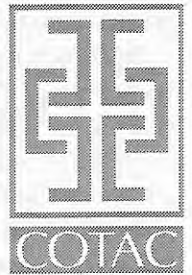


# Newsletter

NUMBER 10  
November 1996



COTAC  
CONFERENCE  
ON TRAINING IN  
ARCHITECTURAL  
CONSERVATION

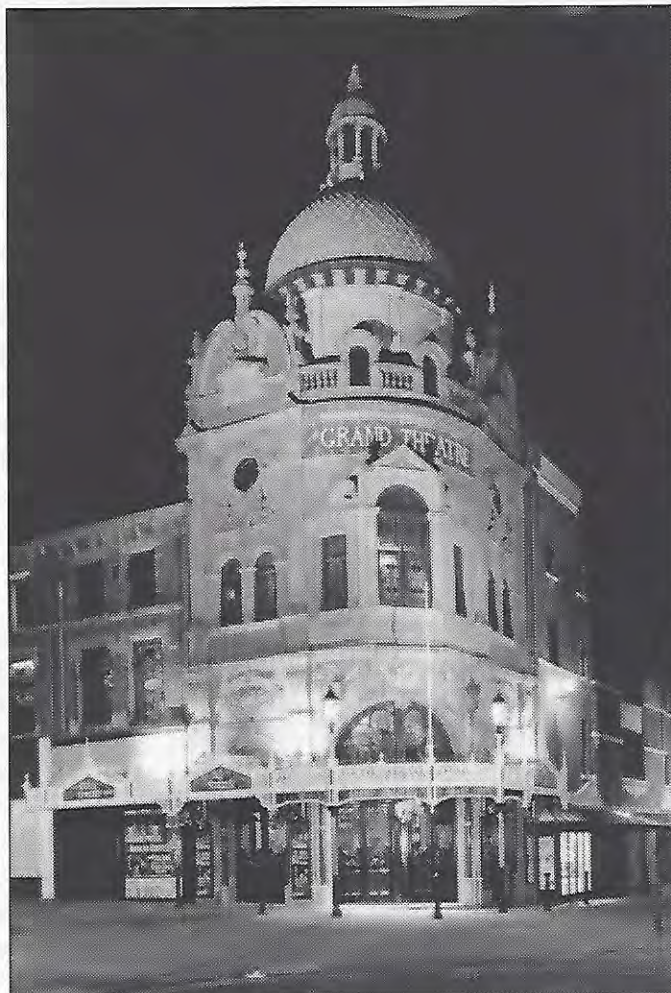
*COTAC is supported by the Heritage Grant Fund, Department of National Heritage*

## INTRODUCTION

Issue number 10 has a slightly changed format with no focus on a Network centre this time. To date we have covered all 9 of the current members once.

In this issue we concentrate on the very successful COTAC International Conference, held courtesy of London & Continental Railways Ltd in St Pancras Chambers, the former Midland Grand Hotel. A stunning venue and suitable backdrop to an invigorating two days of presentation, debate and viewing of projects for training linked to urban regeneration. We were further generously supported in cash and kind for this venture by the London Borough of Camden and the Bartlett School of University College London. A summary of the presentations and discussions from day one is included; a synopsis of day two will follow in a future edition and a full transcript of proceedings is in preparation.

We are often asked for advice or help with grant or bursary funding for training in building conservation and appreciate that this is a difficult area, as most candidates are mature, with family and other commitments. Whilst we are not able to help directly with funds, a useful reference document for potential grants is the Educational Grants Directory which should be available from the reference section of local libraries. We have a copy in the COTAC office in Oxford Street,



*Five businesses sponsored major repairs to Blackpool's beautiful Grade II\* listed theatre, all winning Pairing Scheme awards. Sponsored by the Department of National Heritage through ABSA. Photograph: Con Williams.*

which is available if students wish to call, in this event please telephone to make an appointment before you come. Alternatively it is available to purchase at modest cost from The Directory of Social Change, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL, 0171 284 4364.

Another possibility is a career development loan and we include outline information from a Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) leaflet in this issue. Please contact your local Training and Enterprise Council, Job Centre or the DfEE free phone line 0800 585505 for further details.

Richard Davies reports on the disappointing news from the Millennium Commission that our bid for a community based training scheme for building conservation has not been successful this time.

