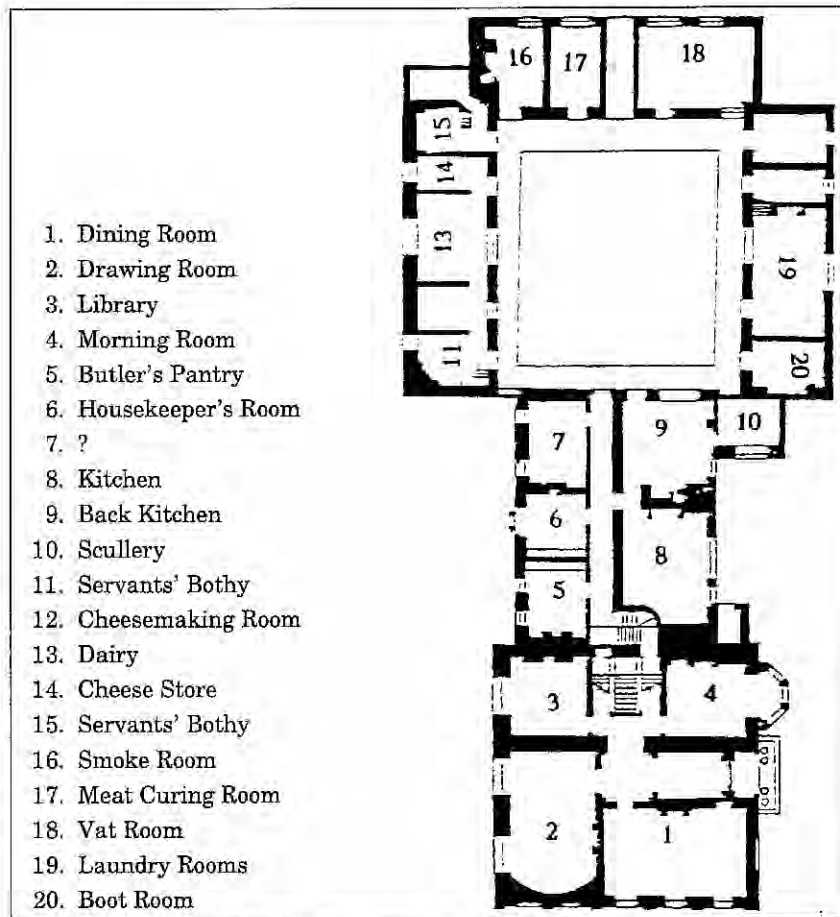
The report prepared by the experts principally backed the recommendation to develop the opportunities on offer at Llanerchaeron for the benefit of the wider community in Wales. In particular the need to integrate the training opportunities with wider education and learning opportunities was made and also with the other activities of the Trust in the area. Particularly the need to integrate the training programme with the Trust's principal conservation objectives and those of nature conservation management, archaeological management, visitor management and the essential need to maintain the support of local communities.

It was observed that few facilities are available in Wales for people to learn or experience practical building craft skills and this would be a timely opportunity to undertake such a training scheme. There would also be substantial benefits in networking the centre with other centres throughout Europe especially in view of the cultural dimension represented at Llanerchaeron.

The National Trust is now preparing an implementation plan which will include training in two main areas. Firstly long term training of an apprentice nature for people with some building experience already but who may be unemployed or wishing to develop conservation skills in particular. This will be run in conjunction with the CITB. Secondly, a series of short workshops, study days and courses aimed at home owners, local builders, surveyors and architects who wish to learn more or develop their skills about the general considerations of old building maintenance and also specific craft skills and aspects.

Philip James

Land Agent, National Trust



Llanerchaeron. Plan of Ground Floor and Kitchen Courtyard

The Experts

Seven experts were invited to attend including Wolf Dietrich Elbert from Dresden, Germany; Frank Donnelly from the Office of Public Works, Dublin, Ireland; Katarina Kosova from Bratislava, Republic of Slovakia; Václav Kryl from Litomysl in the Czech Republic; Paul McMahon from Dublin, Ireland; Gilles Nourissier from Avignon in France; Soren Vadstrup from Lingby in Denmark. The exchange was made possible and coordinated by Daniel Therond Principal Administrator, Cultural and Heritage Division of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Mr Therond also joined the exchange.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BUILDINGS

The Repair and Rehabilitation of 15-17 Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

When an historic building has fallen into disuse and has not been maintained for many years, the problems of funding its repair and finding it a new use can be such that commercial developers are unwilling to consider even the possibility of taking the building on, and the only option seems to be demolition. In cases like this, the local Building Preservation Trust can sometimes come to the rescue.

There is a network of Building Preservation Trusts throughout the United Kingdom, who between them have acted as the 'rescuers of last resort' for an assortment of semi-derelict, but undoubtedly valuable historic buildings, ranging from churches and castles to disused cotton mills and railway cottages. These Trusts (BPT's) are often staffed by volunteers, but, because of their charitable status, their relationship with major grant-giving bodies and local authorities, and their sheer dedication, they can often succeed where commercial developers would fail. BPT's are represented nationally by the Association of Preservation Trusts, and have a special relationship with the Architectural Heritage Fund, which can make low interest loans available to Trusts on their register.

Heritage Lincolnshire is a county-wide charitable trust, established to protect, preserve, promote and present all aspects of Lincolnshire's architectural and archaeological heritage. We are a registered BPT with professional staff, and, back in 1990, were asked to look at the feasibility of taking on a listed building, dating from the 1730's as a BPT project. Numbers 15 - 17 Bridge Street, Horncastle, along with some adjoining properties, had been purchased by a local businessman who intended to develop them as a complex of shops, offices and flats. The recession put a brake on his plans, however, and the buildings soon fell into decay. A Closing Order was put on No. 15, No. 17 was boarded up and became the haunt of pigeons, rats, and we think, local glue sniffers. A Feasibility Study, part-funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund, established that the building was capable of repair, and that the most suitable use, given the lack of back garden and vehicular access, and its position in the centre of town,

would be light commercial. It took us some months to persuade the grant-giving authorities that the repair and rehabilitation of the buildings was a worthwhile project, and that they must allow the Heritage Trust to sell the buildings on when work had been completed in order to recoup the working capital. Complicated legal agreements regarding the purchase and sale, and an easement to put a french drain into adjoining land also had to be negotiated, and sometimes it seemed as if we would never get the project off the ground.

In October 1994, however, work began at last, and the rehabilitation of 15 - 17 Bridge Street was underway. We used an architect, Alan Wright, who had great experience of work on historic buildings, and were fortunate that the contractors who submitted the lowest tender bid, Tasker Builders Ltd. of Digby, were well known for their conservation work,

having just finished the repairs to the fire-damaged Harrington Hall, near Spilsby, among other projects. A very good working relationship developed through the weekly site meetings, and we found that the combined input of contractor, client and architect solved difficulties before they became real problems. As a charity, using public money for the public good, we had to make sure that work on the building was carried out to the highest conservation standards possible. Our philosophy, established before we even started on site, was that the historic interest of the building was contained not just in the original structure, but in the details which had been altered over the years. Within the requirements of fire and building regulations, we tried to retain as many features as we could down to the restoration of the 1930's fireplaces, and the retention of the 'snowscape' reed and plaster ceilings. Small details like wrought iron door latches and window catches were kept where possible, and the joiners repaired or replaced all windows to their original profiles. The work demanded a high degree of skill, and we were fortunate that the contractors had a selection of craftsmen who had both good practical training through traditional methods, and theory from college. As an aside, it seems that in addition to promoting train-



15-17 Bridge Street, Horncastle, before conservation by Building Preservation Trust.



15-17 Bridge Street. Work nears completion.



Repaired dormer window.

ing in architectural conservation, it is vitally important to stimulate the commissioning of high quality repair projects, in order that the trainees will have somewhere to put their training into practice.

The building was finished at the end of March 1995, and its transformation has made a marked improvement on the character of this area of Homcastle, and will, we hope have stimulated regeneration plans for other buildings. The completion of the project was marked by an open afternoon, and around 100 people (many of whom had stood on the nearby bridge while work was going on expressing either interest, support or incredulity that we should even attempt to repair such a decrepit building) looked around the property. Their comments were generally enthusiastic, apart from the odd few who couldn't see why we had kept the fireplaces, and why hadn't we put something more suitable like a "nice Victorian grate" ("you can get them at B&Q") instead.

The repair project cost around £120,000, part of which was provided by grants from English Heritage and the Rural Development Commission, and part of which will come from the proceeds of the sale of the building. Working capital has been provided by a low interest loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund, and we are very grateful to these organisations for their support. We have been made an offer on the building, of £70,000 + VAT, and have been advised that it would be in our best interests to accept it. From a commercial point of view, the project would be seen at best as a loss-leader, at worst as suicidal. For a BPT, however, the project has been a viable and worthwhile undertaking. It is fortunate, for real problem buildings like 15-17 Bridge Street, that BPTs exist.

Collette Hall.

