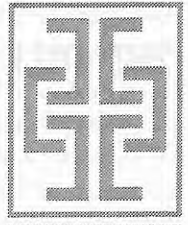


Newsletter

NUMBER 9

June 1996



COTAC

CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

The year presses on and summer should soon be with us! Time to think about the COTAC International Conference. It will be held in London this year, at St Pancras Chambers, the former Midland Grand Hotel, courtesy of Union Railways Limited/London and Continental Railways on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th July. More detailed information inside this issue. This is an opportunity not to be missed for the privilege of going inside this magnificent building alone. Demand is likely to be high so reserve your place soon.

Our featured network centre this issue is Scotland. Organised by Historic Scotland they have a lot of exciting initiatives and developments in progress. We complete the summary report of the 1995 Conference at Interbuild, Birmingham covering the contribution from day 3 on Opportunities and Mechanisms in Urban Regeneration and Urban Living in the New Millennium.

We have reports from a teacher and pupil at South Camden Community School on their experience of visiting St Pancras Chambers as part of their National Curriculum course. Camden Training Centre one of the partners in the London Network recently held their trainee Certificate presentation ceremony and the Director Ian Roe reports on this event for us.

Len Conway from Lambeth College, another London Network member tells us of the very encouraging response from a recent curriculum review by an FEFC inspector who commended the College for the innovation and prestige of the Mastercrafts course. Keith Sanders completes the story of his Churchill Fellowship visits with his experiences and impressions of the USA.

Chris Crooke updates us on the latest developments in conservation S/NVQs. Brian Rowbotham Master Slater and Tiler makes an impassioned plea for quality in his trade. He will be pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss their views with him.

We report on the various Network members' developments. We include a copy of the paper delivered by David Linford, Chairman of the Heritage Building Contractors Group, to the Council of Europe Symposium in Paris in April.

We give an update on the two Leonardo da Vinci projects that we are working on, one with our former FORCE project Partners from Ireland and Portugal, the other with the Council of Europe assembled team for International exchange training of site managers.

We carry information on a number of seminars, conferences

and courses including the English Heritage Annual Measured Summer School in the wonderful surroundings of Stowe Park, the Lime courses at Avoncroft museum, Birmingham University Certificate of Higher Education in British vernacular architecture, the BURA Museums and Urban Regeneration Conference, the Construction History Society Annual Seminar at York, Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture Task Force and exhibitions, the SPAB Repair of Old Buildings Course, the Vivat Seminar Series, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum courses, and the IoAAS courses together with Heritage Open Days.

Contributions for the next Newsletter by Friday 20th September at the latest and on 3.5" floppy disk if possible please ideally in MSWord for Windows 6.0 or Wordperfect 5.1/6.0, ASCII or compatible format.

Graham Lee



St Pancras Chambers from Euston Road

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THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION DIVISION, HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Invgal Maxwell, DA Dun RIBA FRIAS FSA Scot, Director TCRE

INTRODUCTION

As the country's leading conservation body, Historic Scotland's aims are to protect and present Scotland's built heritage to the public. Established in April 1991 under the Government's Next Steps initiative, Historic Scotland is also responsible for advising the Secretary of State for Scotland on associated policy matters. It manages properties in his care, and fulfils statutory obligations to protect ancient monuments and historic buildings in the ownership of others

Under legislation, the Secretary of State has statutory powers and duties which are administered by Historic Scotland to schedule ancient monuments, and to list buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Some 6,000 scheduled monuments and 40,000 listed buildings are on the current lists.

Within the statutory framework, protection for the built heritage is secured through consent systems for scheduled monuments, listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas. In support of this, financial incentives can be offered to owners in the form of grants for the repair of historic buildings and the protection of monuments. Currently this amounts to the release of £12 million per annum.

At its own hand, Historic Scotland maintains, conserves and presents some 330 properties in care, and has a commitment to educate and disseminate knowledge about the built heritage and its conservation.

Historic Scotland can trace its ancestry from the medieval Office of the King's Works, through various successors, to its present status as an Executive Agency of the Scottish Office. In providing financial assistance for repairs to around 140 outstanding buildings in private ownership each year, and through undertaking pragmatic conservation work on the 330 monuments in State guardianship, Historic Scotland has wide experience of the use, and need, for high quality traditional building materials and associated craft skills.

TECHNICAL CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION DIVISION (TCRE)

TCRE Division came into being on 1 April 1993 as part of a wider internal re-organisation within Historic Scotland. Its creation brought together the experience and skills which had variously been built up in a number of areas in the specialist building conservation and research fields in the previous structure. The Division's core activity is to co-ordinate these research issues and to develop skills relating to the built heritage. In doing so it aims to raise the standard of conservation practice among owners, contractors and professional groups.

Much of the Division's other work is concerned with offering

practical advice and undertaking specialist conservation work on historic properties in care, and some of which are grant aided. It also contracts a small amount of work from private owners on a repayment basis.

Within this field, TCRE's operating objectives are to:

- Undertake a programme of research initiatives relating to historic structures in conjunction with other participants, whenever possible.
- Disseminate the products of scientific conservation research and analysis through a structured and integrated approach to publications, lecturing and training.
- Investigate the supply of traditional building materials to encourage the revival of key industries.
- Work with Scottish education institutions and colleges to develop and improve training in conservation skills.
- Work with industry, professional and accrediting bodies to devise and promote standards of professional technical and craft competence and quality control.

The fundamental intention of this integrated approach is to ensure that soundly based practical conservation is appropriately guided and supported by academic research, where that need exists.

The Division is structured to carry out these tasks in 3 inter-related organisational branches:

Branch 1, based at the Historic Scotland HQ building in Longmore House, Edinburgh, provides scientific conservation, research analysis and dissemination; technical advice, education and training.

Branch 2, the Historic Scotland Conservation Centre, based at Stenhouse Mansion and South Gyle, Edinburgh, carries out specialised practical conservation work and aims to provide relevant pragmatic advice.

Branch 3, the Scottish Conservation Bureau, also based in Longmore House, Edinburgh, provides a conservation information data-base and grants resource centre for Scotland.

TCRE'S RESEARCH AND ADVISORY PROGRAMME

To undertake effective conservation work it is critical that properly trained craftsmen have appropriate traditional building materials at their disposal. Through this approach, Historic Scotland aims to encourage industry, and the education and training providers, to achieve this objective. Three closely inter-related strands (investigation, material supply and training) thus form the backbone of TCRE's research and advisory programme.

By combining researched knowledge with an understanding of indigenous building materials, education and training providers

are amongst those targeted to assist in the development of a greater general awareness of architectural conservation.

Although Historic Scotland has no research laboratory facility of its own, each technical research commission is preconditioned by a need to identify gains for practitioners. Through this approach, emerging reports, guides and technical advisory notes (TAN's) are aimed at enhancing the specifier's skill. In addition, appropriate information is produced which helps to satisfy the education and training provider's needs through doubling up as course curriculum handbook material.

In taking a key role in the promotion of the need to use relevant traditional materials, Historic Scotland already plays a major part in pump-priming the industry through its Historic Buildings Repair Grant Scheme. With repair and maintenance output in Scotland now amounting to over 40% of all construction spend, this requirement has considerable influence whilst, at the same time, creating a challenging material supply demand. By promoting the results of its research programmes through publications, conferences, seminars and lectures, Historic Scotland also aims to take forward, with industry, the same integrated approach to the future development and use of Scottish traditional building materials.

Current areas of concern

Despite these overall intentions, currently a number of key issues can be identified which have a direct bearing on the health of the existing building stock, and its future well being. These can be listed as:

- The age of the building stock
 - A high % is Georgian and Victorian
 - The 1st major repair cycle is possibly underway
- The general poor level of external "housekeeping" maintenance
- A reduction in the number of Scottish building stone quarries, from 1200 to 20 over the last 150 years
- Scottish slate, stone and lime is no longer available in the same range as originally obtained
- Within the construction industry there is a lack of:
 - understanding of how traditional materials perform
 - skills to match those originally available
 - awareness of how to build traditionally.

Perhaps, inevitably, there are a number of associated knock-on effects, the combined visual impact of which contrives to greatly reduce the overall value of historic structures. Among these the following consequences can be noted:

- Adoption of modern and synthetic materials is widespread
- Loss of scale and character is occurring
- Short term decision making is rife
- Life cycle costs are not taken into account
- High level of foreign material imports are used
- Economies of scale argument are misplaced.

However, against these difficulties, a steadily increasing awareness of a conservation approach in the building industry has been gaining ground over the last 2 decades. With this has arisen a growing acknowledgement of our built heritage, and an understanding of the need to re-learn much of what we have lost.

THE SCOTTISH CONSERVATION BUREAU (SCB)

The Scottish Conservation Bureau exists within TCRE Division to provide much needed information, advice and support to all those concerned with the conservation of historic artefacts and cultural property in Scotland. It was established in 1980 as part of the Scottish Development Agency (SDA), operating within the agency's Craft Division. In April 1991, following a merger of the SDA and The Training Agency to form Scottish Enterprise, the Crafts Division closed down and the Bureau was transferred to Historic Scotland. It currently forms a central plank in TCRE's integrated structure of information gathering and dissemination.

The Scottish Conservation Bureau has enjoyed excellent relations with the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) for many years and is, essentially, the North of the Border equivalent of the MGC's Conservation Unit.

Since 1991 the Bureau's Conservation Information Officer (CIO) has been an observer at the quarterly meetings of the MGC Conservation Advisory Committee and meets regularly with the Head of Unit to discuss mutually relevant projects, and keep abreast of current developments. The CIO has also been closely involved in other initiatives, notably as part of the Unit's Training Panel. This Panel has recently completed four years' work in compiling the standards, and assessment criteria, for S/NVQs in the field of Conservation within the Museums and Heritage Sector.

SCB INFORMATION DATA-BASE MATERIAL

Over the last sixteen years the Bureau has steadily built up a considerable body of data on the availability of conservation skills in Scotland. In the promotion of this information three editions of the Scottish Conservation Directory have been produced, each subsequent edition taking as its starting point the updated information from that published in the previous volume. In 1993 a decision was taken against producing further directories. An emphasis was then placed on the need to develop, and promote, a new computerised data-base system, building upon the aggregated information which had been systematically and methodically built up and expanded over the previous years.

The Bureau's original data-base material primarily focused on operatives in the area of museum and artefact conservation. This was established, and is still operated in conjunction with the Museum and Galleries Commission, who have a parallel system, based in their London Conservation Unit. Each system adopts a common criteria for entry to ensure consistency of approach. Such compatibility ensures a UK-wide relevance, incorporating an "area" and "keyword" search mechanism.

Data relating to Scottish practitioners is gathered and processed by the Bureau, as are all enquiries from Scotland. However, the sharing of information ensures a commonality of approach and standards, and helps open up the UK and European market to conservation businesses in Scotland.

Whilst many of the Scottish Bureau's functions are parallel to those of the Unit (grants to conservators, information and advice to Museum authorities and the General Public, and improvement of conservation standards through promotion of a practitioners' Register), the Scottish Bureau has, additionally, always operated a

similar remit in the field of buildings conservation.

This related "paper-based" system, which is presently being computerised, contains information on individuals working in building conservation, along with other operatives in conservation-related categories of work which are not covered by the joint MGC/SCB database.

The ultimate aim of this building register is to produce a comprehensive, vetted register of individuals (consultants, contractors, specialists and crafts people) working in architectural conservation in Scotland.

With a similar purpose to that of supporting those involved in museum and artefact conservation, the intention is to ensure that such a register is widely advertised, and readily accessible to those requiring information on suitably skilled and experienced practitioners in the building conservation field.

The data-base will also help support training and professional body accreditation initiatives in conservation-related disciplines, and should encourage employers to develop the skills and qualifications of the individuals they employ.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATION NETWORKS

Over the last 3 years TCRE has been instrumental in setting up two conservation networks in Scotland.

THE RURAL BUILDINGS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The Rural Buildings Conservation Initiative is a forum set up by Historic Scotland and includes representation from the Association of Conservation Officers, the National Museums of Scotland, the Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland, the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and the Scottish Civic Trust.

It was formed to look at issues affecting rural buildings, their repair and conservation. It also has a particular interest in training in conservation, the availability of traditional materials and how advice is offered to the public and professionals. Meeting twice or thrice per annum, the forum allows a ready exchange of information between its members about current developments and how that influences those involved. It aims to identify unwelcome gaps in our knowledge in this area, and enables valuable networking to develop to help resolve difficulties with associated topics.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATION FORUM IN TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Endorsed by Historic Scotland's Management Board, and incorporated in Historic Scotland's Corporate Plan, this Forum operates as the central dissemination and exchange mechanism in the field of conservation education and training in Scotland.

The Forum's working framework states that, with regard to developing the best in Scottish education and training in building conservation, Historic Scotland shall host the Forum with the aims of:

- Keeping members informed as to relevant national and international developments
- Acting as a focus group for all interested parties
- Exchanging appropriate information and data
- Co-operating across trade, technical, professional, accrediting, and industrial boundaries.