Our hearty congratulations however go to Woodchester on their success in securing lottery funding. We include a general update on their progress and list forthcoming courses at the Mansion which will be all the more vibrant for having major work in progress thanks to these funds.

Sources of funding are always of interest and ABSA, the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, tell us of the successful scheme that they have been running in the North

KEYSIGN HOUSE, 429 OXFORD STREET, LONDON W1R 2HD TEL: 0171 973 3615 FAX: 0171 973 3656

CHAIRMAN: Rt Hon Peter Brooke CH MP VICE-CHAIRMAN: Donald Insall OBE, FSA, RWA, FRIBA, FRTPI, SP Dip. (Hons.)  
DIRECTOR: Richard Davies Dip. Arch., (Hons.) RIBA HON. TREASURER: Stephen Bond MA, ARICS, Grad. Dip. Cons. AA

of England for the last two years with support from the Department of National Heritage and which they hope to expand nationally in the future.

Gersil Kay from the USA shares her thoughts on the difficulties and need for careful consideration of Mechanical and Electrical installations in conservation work.

We carry two articles on the new National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications for Conservation which we have been involved with developing, how they are affecting the scene in Scotland by Ingal Maxwell and of the role played by the City and Guilds of London Institute.

Marjorie Sanders tells us of the exciting research work that she has carried out with Rank Hovis McDougall, the millers, into the effects of fire and its early detection in thatch. We hope to carry a further article from Marjorie on thatch longevity and material specifications in a future issue. Marjorie is married to Keith Sanders who contributed two recent articles on his travels and experiences as a Churchill scholarship fellow.

In addition to our contact with the London Office of Venice in Peril we now also have a link with John Millichip their "man in Venice" with UNESCO who has kindly agreed to keep us up to date with developments in this most important City and home to one of the first European Conservation Training Centres. A recent call for expressions of interest from contractor teams with the ability to rebuild the "Fenice" opera house is included together with general news and details of the next ICCROM/UNESCO Stone Conservation Course.

John Taylor Chief Executive of BURA tells us about views of Cities in the future.

Some articles this time on notable proposals and news from the academic world which will be well known to those of you daily involved in such matters but may be of interest to our many readers not in main stream education.

The Department of the Environment, Construction Sponsorship Directorate issue a six monthly report on the state of the Industry and we have extracted key data of particular relevance to conservation, being part of the Repairs and Maintenance output.

We thought that you would be interested in a conference attended by Ingal Maxwell last January in Aberdeen, which has a number of themes relevant to us all concerned with building conservation.

Len Conway gives a light hearted review of Lambeth College's involvement in the plaster work at the Globe theatre, London.

As usual we have a section on forthcoming Exhibitions, Conferences, Seminars and Courses including BURA's Visitor Cities in Leeds, Crossing Temple in Essex, Denkmal in Leipzig, and Oxford University at Rewley House.

In the last issue, No. 9 we incorrectly reported changes with regard to the Historic Buildings Bureau in the Planning Department at Hampshire County Council. We sincerely regret any difficulties that this may have caused and confirm the correct situation as follows:

Hampshire County Council is one of a number of authorities in England which is affected by the proposals for the Review of Local Government which come into being in April 1997. In Hampshire's case, this means the setting up of new unitary authorities for Southampton and Portsmouth, resulting in a cut of nearly 27% in Hampshire's current spending. This level of change cannot be absorbed by the existing organisation. Accordingly, a new structure for the County Council is being developed over this year to deliver services as effectively as possible in 1997.

The County Planning Department has been re-organised and the work of the Historic Buildings Bureau has been taken on by a new Environment Group. Whilst the manager's post has been lost, the closer integration of historic buildings with archaeology and planning is enabling a more strategic direction to be developed. No decision has yet been made by the County Council on the level of support or the strategy for historic buildings after 1997. However, there has been an increase in the support for Hampshire's Building Preservation Trusts, through Kevin Stubbs working full-time on their behalf, initially over the next year. In this way and in others, the County Council is continuing to demonstrate its commitment to the conservation of historic buildings in Hampshire.