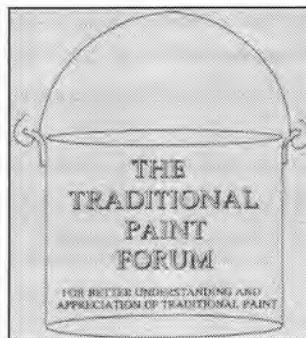
Asst. Director, Heritage Lincolnshire.

THE TRADITIONAL PAINT FORUM

In recent years there has been increasing interest in the subject of the materials and colours traditionally used in decoration. On 3rd December 1994, a group of over 50 like-minded people came together to form a society dedicated to a better understanding and appreciation of traditional paint. The Traditional Paint Forum intends to promote its aims by exchanging, collating and disseminating information through the publication of a regular journal *Traditional Paint News* and by holding meetings and conferences. In addition there will be a Newsletter *SMUDGE* prepared by individual members in turn and Issue number 1 came out in July. The current issue includes articles on the Forth Rail Bridge, Lead Paint use in the UK and the Common Market Directive, and the "Leave-It-Alone Society". We felt you may be interested by the following article:

Shakespeare's Lime Wash Brush

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust would like to know what Lime Wash brushes were like in Shakespeare's time. Somewhere



there may lurk behind the panelling a 16th century paint brush; if readers think they may have come across such a thing, please let the Forum know. It is likely to be a knot of bristle wrapped around a stick, bound with thread, gut or leather, rather like a model for a besom. A well-known engraving by Hogarth shows William Kent wielding a large brush and splashing the famous passers-by with whitening. Are there earlier illustrations?

The Forum is currently preparing for the first annual conference and workshop which will be held at the Chatham Historic Dockyard, Kent at which the first journal will be launched. The dates for this are 27th and 28th October 1995.

Speakers have been invited from several countries and it is expected to be a lively and informative event. Trade members will be demonstrating traditional skills in different media which may highlight aspects of the debate. The event is open to all. Contact Una Richards, the Honorary Secretary, Simpson & Brown, 179 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BN for further information about the Conference, the Forum, membership etc.



THE GRAND STAIR MASTERCLASSES IN BUILDING REPAIR AT WOODCHESTER MANSION



Woodchester Mansion is a masterpiece of Victorian gothic building in stone, never completed, it is now in need of considerable repair. It is run by the Woodchester Mansion Trust as a centre for training in building conservation and stonemasonry. In response to a general concern about the continual loss of knowledge and traditional skills among building professionals and craftsmen, the Trust is using selected aspects of the repair programme to provide training for professionals and craftsmen in a variety of building conservation skills.

A limited number of opportunities will arise during the repairs to study aspects of the building of particular interest and these will be the subject of specialist Masterclasses as they occur in the programme of works.

The Grand Stair is a splendid vaulted area, flanked on the outer face by tall lancet windows. After years of water penetration, damage to the window heads, to the springers and ribs of the canted vault and to the surrounding masonry is such that there would be a very real danger of collapse were it not for some temporary shoring.

Aim of the Masterclasses

The repairs to this complex part of the building, particularly the stone vaulting, are thought to be among the most extensive carried out in this country for many years, providing an extraordinary opportunity to extend the body of knowledge of students, craftsmen and professionals. Because of the exceptional nature of the work, very few people alive today have had experience of a job of this sort; the Masterclasses are intended to spread as widely as possible through the trades and professions skills which, once relatively common, are now rare to the point of extinction.

In order to ensure that the techniques used for the work are never lost, every aspect of the work carried out will be recorded in detail by the Trust and this information will be published as well as being preserved in the Trust's archives as a resource available to anyone who requires it in the future. The main aim of the Masterclasses, however, will be to increase practical skills in conservation through direct hands-on experience of the work as it takes place. The repair contract of which the Grand Stair Masterclasses will form a part includes:

- Structural support of a particularly complex area of the building;
- Partial dismantling and replacement of the stone vault, itself unusual because it forms a sloping ceiling over the staircase;
- Major repairs internally and externally to the moulded stone window jambs and arched heads, the stone rainwater system and to the surrounding ashlar;



Top: Woodchester Mansion, south front elevation. Above: A gargoyle from south front.

- Repairs to roof timbers and re-slating with new Cotswold stone slates.

Participants in the Grand Stair Masterclasses will first be given an introduction to the Mansion and the repair programme by members of the Trust's architectural team. They will be guided through a detailed exploration of the works by the foreman and craftsmen actually carrying out the job who will be on site specifically to make their knowledge and experience available to the students.

Specially designed access to the works area will allow the visitors to see the work in progress at close quarters. Demonstrations of points of particular interest and the opportunity of hands-on experience will be provided wherever possible.

Teaching aids will include the architect's and engineer's drawings, the contractor's method statement, drawings and templates, with access to the stone cutting shop on site. Archive material on the history, design and construction of the building and the work of the Trust will be available for study.

Besides the programme outlined the Trust will, on request, provide further guidance on any aspect of the work from its team of professionals. Tutors and leaders of participating groups will also be invited to devise their own additional use of the facilities to fit the needs of their courses or programme of Continuing Professional Development.

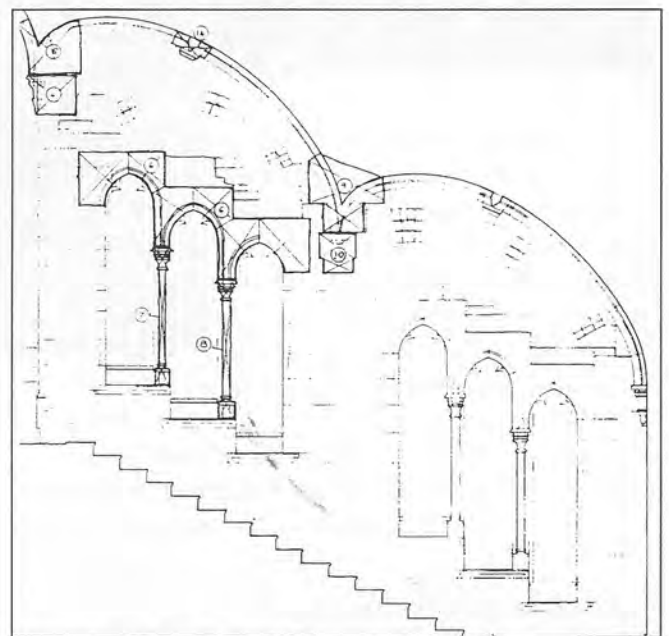
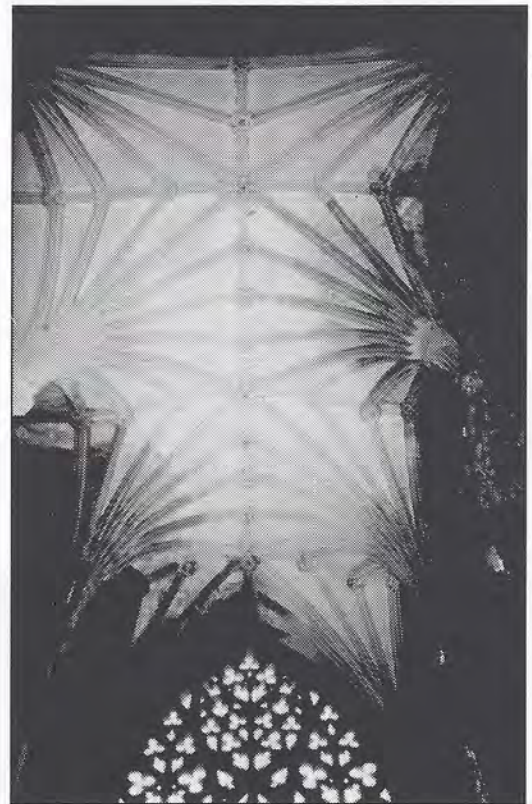
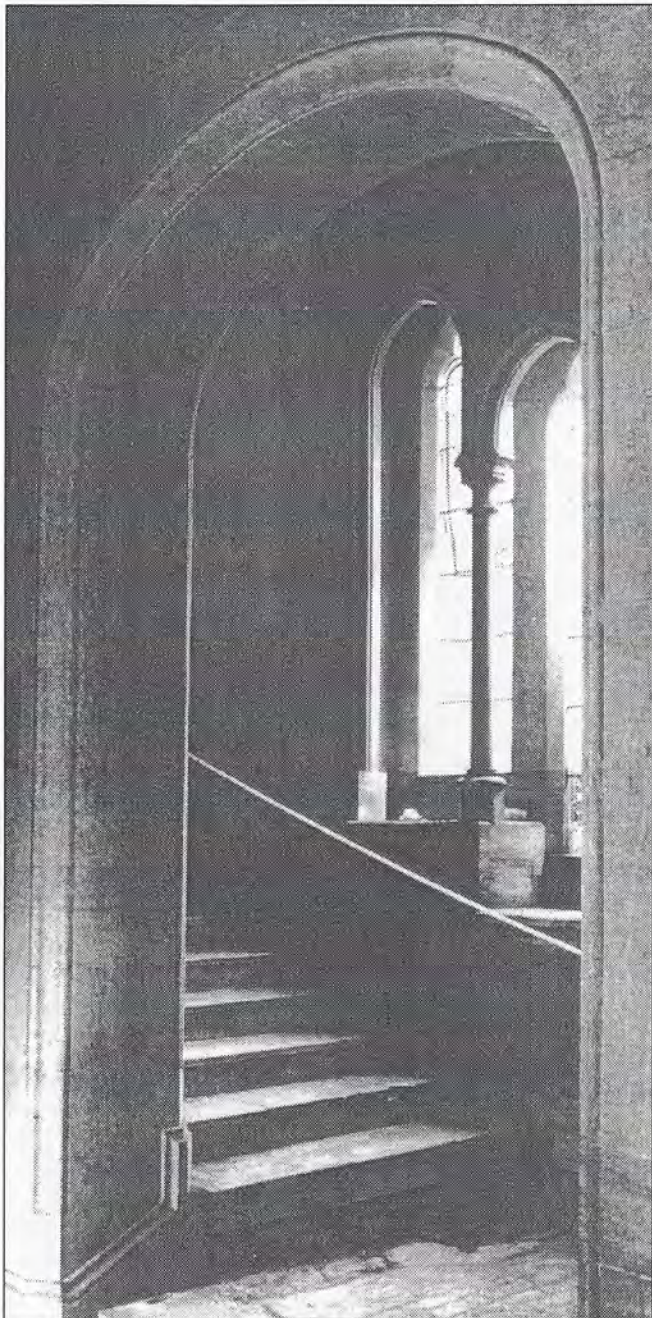
Course Content and Structure