The Forum is serviced by TCRE Division and meets twice per year. Current membership consists of representatives from the Scottish:

- Professional and Accrediting Bodies
- Universities
- Further Education Colleges
- Industry

TCRE PUBLICATIONS

In support of such an integrated approach TCRE has an ambitious publication programme. This programme, inevitably, has a particularly Scottish dimension, although it is being found that the published material has an international relevance. During 1996 the following publications will be produced:

- Thatch and thatching techniques TAN
- Blackhouse TAN
- Earth Structures TAN
- International Charters TAN
- Biocide TAN
- Lime Conference Proceedings
- Lime Render Discussion Document

As a number of commissioned projects reach a conclusion during 1996, the following research studies will be reported on:

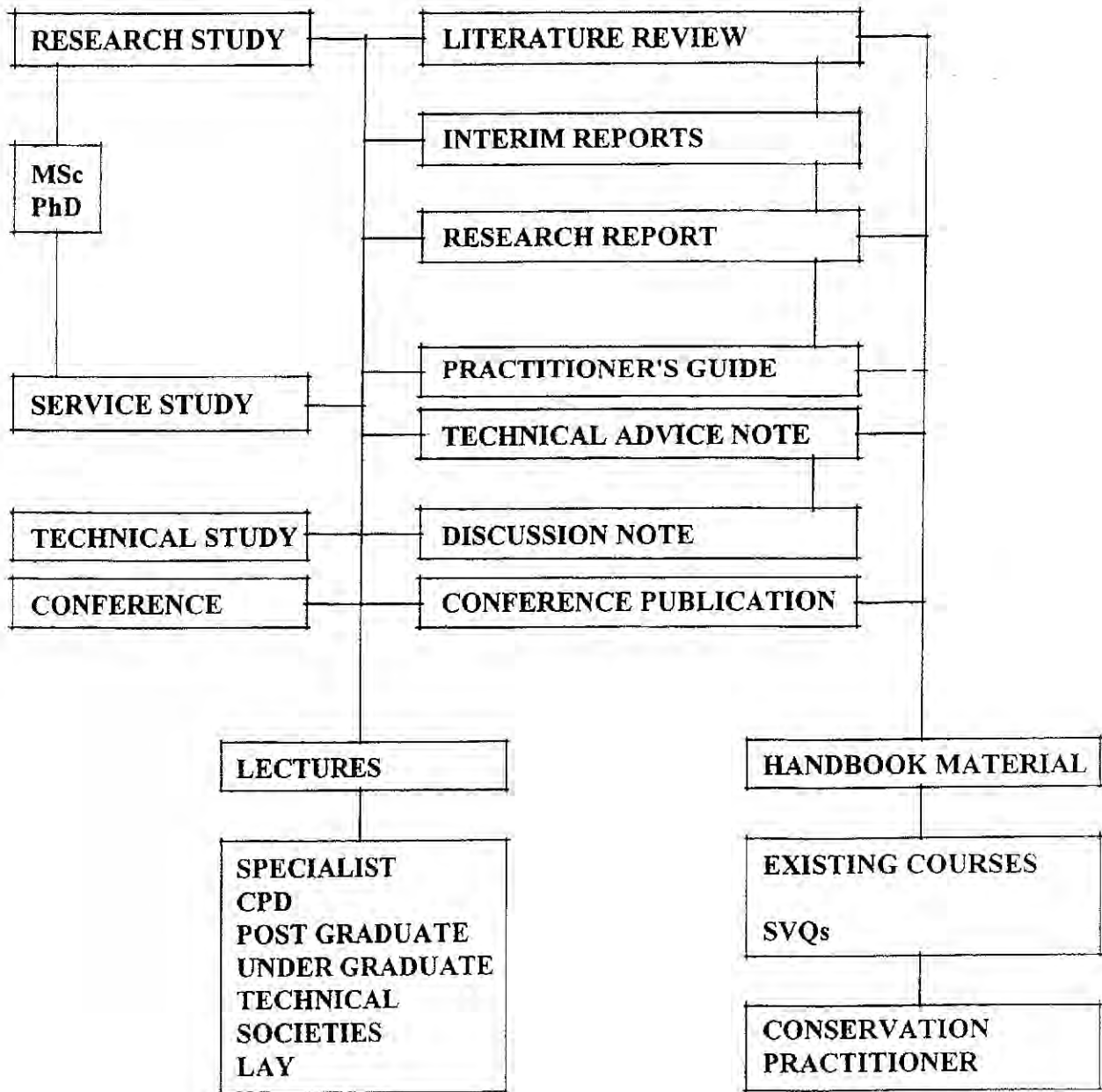
- Granite Stonecleaning
- Scottish Stone Industry Study
- Scottish Lime Source analysis
- Graffiti Treatment
- Fire Prevention in Historic Buildings
- Carved stone surface decay mapping study
- Slate roofscape changes

In addition the undemoted research studies will be progressed:

- Laser Stonecleaning of sandstone
- Windows Life cycle costing of traditional and replacement windows
- Stone consolidants/decay
- Lime microstructure analysis
- Earth structures exposure trials
- Lime plaster application techniques
- Scottish Slate quarries and sourcing

TCRE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION FRAMEWORK

TCRE's intention is to continue to work to a pre-planned strategy where the published Research Reports, Technical Advice Notes, and Practitioners Guides result from a variety of Study sources. The framework of this approach is outlined in the following diagram.



CONCLUSION

With the recognition that there is no shortage of conservation problems to be addressed and overcome, TCRE is fully committed to meeting its overall objectives. Though working in partnership with others where possible, there is a belief that a greater and better understanding of the issues will result from such a combined involvement. However, no matter the approach, the

success, or otherwise, of the intentions will be judged by how effective the practical decisions have been in undertaking actual work on the historic building stock. The Division's underpinning belief is that an improved level of knowledge and understanding will do much to ensure that this decision making is all the more relevant to the need.

INTERBUILD 95 19-24 November 1995

(Summary of presentations continued from issue No.8)

Day 3 morning was chaired by Sir Reginald Eyre, Chairman of Birmingham Heartlands Development Corporation. He paid tribute to the collaborative basis on which the event had been organised and thanked the various sponsors for their support before handing on to John Taylor the Chief Executive of BURA for the first presentation on Opportunities and Mechanisms in Urban Regeneration.

John compared the traditional images of urban regeneration such as London Docklands, run-down post-war housing and Birmingham Heartlands but then conjectured that the subject is more than just physical development. It must be an integrated balance that is economically sustainable with ownership accepted by the local community.

The social and environmental costs of such dereliction and an increasing demand for homes lead to a sensible need to encourage a return to urban living. He reviewed the recent government initiatives including Urban Development Corporations (UDCs), City Challenge schemes and the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). He noted that the history of the urban development process in this country has three broad phases of development. Prior to 1979 to provide welfare and social services, during the 1980s for the creation of wealth and finally following the 1987 election when the private sector came to play the lead role.

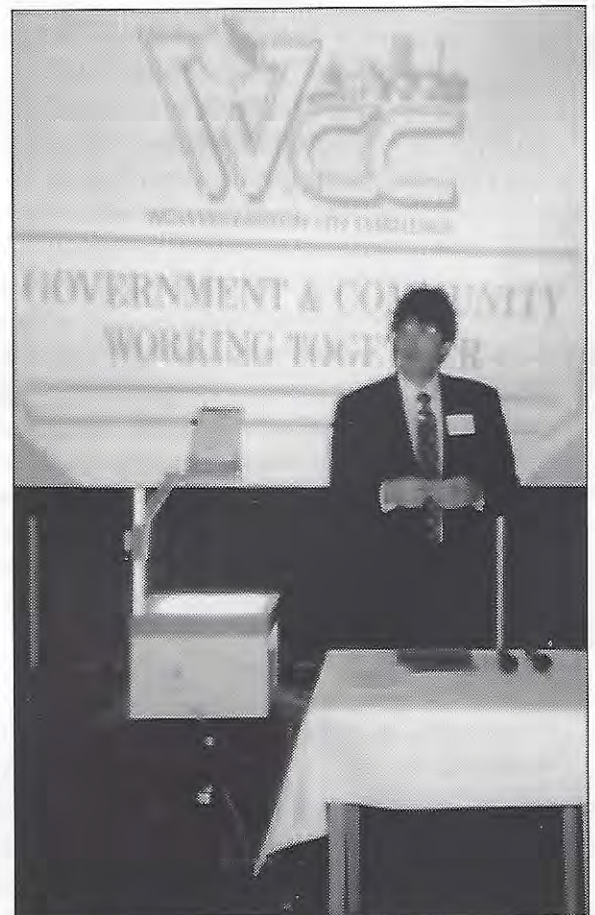
Now in the 90s there is perhaps a new form of urban governance, a coalition in partnerships of local authorities, community interests and the private sector.

Linda Houston, Director EDAW-CR Planning and Project Director of the DOE regeneration budget dissemination programme, took up some of the themes from John's talk looking at Partnerships in Urban Regeneration. She noted that partnership is probably one of the most used and abused terms nowadays but is an essential mechanism for funding regeneration. In seeking to define the meaning of partnership Linda suggested that it should represent appropriate interests, have shared views, risks, benefits and will generally have new involvement. Predictably Round 1 of the Challenge Fund had a lot of local authority and TEC involvement together with community and voluntary sectors and mainly focused on employment, economic growth and ethnic minorities. The importance of organisational structures was demonstrated by examples at Netherton, Merseyside being topic based related to particular topics, the Blackburn Partnership to develop land and create employment which was based on an area group structure, and Peckham the largest Fund recipient at £157 million and which worked with private sector consortia to revitalise five problem estates. Lack of synergy between groups can be a problem and it is important to remember that the Partnership is manager not just co-ordinator of the projects. Shared vision of the objective, clear roles and responsibilities are important together with strategic thinking, decision making adapt-

ability and appropriate delegation. A lot of time and energy is needed with genuine community involvement. The dissemination programme to help partnerships with networking now has REGENET, an E-mail network available together with delivery plan surgeries and an update magazine..

Chris Khamis, Executive Director for Wolverhampton City Challenge, brought out the distinctive features of City Challenge compared to Urban Development Corporations and SRBs. It is area targeted, finance limited, time limited to five years and aimed at a holistic programme. For Wolverhampton £33.5 million is divided between seven programmes: flexible business support, leisure provision, housing improvement using an environmental approach with active residents groups to encourage community ownership, community facilities, training, environmental revival and health initiatives.

The partnership operates as a company limited by guarantee with a simple board structure, equal representatives from the community, local authority, four private sector and key agency representatives, which makes strategic decisions that the City Challenge team implement. There are two community forums with elected representatives.



Chris Khamis

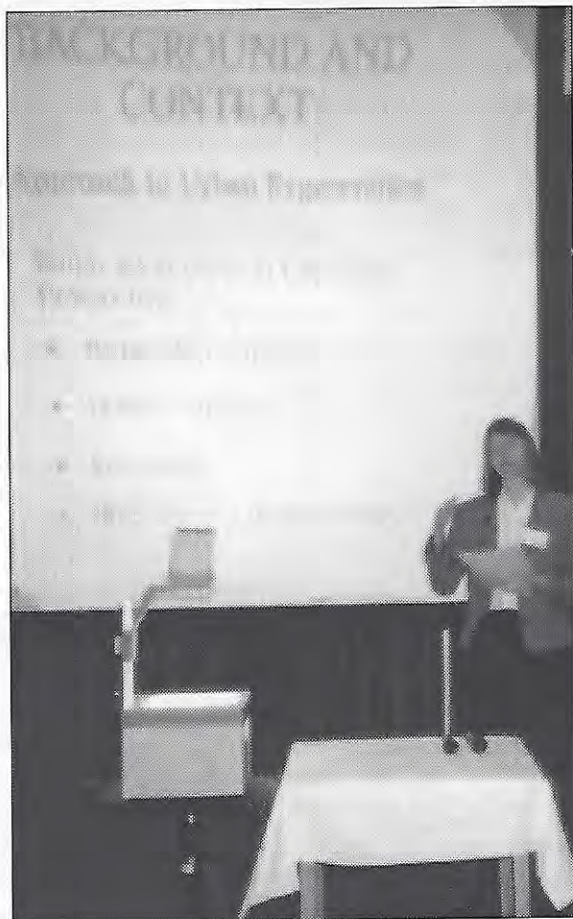
A training infrastructure has been set up to benefit local industry introduced as a fully commercial part of the contracts let. As an example of the holistic approach Chris quoted a £10 million housing improvement scheme for 850 dwellings which involved residents, local authority, housing associations and contractors to work out the solution, delivering something that was not there before.

Linda Lillis, Head of Area Regeneration in the Policy Division of Birmingham City Challenge, followed on with the story of Saltley Smallheath, Birmingham, SRB. This was implemented against the background of a 10 year forward vision for Birmingham requested by central government. A partnership emphasis including local communities to cover social, economic and environmental issues with area and theme foci was chosen. A five year programme with £13 million grant for Saltley Smallheath leveraging £76 million from private/public sectors. The area has a 50,000 population, over 50% under 24 years with a high minority ethnic element. Problems include high unemployment, poor educational achievement, high mortality, large numbers in receipt of housing benefit and mainly private owner-occupied housing with 3,300 unfit. There is a strong sense of community and plentiful land availability, job opportunities are being created and the local population being encouraged to make a full contribution to prosperity. A local partnership board has been established with community representatives, it provides support for small businesses, is developing credit unions and implementing housing redevelopment. There are tensions from raising expectations if they are not realised, managing the process is difficult with partners all having different perspectives, the pressure to spend and deliver and to

achieve local ownership. The cost of preparing bids, if unsuccessful can be a problem together with the bureaucracy of the system. It is clear that by the partnership approach a greater impact and holistic integrated programme be achieved. A users' manual is being developed and in her thoughts for the future Linda suggested not to front load bids, to maintain some lead in time, flexibility is needed and that training is crucial.

Ian Page, Director of Marketing and External Affairs in the Black Country Development Corporation (BCDC) followed Linda to tell us about Urban Development Corporations (UDCs). Originally established in the early 80s for Merseyside and London Docklands, the second generation in 1987 gave rise to Tyne and Wear, Teeside, Trafford Park, Black Country and Cardiff with the brief to regenerate their areas by property based solutions, with budgets of £30-40 million and fairly unlimited powers. In 1988 mini UDCs mainly city-based were established in Leeds, Sheffield, Bristol, Manchester followed shortly after by the last two Birmingham Heartlands and Plymouth. Most areas have suffered dereliction and not too conducive local political climates. BCDC has three local authorities to work with, 1500 acres of the most derelict and contaminated land in the UK, M5, M6 pass along the eastern boundary, and the only dual carriage-way in the Black Country from Wolverhampton to Birmingham passes through the area. It has been a fairly environmentally depressed area with 40 kilometres of canals mainly used for dumping. £7 million has been spent to improve these and some 600,000 trees planted. Regeneration is being promoted in three ways: economic to create jobs, environmental to make it a more attractive area to invest and live, and community schemes for social regeneration. Attractions included location at the centre of the motorway network and the high degree of skills available. All targets set have been exceeded. He supported the view expressed by a number of speakers that the SRB is one solution but it is not a total answer and it is perhaps spreading funds rather thinly.