We also omitted to note the support received from the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) with the development of the Site Manager's International Exchange Programme under the EU Leonardo Programme in conjunction with the Council of Europe's new European Foundation for Heritage Skills. Our apologies to the CITB and Bob Checksfield, their Training Development Manager, who has been seconded to assist with this work. We hope that this will be the beginning of ongoing links and support for the conservation sector of the industry. We have a number of candidates who have expressed interest in taking part in next year's exchange but are still prepared to consider additional applications. Anyone interested please send a CV to me at COTAC and confirm that you have your employer's approval to the involvement.

Contributions for the next Newsletter by Friday 21st February at the latest and on 3.5" floppy disk if possible please, ideally in MS Word for Windows 6.0 or Wordperfect 5.1/6.0, ASCII or compatible format.

As we approach the end of the year we wish all our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and good wishes for 1997.

Graham Lee





---

## COTAC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1996

### THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION TRAINING IN URBAN REGENERATION

---

**Councillor Richard Arthur**, leader of Camden Council, welcomed delegates and wished the conference every success, noting that Camden was the original home of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, founded by a former resident William Morris, and referring to the wealth of artistic and architecturally talented works in the borough. The £37.5 million SRB allocation was, he felt, an opportunity to improve the area massively, in terms of the environment, public safety and job opportunities, in which training, in architectural conservation, will play a key role.

**Frank Dobson MP** reminisced about his past activities as a Camden Borough Councillor and long friendship with the Conference and COTAC Chairman Peter Brooke. He then welcomed the King's Cross SRB initiative and the funds that this would bring to the area. He emphasised the need to make sure that as well as capital, revenue funds required to meet running costs are also provided. These will be needed to ensure that we do not get regeneration followed by degeneration because these funds are not available.

**Lesley Chalmers, Director of King's Cross Partnership**, appealed for the audience's tolerance as she was only recently in post, following 4 years at Hulme City Challenge in Manchester. That experience had allowed her to form some views on what urban regeneration means. While Hulme and King's Cross are very different in many ways, she drew a number of parallels, including negative image, and tackling this perception as being important. Each is a great strategic location having islands of deprivation amidst more healthy areas and both have similar project spends: £250 million total, £37.5 million Government core funding in 5 and 7 years respectively.

Hulme is a typical example of 1960s development, a huge clearance area, redeveloped without community consultation as a massive monolithic housing estate within a grant system requiring use of experimental building systems with many problems.

Various steps were taken to try and tackle the problems but were generally piecemeal, as were the grant systems and policy areas. UDCs were set up across the country, which led to some significant successes. However, the disturbances of the 80s concentrated minds even further and it was Michael Heseltine



*St Pancras Chambers from King's Cross*

looking round Toxteth after its riots where things really changed. He realised the problems were complex, interlinked and deep-rooted and could not be 'handled' by one agency. City Challenge was born as a result, the whole process being an intensive learning experience and this was closely followed by SRB allowing a wider spread and some smaller projects, but with similar characteristics including clear outputs, long term results, added value, quality and a holistic view.

This brought Lesley to the King's Cross project which has both assets and liabilities and aims to create a vibrant new quarter of London, with quality and a balanced mix being paramount.

She completed her presentation with three specific points; that one of the most practical ways to conserve is to find new uses for buildings, that they

cannot be looked at in isolation, context is critical and hopefully that some new buildings will be the gems of the future which subsequent generations will want to conserve

After coffee **Roger Ward** of the Countryside Commission addressed the need for development in rural areas to avoid eroding local character and give more consideration to spaces between buildings and their setting in the countryside. He went on to describe Countryside Design Summaries and Village Design Statements as two mechanisms the Commission had developed to implement these principles, designed to be suitable as Supplementary Planning Guidance. He described the Countryside Commission's future role as innovating, handing over and moving on, and said that training is being put in place to facilitate this.

Moving from the country to the town **Kimberly Paumier** asked why we need town centre management, and suggested that it's because there is a growth in competing interests, particularly between the public and private sectors. She identified three key areas of a city centre audit: to look at a town's assets and build on these, the need to have a vision and to establish a partnership between public and private sector players in order for them to be able to address the major issues together. Key matters she particularly emphasised were: people in cars as our major market, the need to provide a town's customers with good services and to project a positive image of the area via marketing, PR and the media.