The most likely subjects for specific Masterclasses are

- Vaulting: the problems of setting out and stone fixing make this a particularly exciting and interesting subject for any mason;
- Support works: a vital part of the repair process of equal importance to engineers, architects and craftsmen;
- Stone slating: the particular and neglected skills of roofing with Cotswold stone slates.

Each is likely to follow a broadly similar pattern and to include, in addition to its specialist subject:

- Getting to know and understand the structure of the building;
- Diagnosing original design faults and structural weaknesses;
- Assessing the causes and extent of damage;
- Planning the repair programme;
- Taking off measurements, preparing working drawings and templates;
- Specifying suitable materials;
- Recording all aspects of the work.



Left: A view of the Grand Stair. Right: Longitudinal section of staircase. Top right: The Chapel vaulting and tracery.

How to participate in the Masterclasses

Advance notice of the Masterclasses is being sent to UK universities and colleges with courses in architectural, building conservation and building craft subjects, national and international amenity and professional bodies and their members, and local firms and those of national standing in building conservation. This will be followed by an invitation to attend when specific information on dates and costs becomes available following the selection of the main contractor, with the first Masterclass in Autumn 1995 or Spring 1996.

For further information or to discuss the Masterclasses please contact Jamie Vans, Training Officer, Woodchester Mansion Trust, The Old Town Hall, High Street, Stroud GL5 1AP. Tel: 01453 756935/750455

Organisations which have already benefited from education and training provided by Woodchester Mansion Trust include:

National Historical Building Crafts Institute, Lincoln, University of Bath, School of Architecture, Bath City College, UK Institute for Conservation, Stone Section, Oxford Brookes University, School of Architecture, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, College of Masons, Association of Conservation Officers, University of the West of England, Faculty of the Built Environment, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, Stroud District Council officers and councillors, Building Limes Forum, RIBA Wessex Region Conservation Study Days, Men of the Stones

The Woodchester Mansion Trust's training programme is supported by a grant from the Department of National Heritage.



*Top: Dormer window before training project.
Centre: Trainee mason checks detail on dormer window.
Bottom: Dormer window completed.*

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATHERLEIGH, NORTH DEVON

On Wednesday 14th June the editor accompanied a group of students on the Masters Conservation Course from the University of Plymouth on a visit to the church at Hatherleigh. Our excellent guide was Mr Jonathan Lomas a partner in Dyer Feesey Wickham, Diocesan and English Heritage commissioned architect.

Numerous churches within the south west of England suffered storm damage on 25th January 1990. St John the Baptist, Hatherleigh, North Devon witnessed one of the more dramatic experiences.

At mid-day during the height of the storm which had swept the south west peninsula since daybreak, the entire late-medieval shingle-clad octagonal spire, some 16.5 metres in height crashed into the nave, bringing down with it masonry from the top of the tower and virtually destroying two thirds of the nave barrel vault roof. As a consequence, the south aisle roof was displaced as was the south wall of the church which was thrust outwards by the force of falling timber. The weight of the spire caused a large depression in the nave floor and the historically leaning granite south arcade became so dangerous that there was fear of it collapsing and bringing further parts of the fabric down with it.

On the morning of 26th January an emergency site meeting was convened with the incumbent, the Reverend Nicholas McKinnel, members of the Parochial Church Council, English Heritage representatives who had travelled down overnight, including their structural adviser, Ian Hume. The following week Jill Kerr, head of the South West team visited and seeing the severity of the damage was able at once, under the emergency powers, to promise grant aid.

The immediate task was to ensure no further damage.

On Sunday 11th February a second storm struck and superficial damage occurred. The continued wind and wet weather hampered early attempts to provide temporary covering to the exposed west end of the nave and tower roof which was open to the bell chamber.

E L Greening and Sons of Tavistock near Plymouth were engaged to oversee the single span scaffold cover to the nave and north and south aisles, the cost of which was in excess of £60,000.00 excluding continued hire charges. They also undertook to temporarily cloak the pipe organ in the north transept.

The incident has proved an expensive "blessing in disguise" opening up long-standing structural defects which no earlier quinquennial inspections could hope to identify. Most of these

hidden faults have been addressed in the ensuing reinstatement.

Early on, the Parochial Church Council saw the reinstatement as an opportunity to reorder the historically cramped east end of a church which had no chance. There was divided opinion with stalwart parishioners seeking a return to the status quo.

The fabric had been insured with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group under the Exeter Diocesan Block Scheme, sufficient to say that funds would in the greater part be forthcoming to consider a realistic repair programme. Substantial grant aid has been received from English Heritage, including the external repairs to the tower masonry in 1984. For the repair of the nave they stipulated that the oak timbers to the spire should be reinstated under a Phase II programme.

The spire which rises to 16.5 metres above the tower is of historical importance, ranking as one of only four within the county.

Following competitive tendering the contract was awarded to Stansell and Wells Cathedral Limited of Taunton who began work on 7th January 1991.

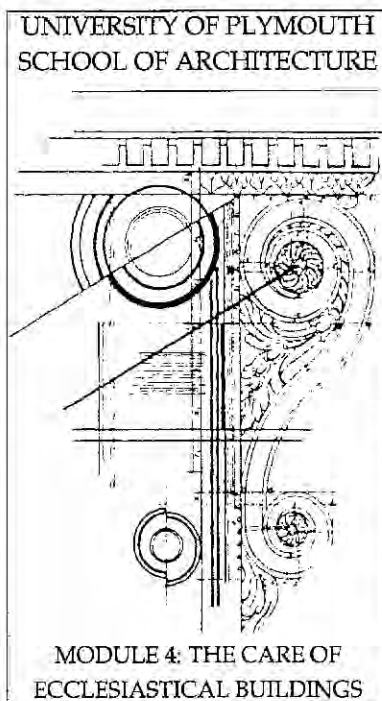
Repairs involved the careful taking down of the south granite arcade and rebuilding using the same stone to a new alignment. One third of the mediaeval nave roof required taking

down and the salvaged rafters, ribs and bosses have been incorporated within the replacement timbers and using North Cornish second hand slates. Both valleys to north and south aisles required to be opened up and new sole boards and Code 7 lead laid.

Replacement of damaged timbers in the barrel vault of the south arcade have been implemented together with the relaying of an area of stonework to the outer south wall, thrust out of alignment by the movement of the south aisle roof. The whole of the nave, 'chancel' and south aisle flooring has been taken up and relaid or repaired. The ceiling over the original screed was badly damaged and required repair. The shattered candelabra at the west end of the nave was sent to Oxford for repair by Mrs E A Oldfield.

The tower floor has been relaid. All the broken oak benches and bench ends were sent to the main contractor's workshops, but the piecing together was carried out on site.

The instability of the ground within the church caused by earlier graves and the later building of the south aisle over the earlier graveyard necessitated extending the feet of the granite south arcade onto pad stones taken down a further 2135mm. Great care was taken not to disturb the burials more than



absolutely necessary, not helped by the discovery in the centre of the nave aisle of two vaults and a further grave against the base of one of the columns. Three further coffins dating from the 1820s were found in the north aisle with the lifting of the 'chancel' floor.

Replacement services have included the installation of a low pressure hot water fan-assisted radiator system, new sodium purpose made high level lights supplemented by tungsten halogen spotlights.