Sir Reginald then chaired a lively question session including comment on the need for flexibility and perhaps "rubbery" boundaries to the areas covered, allowing near neighbours to benefit by crossing them when appropriate. That those towns or cities that anticipate likely future urban policy will be best placed to attract funds and take schemes forward. Concern was expressed at the possible loss of the expertise developed with the demise of UDCs and City Challenge. Possible solutions suggested included European funding and Private Finance Initiatives. The need for a more sensitive appraisal method was



Linda Lillis



From left: Chris Khamis, Linda Lillis, Sir Reginald Eyre, Ian Page, Linda Houston, John Taylor.

proposed, perhaps a social accounting mechanism, to look at qualitative measures and impact over a longer timescale with a reduction of the emphasis on outputs. Very often locals want to stay in an area and this should be respected and utilised in any regeneration. Community involvement could be good for Agenda 21 environmental work. Design is very important and one of the biggest urban problems is the fear of crime. Mixed uses should be encouraged, bring jobs to where people already live, improve the quality of life and work in partnership.

David Lock, Chief Planning Adviser (half time) at the Department of the Environment and planning consultant chaired the afternoon session on Urban Living in the New Millennium. He introduced the topic by confirming the commitment of the present government to urban regeneration as absolute. He noted the unique enthusiasm of the Secretary of State for urban design bringing in also mixed use and other attractions. Fifty per cent of the new housing we require is to be built on recycled urban land or within the existing urban footprint, the other 50% in the shires or we will not achieve the target of a dwelling per household. There is a strong movement to raise the quality of design and the planning process.

John Billingham of the Urban Design Group took as his subject the future of Urban Design. During its 17-year life the Urban Design Group has been influencing quality of the built environment and bridging the gap between architects and planners. Town centre improvements often felt to be the main element of urban design are in fact only a small part and really it is about creating sustainable places for people. It has a wide remit to respond to social and economic culture. Some private sector companies now use urban design guidelines to raise quality and value. Looking to the future John foresaw five interdependent areas, participation, urban design mechanisms, sustainability, more integrated holistic work and education. We need to mend the urban fabric to recreate a lively, sympathetic and people-friendly place, and his final thought that "the future is here, the future is urban design."

John Walker, Chief Executive of the Commission for the New Towns talked about the lessons from new towns for the future. It is 50 years since the Act to establish the new towns resulted in homes for over two million people and over a million jobs. It was one part of an urban policy whose other half, the regeneration of the inner cities, had to wait some 30 years to progress. Four important themes arise. The first is greater attention to the process by which development is achieved; the second, mixed or balance of land uses; the third is higher density development, and the fourth is less dependence on the car and hence the need for good efficient public transport. The new towns have shown that a long term strategic view, coupled with overall promoter/landowner combination can produce successful results in growth rate. The process can accommodate different forms of promoter or landowner, it encourages enlightened development, quality and mix, aware of rigid philosophical views on density and personal transport.

Colin Fudge, Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment, University of West of England, picked up the batten with the European dimension and sustainable development. 75-80% of the population of Europe live in cities facing severe unemploy-



From left: John Billingham, David Lock, John Walker, Colin Fudge

ment, environmental problems, quality of life and quality of design issues. For the rest of the world about 45% currently live in cities but this will increase greatly during the next few years and this will have major effects on notions of sustainability with 2000+ becoming "the millennium of the city." We will need to think carefully about the wider issues at a local level and maybe actually change the way we operate our lives.

Three case studies demonstrate some of what we may have to do. Bath Global Action Plans, where volunteer households take on a subject for each month: water use, energy, transport to measure impacts on the environment. Secondly, Sheffield's tower blocks for which an insulation firm was set up from the unemployed and created work for two years. It has achieved multiple objectives including reducing heating costs, wasted energy, improved comfort conditions for residents. The third is Freiburg, bringing trams to the town 25 years ago in spite of much resistance, use is now very high, and this needed long term vision.

The Expert Group on the Urban Environment, under DGII, brought together urban and environmental issues. It set off a train of thinking about the future of cities. The Group looked at three things: how future town and land use planning strategies can incorporate environmental objectives, how to develop the urban environment dimension within Community environment policy and how to further contribute to the improvement of the urban environment. This needed a focus giving rise to the sustainable cities project. The first report provides the policy framework for sustainable cities in Europe. The second expands this to a good practice guide. Thirdly a database of good practice has been made available on the Internet and fourthly the European Sustainable Cities Towns Campaign has evolved.

Colin proposed a more integrated view of strategic longer term planning with attention to ecosystems and use of systems thinking. He quoted an example of the doughnut city such as Bristol leading to gridlock on a number of occasions already.

Clive Dutton, Executive Director, Gill Hasdale Community Relations Manager for the Tipton Challenge partnership and Beverley Martin a member of the Tipton Youth Forum presented the Partnership's work from their three perspectives. Clive set the scene stating that durable urban regeneration is about people. Tipton is a very deprived community with high long term unemployment and low levels of education attainment and health statistics. The objective is to regenerate Tipton over five years with the largest spend on housing. The board has four building blocks: the private sector, community, public sector, and the local authority. They have 400 projects, with 300 partners. Unemployment and crime have dropped significantly.

Gill took over noting that Tipton was ripe for revitalisation and the community was already actively engaged. Tipton Action Group (TAG), the local community group, challenges the way City Challenge operates to make sure the community views are properly taken into account. There are three community forums to reflect the geographic areas located within the canal and rail systems and a few specialist forums. Community block funds are allocated to pump prime small scale projects. TAG has always been interested in the needs of the young to the point where a specialist Youth Forum was established. Their representative Beverly Martin took over to explain that the 19 on the Forum had been elected by ballot to represent youth on the City Challenge. They have organised many major events, hosted a youth crime prevention conference and all this had been rewarding and worthwhile for those involved. They had recently been awarded the Sainsbury's Civic Trust, Winning Partnership Award.

David Lock then chaired a questions forum during which the crime reduction by 75% was applauded and the fact that the local community can do a great deal was acknowledged. Three other Youth Forums have been formed in the Borough following the



Gill Hasdale



Beverly Martin

success of Tipton. Life beyond the Challenge Fund is being investigated by the creation of a charitable foundation as well as investigation of lottery and European funding.

David Pratley, Director of Leisure, Tourism and Economic Development, Bath City Council spoke about the quality of life, future of cities, urban living in the next century. He noted his privilege to live in Bath which represents elements of perfection in terms of urban design and declared himself an anti-suburbanite. He started with a somewhat apocalyptic view of the situation, that Cities are dynamic organisms and their functions have changed citing their rapid decline in the US and UK since the war. The functions of the city have however remained remarkably intact as places of service employment, education, communication and decision making. The issue is no longer how but whether they will survive, built to protect us from the environment they are now a principal threat to it. Cities now work in a global information market computer connected.

Humans are sophisticated social animals and likely to seek out a community for shared social needs. The new millennium city's capacity to provide for public space, public activity and communal government should maintain its well-being. David proposed that outdoor spaces will be required to meet for social reasons beyond our homes and workplaces. He noted that use of libraries, museums concert halls, art centres, sports and environment centres is increasing perhaps illustrating this need to socialise. He concluded by quoting Sir Richard Rogers:

The sustainable city of the future will need to be one of many facets. A polycentric city that protects the countryside and minimises dependence on cars. A city of overlapping activity that maximises contact and diversity and fosters a vital public life. An equitable city where justice and opportunity are fairly distributed. An ecological city that gives as much to the environment as it takes out. An open city which embraces new ideas and not least of all a beautiful city where art, architecture and landscape all move the spirit.

David Lock took some final questions and picked up a few headline bullet points: how to make urban living desirable; that perhaps we are trying to re-create within our city that vision of the perfect rural history; young people come to the cities in their 20s and 30s and then as their families grow up they take flight – how can they be kept there?

In conclusion he noted that the City is an optimistic story since people are gregarious and consequently Cities have a great future as we apply our efforts and energies in more sustainable ways than in the past.



From left: Beverly Martin, Gill Hasdale, Clive Dutton, David Lock, David Pratley.

CAMDEN TRAINING CENTRE (CTC) - TRAINEE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Wednesday 1st May, Mayday, but more importantly the day when 120 certificates were presented to 70 students by Sir Bob Reid Chairman of London Electricity (and formerly Chairman of British Rail) and Brigadier A K Crawford CBE DL, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Camden. Also in the company were the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and other members and officers of the Borough, the local member of the European Parliament, representatives from local business, housing associations and community groups.

A very good atmosphere was noticeable, created in no small part by the friendly bond between the trainees and staff, together with the warmth brought to proceedings by the Guest of Honour and rest of the official party.

The skills attained included Carpentry & Joinery, Painting & Decorating, Plumbing, Childcare, Amenity Horticulture, Business Administration, Office Skills for Second Language Speakers. Ages of the recipients ranged from 18-61 and for most this was their first educational/vocational achievement.

The event also signalled the launch of the innovatory Skills &



Ian Roe, Director of Camden Training Centre, with decorative crafts tutor in front of CTC display in St Pancras Chambers.

Homes Project – a unique package of training, employment and housing measures aimed at breaking the **no home, no job, no home** cycle of single homeless people in Camden.

Camden Training Centre, established in 1982 now provides training and employment opportunities for approximately 500 people per year. It runs 18 full and part time programmes in 12 vocational training areas. It has been the pioneer in several areas of this work, and has established national and European reputations for innovation and models of good practice in training. One of its European projects was selected to appear in the EC Compendium of 50 ground-breaking projects challenging female employment stereo-typing.

The Centre targets those in the community who are at most disadvantage in the employment market including ethnic minority groups, single parents and women returners, people with learning and other disabilities and long term unemployed.

It has transnational training partnerships with organisations in Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy and Spain and has developed a new unique European Qualification (NVQ Level 3 equivalent) in Specialist Techniques in Painting and Decorating.

CTC worked in partnership with the COTAC team in arranging the Set '95 exhibition, evening seminars and public opening of St Pancras Chambers for a week in March last year. Students and tutors were on site demonstrating various techniques of paint layering and pattern tracing. The Centre is now in negotiation with COTAC to carry out a joint training project for initial restoration works to WCs and provision of security screens in the Chambers in preparation for the COTAC Conference to be held in the building in July. It also proposes to take part in the SRB training project which COTAC is managing in King's Cross.

Ian Roe, Director



Student tracing Minton floor tile patterns

COTAC International Conference

Monday 15 & Tuesday 16th July 1996

Courtesy of Union Railways Limited/London and Continental Railways the new owners and successful Channel Tunnel Rail Link consortium, the COTAC Conference is to be held this year at St Pancras Chambers, the former Midland Grand Hotel. This is a magnificent Grade I listed building by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott at the front of St Pancras Station.



Part of port cochère at St Pancras Chambers used as a coffee lounge.



The Grand Staircase, St Pancras Chambers



Display in porte cochère

The conference will consider opportunities for conservation training through urban regeneration and with particular reference to the King's Cross Single Regeneration Budget projects. With speakers from national and local government, industry professionals, trainers, students, the social/voluntary sector, railway experts and urban regeneration specialists from both the UK and abroad, it promises to be an interesting two days.

There will be the chance to learn some of the history of the Chambers and take part in guided tours of the interior of this fascinating building. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion, and a guided tour of many of the historic buildings in the King's Cross area. This will include the Roundhouse project where it is planned to house the RIBA drawings collection.

An information leaflet is enclosed with this Newsletter. Since demand is likely to be high we suggest that you register early as a delegate. For further information and application form contact

Mr Chris Crooke, COTAC, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD, Tel: 44 (0)171 973 3615, Fax: 44 (0)171 973 3656

ST PANCRAS CURRICULUM PROJECT 1995-96

This project was developed to support Education/Industry links in Camden. Funding was arranged from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) through an agreement completed between North London Construction Curriculum Centre (NLCCC) and South Camden Community School, Science Department.

I first met with Anne Pennell from Camden TVEI to discuss ideas about linking the School with St Pancras Chambers as a basis for a curriculum project. Ann set up a meeting with Philip Fitzpatrick, a Director of the Mark Fitzpatrick TEAM Ltd, and Graham Lee project manager from COTAC. The outcomes were that Graham liaised with British Rail to arrange access to St Pancras for our students Philip fully supported the project at the Camden Education-Business Forum and Ann wrote the final application for funding from CITB.

A visit was arranged to the building for a group of teachers to start detailed planning. St Pancras Chambers is very closely guarded and we were one of a very limited group of schools allowed into this magnificent old building!

Back at school the team of science teachers planned St Pancras visits for year 9 students. The project fitted into their national curriculum work on Materials and Reactions, during which pupils learn about different categories of materials and the properties which make them suited to their use. The students and staff really enjoyed the tours through the building and it fulfilled the aim of bringing this topic to life. The children took photographs and made a really wonderful display of their findings from the visits with the help of Jane Richbell, the Media Resources Officer at South Camden Community School.