*Brixton Market. Photograph: Wendy Hislop*

**Professor Michael Romans** changed the emphasis by giving a comprehensive analysis of the changing context and approach to conservation training. He first noted that the craftspersons of the past were not only supremely competent, but were trained to be thinking people who possessed skills of judgement and analysis and a sense of pride in their work. Indentured apprenticeship meant that knowledge and attitudes to work were transferred to the young, and supervision of building tasks was entrusted to the most able and experienced crafts foremen, trained on courses of study firmly based in reality.

He contrasted this situation with the uncertain conditions of the present, where traditional means of procurement have all but vanished, and the need for well refined crafts has declined in favour of mass produced components created by semi-skilled labour.

He applauded COTAC's provision of NVQs in conservation competence, but noted that the success of these, as well as of the postgraduate courses that already exist, depends on an uncertain market, in a context of declining apprenticeship and work placement opportunities, and increasing pressure on the space hungry construction crafts in the colleges.

Professor Romans finished by saying his intention was to sharpen the focus on these challenges, and to strengthen support for COTAC's work, which he wished every good fortune.

Before lunch a certificate presentation was made by the Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP, Conference and COTAC Chairman, to students from Camden Training Centre. As part of their training they had carried out conservation/modernisation works to the WCs in St Pancras Chambers using materials supplied free of charge by Wates Construction Ltd.



*Refurbished Ladies' WC in St Pancras*

As an introduction to the afternoon session on training supply **Richard Davies** explained that COTAC is a charity which acts on behalf of its members and Network Partners to promote better standards of building conservation through training.

Immediate objectives are to forge closer links with the King's Cross SRB team, whose work in addressing the need for change at St Pancras and elsewhere in the area will result in clearly definable major construction projects. In addition to the modifying, upgrading and re-energising of the existing fabric, the aim will be to seek similar opportunities elsewhere in the UK to upgrade standards, and draw useful comparisons with experiences in other countries.

Mr Davies concluded by highlighting the need for the type of Government support provided in Europe but not at present in the UK, for more live training opportunities, and for support from the local community in the form of clients.

**Bernie Holloway** of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Construction Curriculum Centre dealing with schools/industry links, described the aims of the Centres – to encourage schools to use construction as a context for work in delivering the National Curriculum. In addition it raises awareness and benefits the image of the construction industry, which in turn should improve the numbers and quality of people joining the industry. Finally he outlined practical examples with the activities of two projects by Acland Burley, and South Camden Community Schools.

**Cathy Mitchinson** from South Camden Community School, then described the excitement derived from the St Pancras Curriculum Project. With funding assistance from the Curriculum Centre, the school was able to make links with the outside world

which, because teachers are usually stuck in the classroom, is not very often possible. Visits to St Pancras Chambers allowed initial ideas and serious planning to be much more effective. The concept was that students would look at real materials, identify them, find out about their properties, maybe even test them in the laboratory, and then consider their particular application in this building and elsewhere. The excitement of using a building like St Pancras really brought the topic to life. Two students, Sheilia Begum and Abdul Noor, then described their assignments, which had recently helped them to successfully complete their GNVQ qualifications.

**Ian Roe** outlined Camden Training Centre's role as a community-based organisation for vocational skills, training some 500





*Camden Training Centre Students photographed on the roof of the porte-cochère at St Pancras Chambers after the certificate presentation. From the left: Ian Roe, Director; Liam Fay; Patrick Sweeney; Peter Brooke, Conference and COTAC Chairman; James Wates, Director, Wates Construction; John Blythe, Marketing Manager, Wates Construction; David Chandler; Linton Smith. Other students who worked on the project were: Julie Bevan, Daniel Hogan, Judy Maher, Mary McDermot, Debbie Newman, Nick Rees, Jose Rocha, Harlem Stewart, John Wall.*

people a year, in 12 different vocational skill areas, ranging from horticulture to catering, including the refreshments for this conference. The organisation's key values, integral to its service delivery, are equality of access and the provision of services aimed at long term unemployed adults and young people, i.e. those who face greatest exclusion from the labour market and training opportunities. As the flagship local provider it had been delighted to be involved with COTAC, in the early stages of the restoration at St Pancras Chambers.