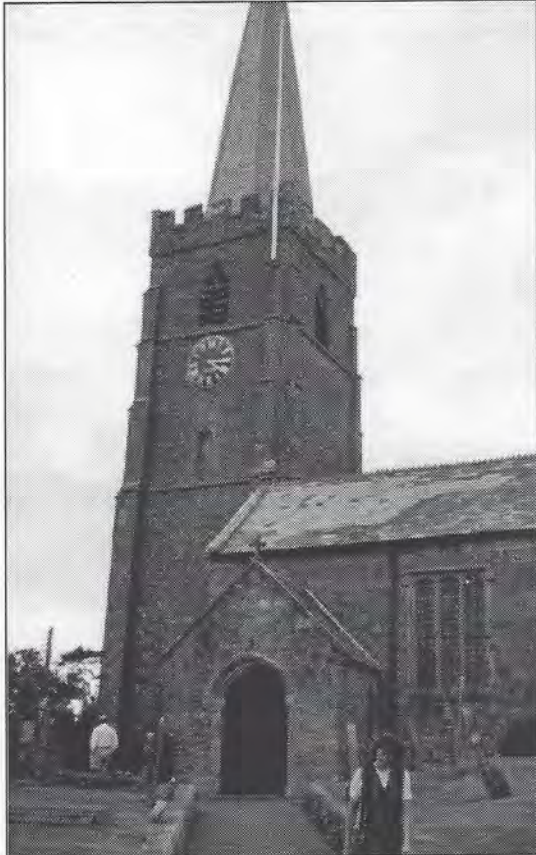
The carpet to the nave, north and south aisles, 'chancel' and vestry has been independently provided by the Parochial Church

Council.

The first service within the reinstated church was conducted by the Archdeacon of Totnes on Sunday 22nd December 1991 with a thanksgiving service by the Bishop of Exeter on 6th February 1992.

A fascinating visit as part of the Care of Ecclesiastical Buildings module of the course. Our grateful thanks to Jonathan Lomas and his partnership for their lighthearted and informed guidance on the day and provision of the notes as basis for this article and the staff and students of the Plymouth University course.

GL



Left: St John the Baptist Church, Hatherleigh, North Devon. View of spire and tower.

Above: Students and staff from Plymouth University Masters Conservation Course in restored Hatherleigh Church.

BRINGING ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION INTO FOCUS

by Roger France

In this article Roger France argues that clarifying definitions and standards can only be helpful to the activity of conservation. It can, moreover, be a positive aid in the formulation of courses, and in the normalisation of professional practice.

Given the name of COTAC – the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation – the casual observer might imagine that the subject is one that is naturally studied in schools of architecture. Regrettably, this is a long way from the truth: in only a minority of schools is the discipline incorporated into the syllabus. Indeed, the protection of heritage buildings has entered

professional practice from other directions, and their conservation is, instead, the province of many of the courses that are represented on COTAC.

In the United Kingdom, awareness of conservation has grown since the nineteen-sixties as greater value came to be placed on many features of the environment, and as a greater number of activities were viewed as irreversible and destructive. An early attempt to come to terms with the rapacious impact of traffic, for example, was presented in 1963 by Sir Colin Buchanan. He put forward the idea of an 'environmental area' within which

standards could be established to other measurable levels of protection for pedestrians safety, residential amenity and architectural character. But this was overtaken by the more tangible idea of the 'conservation area', derived from ideas put forward by The Council of Europe. With this there arrived the now famous phrase in the Civic Amenities Act which offers protection to architectural or historic character through preservation or enhancement.

The wording is important, for it provides legal status to the activity of conservation when the object of that activity is the preservation of the architectural or historic character in the townscape. Although several interpretations are possible, this has proved to be a powerful formula for achieving the preservation of architectural entities and of historically valuable fabric. Thus, it is through statute law and the courts that the activity of conservation at an urban level has come to be defined. Unlike 'conservation areas' however, the preservation of listed buildings is not so clearly embodied in the legislation.

Architectural conservation pertains to individual buildings as entities, to their component parts, and to the relationship between the two. Likewise, architectural character applies to adjacent buildings and to townscape groupings and their relationship. Thus, it can be defined at three levels – the area, the building and the component – an 'ABC' of conservation.

In spite of the evolution of legislation, aspects of conservation activity have so far escaped definition in official publications. Without such definition, it is easy to withdraw into personal opinion, or to rely on simplistic visual criteria involving vague architectural notions of 'context'.

Conservation is action to achieve the preservation of buildings, cultural artifacts, natural resources, energy, and any other item of acknowledged value.

Preservation is the survival of a building, artifact or grouping whether by accident or by purposeful action. It is a state of being, not an activity.

Such definitions are not set down by English Heritage, and it is to be hoped that they may be granted their due credibility by another organisation (the British Standards Institute, for example) together with a more wholesome supportive rationale.

Proper establishment of the definitions and of the levels of conservation activity has implications for those involved with education and training, for others who are endeavouring to strengthen its practice in the professions, and for COTAC itself.

Inspection of the titles of various postgraduate courses that are offered in conservation include 'building', 'architectural' and 'urban'. Central to the activity of architectural conservation is the retention of historic fabric and the preservation of architectural character, and this activity calls for wide-ranging knowledge, a variety of skills, and an ability to formulate value judgements. The skill of the designer is an important part of architectural appreciation. Thus, architectural design must be a significant part of the syllabuses of those courses in building or urban conservation for them to be properly about architectural conservation.

In the world of the built environment professions, there has been a steady growth in the number of specialist courses. One reason for this may be the inability of generalist courses in architecture, surveying and town planning to adjust to a changing world with adequate speed. For better or for worse, the day-to-day activities of members of the established professions are now supplemented by the contributions of specialists who have attended courses in architectural conservation. Unlike more finite subjects, the embrace here is more wide, and it is this that makes the work of COTAC more difficult and more challenging.

The advent of a system for national vocational qualifications may be seen as a mixed blessing following, as it does, the demise of the Council for National Academic Awards. But it must be in the interests of all who are active in the protection of the built heritage at large that some method of normalisation should exist between the different disciplines and professions involved. And for this to be effective, the definitions and principles behind their endeavours need to be clear and consistent. With the head-start that COTAC and the new courses have made, it will ultimately be for the major professions to come to terms with this new phenomenon. Will they recognise them, absorb them, or continue to turn their backs?

In architectural conservation, the exercise of design differs from the individualism that is still encouraged in the realms of architectural education: principles and policies play a larger part in the design process. But this should not preclude clearer thinking about the process as a whole. We may not go as far as Buchanan in establishing fully quantified standards for environmental amenity, but standards must still be sought, so that interventions in the heritage, including the familiar and cherished scene, can still be controlled and harmonious – indeed a central objective of protection.

Roger France is a lecturer in urban conservation and is Convenor of the Conservation Course Directors' Forum.

STOP PRESS

ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION OFFICERS East Anglia Branch

1995 CONFERENCE
Saturday 25th November 0945–1700

Theme: Is conservation just a lottery?
Location: The Umney Theatre, Robinson College, Cambridge

Cost: ACO Members £26.00, Non-members £39.00
(including lunch and refreshments)

Papers only, £6.00

More information:

James Clifton, 01442 278736
John Preston, 01223 463341, Ext 2630.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS AT ST PANCRAS SET '95, 20-24 March 1995

I volunteered to spend a week's leave guiding visitors around the interior of the magnificent St. Pancras Chambers, formerly the Midland Grand Hotel, as part of COTAC's involvement in SET '95.

In the initial COTAC briefing we were told that it was anticipated tours of 15 people would be going round the building every half hour, with perhaps 3-4 groups in busy periods. But who would have expected the massive response to the opening that actually occurred? Around 6,000 people came into the building and visited the exhibitions, workshops and clamoured for the guided tours. Very many more walked away when they saw the huge queues often involving over an hour's wait to enter, or had to be turned away at closing time.

Tour sizes had to be instantly revised upwards to 25 or more, but even that was insufficient and I frequently had to add two parties together totalling over 50-60 people just to attempt to cope with the demand. As each guide finished a tour there was only sufficient time to take a deep breath and immediately start the next one. For the whole week there was only a total of seven guides and some of them came for only a day or two.

The visitors buzzed with enthusiasm, questions and wonder as we explored together the huge building. Some of the people I spoke to had travelled from places as varied as Dublin, Edinburgh, Scarborough, Liverpool, Newcastle, just for this visit. Many others lived locally and had waited years for their first opportunity to go inside. There were highly knowledgeable railway enthusiasts, architects, photographers, historians but most fascinating of all were the people who had once worked or stayed here. Former bell boys, waiters, chefs, chambermaids, telegraph boys, and railway workers made a nostalgic voyage of rediscovery and were so willing to talk about the former grand times. I was constantly learning more about the building from each of my tours.

One railway worker, who narrowly escaped death or serious injury when the building was badly bombed, provided me with a graphic account of the bomb passing through the roof and floor of the station, exploding in the beer cellars below, causing major devastation to the vaults and platforms above. Others described their long hours of work and often low pay, but overall the sheer grandeur of the hotel. Some people had worked in it after 1935



Crowds queuing for access to St Pancras Chambers during SET '95 week in March.

when it became offices and was known as St Pancras Chambers and they painted other pictures of its use and misuse.