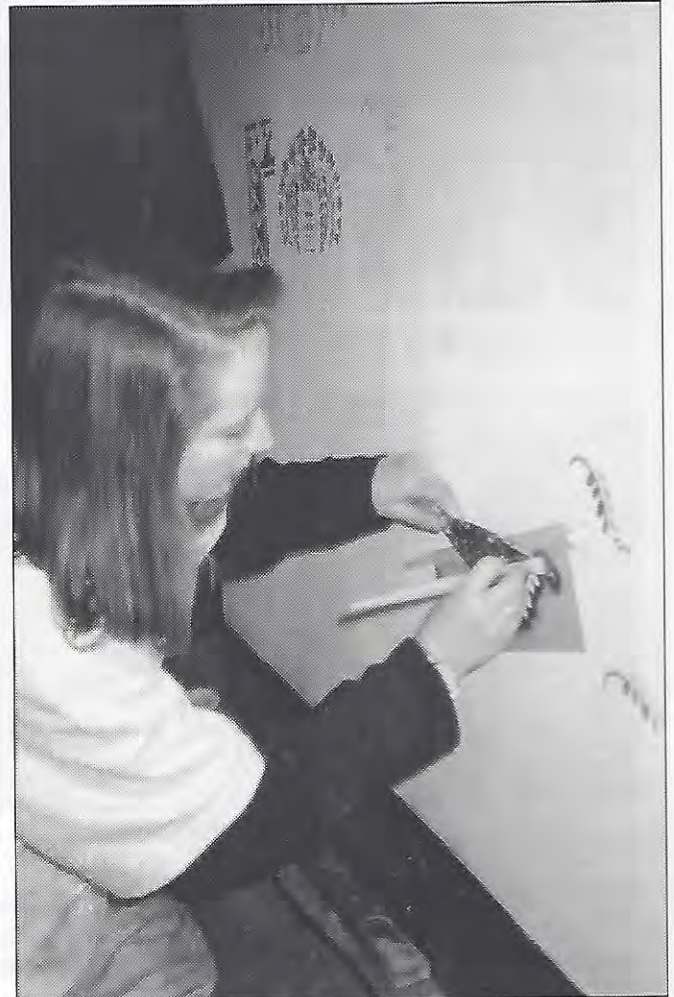
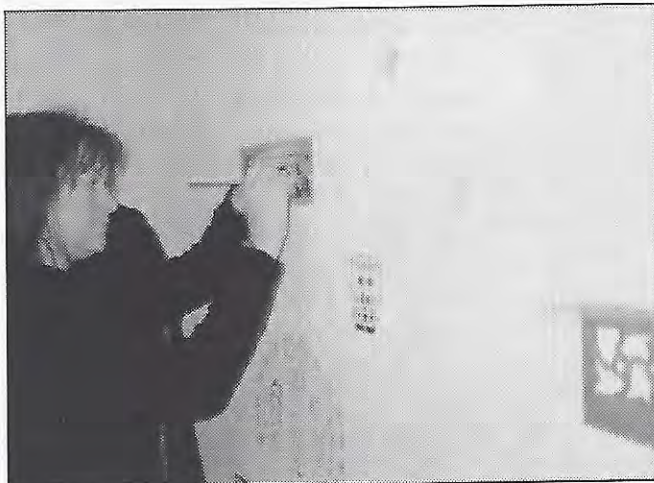
They wrote about the Architect, Gilbert Scott, the first Hydraulic lift in Europe, the different types of marble and granite used in the construction of St Pancras, the beautiful Minton mosaic tiled floors and the William Morris style of painted walls. The extra surprise facts that students learned from their visit were a real treat.

Maths exercises were exciting when they tried to work out how many bricks it took to build and how many times the Great Northern Hotel at Kings Cross would fit into it. Answers were estimates but it was fun!

The GNVQ Science, Intermediate students made two visits to the St Pancras building during the year. They were studying a new unit called "Materials" and needed to find out about those in use in the Construction Industry. The students wrote letters to many construction companies to request samples of materials for their project but with disappointing results, leads were followed up to little avail and frustration set in. However through the visits to St Pancras they researched Metals, Plastics, Ceramics Glass and Composites. Properties and uses were noted and a good display of their work was produced.

The South Camden Science Team hope to continue to develop the St Pancras Curriculum project with support from CITB, the NLCCC and courtesy of Union Railways Limited/London and Continental Railways the new owners during the next academic year 1996-97.

*Catherine Mitchinson,
Head of Science, South Camden Community School*



Above and right: students demonstrating stencil techniques

VISIT TO THE MIDLAND HOTEL - ST PANCRAS CURRICULUM PROJECT

On Wednesday 13 March our class went to St Pancras Station for a tour of the former Midland Grand Hotel. We knew that the outside of the building had been restored but didn't really know anything about the inside, or even that it had been empty for ages.

We were doing a project on materials and were interested in what kinds had been used in its construction. One of our ideas was to compare them with those that are used today. We found lots of differences, not just because of new materials being invented, but because of the cost.

We started our tour at ground level by the main staircase. This was enormous and had very complicated wrought iron railings. All of us really liked the designs on the walls and found out that they had been done by hand using stencils. There were quite a few places where the designs had been painted over and we could see the outlines under the paint.

There were lots of different types of stone used that came from all over England. We saw limestone and granite. The limestone on the inside is in better condition than that outside because of acid rain. There is lots of carving which must have

taken ages. In one of the large rooms by the main road there was a big fireplace that had dark green marble around it that came from Italy. There was a lot of plaster work in the old dining room which was starting to break off.

One of the most interesting bits was finding out about all the different kinds of bricks that had been used in the building. We could see all the slightly different colours of the various kinds, which you don't notice that much from a distance. We found out that some of the bricks were made softer than the rest so they could be filed down into curves to fit the arches.

The floors had ceramic tiles on them and some were tiny and made into mosaics. These were different from the tiles down in the basement kitchens, which had a glaze on them so they could be cleaned.

The last thing we found out about was the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link Station and how Somers Town is going to change in the future.

Jubayer Miah 9P

MASTERCRAFTS AT LAMBETH COLLEGE

The City & Guilds/COTAC Mastercrafts Diploma course is now well established in the School of Building Crafts at Lambeth College. It is in its third year and at present 18 students are following the course. The first intake, now in their third year, are approaching completion of the course work. There are 7 first year, 2 second year and 9 third year students.

For the first two years the course operated on a full time basis but the envisaged length of two years proved to be insufficient for course work completion or for students to produce enough practical work to the standards required. We came to the conclusion that it was too difficult for the candidates to demonstrate the levels of practical competence, appropriate to this prestigious qualification, without considerable site experience. Thus we converted the course to part time day attendance so that it became available to employed students. If they are not employed we arrange for them to work on live projects with a high skill content. For example two carpentry students, not in full employment, are working on a restoration joinery project at Lauderdale House, Highgate, which involves curved work, mouldings and carving to match the existing. Of those on the course only four in total are not in employment.

The diploma course combines theoretical core subjects such as architectural history, management, drawing skills and construction techniques with craft based work such as practical exercises and craft history. Now that this new course has moved beyond the embryo stage it has become quite apparent and very encouraging that students from a craft background can cope with the high level academic work as well as the craft based activities. The written assignments produced are of high quality and the draw-

ings are of professional standard. If asked the students would happily describe, comparatively, the classical orders, show the differences between classical, mannerist and baroque architecture, or give an explanation of why Brunelleschi's dome was self-supporting during construction.

In a recent curriculum review report on the School, carried out by an FEFC inspector, in preparation for a full FEFC inspection later in the year, the following was written:

'The development of the Mastercrafts Diploma represents commendable innovation, it is an award that carries prestige in some countries in Europe.'

'Wide range of courses; [within the School] some are breaking new ground as exemplified by the Mastercrafts Diploma.' [Report comments on strengths of the School.]

The inspector also stated that the Mastercrafts course, along with the wide range of others offered, meant that the School of Building Crafts at Lambeth College would be regarded as a 'centre of excellence' for building crafts training.

These comments, the performance of the Mastercrafts students themselves and the interest shown in the diploma by other colleges suggests that this level of craft training will secure for itself an important role in producing more skilled craftspeople, for which we know there is a desperate need, especially in the field of conservation and restoration

Len Conway,

*Head of School of Building Crafts
Lambeth College.*

WHY THE UNITED STATES?

Continuation of the article in issue No.8 by Keith Sanders of his experience as a Churchill Fellowship recipient

There were those who told me that looking at conservation training in the USA was a waste of time. But I had met an officer of the National Parks Department of the US Department of the Interior at a conservation seminar in Ostende and had been impressed by the range of training inputs.

FAMILIAR PROBLEMS

An article in *Technical and Skills Training*, the magazine of the American Society for Training and Development, suggests the US construction industry faces a crisis. In the 1970s the US workforce grew at a rate of 2.6 million new workers each year. This has shrunk to 1 million per year. A Department of Labour study suggests that, by the twenty first century, the construction industry will draw 75% of its labour from 'non-traditional sources'; recent immigrants, minorities, women and less skilled workers unable to compete for positions in other industries. Competition for skilled workers will become fierce. Training is ever more vital, especially for those dealing with the built heritage.

APPRECIATION OF THE BUILT HERITAGE

Concern for cultural history may be traced back to the first Antiquarian Society established in 1812 in Worcester, Massachusetts. The National Parks Service (NPS) of the

Department of the Interior (DOI) was established in 1916. In 1935 the National Historic Sites Act was passed, authorising a survey of historic sites under a 'National Historic Landmarks Program' and to acquire historic properties for public use. The first National Historic Site was awarded in 1938 to the Salem Maritime Historic Site in Massachusetts. The USA equivalent of our National Trust was established in 1947. In 1960 the precursor of the current National Register of Historic Places was initiated by the DOI. In 1964 Columbia University School was the first school of architecture to offer graduate level courses in historic preservation. In a nation where many feel only new is good and demolition is easily justified, 1969 was a key year. An elevated expressway in New Orleans became the first interstate highway stopped for environmental reasons. In the same year the DOI made the first state preservation grants. The USA can, therefore, exhibit a growing concern for their built heritage stretching back over 184 years.

'THE EASTERN WOODLANDS'

My visit to the USA was limited to the north eastern states. Those who have visited the mid, south and western USA will know that there is much to see that predates European colonisation. In the east such remnants are few and far between and largely obliterated by activities of the last 300 years.



Brick-making course, Colonial Williamsburg

I started my visit to the USA at the International Conference of the Timber Framers Guild of North America. This organisation is mainly concerned with the erection of new fashionable timber housing. However, there is a small subsection, the 'Traditional Timber Frame Research and Advisory Group'. Amongst this group's stated ambitions are the creation of appropriate restoration policies and practices and the promotion of the use of traditional materials and joinery in timber framing. The group was made up of highly committed skilled craftsman. One of them made a memorable comment. "The level of enthusiasm for restoration is only matched by the level of ignorance of how to go about it!"

The word conservation in the USA is mainly reserved for care of paintings and objets d'art. 'Preservation' is the word most commonly used for activities related to caring for the built heritage. I spent a substantial amount of time exchanging definitions. Preservation is certainly not the direct equivalent of conservation. The 'Lincoln's axe' analogy recurred.... This building is entirely original, only the walls, roof and foundations have been replaced in the interests of authenticity!

The Timber Framers Conference was held at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia. After the conference I took the opportunity of visiting adjoining Colonial Williamsburg, described by some as a Disneyland for Historic Buildings. There is a potentially exciting apprenticeship training scheme here. The range of traditional workshops provides an ideal environment. It was disappointing to learn that apprenticeships were only offered to meet Colonial Williamsburg's own staffing needs.

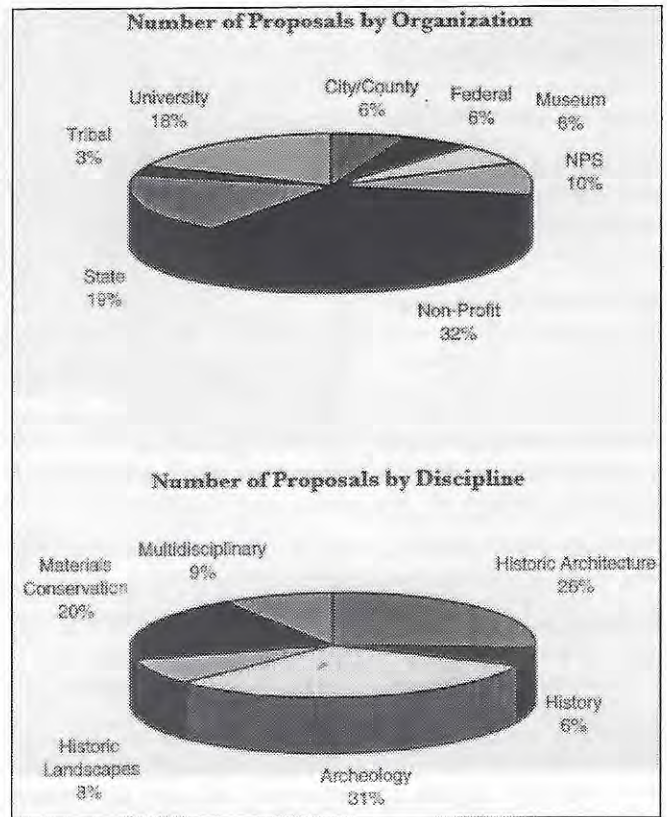
THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE (NPS)

The NPS plays a pivotal role in the management of the built heritage. It owns and manages a staggering area of natural and built environment. It establishes restoration policies and guidelines. It sponsors and undertakes major research projects in restoration issues. Many and varied NPS publications include a range of excellent practical guides not dissimilar to those produced by SPAB. It administers grants to independent training providers and runs training courses itself. It collates information about restoration training initiatives.

The National Centre for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) has been established by the NPS in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The training section develops and facilitates training for Federal, State and local resource professionals, cultural resource managers, maintenance personnel and other workers in the preservation field. Their activity involves the support of existing institutional and private training providers.

The NPS directed me to Williamsport in Maryland. The centre was set up in 1977 to meet the growing demand for specialists within the NPS to be responsible for the 'preservation' of historic resources within the National Park network. There are workshops at the centre, but the majority of its activities are 'off-site'.

The centre is involved in preservation projects throughout the nation. I visited one such operation at Harpers Ferry, Virginia where the foundations of a stone building were being repaired. Those interested in the lime/cement controversy would have been interested in the material specially prepared for the work



Analysis of 1996 PTTGrants proposals

and described as natural cement. Another case of language problems. The work, supervised by a young architect, provided employment and training opportunities.