**Len Conway** looked at ways that the School of Construction at Lambeth College is fighting back against the problems its been presented with. He described the progression route onto which students can enter at different levels, by being diagnostically assessed for their basic skills abilities when they enter. Since only about a quarter of the students are actually in employment, the amount of training taking place in the industry is at a very low level. Therefore the college tries to organise and participate in as many live projects as possible. He finished by emphasising that despite current criticism of NVQs and standards achieved, students who are now coming out of the master crafts level do have very high levels of skill and knowledge.

**Frances Halahan** felt it was absolute purgatory not to have time to discuss all the problem areas that had come up at the conference and decided the best way to show the work of the City and Guilds Art School was by a comprehensive selection of slides of their work. She explained that there is a foundation course and seven degree level courses, leading to the City and Guilds Institute, Graduateship Award. The students get a broad range of experience, not only in the construction industry but also in the museum sector. The course covers wood, stone and



*Beginning of the afternoon session*





*Hawes Bank – the effects of modern street furniture on historic buildings.*

plaster with painted and gilded surfaces, ranging from museum type objects through to ornament on buildings. Many of the buildings used for training are churches, because they aren't in a hurry, nor do their owners want to pay a lot for any work done.

**Quentin Pickard** Senior lecturer at South Bank looked at university courses in general, then at his own. He first dealt with the new terminology of levels, rather than years, semesters rather than terms, and units rather than subjects, which theoretically can be offered as self contained "units" to students in other disciplines. He then touched on four different approaches to teaching architectural conservation. Firstly the technical or the building pathology method, essentially an understanding of traditional materials – stone, mortar, brickwork and so forth. Then the refurbishment approach looking, as its title might suggest, at the way Victorian houses can be converted into flats, which he felt can be a bit lifeless. Thirdly, what he called the planner's approach, looking for instance, at the development of settlements, town planning, urban grain, and current problems like tourism, motor cars, town centres and so on, which he felt a very valuable technique. And lastly, his favourite approach as an architect, the philosophy of conservation, which essentially identifies problems related to historic buildings and asks students to consider what can be done about them. He emphasised the importance of site visits, and showed a number of slides to illustrate these approaches.

In the last session before tea, **Peter McFadzean-Ferguson** kindly stepped into the breach caused by Professor Pat O'Sullivan's incapacity due to illness. He dealt in particular with the Bartlett's MSc in refurbishment management, which he claimed to be the first course in the UK and Europe looking at the

management rather than techniques of conservation. He made the point that refurbishment is very different from new construction. Therefore refurbishment management needs to be accepted as a separate discipline, and on this basis we need to know more about the processes involved. The Bartlett is developing a relationship with industry through research and consultancy, to look at how industry is working, and feed an understanding of this back into the course to help students to articulate arguments to the often non-technical people who make decisions. He finished by saying that while it is essential that the university should interact with conservation in practice, it needs the detachment to maintain the academic rigour necessary to try to understand what is going on in refurbishment and avoid resorting to a recipe of solutions to particular cases.

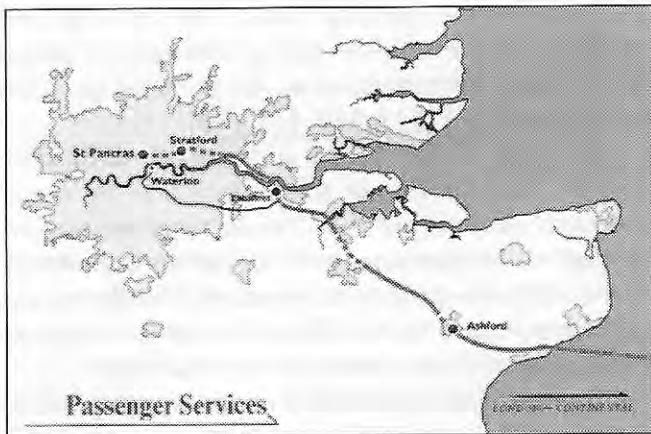
After tea **James Wates** described the work of his firm in the £10 million refurbishment of the exterior of St Pancras Chambers, illustrated by slides. He went on to discuss the importance of training for both the management of refurbishment, and the artisan skills, that have been eroded over the last few years due to the volatile workload in construction. Wates recognise the complexity of refurbishment, and have therefore maintained a specialist refurbishment company within the group, which has helped them to win many significant projects in the sector, and thus maintain the skills required to carry out this type of work.