St Pancras Station, designed by William Henry Barlow, opened in 1868 as the Midland Railway's London terminus, while its railway hotel, called the Midland Grand, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, first opened in part on 5 May 1874. While they were separate buildings with different functions I felt it was important that their histories and inter-relationships were explained and demonstrated as much as possible. Indeed, my first act was always to make it clear that we were going on a tour of the HOTEL as so very many people are convinced that the magnificent edifice of the Midland Grand Hotel fronting onto Euston Road is St Pancras Station, and are unaware that the station lies behind it. As we explored the hotel the close relationship between the two could be demonstrated, particularly a stunning scene from a hotel staircase in the middle of the building which has a view of the station interior and its huge unsupported roof, an engineering wonder of its day.

It was impossible to take parties round more than a few of its 700 rooms but a well worked out route enabled us to visit the major features in about 40-50 minutes, although the last tour of the day took much longer and then the visitors had to be driven out. Tours would often start in the Coffee Lounge where the decorations, plasterwork and columns must have been stunning in their heyday and even today produce gasps of wonder. There are alternate columns of beautifully polished green Connemara and Red Devonshire limestones. At a stroke visitors were captivated by the grandeur of the building and held in its spell for the rest of the tour. The problems of future restoration was also well emphasised here. The later uses of the room as offices resulted in holes being hacked into the ornate ceiling for supports for a suspended ceiling. The beautiful columns had all been painted over and only small sections of paint had been removed to show the glorious stone beneath, such a wanton crime to cover up.

A walk up the Grand Staircase then helped complete the visitors' captivation as they admired the ironwork, stonework and the ceiling. Remnants of the original carpet were on display at the bottom and it was so easy to imagine the 19th Century scenes of grandly dressed men and women gliding down the gaslit stairs. On the ceiling the paintings by Andrew Benjamin Donaldson of the Virtues had been lovingly restored and showed the standards of restoration that the hotel deserves.



Paint removal to reveal original wall decoration in Coffee Lounge at St Pancras Chambers.



Camden Training Centre student preparing stencil of Minton tiles at St Pancras Chambers.

We then toured some of the other floors, exploring rooms and corridors and explaining their uses, decorations and some of the features we passed. The huge pipes for the hydraulic water power system, the large radiators and the exposed parts of the carefully executed original decorations all creating interest and wonder. The sheer scale of the hotel was captured by glimpses along the corridors - with the far ends seeming a bus ride away. Certain rooms stood out in their excellence, particularly the Dining Room, which although now divided into two still impresses for its size and plasterwork. The Ladies Smoking Room, such an innovation for the time, is splendid and has a large balcony outside overlooking Euston Road. But it once had its critics "Ladies smoking, and in public, how improper!"

The wall decorations had been created by stamping different stencils on the walls to produce the desired patterns, a technique that was demonstrated during the week by Camden Training Centre staff and students on the ground floor. Only a small amount of the original decoration has been exposed through careful restoration but visitors were encouraged to look for "ghosts", the original decorations now overpainted but which could still be identified by looking at walls and ceilings from various angles. It was so easy to imagine what the full effect would have been when the whole of a corridor was at its best.

Surrounded by so much splendour I felt that I wasn't giving the talk but the building was speaking for itself. I only regretted that we were so short of guides that it was difficult to spend more time with the some of the knowledgeable visitors to add to what I already knew about the building. Although I worked non-stop from about 10-5.30 each day the experience was so enjoyable that even the eighth tour of the day was still rewarding.

The one fact that I found it impossible to explain to each group and get them to believe was that there is no firm plan for the future use of the building. £10 million has been spent on the restoration of the fabric of the outside and a small amount on the interior. Visitors walked away amazed by the masterpiece they had been visiting and that there seemed no priority for its restoration and future suitable uses.

Interest in the building is increasing and it is hoped that there will be other occasions when it will be opened for visits and

events like SET '95, with the co-operation of British Rail. I feel that this can only be with a substantial increase in the number of volunteers to help with supervision and guiding. Would you be willing to help with any future event? If you are please contact the writer but I have to warn you that the magic of the building will capture you too.

Malcolm Holmes, Borough Archivist, London Borough of Camden, c/o 45 Oxhey Avenue, Oxhey, Watford, Herts. WD1 4HB.



Visitors admire the balcony and ceiling paintings at the top of the Grand Stairs at St Pancras Chambers.

NEW MSc IN CONSERVATION SCIENCE

A new taught MSc programme in Conservation Science will be available at De Montfort University from September. This pioneering new programme is complementary to the established MA in Architectural Building Conservation and represents a further development of the University's interest in Conservation Studies.

The programme itself is offered via a full-time (12 months duration) or a part-time route (minimum of 2 academic sessions). It has been designed for candidates with either scientific or non scientific backgrounds and involves the resources of De Montfort University Lincoln and De Montfort University Leicester.

The course is intended to prepare graduate scientists or conservators for entry into the conservation science profession. Trained conservators may wish to use it as a means of improving analytical and investigative skills. One route, based at Leicester, is for students with a conservation background. It is designed to provide a grounding in those aspects of science which are

relevant to conservation.

The other route, for students with a science background, provides a foundation in conservation in relation to conservation science and is based on the Lincoln campus for the first semester.

Both routes combine for certain core modules in the first semester. The second semester and project period are common to both groups and focuses on analytical instrumentation and materials testing techniques applied to artefacts, materials and processes used in conservation, and the museum environment. The programme culminates with a research project in the summer.

Candidates should normally have, or be about to receive, a second class honours degree or equivalent in a scientific discipline, conservation or related field.

For further details and an application form contact, Dr Audrey Matthews, Department of Chemistry, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel: (0116) 2577120. Fax: (0116) 2577135. E-mail: alm@dmu.ac.uk.



NETWORK NEWS

Bournemouth

Joint centre partnership is working well, Continuing Vocational Education (CVE) and Continuing Professional Development CPD seminars on building Conservation are proving successful, and money has been obtained for continuing liberal education, non certificate courses. A successful visit took place to Drimnagh Castle in Dublin June 21/22 for a surface conservation of stonework course with 3 speakers each from UK/Ireland and included visits to live sites and quarries. It is hoped to run another similar short course in future. A bid has been made for an MPhil in vernacular architecture course. It was noted that COTAC are intending to work with Ireland to generate education/training material. A short course has been arranged under the COMETT programme with Ghent for early September.

Lincoln

De Montfort University Leicester now have long term ownership of Castle View as a base for future development. The Journal of Architectural Conservation was launched in April at the University and a successful visit by Stephen Dorell, then Minister for the Heritage took place in the early summer. A bid by the end of June deadline was submitted for LEONARDO EU funding for another exchange with the conservation school at Sintra in Portugal. Mr Vincent Shacklock has been appointed as Head of School of Applied Arts and Design at Lincoln and retains overall management of the conservation school at Leicester.

York College of Further and Higher Education

The Master Crafts course is being progressed but there are still problems with funding this full time. Mr Roger Silk is exploring full and part time options. They are working with the CITB on NVQ Painting and Decorating, and Stonework courses linked to the University.

IAAS York

The Department of Archaeology is joining Conservation at King's Manor from September and there was the intention to link courses wherever possible. Good connections have been established for new railway engineering studies. A range of conferences, courses and books and in house publications are available and listed in the latest prospectus. IAAS are formalising links with Ryedale Folk museum for timber/lime training etc and also running courses on concrete and steel. New Design Brief Management course available.

South Birmingham

Conservation craft courses are being marketed on the basis of needs of the customer, numbers are small, so they are being integrated for economy into the main courses. A bid has been

made for LEONARDO funds with CENFIC in Portugal for site manager training up to CIOB level. Student exchanges are planned with the Compagnon in Limoges and the college have been asked to partner Slovenia in a distance learning package for roofing. A party of 8 Slovenians recently visited South Birmingham and other parts of UK and the College will be working with their staff and acting as consultants. The work will be paid for by the PHARE programme and they have also received two tranches of money from the Foreign Office KNOW-HOW fund for exploratory reciprocal visits to Slovenia. Initial work will be for Craft and Site Management.

The College now want to expand into other subject areas than construction and there may be some follow up from Croatia. An initiative to set up some CAD hard/software work with Roumania has been resurrected. They are looking to partner Ferrara Italy in a brickwork grant bid and also a possible joint bid with COTAC. Further links with Linford contractors in Lichfield are to be developed and they have also put feelers out in Czech republic and Poland.

Lambeth College

The Master Crafts pilot course has been reviewed and it was confirmed that some students had struggled. How the course is delivered in the future should be re-assessed, and a better approach may be to follow German practice with part-time/evenings/weekends/summer school. Content may need slight tuning depending on experience of candidates and it needs well qualified staff to run. Final year course to degree level in conjunction with South Bank University available in draft and goes for accreditation in September which could be first opportunity for craftsmen/women to obtain degree. A large YOUTHSTART programme bid to establish workshop sites in UK importing the best practices from Spain and Italy is proposed.