The training co-ordinator, Dorothy Printup, administers an interesting training initiative for NPS staff. The programme takes relatively young inexperienced NPS officers and puts them under the wing of knowledgeable and experienced 'mentors'. They undertake joint projects in their own 'Parks'. The programme culminates in a graduation involving a major preservation project. Having been to Williamsport, I later visited NPS's Cultural Resources Center at Lowell, Massachusetts where the graduation was based. The project upon which they were working was a house important at the time of the American War of Independence. The objective was to transmogrify the existing structure into what the building was believed to have looked like at the time of the War. To the ignorant onlooker, like me, it looked like a shuttering ply box. The result was the obliteration of an attractive nineteenth century farmhouse. Lincoln's axe again. When I mentioned my bewilderment to senior NPS staff I was told that several such projects had erupted at the peak of celebrations of the War of Independence, but that such wholesale reconstruction was now rare.

FULL TIME COURSES

If you are in search of apprentice-type training conducted over a substantial periods of time and designed to take people to crafts status then the North Bennet School in Boston provides an excellent example. Here Robert Adam has designed and substantially runs a course in preservation carpentry. The school itself is housed in a building that reminded me of the urban schools constructed in Britain in the late nineteenth century. The

facilities were not ideal, indeed some of the workshops were potentially quite hazardous, yet this supported the ethos of approaching the built environment as it is and not as some imaginary ideal. The combination of theoretical and practical activities, project work and involvement with local preservation initiatives provides students with a broad learning base. Its excellence is almost unique.



Clock on the North Bennet School, Boston

RESTORING NEW YORK

There is a growing realisation that tearing down old buildings to replace them with new may be economically foolish. This change of attitude is nowhere stronger than in New York City. The problem is, of course, that in a culture where only new is good, there is a huge backlog of maintenance. It was sad to find two New York based training schemes I had hoped to visit had gone 'belly up'. A key survivor is RESTORE.

RESTORE was founded in 1976. It is a non profit making organisation offering a range of programmes concerned with preservation maintenance technology. Programmes are designed to update and upgrade the restoration skills and preservation knowledge of architects, engineers, contractors and preservationists. RESTORE also provides an important resource support for the trade. The training offered falls into two initiatives. The first is a 'Two Semester Evening Course in Masonry Conservation'. The other is a series of intensive workshops mounted at locations throughout the USA. Both incorporate lectures, laboratory demonstrations and field workshops.

The training ethic is very much related to problem identification, definition and solution. RESTORE's brochure stresses that the skills and technology are not only necessary to preserve and maintain existing structures but also apply to the design, construction and future maintenance of new structures.

PRIVATE TRAINING INITIATIVES

South of Albany in upstate New York Don Carpenter has established a remarkable training facility. Don has a passion for saving old buildings. On part of a family owned farm he has established Eastfield Village. The immediate reaction upon arrival is to wonder why the village is in such an isolated position. In fact all the buildings have been saved by Don from demolition, dismantled and re-erected in the village. It has a magnificent Greek revival church, a store, a smithy, a printer, a carpenter's shop, a tavern, shoemakers shops, indeed all the trades that one might have expected to find in a village at the turn of the nineteenth century, with buildings dating from 1787 to 1840.

I arrived as Don was preparing for a timber framing course. Students come for two to five days for courses ranging from Masonry Restoration to a study of early American Wallpapers. Don himself provides some of the instruction supported by a pool of experts, currently sixteen in number.

The village has the atmosphere of pre-industrial days. Students, who range from novices to restoration professionals, are encouraged to live in the village. Meals are cooked in a late eighteenth

century kitchen. The brochure states that accommodation in the... "Eastfield Tavern is available free of charge for those wishing to stay in early nineteenth century accommodation. The only requirement is that each person choosing to stay at the tavern supply ten 10 inch white candles"

It was at Eastfield that I was regaled, once again, with distressing tales about the bulk of US architects. Virtually no training is provided in the practicalities of repair and maintenance. Students emerge with skills that extend only slightly beyond an ability to sketch pretty designs

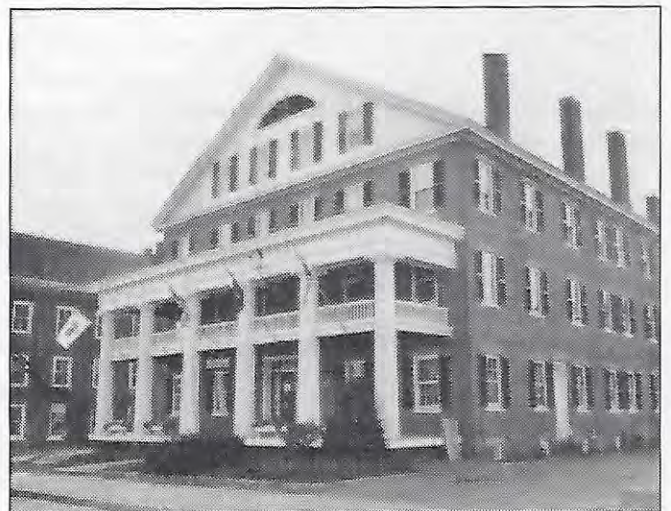
for new buildings. Knowledge about the maintenance of historical sites is minimal. There are a very few institutions that take such matters seriously. They are the exceptions that prove the rule.

DIVERSIFICATION IN THE FACE OF FINANCIAL ADVERSITY

Further north in Windsor Vermont I visited the Preservation Institute for the Building Crafts (PIBC). This offers workshops on the history, theory and practical application of traditional building skills, backed by current preservation technology. Training is organised at a range of locations chosen to provide opportunities for trainees to not only learn and try out their skills, but also put them to practical use on restoration projects.

But there are snags. As in Britain the building trade is struggling. Occasional difficulties occur in filling advertised courses. The course on Historic Plaster Repair I had expected to attend had to be cancelled for lack of trainees. I already knew that some training providers had ceased to operate. I wondered how Judy Hayward, PIBC's Director, would cope. Realising that income from traditional sources was waning, Judy was diversifying, establishing links with local institutions concerned with architectural training. This willingness to investigate new opportunities and form new liaisons has proved highly effective.

The PIBC has co-operated in the preparation of guidelines on access to historic sites for the disabled. This initiative includes the production of a video entitled "Entrances to the Past".



The 'home' of PIBC in Vermont



Students in the Historic Plaster Repair workshop at Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury, N.H. repair a ceiling in the early 19th century school house.

In Virginia I visited training activities at Poplar Forest Restoration Field School, Virginia's University of Architectural History in Charlottesville and the Bear Mountain Workshops. Internship training for under-graduate architects was observed at Woodlawn Plantation to the south of Washington DC. Intelligence was received of other important training provision such as John Canham's Institute for Preservation Resources, Rhode Island and 'Yestermorrow' Design/Build School in Vermont. I looked at preservation information resources and



Instructors Andrew Ladygo and Rory Brennen prepare to make a mould from an existing section of plaster ornament for repairs to a decorative cornice.

training at the Museum of American Frontier Culture, Staunton, Virginia and heard of similar initiatives at Plimoth Plantation and Old Sturbridge Village both in Massachusetts.

There was plenty going on. But one left greatly concerned about who and what will survive the current tightening of finance.

This account only scratches the surface. I will be happy to pass on any information I have to anyone with special interests.

Keith Sanders

COTAC AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN BUILDING CONSERVATION **by Christopher Crooke**

One of COTAC's prime objectives is to improve educational standards for building conservation. Over the last two years the main vehicle for this has been through National (and Scottish) Vocational Qualifications, known as S/NVQs.

BACKGROUND TO NVQs AND SVQs

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was set up by the Government in 1986 to provide a 'hallmark' for qualifications which meet the needs of employment. Qualifications complying with the Criteria set by NCVQ are designated NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications). In Scotland the same remit has been given to the Scottish Vocational Education Council (SCOTVEC). SVQs are the Scottish equivalent of NVQs

The fundamental purpose of these reforms in vocational

qualifications is to improve the competitiveness and competence of UK industry by ensuring that training and vocational education meets rigorous contemporary standards, thus raising the level and quality of performance in the workplace. However, there are also benefits to individuals who can have their occupational competence recognised in a national qualification. This enhances their opportunities to gain employment and progress within and beyond their present area of work.

S/NVQs are based on the concept of occupational competence and the ability to perform to the standards required across a range of circumstances and to meet changing demands. S/NVQs are concerned with what people actually do in employment and the workplace but they go beyond just the basic needs of carrying out specific tasks by including such things as dealing with people, safety issues and the knowledge that underpins all competence.

There are five S/NVQ levels ranging from the those involving largely routine tasks at level 1 up to the most demanding and complex tasks at level 5.

Nearly 1,000,000 NVQs have now been awarded in the UK and some 80% of all those in employment now have access to an NVQ or SVQ that relates to their job. The residual 20% are mostly technical, professional and managerial areas, where the development process is more complex. No sector of industry or the professions has backed away from this initiative even though it is based on voluntary commitment.

While the new framework of NVQs and SVQs are of particular importance to those entering or within their initial period of education and training, they are also very relevant to those already in work and with several years experience. For the experienced practitioner, perhaps without a currently relevant qualification, NVQs and SVQs offer a valid and cost effective route to qualified status.

Standards of occupational competence, defined by employers and practitioners in the relevant sector, form the basis of all NVQs and SVQs. To set these standards, and to advise on the requirements of qualifications, industry sectors have formed consortia of employment interests. These bodies are called 'Industry Lead Bodies'. Individual industrial sectors have lead bodies which are responsible for educational standards in their area. Each lead body must be recognised by the Department of Employment and its purpose is to ensure that standards are widely accepted by employers and employees. The two lead bodies in the construction industry are the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) for craft qualifications and the Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) for technical, managerial and professional qualifications.

CRAFT S/NVQs

About two years ago COTAC was commissioned by the CITB to develop S/NVQs for conservation, maintenance and refurbishment in the crafts of bricklaying, plastering, painting and decorating, wood trades and masonry. We set up working groups for each craft consisting of practising craftsmen and trainers to help in developing the S/NVQs.

We were asked to look at levels 2 and 3 but also to assess the feasibility for a level 4 Mastercraft S/NVQ. Level 2 is about learning basic skills and generally we found it difficult to add much at this level. Level 3 is for the journeyman/craftsman and this is where we concentrated most of our effort. These were developed in small working groups including COTAC, CITB and industry practitioners. The CITB already had S/NVQs for new build in place for some time which were in the process of being revised and reaccredited. Because the process of producing a completely new S/NVQ is rather lengthy, we made an early decision to add conservation units to the CITB new build S/NVQs. Conservation requires a considerable increase in knowledge and the addition of some new, or rather old skills. We also added a new unit for each craft dealing with analysis and diagnosis of problems. This exercise is now complete and CITB should have achieved accreditation by NCVQ in a few months time. The level 4 was presented to the CITB and we await developments.

HIGHER LEVEL S/NVQs

At about the same time as the CITB commission we were also asked by CISC to act as project managers in the development of technical, managerial and professional standards in conservation S/NVQs. The development team consisted of COTAC and Q West consultants with individual working groups including practitioners from the appropriate fields. It was quickly decided that there were four fields where qualifications were needed. These are for the roles of **advice, statutory control, site management, and finally maintainers of buildings** such as **facility managers and building owners**.

ADVICE S/NVQ

This covers predominantly senior consultants with a background in architecture, landscape architecture, town planning, structural, building services engineering, building economics and building surveying. The working group has based its thinking on the ICOMOS training guidelines and COTAC functional profiles. These were developed by Sir Bernard Feilden on behalf of COTAC as an outline of the roles of each of the professions involved in conservation. They have been related to the wider context defined by CISC in its functional map for the industry as a whole.

The qualification will be at level 5 and requires pre-qualification in the relevant discipline. It is likely that many people will take this S/NVQ as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at mid career. We are aiming at a portfolio of standards from which people may select according to their background discipline. Specialists from some of the disciplines involved provided advice across a wide range of topics while others gave advice within a more limited field.

Progress has been slow in developing the S/NVQ because of the complexity of the tasks and functions but it should be ready for trials by the summer.

STATUTORY CONTROL S/NVQ

This S/NVQ is for people with a statutory control function in central and local government such as conservation officers in local authorities and their equivalents in bodies like English Heritage. These people come from various backgrounds but at present do not have a separate qualification in conservation control. The working group carried out an analysis of this work and decided that there is a distinctive role at level 4. There will also be some people working at level 3 but they are assumed to be working towards the full qualification. This will be a stand alone S/NVQ and will not require pre qualification in another discipline.

A suite of standards is now ready for trials.

SITE MANAGEMENT

The working group based its proposals on the Level 4 Chartered Institute of Building Site Management S/NVQ. This pre dates the CISC standards and is therefore in a slightly different layout and is due for reaccreditation shortly. Three additional elements have been added as well as some minor alterations which may be seen

as general updating rather than specifically relating to conservation. The additional skills required in conservation site management were defined as follows:

- a) The ability to evaluate property. In other words to make value judgements about the conservation relevance of a building or its detail.
- b) The ability to control the contract against agreed quality standards which go beyond the norm of merely applying the specification in conservation work.
- c) The knowledge and expertise to find the right crafts-

man and judge the quality of their work, the assessment and source of materials and greater sensitivity to ethical issues that are required in conservation work.

MAINTAINERS AND BUILDING OWNERS

CISC has recently set up a working group to develop an S/NVQ in Facilities Management. COTAC is a member of this working group but it is too soon to say how conservation will be incorporated into this qualification.

SUBJECT	S/NVQ LEVEL	PROGRESS	TRAINING START DATE
1. CITB			
Brickwork	3	Approved by CITB	Sept 1996
Masonry	3	Approved by CITB	Sept 1996
Painting and Decorating	3	Approved by CITB	Sept 1996
Plastering	3	Approved by CITB	Sept 1996
Wood Trades	3	Still under discussion by CITB Occupational Working Group	Sept 1996
Master Craft	4		?
2. CISC			
Conservation Site Management in association with CIOB	4	Ready for trials	Late 1996
Conservation Control in association with ACO	4	Ready for trials	Late 1996
Conservation Advice in association with RIBA, RICS, Landscape Institute etc	3	Still being developed. Ready for trials shortly	Late 1996
Conservation Facilities Management	4	COTAC is a member of the recently convened Facilities Management Working Group	?