*Knitted sculpture dressing to the Grand Stairs, St Pancras.*

**Stephen Jordan**, our host as Managing Director of London and Continental Railways, Stations and Property, brought us right up to date on the Channel Tunnel High Speed Rail Link (CTRL). This is the UK end of the Eurostar service to Brussels and Paris and is the largest Private Finance Initiative in the country. He explained that the dynamic impact good communication links make, will breathe new life into St Pancras, the use of the Chambers, the surrounding area and along the route. He cited the impact of Heathrow and communications to the United States on places like Hammersmith, with a number of North American businesses grouping there. Trains will travel at 270km/180 miles per hour when work is complete, improving journey time from London to the Tunnel by 30 minutes, as well as improving services for Kent commuters. It is intended to continue the high speed connections North to Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland.





The Channel Tunnel rail link

Stephen highlighted security issues, the requirement to segregate international from domestic traffic, the technical and safety difficulties in design, the respect needed for existing listed buildings and how it is essential that the best of modern design be applied to new building work. The aim will be to allow passengers to see the trains as much as possible and enjoy the excitement of this travel experience. Suitable uses also need to be identified for the Chambers since this is the gateway to the station. This location will be the largest rail interchange in the UK.

With CTRL consortium members of the calibre of Virgin and National Express bringing their marketing expertise, Warbergs providing financial advice and funding sources, engineers Ove Arup, Halcrow and Sistra, and Vector, one of the leading project management companies of the world to coordinate the project, he believed that a successful regeneration could happen to the East of London, in what the King's Cross Partnership called "the new quarter for London".

**Nick Derbyshire** talked of his experiences as a former British Rail architect, stretching back over nearly twenty five years and culminating in the design of the reconstruction of Liverpool Street station. Now running an independent practice derived from the BR team, he took us through the story of two alternative designs evolved for King's Cross and St Pancras in great secrecy. These were in contrast to the Norman Foster 1987 design for a new terminus located between St Pancras and King's Cross.

Nick's approach was to research the history of the stations and develop the solution from this. The first design concentrated all facilities on a remodelled King's



Aerial view of St Pancras, King's Cross and Railway lands

Cross site including the international station with Thamesline underneath, the Midland mainline alongside the East Coast, and to close St Pancras station.

At a similar time Ove Arup were investigating an eastward approach for the Channel Tunnel Link, rather than from the South. This suggested a route along the North London Line, with the location for the international terminus at St Pancras. Again an alternative scheme was developed. The undercroft was considered to house international departures but was felt to be unsatisfactory, lacking daylight, views and with a restricted module. The solution chosen was to sling the departure lounge in an unused triangular area at first floor level beneath the wind bracing of the Barlow roof. This left King's Cross largely untouched, other than some tidying of the Underground arrangements and removal of the forebuildings. Similarly the important historic area between the two stations remained intact. At the instigation of Union Railways this scheme also subsequently addressed, in an illustrative study, the other surrounding railway lands, as it was appreciated that the surroundings as well as the station must look and work acceptably.

**Margaret Davies** continued the story with a flashback to the formative years for St Pancras Chambers. The Midland Railway Company had been frustrated in its efforts to bring passengers to London and had to rely on co-operation with its rivals to use Euston and King's Cross. Then they secured the St Pancras land and Sir George Gilbert Scott, the architect, a late entrant to the design competition ignored the brief and proposed a building bigger and better than needed by the Company. This excited Midland Railway so much that they chose his powerful, complex design for the hotel co-ordinated with the engineer Barlow's train shed. Strong in national pride, Scott chose quality materials from around Britain, brought to site by the railway. Grandeur, luxury and, richness in material detail and concept abounded including many European references.

Intensifying use of the land around the building, dated accommodation with no *en suite* facilities, reduction in travel by the public and amalgamation of railway companies from the turn of the century through the 20s and 30s, led in 1935 to the hotel ceasing, in favour of office use. This continued until the early 1980s when failure to secure a fire certificate, unless major improvement of escape routes was undertaken, led to the building being vacated. It narrowly escaped demolition in the early 60s when the Euston Arch was removed and it mouldered away until the early 1990s when British



Railways Board took steps to assess and stabilise the magnificent building. A condition and safety audit was prepared in 1992 which recommended urgent remedial action. The Board instigated approximately £10 million works to stabilise the exterior envelope with limited essential interior repairs, to give the owner the best chance of new options for use. London & Continental Railways can now look forward to an exciting future for this exceptional building.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The questions and discussion sessions ranged across many topics including the suggestion that graffiti is a statement by society. It can in some instances even improve the appearance of the original surface on which it is applied. Adequate care must be taken if it is to be removed.