Bath

£7000 funds have been raised and the centre now needs to progress to an entity rather than a concept. The summer school on management of historic urban environments is planned for 1996. It is hoped that this will develop into a course at the Bath University School of Architecture and Engineering. There will be an exploratory meeting 6-7 October 1995 with European partners and linked to ICOMOS Conference on 4-6.

Birmingham Network

The third meeting was held recently but few attended so progress is slow but a further Open Forum meeting has been arranged for October.

THE WILLIAM MORRIS CRAFT FELLOWSHIP



28th June saw Mr Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage present certificates to Mark Fowler, a carpenter/joiner employed by St Blaise Ltd, Sarah Pennal, a stonemason from Salisbury Cathedral Works Dept and David Watts, a bricklayer employed by the National Trust.

The Fellowship is arranged and run by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and in particular the secretary Mr Philip Venning and Education Officer Mrs Rachel Bower. This year's comprehensive 96-day programme for the fellows arranged by Rachel included History, Materials of Buildings, Craft Skills and Conservation, Decay, Methods of Repair, Project Management, the Professions, and Administration of Conservation. Emphasis is on practical work, site visits, includes the SPAB repair course and regular tutorials. During the last two months Fellows follow their own particular interests and trade on appropriate sites to deepen their experience.

Sponsors of this year's awards included James Longley and Co Ltd, The Royal Fine Art Commission, Art and Architecture Education Trust, Linford, The Garfield Weston Foundation, Stuart Heath Charitable Settlement, The Drake Trust, The John S. Cohen Foundation and Inverforth Charitable Trust.

For further information on the Fellowship and entry details contact: Mrs Rachel Bower, Education Officer, SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London, E1 6DY. Tel: 0171 377 1644



From left: Mark Fowler, Sarah Pennal, Jocelyn Stevens and David Watts at the William Morris Craft Fellowship Awards Ceremony.

REVIEW OF RESTOREX

About 150 visitors per day came to the COTAC stand and overall Network members felt it had been worthwhile, although it was felt that total visitor numbers were down on the previous exhibition. A number of useful international contacts were established. Leaflets, the Newsletter and individual college course information were very popular. There had been some problems with quality of presentation, due to the diverse ideas to be conveyed and it was agreed to use a more unified approach for Network members under the COTAC banner in future.

COTAC and the Network Partners gratefully acknowledge the kind support and assistance received once again from the organisers of RESTOREX, Mack-Brooks Exhibitions and their associated publication *Refurbishment Projects Journal*.

ARCHITECTURAL JOURNAL LAUNCH

Donhead Publishing and De Montfort University launched the new *Journal of Architectural Conservation* with a reception for over 50 leading academics and practitioners in the field of architecture and landscape conservation at the University on 11 April.

The Patron, Sir Bernard Feilden, in his speech to toast the introduction of the Journal, acknowledged the importance of this publishing venture and the need for an international refereed journal serving the interests of the conservation community.

The scope and coverage of the Journal will be wide-ranging and include discussion on: aesthetics and philosophies; historical influences; project evaluation and control; repair techniques; materials; re-use of buildings; legal issues; inspection, recording and monitoring; management and interpretation; historic parks and gardens. The Journal will be published three times per year and is available on subscription from Donhead Publishing. The first issue is now available and includes papers on:

- The conservation and restoration undertaken at Burlington House, the Royal Academy of Arts in London; an account by Julian Harrap of the work carried out between 1989 and 1992 by Sir Norman Foster and Partners and Julian Harrap Architects.
- A technical paper analysing the nature and soiling of architectural terracotta including pieces treated with a

hydrofluoric acid-based cleaning solution, written by C R Moynehan and others at the University of Bristol along with John Ashurst from the Department of Conservation Sciences, University of Bournemouth.

- The Role of Paint Analysis in the Historic Interior, a paper by Patrick Baty of Papers and Paints, discussing the various different methods available; the way in which paint analysis can help determine how a room might have looked previously; and its role in the archaeology and dating of a structure.
- Restoration to Conservation, the study and treatment of historic buildings and monuments in Britain since the mid-nineteenth century by David Mason and Vincent Shacklock at De Montfort University.
- A review by Judith Roberts at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York of the work undertaken on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England over the past decade.

The Journal of Architectural Conservation also carries book reviews and a list of forthcoming events and notices.

For further information, a review copy of the Journal, or subscription details, contact: Bronwen Silcox, Donhead Publishing Ltd, 28 Southdean Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 6NU
Tel: 0181 789 0138. Fax: 0181 789 9114



Launch of the Journal of Architectural Conservation at De Montfort University. In the front row (from left to right) Dr David Watt, Editor; Sir Bernard Feilden, Patron; Vincent Shacklock, Editorial Board Member, Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice Chancellor, and Jill Pearce, Publisher.



faculty of THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
an INVITATION to PARTICIPATE in a ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
on DEVELOPMENTS in EDUCATION
and TRAINING for PROFESSIONALS in the BUILT ENVIRONMENT.
QUALITY through INTER-PROFESSIONALISM and COLLABORATION

SPEAKERS

SIR MICHAEL LATHAM

*Chairman of the Construction Industry Board
of the Employment Department*

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

Q West Consultants

SUE OTTER

Advisor to the Further and Higher Education Branch

PROF JOHN STEPHENSON

Director of Higher Education for Capability

22 SEPTEMBER 1995, 0900—1600 hours

at UCE in BIRMINGHAM

Cost: £120 (includes lunch, tea, coffee and proceedings)

Enquiries and Bookings:

Elaine Taylor, Built Environment Development Centre, Edge Building, Faculty of the Built Environment
University of Central England, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2SU

Conference Summary

The pressures on higher education from government and industry have led to a number of important developments including an increase in the numbers of students causing changes in structure and of courses, and in teaching and learning methods. In addition the recession has forced the industry to improve its practices, with much emphasis on collaboration. The conference aims to provide a forum for exchange of ideas, to develop contacts, to look forward at how to provide quality in education, relate this to the needs of the industry and to provide material for publications for wider dissemination. It is for lecturers professionals and employers in the industry and concerned with the built environment. There will be short keynote presentations, followed by a panel discussion, a series of workshops and finishing with collaborative reflection and feedback.



ICOMOS



ICOMOS UK CONFERENCE – Historic Cities and Sustainable Tourism

The need to balance tourism and conservation of the environment is widely recognised. In 1990 ICOMOS UK sponsored a conference at Canterbury which set out the principles for sustainable tourism. This conference questions to what extent these ideals have been realised in practice.

It is to be held at the Guildhall in the City of Bath, a World Heritage Site, on 4th–6th October, 1995

The full Conference Fee will be £225.00 per person. Discounts will be available as follows:

ICOMOS Members: £25.00 discount. Fees paid before 3rd September: £35.00 discount

The fee will cover attendance at the conference with light refreshments, dinner on the Wednesday and Thursday and lunch on Thursday.

Please book through: ICOMOS UK, Historic Cities Conference, Bath Tourism Bureau, Abbey Chambers, Abbey Church Yard, Bath BA1 1LY.

Tel: +44 (0) 1225-477 229. Fax: +44 (0) 1225-477 221

ICOMOS UK SEMINAR – Timber Finishes

Tuesday 14 November 1995

To be held by kind permission of Ove Arup Ltd,

at The Southampton Room, Adam House, 1 Fitzroy Square, London W1

SEMINAR CHAIRMAN: Graham MOSS

This seminar will be the eighth in a series organised by ICOMOS UK on timber structures and includes:

Wood is a difficult substrate, History of Polychromy, Examples of Interior Polychromy,

Recipes for Exterior Paints, History of Varnishes and History of external colour schemes on timber framed buildings.

The cost of the seminar is: £49.00 (£41.00 for members of ICOMOS UK)

This will include sandwich lunch and a set of papers at the end of the day

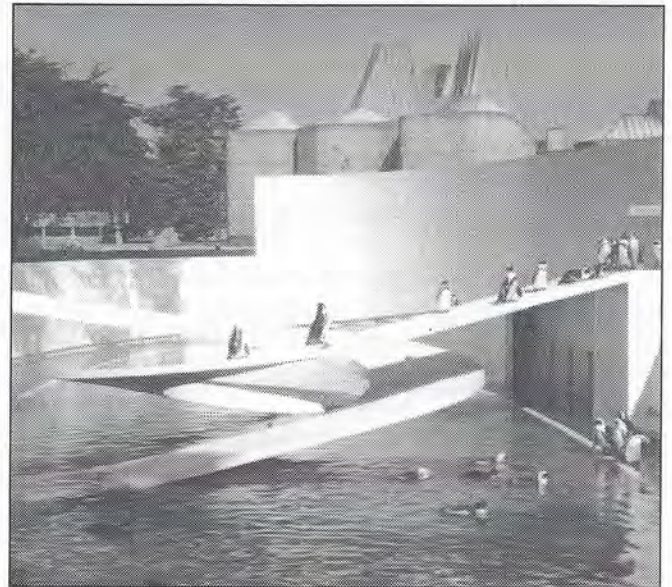
LATE BOOKINGS: For bookings and payments received after 1st November 1995, the cost will be £58.00

Further information and bookings: The International Council on Monuments & Sites UK

10 Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, London W4 4PH. Telephone: 0181-994 6477. Fax: 0181-747 8464

MODERN MATTERS

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE IN CONSERVING RECENT
ARCHITECTURE



Modern Matters is a two day conference to be held on 31st October and 1st November 1995 at the RIBA. It will bring to the fore the pressing philosophical and practical issues encountered when conserving our recent architectural heritage. Where do we stand today? What have we learnt to date, and what needs to be done now to ensure the best possible practice and management of twentieth-century architecture? The conference will focus on these questions with a view to furthering knowledge and expertise in this area of conservation.