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17-18 JUNE Architectural Education: Learning from Experience

The Institute recently completed a comparative study of Architectural and Planning Education in six major European countries for the Dutch government. This two day symposium for Architectural teachers and those involved with research into architectural education is an opportunity to hear the results of the study and selected presented papers on the themes of: Studio based learning; Research and Teaching; Teaching, Practice and the Community; Integration across disciplines.

1 JULY European Intelligent Buildings Research Forum

Intelligent Buildings have shifted from being "a collection of smart technologies able to respond to organisational change over time to the fully computer integrated building". The goal of today's intelligent building is to "provide a responsive, effective and supportive environment within which the organisation can achieve its business objectives". The proposed forum aims to articulate and develop the research agenda for the European Intelligent Buildings community. The symposium will give an overview of Intelligent Buildings from 1980-1995 and will cover the research that has been undertaken, who is active in the field; what needs to be done; potential clients; methods of approach and sources of research funding.

2-3 JULY Heritage and Renewal: European Cathedrals in the Late 20th Century

A consultation to mark the 1996 European Year of Religious Monuments. The focus will be local, national and international aspects of the twin themes of conservation of European cathedrals and the many promising aspects of creative adaptation to the late 20th century including the commissioning of fine new works of art and substantial additions e.g. the new building at Hereford to house the Mappa Mundi.

8 JULY Mutual Development of Housing with the Local Economy: the South African Context

This research workshop, open to Higher Degree students, debates a sustainable reconstruction and development strategy for a South African Township. Should housing be prioritised as a launching pad for economic growth, or is it an unaffordable commodity which must wait for sustainable growth to occur?

16 JULY Research - an Ingredient of Architectural Education

A one day workshop in association with the RIBA Research Committee. The day will explore issues such as: What is research? Why is research method relevant to practice? How and what is it appropriate to teach?

4-7 SEPTEMBER 1996 Interpretation and Presentation of Historic Sites, Gardens and Landscapes

For too long historic sites have emphasised buildings and objects alone, to the detriment of landscapes and gardens; a more holistic view is required.

This four day conference aims to compare current research issues and practice techniques in Britain and the USA. The emphasis will be on learning from theoretical academic and practical experience through keynote addresses, workshops, moderated discussion groups and site visits.

24-25 OCTOBER 1996 New Buildings in Historic Contexts

This conference will assemble a carefully chosen group of architects involved in building in historic settings, and others who have contributed to the problem analytically, in an attempt to define the problems and distil from recent experience the philosophies which apply to the best practice in the field.

For further information please contact: Events and Short Courses: Terri Tooms (e-mail tk1t@york.ac.uk) or Linda Hetherington (e-mail lah7@york.ac.uk) Tel: 01904 433982 Fax: 01904 433949

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

As a lad in the 1950s I was boiling a can of water on a lath fire for a brew, and trying to get the 'Gaffer' to come down for his mug of tea. He wouldn't budge though, at least not until he had finished -- he was fiddling about eliminating what could have become a rogue water-run on a 'Switherland ton slate' roof.

Being his apprentice, I knew enough to realise that he didn't have to be so meticulous on the top course, he could have weather-proofed under the overlaying perpend with a bit of lead or bedded in a slither of Welsh slate between the peggies -- no short-cuts for my Uncle Bill though!

Unhappily, there are not many craftsmen of his breed around anymore, and although high standards such as his were taken for granted in the past, they have virtually disappeared these days. From what I have seen, it appears that this ancient craft's importance is being disregarded in the greater scheme of things. If this is the general attitude, then it is severely underrating the Slating & Tiling trade's real significance in relation to the successful repair and preservation of our built heritage!

With this dearth of traditional craftsmen, there is now an alarming number of oblivious amateurs crawling about on the country's older pitched mineral roofs. Consequently, without the benefit of genuine experience, a medieval roof that is left in the hands of untrained workmen will probably be doomed to lose its effectiveness. It will happen long before any form of deterioration should be expected with few people being aware of the impending consequences -- the ultimate being the cladding's premature death.

At times it appears that there are more 'cowboys' in this country than in Texas! The counterfeit roofs that they lay will not be able to contain the elements as storm driven snow and rain will eventually find its way under badly set slate, stone or clay tiles. Furthermore, no amount of money will be able to compensate for the irreplaceable claddings that they are unwittingly ruining.

The fact that underfelt is catching leaks is widely accepted as the norm, and this membrane is thought to be there for that very purpose -- therefore it is more often than not being used to replace traditional skills!

These relatively new practices, although innocent in themselves, act as a short term safety-net by concealing potentially harmful mistakes that have been made whilst laying a roof. A sequence of events such as this would eventually allow an ingress of water to find and destroy adjacent structural woodwork besides damaging many other parts of a building that are susceptible to lengthy exposure to damp conditions.

Those incapable of proving their competence on the outside, will be unaware of the complex pitfalls that are hidden from sight. Could they hole a slate in the correct manner so that any water drawn to a nail hole can be shed down the bed of the slate? Only a qualified slater/tiler will be capable of combating the hidden hazards of rogue water runs.

A constant watch must be kept while laying a good roof for a multitude of complicated reasons and it takes an expert eye to see surface mistakes, and once a fault laden roof is identified it can only be presumed that there are many more defects that cannot readily be seen -- it all takes a certain amount of experience and an adept feel for the work.

Unfortunately, the effects of bad workmanship may not become visible immediately, in fact it is quite probable that faults might not actually appear to casual notice for many years, often because of the use of contemporary roofing techniques -- good for the short term maybe, but fatal for the future welfare of any substandard roof.

It is a predicament which cannot be accurately attributed to any one particular cause; it may be the inevitable outcome of combining progressive methods with antiquated materials. Alternatively, the blame can be levelled at the natural wastage of a skilled work-force whose trade has gone through a great deal of change uncommonly quickly.

However, as a matter of course, our present-day building trades have had to advance with technology and adopt new and better methods of construction, in most instances this has made many tasks comparatively straightforward and markedly more efficient. Nonetheless, ancient and modern do not often mix with any harmony.

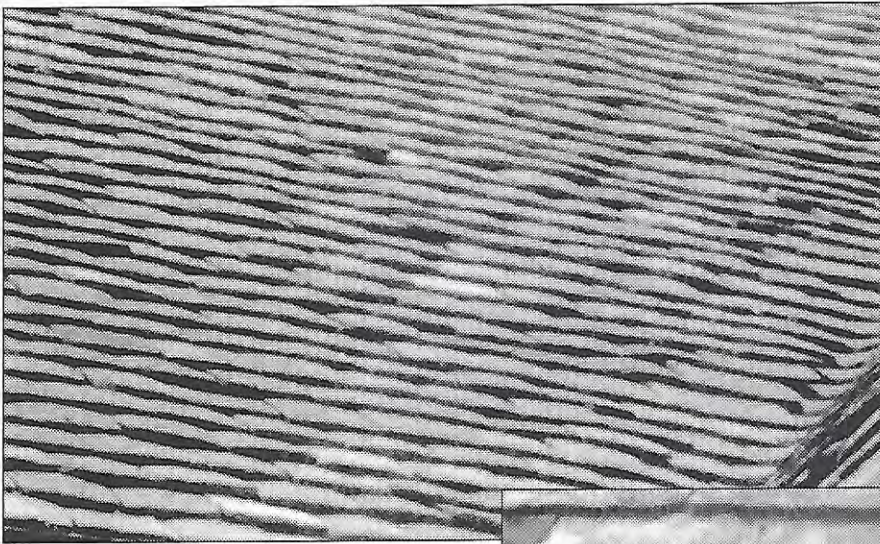
The Construction Industry has to be geared to its markets and profit margins. Naturally, unless there is a healthy benefit, there is very little advantage for large businesses to become bogged-down with small exacting and infrequent projects -- especially those that involve strict control of scarce craftsmen, who are essential for handling even rarer materials. Nonetheless, sufficient insurance cover, can ensure that there is a buffer to allow for any 'remedial maintenance,' this being a highly suspect cover-up that condones bodge-ups of the worst kind, and of no possible benefit to long term objectives.

To ensure that there is not a current shortage of craftsmen, the most obvious people to educate are the very ones who are presently working on these roofs, and the only way that this can be achieved effectively is with expert instruction when it is needed, where it is needed, i.e. on-site, where the classroom is.

After all is said and done, these unskilled workers have been left alone to get on with it and they have done their best with virtually no skilled guidance or control. What is done is done -- but that does not mean that what is attempted tomorrow cannot be improved upon.

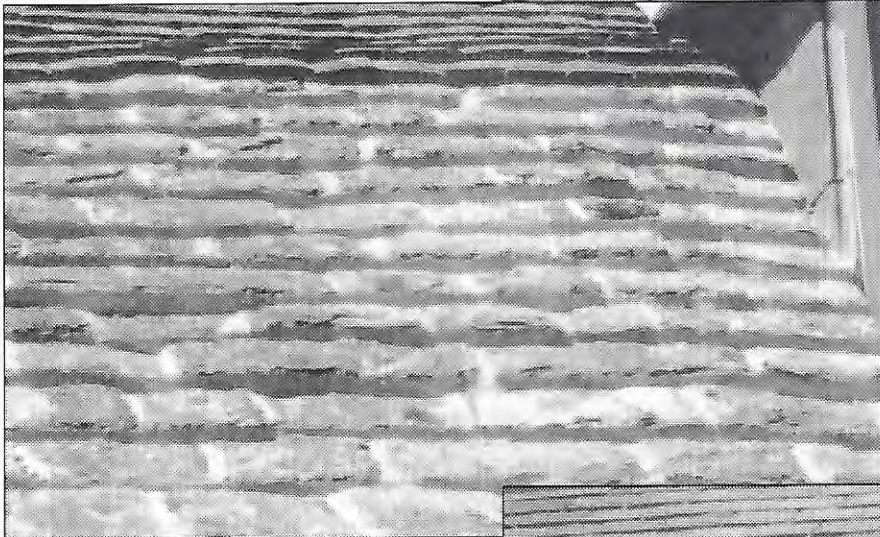
Uncle Bill came down eventually, satisfied at last with his work -- and gave me a clip behind the ear because his tea was cold!

*Bryan N Rowbotham -- Master Slater & Tiler, Consultant
Robin Hill Cottage, 33 Queens Road, Bournemouth BH2 6BN,
Tel: 01202 769255*



A Cathedral close; a badly laid mixture of hand and machine-made tiles.

A sorry repair on a magnificent medieval Church



An ancient Manor, sporting a recent and disreputable illustration of the art.

This is certainly not a qualified Slater & Tiler's example of standard Welsh slating!



NEWS FROM THE NETWORK MEMBERS (Reported at last Network Meeting 17/4/96)

Scotland

Ingal Maxwell reported that HND and HNC courses have been accredited by SCOTVEC and are being run at Glasgow and Edinburgh. A meeting is to be held shortly to look at ways in which course material from the two colleges might be integrated. SCOTVEC is involved. This may help other colleges wishing to use the material and give them a flying start. At the Inverness Institute of Building Technical College, a series of masterclasses in conservation is taking place. Generally, there are formal moves to introduce a range of courses at professional, technical and craft levels, and also for CPD. There are about 500 CPD related training places per annum in Scotland but this is relatively uncontrolled and uncoordinated. Ingal Maxwell is considering linking the level 5 Advice N/SVQ with CPD and is also discussing a means of accreditation with the RIAS. The RIAS has asked Historic Scotland to push accreditation more vigorously. Accreditation could become a precondition for grant aided work.

The Architectural Conservation Centre for the South West

Linda Watson said that the Plymouth University course was now set up as a programme of credit rated modules, with a minimum of 6 units for a qualification. This had proved to be a flexible system as it catered for people who wanted to take just a single module as well as those who wanted to take 3 or 4 modules in a year. The market in the South west is small. Nevertheless, Plymouth is committed to continuing a regionally based course with practitioners who want to concentrate on practical matters. Conservation is now being offered as an option on the Part 2 Architectural Course. Plymouth is also involved in research with the main emphasis on studying earth as a building material but also including slate. This work is also relevant to new build. There is to be slate event later in the year and Richard Davies asked if COTAC could have a note about this.

The Bath Conservation Centre

John Taylor said that the COTAC Newsletter had recently carried details about the Centre which is a multi discipline co-operative/partnership venture and is particularly involved with the City. Practical aspects are also important and the Centre will be seeking to major on the Engineering of Historic Building Structures generally through Bath University.

The Building Craft & Conservation Centre (Kent)

Alex MacLaren reported that BCCT is mostly involved with short courses. There is a 1 day course at Canterbury for architects, a continuation of training for college lecturers at South Kent College and a timber frame repair course which attracts about 20 people. Longer courses include brickwork at South Chatham Dockyard run over 4 months as a full time study for long term unemployed. Some students have been to France. For example, at a site near Calais, French and English students have exchanged useful information about differing techniques using common materials. The Medway Conservation Group is working with local Councils in their area who have taken over responsibility for some historic buildings from English Heritage. The centre is supporting Kent County Council in three EU training projects with the French. These are: a) business enterprise; b) the disabled; and c) woodland management -- materials for the South East.

BCCT are looking for buildings for on site training and are hoping to acquire 2 shortly, run courses on them and at the same time to achieve economic repair.

The East Midlands Conservation Centre

Zibby Garnett said that De Montfort University's work covers an ever wider range of conservation spanning gardens, landscape, buildings and historic object conservation. HE courses are now modular and they are also looking to extend this to FE courses. This will have the advantage that some modules from different courses can be combined e.g. 'ethics' and codes of practice. Studies at DMU Centre for Conservation, Leicester is the administrative base for the Journal of Architectural Conservation and Zibby Garnett asked for prospective articles. She reported that the Centre had run a very successful ½ day conference on applying for lottery money to historic parks. This was heavily oversubscribed (160 applicants) from people or groups interested in the potential of £50m of Lottery money. The Centre for Conservation Studies has applied to become a member of the technical review panel for the Lottery Fund. The Centre is running a summer school for Georgetown University on historic gardens.