Day 1 will survey the current position concerning the protection and care of modern buildings of architectural merit and debate what kind of special problems they pose. There will be case studies comparing experiences in the repair and management of twentieth-century buildings. Comparisons with the French situation will prompt discussions on what is being done well, and badly, in this country and how this compares with experience elsewhere in Europe.

Day 2 will tackle the practical and technical issues in detail. Speakers will scrutinise the individual materials and systems fundamental to twentieth-century architecture such as steel and concrete,

analyse the various decay phenomena, and explore the available repair options. The case studies include contributions from architects and engineers who are carrying out pioneering research and practical work both here and abroad.

The conference is to be held in the Jarvis Hall at the Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AP.

A series of exhibitions including DOCOMOMO's Modern Architecture Restored and the Connell Ward & Lucas exhibition have been organised as part of this event.

Various trade associations and contractors will also be exhibiting.

COST: £30 per day
(includes coffee, tea, buffet lunch with wine).

Further information or applications to:
Architectural Conservation, English Heritage,
429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD.
Enquiries, including potential exhibitors should be directed to: The Modern Matters Administrator.
Tel: 0171 973 3821.

interbuild

100 YEARS 1895-1995

SUNDAY 19
TO FRIDAY 24
NOVEMBER 1995

The COTAC International Conference is being arranged in conjunction with Interbuild the premier UK Building Exhibition which celebrates its centenary this year. Based at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, COTAC are joint organisers with a team including Interbuild, BURA, Skillbuild and Upkeep for part of the exhibition focused on Quality in the Built Environment.

A leaflet is enclosed giving more information. In summary, as well as the usual Interbuild event in Halls 1-5 there will be an exhibition in Hall 7 dedicated to the improvement of quality in construction with emphasis on refurbishment rather than new build. This will show exhibits of best practice, innovative use of traditional materials and skills, training opportunities at craft, technical and professional level with demonstrations by mastercraftsmen and women together with the Skillbuild apprentices competitions. There will be a COTAC Network pavilion with opportunities for other craft demonstrations, static and voluntary organisation displays as well as commercial stands. Hall 6 is dedicated to woodworking machinery and Hall 8 to concrete.

The conference programme will be held in the Concourse suite adjacent to Hall 7 over

three days - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The COTAC conference under the title of **Profiting from Conservation** begins Tuesday morning with arrangements by the DOE under their Quality in Town and Country programme, and COTAC taking over the helm for the afternoon and Wednesday. An initial programme is enclosed. The conference has benefited with support from the European Union under the COMETT fund and assistance from the Department of National Heritage under the Heritage Grant Fund. Various other organisations will be arranging short conferences and seminars including it is hoped: English Partnerships, Upkeep, Historic Towns Forum, RIBA etc. A booking form for the DOE/COTAC Conference is enclosed and we strongly advise you to return this to the organisers as soon as possible as accommodation is strictly limited. Some hotel rooms have been reserved at the Chamberlain in central Birmingham but there is very little accommodation available in the City that week. The conference dinner will be held at the Chamberlain on the Tuesday evening. Coach transport will be arranged from the hotel to NEC etc. A programme of local interest visits will also be arranged. We look forward to meeting many old and new friends in Birmingham.



RESTORATION 95/96

RESTORATION/San Francisco is scheduled for December 10-12 1995 at the San Francisco Hilton & Towers; **RESTORATION 96** will run March 17-19 1996 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

RESTORATION/San Francisco is the debut of **RESTORATION** in the Western part of the North American continent and will cater to the needs, tastes and styles of the audience in that region. Hence, on the architectural side, there will be considerable emphasis on Victorian, Adobe, Mission, American Bungalow and topics like seismic retrofitting, landscape architecture and the use of historical reproductions.

RESTORATION 96 in Baltimore brings the show to the hub of the densest population centre for restoration and preservation activity in the entire US - the Mid-Atlantic states. This area is also an excellent gateway to the growing market in the Southern states. The Baltimore venue at the spacious Convention Center will also enable **RESTORATION** to grow - not just in numbers of attendees, but also exhibitors and supporters from the many national preservation

organisations and related consumer publications that will be exhibiting at the show. Numbers from the 1995 show in Boston (275 exhibitors and over 10,000 visitors) are expected to increase significantly.

The British Trade Office from the UK Consulate General in New York exhibited at **RESTORATION 95** in Boston (along with about a dozen other UK companies) and has written a highly enthusiastic report to the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), asking for government subsidy of a UK pavilion at **RESTORATION 96**. For International exhibitors, an attractive 50 square foot furnished exhibit option is on offer for just \$1300 US dollars. Larger space is also available.

For further information contact: **rai EI Exhibitions Inc.**, Ten Tower Office Park, Suite 419, Woburn MA 01801, USA
Tel: 617.933.9699. Fax: 617.933.8744

THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Retrospect and Prospect

The total number of students reading for the MA in Conservation Studies in 1994/5 was thirty. At the moment of writing, the figures of those who have accepted places for 1995-96 are not yet complete but so far we have 19 firm acceptances for Building Conservation, three for the Landscape Option and three under the ICCROM-York arrangement, making a total of twenty-five.

Within the area of Conservation Studies, ten MPhil and DPhil students have been continuing their studies. Subjects include:

Historic Buildings and Estate Management Practices, English Church Monuments 1150-1750, Buddhist Architecture, a methodology for conservation, restoration, repair and strengthening of Byzantine churches in Macedonia, William Sawrey Gildin, Landscape gardener and Italian Flower Gardens of the Sixteenth Century

We have been greatly strengthened by the part-time appointment of David Jacques and thanks to his initiative we are to have Advanced Studies in Landscape and Garden Conservation, and students are already registered for terms 2 and 3 next academic year. The team has also been strengthened by the arrival from 1 January this year of Dr Michael Stratton, as Lecturer in Conservation Studies, and with day to day responsibility for the

MA programmes in Conservation. Pamela Hodgson's job has been re-designated as Academic Secretary for the Centre for Conservation Studies, and her dedication and enthusiasm for the innumerable tasks required undergird all that we do.

Looking back on the past academic year we are fortified by the feedback forms which have lately been handed in by the current generation of MA students. No one wishes to be complacent, and it is *vital* that the MA programmes continue to change, evolve and develop; moreover, we are fully committed to a much more interactive approach in the future. Just to give the flavour of responses by this year's MA students we will quote from the statements of a couple. 'The best weeks were those with a mix of lectures, site visits, practical works etc. The Materials weeks were excellent - more please'; 'Students should be required to keep a notebook which is to be handed in at the end of the year (but not marked) - evidence that students are attending class and taking an interest.' From another student 'I feel small group seminars would be useful to discuss some of the theories that arise in the lectures. More time for discussion would be useful and the opportunity to 'thrash out' arguments in smaller groups, rather than with the whole course where not everyone is interested in the same questions'. Both the students quoted have been active members of the Academic Planning Committee, a committee of elected students and teaching

members of the faculty *ex officio* which meets very regularly in terms 1 and 2, and then less frequently in term 3 to look ahead strategically and plan for the following year. This is the fourth year we have had this Staff/Student Committee, and it has been very effective in initiating change and helping to bring it about with the full support of the student body.

A good deal of our progress through the year can be attributed to our network of relationships – local, national and international. At the local level, we have good reason to be grateful to the York office of RCHME, to the City Planning Office, to the Dean and Chapter of York Minister and their staff, the York Glaziers Trust, the York Art-Workers' Association, the conservation officers of neighbouring district councils and of our two great national parks (North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales) and many professionals involved in aspects of architecture and environment. Nationally, the network is even wider and includes our colleagues and friends in English Heritage, Cadw and Historic Scotland as well as the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland. The list is endless! Abroad, also, our contacts continue to grow and flourish. Our links with Thailand, Slovakia and Croatia have continued: a distinguished delegation consisting of six professionals and three dignitaries (including the Mayor of Ayudhaya) has just paid us a state visit, to learn more about how we manage the conservation of historic towns in England, presentation of sites to the public, and so forth; in Slovakia Peter Burman has acted as an adviser and examiner to the parallel course at the Academia Istitropolitana (which has itself survived a political battle, with credit) and visited the world heritage site mining town of Banska Stiavnica; and has been again to Croatia, as a member of a team of specialists brought together by the Council of Europe's Heritage Bureau. One of last year's MA students, Anthony Peers, and Peter Burman were invited by the British Council to visit Bombay and Peter gave some lectures at the Sir JJ School of Architecture, which wishes to become more closely associated with the IoAAS; and we have also been advising the Department of Trade and Industry on a strategy for British help to British-period buildings in Bombay, Calcutta and elsewhere. During the Easter vacation, Peter gave a week of lectures at the Universitaria Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico City where, once again, a former MA student (Leonardo Meraz Quintana) was our key contact. At ICCROM, he took part in a consultation about the urban conservation initiative which ICCROM is running for the next five years; and we offered to be part of that, and so next year's programme and our next prospectus reveals a week-long international workshop on urban conservation.

Michael Stratton has contributed to a conference on Industrial Modernism at the University of Delaware and is developing American links in this field especially Harvard.

We had a stimulating and lively conference in mid-February on **The Economics of Architectural Conservation**, thanks to support from the European Union. York will be hosting the exhibition which is being mounted by the European Union to mark 1996 as the Year of Religious Buildings. We have agreed to this, with the support of the Archbishop and Dean of York, and we are organising a conference to coincide with the exhibition on 2-3 July 1996 entitled **Heritage and Renewal: European**

Cathedrals in the Late Twentieth Century.

What else has happened during the course of the year? During our autumn study tour we had memorable visits to Barnsley House, Gloucestershire (where Rosemary Verey guided us round her garden), and to Lodge Park, a National Trust property in Gloucestershire whose re-creation is a fascinating and in some aspects controversial project. The Lime Week was held at the Ryedale Folk Museum, and we have continued to develop our excellent relationship with its curator, Martin Watts. We have developed in the past year, and intend to develop further, the skills associated with writing a condition report on a historic building. We held for the first time a seminar on Art in Architecture, which was supported by the York Art-Workers' Association, and which included several outstanding lectures.

Day seminars were held on the architects Temple Moore and Leslie Moore (spearheaded by Tim Ellis, who is researching Leslie Moore for his MPhil/DPhil) and FC Penrose (spearheaded by Peter Burman, having become fascinated by him as an architect, archaeologist, and astronomer who from 1852–1899 was Surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral).

An innovation for the MA course was the inclusion of a whole week of *practical* repair activities, and it is very heartening to visit the Ryedale Folk Museum and see the gable of a seventeenth century house beautifully repaired by a team under the leadership of Tim Meek; or to go to Norton Conyers Hall, and find the ha-ha wall repaired at the point where it was most vulnerable.

One of the undoubted highlights of the year was the study visit to the Republic of Georgia. This came about because we had in our midst in Kakha Khimchiachvili, an outstanding student from that country on a British Council Fellowship, and it was deeply moving to visit historic buildings and sites with him and his colleagues in the State Service for the Protection of Historic Monuments. We spent a night in Moscow on the way there and on the way back. We had a very rewarding time and next year plan to go to the Republic of Ireland, where we have many good contacts in the Office of Public Works and in private practice, and to Northern Ireland.

Short Courses

Conferences and seminars relating to architectural conservation have been a major feature of the work of IoAAS for around a quarter of a century. They continue to be valuable as a means of linking through to visiting professionals, ensuring that the Institute is at the cutting edge of current developments in conservation, and in bringing a wide range of experts to The King's Manor to the particular benefit of the MA community.

As well as running an annual course on conservation legislation and administration, the Centre has gained a strong reputation for its programmes on conservation of churches, church monuments and churchyards. Through close links with the York Art-Workers' Association the Institute is able to offer seminars emphasising the role of contemporary art and sculpture in historic contexts - the series being continued by a seminar to be run on 10 November 1995.

Courses on historic materials have long been the hallmark of conservation courses offered to the public by IoAAS. They continue to be strongly supported by outside delegates. Virtually

all feature hands-on activity such as in working cob and wattle and daub, running plasterwork, carving stone, converting trees into timber, and working clay into brick and tiles. These courses often incorporate visits to factories and workshops and on-site inspection of the conservation of historic materials. In 1995-96 we are endeavouring to ensure that detailed consideration is given to organisational aspects of conservation and in particular such issues as the specification of works, the tendering process, and use of specialist sub-contractors. A new initiative for the forthcoming year will be a two day course looking at the use of steel, concrete and other materials in mainstream twentieth century architecture.

Over the summer much time has been spent in reorganising the store of historic materials held by IoAAS. These collections and those held by the Yorkshire Museum, will be used whenever appropriate to enable delegates and students to handle samples of particular materials and compare their qualities.

Following a series of planning meetings it has been decided to run a one-week Summer School next year drawing upon various contacts that we have throughout North Yorkshire and its magnificent variety of monuments.

*Peter Burnan and Michael Stratton
Masters in Conservation Studies*

COURSES AVAILABLE FROM NETWORK MEMBERS

BOURNEMOUTH JOINT CENTRE

Bridging Certificate for Studies in Conservation – 12 weeks
DipHE/BSc(Hons) in Building Conservation Technology
Heritage Conservation – Dip. 2 years full time, BSc 1 further year after Dip.
MSc/PGDip in Architectural Stonework Conservation – taught 1-year course
Other short courses at Joint Centre member locations:
Various stone restoration and conservation courses at Weymouth College Conservation Unit.
Timber-frame repair, charcoal burning, gauged brickwork, cleaning leadwork, at Weald and Downland Museum.
Lime courses at the Lime Centre at Morestead near Winchester.

Contact:

Mrs K Barker, Co-ordinator,
Joint Centre for Heritage
Conservation and Management,
Bournemouth University,
Department of Conservation
Sciences, Dorset House, Talbot
Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset
BH12 5BB. Telephone: 01202 524111.
Fax: 01202 395255

BUILDING CRAFTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Short 1- to 2-day and 6-month Conservation courses for tradesmen at various training institutions throughout the county in: historic brickwork, joinery, timber frame, wattle and daub, flint, external rendering and stucco and leadwork.

Contact:

Mr A MacLaren, Chief Executive,
Building Crafts & Conservation Trust,
Kings Gate, Dover Castle,
Dover, Kent CT16 1HU.
Telephone: 01304 225066

SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS & DESIGN, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LINCOLN

Access Certificate to HE, Conservation and Restoration – various
BTec ND in Conservation and Restoration – 2 years full time.
BTec HND in Historic Decorative Crafts – 2 years full time.
BA Hons in Conservation and Restoration – 3 years

Contact:

Mrs Z Gamett, Co-ordinating &
Development Manager, School of
Applied Arts & Design, De Montfort
University Lincoln, Lindum Road,
Lincoln LN2 1NP.
Telephone: 01522 569104
Fax: 01522 542167

LAMBETH COLLEGE

Short courses in the following: Restoration of Plasterwork, Restoration of Masonry, Stained Glass and Leaded Light Work, Graining and Marbling Techniques, Decorative Paint Effects, Trompe l'Oeil, Oil and Glass Gilding, Restoration Skills for Masons and Joiners. Lengths vary from one full week to one day per week for 5-10 weeks.
Mastercrafts courses for City and Guilds/COTAC Diploma are now available in a number of major craft skills including plastering, carpentry and joinery, sheet and cast metalwork, surface decoration and masonry – 2 years full time.
Entry requirements: Advanced craft certificate or NVQ Level 3 or substantial industrial experience.

Contact:

Mr L Conway, Head of School,
Vauxhall Centre, Lambeth College,
Belmore Street, Wandsworth Road,
London SW8 2JY. Telephone:
0171-501 5010. Fax: 0171-501 5490.

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

PgDip/MA in Architectural Conservation – 1–5 years part time.
CPD – various subjects of interest in conservation.

Contact:

Mrs L Watson, Conservation Course
Co-ordinator, Plymouth School of
Architecture, Hoe Centre, Plymouth,
Devon PL1 2AR. Telephone: 01752
233600. Fax: 01752 233634.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

NVQ Level 3, Restoration and Conservation in Brickwork, Carpentry, Plasterwork and
Leadwork – 36 weeks full time.

Contact:

Mr M. Cook,
South Birmingham College (Formerly
Hall Green College), Cole Bank Road,
Birmingham B28 8ES. Telephone:
0121-694 5000. Fax: 0121-694 5007.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The Centre for Conservation Studies has for nearly a quarter of a century been running an
educational programme including:
MA Conservation Studies (Building Conservation) – 1 year full time taught; 3 years, 1 term per
year.
Short courses: Courses contained within the MA programme: 1–4 days, detailed programmes
available.

Contact:

Mr Peter Burman,
Director of Conservation Studies,
Institute of Advanced Architectural
Studies, University of York, The King's
Manor, York YO1 2EP. Telephone:
01904 433987. Fax: 01904 433949.

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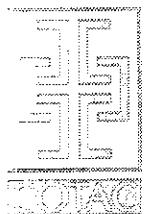
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Any other suggestions for articles for inclusion
or improvements to future issues:

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