The West Midlands Conservation Centre

Mike Cook said that at present, there are only 10 students for conservation at South Birmingham College. These are all carpenters and student numbers remain depressed.

There is a proposal to build a timber stable at the Staffordshire County Show. As this is a permanent event it is hoped to be a progressive project completed in future years. The College is becoming more involved with European initiatives. The PHARE bid with partners from Ljubljana was not successful but will be submitted again. There is involvement with Hungary and COTAC which is still at an early stage. Also, there is a proposed RAPHAEL bid with San Servolo, Venice for historic brickwork repair. Mike Cook reported on contacts with the Compagnons in France who have resurrected the principle of journeymen craftsmen. They are seeking to extend their network for placements. Birmingham College has been asked to teach two practical units at the Avoncroft Museum.

The York Centre

For the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, Michael Stratton said that they are changing to 7 course modules for the year. Generally, York has been successful in attracting overseas students and also people who are undertaking a mid career change. There are now 25 building and 5 landscape students. There are a string of short courses being run which include:

- a) urban conservation supported by ICCROM and UNESCO
- b) conserving 20th century architecture
- c) cathedrals
- d) design in an historic environment

The Department of Archaeology is now located at the King's Manor which has created good new links. There are training days in lime, timber and thatching this year. These are practical hands on courses. There is also a course on railway heritage in the late summer. York has two strands to research: philosophy of conservation and 20th century conservation. For York College of F and HE, Roger Silk said that he hopes to strengthen links with the University. The College is having difficulty in setting up dedicated conservation courses but is hoping to develop the Mastercraft course later this year.

Cadw, Welsh Historic Monuments

John Hilling said that there is virtually no conservation research or technical training in Wales. The one School of Architecture is not

interested in conservation. However the University of Glamorgan, Pembroke College and Bridgend College are considering establishing courses as a co-operative venture. The National Trust has set up a training centre at Llanerchaeron.

Bournemouth University, Joint Centre for Heritage Conservation & Management

Katherine Barker reported that the Unit now funds a ½ time person to help with running courses at Singleton (Weald and Downland Open Air Museum). There were over 100 two day Masterclasses last year covering 8 crafts. Hampshire County Council has closed down its Historic Buildings Bureau and is no longer supporting Bursledon Brickworks but Kevin Stubbs has transferred from the Council to run the Brickworks Training Centre. The MSc in architectural conservation is thriving with 22 students. The course takes 6 weekends over two years. The University has links with Newfoundland since many immigrants went from Poole. There is a proposal to renovate a brick building whose bricks came from Poole. Architectural conservation lectures have continued throughout the winter. Research continues with studies on 'housequakes'. A symposium on Purbeck marble will be held in September.

Bournemouth University is now on the Internet and has its own web page.

Republic of Ireland

Paul McMahan thanked COTAC for keeping Ireland involved. The Construction Industry Training Committee on the initiative of their Minister have set up a revolving grant fund through the Civic Trust to repair buildings. The CITC is also involved with two areas of funding, these are services to industry and courses on appreciation and recording which should be clearly distinct from each other. Paul McMahan confirmed that he has close links with his Northern Ireland colleagues and would encourage their active involvement with COTAC.

COMPANIES AND TRAINING IN HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION

Paper given by David Linford, Chairman, Heritage Building Contractors Group (UK) at the Symposium in Paris 13 April 1996 arranged by the Council of Europe

INTRODUCTION

I have been a builder for 40 years and am Chairman of the Heritage Building Contractors Group in the UK which has over 30 members, in private ownership with a slight bias towards tradition and whilst all members compete fiercely in the open competitive market we all support a strong commitment to the highest quality of competence, developing skilled craftsmen-and-women, through directly-employed trainees.

HERITAGE BUILDING CONTRACTORS GROUP

The Group is fully committed to the UK-based training network agency, COTAC whose director, Richard Davies is speaking to you in part 3 of this Symposium. The Group is also committed to a fairly strict vetting of member companies to ensure that their standards, records of achievement, references and adherence to the Group's code of practise is maintained.

Specialist building companies need fair competition with similar companies to maintain standards and stability of investment in training. It is not fair, nor is it sensible, to expect them to be exposed to unsustainable competition from large national and international contractors, who often employ only subcontract, freelance labour, who cut every cost possible and who have to take risks on quality to achieve completion for their price. Historic buildings and monuments are like "Works of Art" and they must be cared for by the very skilled services of accredited specialist contractors. Neither the EU nor the specialist companies themselves are likely to allow protectionism or restrictive practises to operate in any member country, but the long-awaited EU accreditation and registration system for individual companies and operatives is essential to be put in place; this also needs to be done in each country, in my view, with an effective up-dating and control system to account for regular changes.

Europe-wide inter-change of trainees of all disciplines will be a good way of widening the experience and co-operation between countries, associations and companies. Freedom of movement and employment of highly skilled staff and operatives should be encouraged, as indeed should the idea of a pan-European database on training schemes, on the sourcing and storing of rare materials and on research and new technologies too. There is a great deal of "equalisation" to be developed throughout Europe, especially in terminology in all languages. Some countries have maintained a long-standing structure of planning control, grading and listing of important buildings, monuments and sites, established and consistent relationships between owners, professions, building companies and funding sources but many have little or none of these systems in place.

Similarly, philosophies vary considerably on the method and degree of repair, conservation and restoration and no one will expect early equalisation on that subject!

Exchange of knowledge, opportunities for debate, growth in understanding in a trusting way will provide the best route for the gradual evolution of these practises. Certainly "consistency" is a very important word; building companies can look forward to a more stable market if consistency of method, quality, specification and training is achieved; our delivery of consistent quality to our clients is as vital as delivering the project on time and to the price, and our relationships and understanding with professions to achieve these objectives needs improvement too.

COMPANIES AND TRAINING

Companies working mostly with permanent, directly employed operatives, still rely on experienced tradesmen and women passing on their own skills and techniques to their apprentices. This training is in parallel to the formal academic training in colleges, whose programmes and teaching methods are constantly improving, speeding up the total training periods to optimum levels.

It is good to see, at last, a change in policy regarding some funding schemes, from the annual budget ("use or lose") which restricts longer term commitments of employers, to pluralist, 2 to 3 year budgets with roll-over flexibility. This will encourage companies to increase their intake of trainees, especially if it will provide training grants, not only for the 16 to 23 year olds, but for the retraining of the unemployed of all ages.

EUROPEAN DIMENSION

There is so much more to be gained in training programmes by European co-operation, rather than by only national schemes. But the general building industry has a poor image and poor reputation in the view of the public, and we must try to raise the profile, especially of this attractive, high skill specialist sector, to encourage a higher quality of educated student to make a committed career to this industry, throughout Greater Europe.

The largest international corporations, attracted to fashionable issues to help cleanse and enhance their images, are also showing increasing interest in financially supporting this highly fulfilling, emotive, and soul rewarding industry, especially suited to reducing unemployment levels and to helping to generate tourism income.

THE PROFESSIONS

Traditionally concentrating on basic and high skill trades and artisans, there is now an increasing emphasis on the specialisms of the professional resources required, including applications of design, research, financial creativity and control, and to primary and advanced levels of site supervision in conservation.

There are a few new and important schemes which recognise

the shortages, which increase the numbers of highly capable, experienced site supervisors who are engaged to direct and control the repair and conservation of extremely important historic buildings, monuments and sites. To increase these initial schemes, the Council of Europe's new foundation is absolutely the right requirement at the right time.

To support these developments, the businesses, companies, enterprises and employees, really do need a much greater level of long term planning and commitment from the clients, that is the Governments, trusts and owners, the E.U., and the other international grant organisations. This would greatly increase the costly commitment to trainee employment, and would encourage pan-European co-operation schemes, and provide the resources needed, not only at home, but for Central and Eastern Europe, the devastated former Yugoslavia and other disaster areas.

OUR HISTORY

Leonardo da Vinci quoted MARIUS, talking to the Roman patricians: "They who themselves go about adorned in the labour of others will not permit me of my own."

Continual imitation of sculpture after Roman times caused decline in new and individual expression. After basic training up to

expert standard, there must be encouragement to crafts people, whatever their particular trade, to try to express their very own individuality, whatever that standard or expression may be. The current development of training networking into Greater Europe could be called a second "Renaissance", not just a national revival of skills, but a Europe-wide progression. It increases the integration of a fully European understanding and opportunity, entirely separate from and unaffected by obstructive and impeding political influences.

PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM 1998

Our European colleagues together with the Council of Europe and the European Union, are joining together to endeavour to organise a major symposium in London in June 1998.

We shall need the support and commitment of all European Governments for this initiative, which could do a great deal to raise the profile of this highly specialised industry, to improve consistency in every respect, to co-ordinate co-operation for Central and Eastern Europe, to come together quickly and effectively on disasters and especially to help to decrease long term youth and adult unemployment.

We do hope that you will be able to offer your full support to this project.

SITE MANAGER'S INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The Council of Europe partnered by six countries: France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the UK, has been successful in obtaining European Union funds, under the Leonardo da Vinci programme, for a Pilot Project for a Placement Exchange Programme, for the training of historic building site managers over a period of three years.

Graham Lee has represented the interests of the UK, and in particular the Heritage Building Contractors Group, on behalf of its chairman Mr David Linford, and COTAC for its training work, at conceptual development and EU bid preparation meetings for the last 18 months.

OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

The concept is to select approximately five conservation site managers from each of the partner countries, who will choose which of the partner countries they wish to visit.

Candidates will initially spend one week together in early 1997 at the training centre on San Servolo Island in Venice to be briefed in detail about the project and to undertake training. They will spend a further week in Italy visiting conservation sites and working on problem solving on the restoration of historic buildings in urban and rural locations. They will then return to their employer for a period before visiting their host country for immersion in conservation project(s) for four weeks. This visit will be linked with a nearby education centre and will include language training, an introduction to the national characteristics of the built heritage,

including legislation, administration, health and safety etc.

After returning to their employers again, they will attend a further week at San Servolo, for assessment on what they have gained from the programme. The programme itself will also be assessed, and the results of these assessments will be used in the modification of the training programme if necessary.

OUTLINE TIMETABLE

Year 1 (1996)

Preparation and consultation for the Pilot Project

Year 2 (1997)

Initial Pilot of the Placement and Exchange Programme

Year 3 (1998)

Adaptation in the light of experience from 1997, and Final Implementation of the Placement and Exchange Pilot Programme

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The Council of Europe are the contract holders and managers of the project, and the key partners are:

- France: CCCA -- BTP; • UK: COTAC; • Portugal: CENFIC;
- Italy: FORMEDIL; • Ireland: CITC; • Spain: INSTITUT GAUDI

Interested in taking part as a trainee, firm sponsoring a trainee or hosting trainees on site? Then contact Graham Lee at COTAC, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD Tel 0171 973 3615.

EU FUNDED LEONARDO DA VINCI 'BETA' PROJECT

The aim of the project is to develop modular training material for crafts-workers and technicians in small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), from a range of crafts. Delivery of the material should be in a variety of formats including; distance learning; multi-media; computer; video/audio cassette; written manuals. All should be suitable for delivery on site, in the workshop, in training centres and at home.

Training material will be checked for acceptability with industry in each of the three partner countries, Ireland, Portugal and UK. This will include the preferred delivery method and a means of certification. Also how trainers use the material, at what skill levels it should be aimed, and for which trades, needs to be established. The project will look at how we can add value to existing material/courses. The training material developed under this Leonardo project will aim to achieve synergy with ADAPT programmes in Ireland and Portugal.

Initially the project will concentrate on Masonry, Plastering and Wood Trades up to NVQ Level 3. Training should cover maintenance, restoration conservation and wherever possible encourage the revival of traditional techniques.

A flexible approach to the delivery of training material needs to be taken, using a variety of methods including classroom, laboratory, factory, live site, training site etc. Since SMEs which are not at present training, are the main target of this initiative,

there will be a need to establish working groups; to include a mix of employers, supervisors and trainers. The project will aim as far as possible, to adapt any existing material which is available and free from copyright.

Certification will be through S/NVQs. Ireland has the National Vocational Education Awards (NVEAs) similar to these.

Initially at least, each partner country will take responsibility for a particular aspect of the project development:

- Ireland: How to deliver multi-media training
- Portugal: Bringing together supervisors, trainers and live training with local authorities
- UK:: Curriculum development, the basic models i.e. NVQs

Links with additional partners, for example Finland and Hungary, may be possible. Initially these would act as observers, attending one meeting per year, with the possibility of travel and subsistence support from Leonardo funds.


The current Programme is as follows:

- Year 1:** Project definition stage – research existing material.
- Year 2:** Training material development – establish joint groups – choose pilot groups to evaluate for year 3.
- Year 3:** Pilot test training material and disseminate – obtain feedback on models.


Graham Lee



For further information contact
 Kate Anderton, Co-ordinator, Heritage Open Days '96,
 The Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace,
 London SW1Y 5AW



THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND
 OPEN AIR MUSEUM
 in collaboration with
 Bournemouth University
 SCHOOL OF
 CONSERVATION SCIENCES



TIMBER BUILDING CONSERVATION

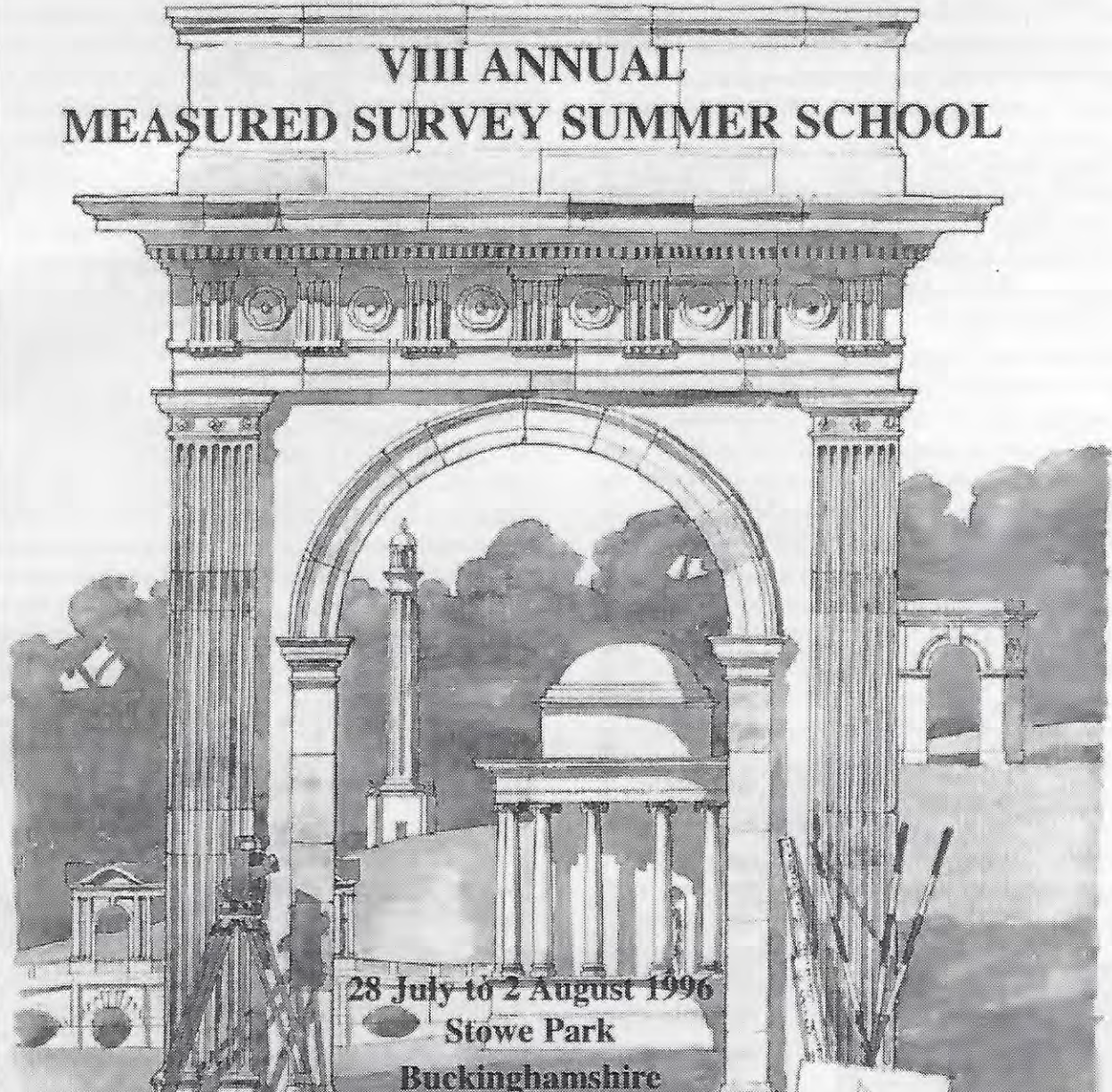
**Postgraduate Diploma and
 Master of Science Degree
 as part of the
 Bournemouth University
 PgDip/Msc Building Conservation
 Programme**

Further information and application form:
 THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM,
 SINGLETON, CHICHESTER WEST SUSSEX PO18 0EU
 TEL: 01243 811363
 FAX: 01243 811475



ENGLISH HERITAGE

VIII ANNUAL
MEASURED SURVEY SUMMER SCHOOL



28 July to 2 August 1996

Stowe Park

Buckinghamshire

The Course offers a balanced introduction to the techniques of surveying and recording historic buildings and ancient monuments. Practical 'hands on' experience will be offered in hand survey methods, instrument surveying, architectural photogrammetry and CAD systems. Lectures will examine aspects of the above and include archaeological analysis and investigation of buildings.

The cost of all tuition, meals and accommodation will be £250 inclusive.

Subsidised places will be available to students and unwaged.

For further details and application forms contact Mike McGill, Course Director, at this address:

English Heritage Survey Services,
Room 605, Keysign House, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD
Tel: 0171-973-3516 Fax: 0171-973-3572

RIPE FOR RESTORATION

Two new one day courses entitled **Period House Restoration** and **Limewashing** have been designed specifically for house owners and non specialists who wish to retain and improve the character, history and charm of their homes. The courses have been designed by David Gresham after learning the skills first hand, restoring his cottage in Lincolnshire.

"I wanted to restore the cottage properly and without spending too much money. This proved to be a winning strategy as it meant moving slowly, doing the research and learning the skills for myself. Anyone who is mediocre at DIY and has an interest can do it. It's mainly a question of using the right materials and adopting a restrained approach. The ripping and stripping, and using wonder cures or miracle products are all out. In favour is honest repair, lime, and an understanding of the architectural history of your home. There's a wealth of sources you can go to for help. The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), is a good start, even though your house might not be that ancient. They have an excellent booklist and are always very helpful. However, it does take time to find out what's what and even then it's difficult to find a builder who knows what you're talking about. The idea for the course came as a result of speaking to so many people who understand what is meant by character but have difficulty in knowing how to achieve it."

The courses are a must for all owners of period buildings, including those living in Victorian and Edwardian houses. They will be held in the magnificent Long Room of The String of Horses at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings near Bromsgrove, three miles from junction 1 on the M42 or junction 5 on the M5. No prior knowledge is required and both house interiors as well as exteriors will be covered. They are extremely interesting and fun days out where you will meet like minded people and pick up invaluable advice. The courses have a built in opportunity for you to talk to the tutor and other participants

about specific problems you may be facing.

The Period House Restoration course has been designed to provide you with a framework for the successful restoration of your own home. Many houses are so thoroughly straightened up, and important features such as windows and doors unsuitably replaced that all semblance of age is lost. The course will provide simple and sensitive guidelines of a very practical nature, often saving the owner from expensive mistakes. This course will be held on Saturday 7 September 1996.

The second course, about limewashing, will be held on Saturday 13 July. It will teach you how to mix recipes to your own requirements using natural earth pigments that produce beautiful pastel shades and mellow ochres. Once it is applied it produces a unique paint effect that greatly enhances the 'period' appearance of homes. Limewashing, a craft once known in every village, has virtually disappeared today. It gives a quality and character which changes with the seasons and the time of day. This has the effect of bringing the surface to life in relation to the uniformity and almost clinical appearance of modern products. The finish is absolutely delightful to live with as it is constantly and very subtly changing. It is inexpensive to do and limewashing that has been done well can last a lifetime, often improving in appearance as it ages.

Both courses will help you achieve that illusive charm and character that goes with a well restored home. Living in a place that has a cosy mellow ambience is one of life's greatest pleasures. However, if you are still unconvinced, remember that the house that best reflects its age and character, while offering a comfortable and practical interior, will prove to be the most easily saleable in the future.

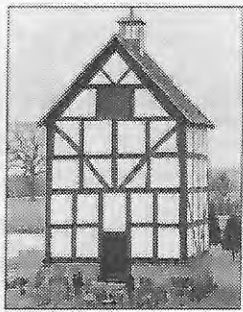
For course details and booking arrangements contact David Gresham 38 Woodlands Road, Moseley, Birmingham B11 4HE Telephone 0121 449 5666



Left: Room 1 – Limewash with red ochre/soot mix, first coat.

Right: Room 1 – Finished. Four coats limewash red ochre/soot mix.





Certificate of Higher Education in British Vernacular Architecture

SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

This unique part-time course will give you a detailed understanding of all aspects of British vernacular buildings. How, and by whom, they were built; what they were used for; and how they can be researched, surveyed and conserved.

You may be an architect, historian, conservationist or teacher. You may act as a guide within a surviving vernacular building or work in some other area of the 'heritage' industry. Alternatively, you may simply be an enthusiast with a desire to learn more about these wonderful historic survivals. If so, then this programme is for you.

The course will be taught as a series of meetings once a month on a Saturday. For a further information booklet please contact: The Marketing and Publicity Office, School of Continuing Studies, The University of Birmingham, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2TT. Tel: 0121 414 5607/5932/7259. Fax: 0121 414 5619.

BURA

PROPOSED BURA CONFERENCE: MUSEUMS AND URBAN REGENERATION

BURA is planning to hold a major 2-day conference on Museums and Urban Regeneration in the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds, with provisional dates of Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November 1996.

The programme will be developed in conjunction with the Museums Association and other appropriate heritage and educational bodies. The conference will draw upon case studies across the country, covering such issues as: the use of redundant buildings, design, site assembly for larger projects, the needs of special collections, funding, trust arrangements, management strategies, 'living' museums, exploratories and the application of new technology.

The target audience includes local authorities, listed building owners, restoration and conservation bodies, environmental and heritage bodies, Government agencies and academic and vocational training institutions, together with related professional practices.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY SOCIETY

15th Annual Seminar 'Contractors' York, 6 August 1996

The Society's 15th Annual Seminar is to be held at the National Railway Museum, York on Tuesday 6 August 1996.

It is being held in association with the visit of the American Society for the History of Technology.

Further details can be obtained from Peter Harlow, The Construction History Society, c/o The Chartered Institute of Building, Englemere, King's Ride, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7TB.

Tel: 01344 23355. Fax: 01344 23467.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE

EXHIBITIONS

***Foundation and Diploma Exhibition* 20-27 JUNE**

This year's architecture and building arts show will present the work of the first graduates from our Diploma Course, in addition to the Foundation Course Show, and a display of the first year Diploma work. Exhibits will include a wide variety of media from designs and models, to stonecarvings, metalwork, and oil paintings.

Opening times: Mon-Thurs 10am-8pm; Fri 10am-5pm; Sat/Sun Midday-5pm.

Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts, Degree Show

26 JUNE-6 JULY

Four MA students will be exhibiting their work, which includes letter-cutting in stone, ceramics and glass inspired by the Celtic tradition, panel painting in the medieval Italian tradition, ceramics inspired by early Islamic pottery, and mosaics inspired by Byzantine and Islamic patterns.

Opening times: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. Venue: The Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, London W1

UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE, ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE PRINCE OF WALES'S INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE, 14 GLOUCESTER GATE, REGENT'S PARK, LONDON NW1 4HG. ADMISSION IS FREE.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S
URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE

P O T S D A M
GERMANY 1996

16 AUGUST – 7 SEPTEMBER

'The Task Force is a studio of practical intent, a means of developing realisable visions alongside urban communities and their leaders. The participant in such a Task Force is placed in the position of apprentice, apprenticed to the city, to a studio master, and to a clear and practical vision of what the city needs.'

Extract from *A Vision of Europe; Urban Renaissance*. Bologna 1996

Further information is available from: Stephen Couling, Esq., The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, 14 Gloucester Gate, London NW1 4HG. Tel: 0171 916 7380. Fax: 0171 916 7381.

A Summer School organised jointly by Kairos and the VITA department in its twelfth year of success

THE ARTS OF THE SACRED

A two-week Summer School in Crestone, Colorado, USA

AUGUST 12 – 23 1996

FIRST WEEK	<i>Paul Marchant</i> <i>John Michell</i>
SECOND WEEK	<i>Keith Critchlow</i> <i>Hal Wyn Jones</i>

Further information from:

Amanda Critchlow Horning
4 Abbey Road, Cornworthy
Totnes, Devon TQ9 7ET

THE SUMMER SCHOOL IS OPEN TO ANYONE, PLACES ARE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS



Founded in 1877

The SPAB's six-day course of lectures and site visits, 'The Repair of Old Buildings', is for architects, surveyors, engineers, planners, builders, craftsmen, conservators and others professionally involved in repair of historic buildings. The course is held in the Spring and Autumn each year: the next course will be 7-12 October 1996. It is eligible for CITB grant and for CPD.

Further information from Rachel Bower, SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY. Tel: 0171 377 1644. Fax: 0171 247 5296

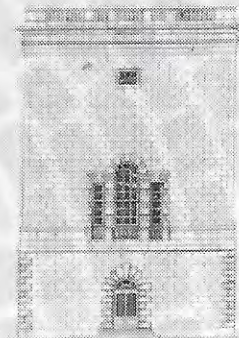
THE VIVAT SEMINAR SERIES

sponsored by

SYMM
OXFORD EST 1885

Wadham College, Oxford

Friday, 28th June
Saturday, 29th June 1996



BUILT TO LAST?

The repair and conservation of brick and stone in eighteenth-century buildings with special reference to The Belvedere, Waldershare Park

supported by

Perspectives

The programme will appeal to owners of historic houses, managers of building preservation trusts and professionals working in the field of building conservation. The Seminar is designed to be stimulating and will offer practical solutions. The Belvedere, Waldershare Park will be used as a case study.

Wadham College has been chosen as the venue for its rich architectural history and collegiate atmosphere. Vivat is fortunate in having access to The Warden's Lodgings, Wadham College and St Giles House, St John's College.

THIS SEMINAR IS SUITABLE FOR CPD CREDITS.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION BEFORE BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT LUCY BARTLETT,
THE VIVAT TRUST, 61 PALL MALL,
LONDON SW1Y 5HZ, OR TELEPHONE 0171 930 2212 OR FAX 0171 930 2295

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 595255

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 Garnett, Co-ordinating &
Development Manager, School of
Applied Arts & Design, De Montfort
University Lincoln, Lindum Road,
Lincoln LN2 1NP.
Telephone: 01522 512912
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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Title

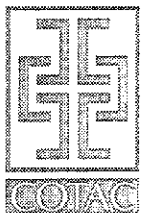
Organisation

Address

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and forward to:

Mr Graham Lee
Project Manager
COTAC
429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
Telephone: 0171-973 3615
Fax: 0171-973 3656



COUNCIL FOR
OPERATING
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

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

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