One of the CITB-supported school projects at St Pancras Chambers was confirmed as part of a GNVQ science at key stages 3 and 5, focusing on the inspirational materials used in the building. The humanities department of this school are considering a lower school project on the environment and history of St Pancras/King's Cross area. It was suggested that at primary level, cross-curricula projects embracing many subjects such as science, maths, history and geography are much easier to organise.

It was noted that many employers are confused by the relative standards of National Vocational Qualifications compared, for instance, to GCSEs and A-Levels, and this needs clarification. Although the system is not perfect, 90% of NVQ candidates achieve a qualification, and 70–75% go into employment or on to further education.

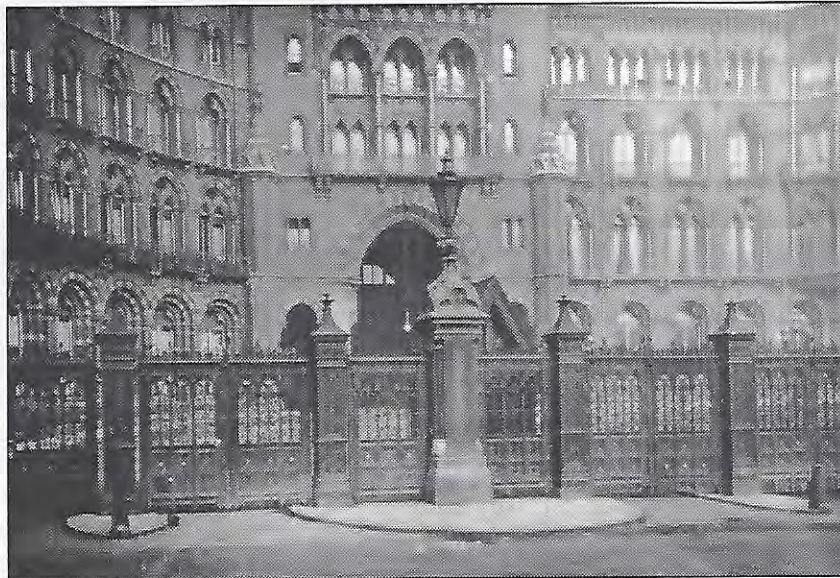
Conservationists and professionals tend to apply rigorous standards in construction to top level hands-on craftsmen.

The demise of the practically trained Clerk of Works was highlighted but the extensive use by contractors of general foremen from crafts backgrounds was felt to mitigate against this to some extent.

Whether the refurbishment MSc at UCL is too narrow and if there is a need for specialist skills separate from the normal professions was questioned. The 50:50 distribution between new build and refurbishment spend raised the question as to whether training adequately addresses this revised mix. It was felt not, and suggested as a matter for the CITB to tackle, concentrating more training on refurbishment, restoration and conservation.

Appropriate methods for contractor selection were queried

and the suggestion made to follow the Heritage Building Contractors' Group criteria, including provision of a method statement, and detailed check list of facilities and abilities suited to the project.



## TOURS AND DINNER

The afternoon concluded with guided tours of St Pancras Chambers in small groups of delegates, before transfer to the Senate House at UCL for the Conference Dinner. Delegates and guests were treated to an enjoyable meal in convivial company and historic surroundings. Proceedings commenced with grace in the appropriate form of the St Pancras prayer followed by an apposite introduction by COTAC's vice-chairman Mr Donald Insall. A light-hearted welcome to the University by Mr David Bowles, the Vice



*Top: St Pancras, 1908.*

*Below: St Pancras looking east along Euston Road.*

Provost, told us something of his work and about UCL. Maurice Mendoza, a great friend of COTAC and its former Assistant Secretary, rounded off formal proceedings recounting a number of his experiences in conservation during his Civil Service career.



---

# MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS

---

Maintaining, repairing, upgrading, retrofitting or installing anew, mechanical/electrical equipment in buildings over fifty years old demands more imagination than the same procedures in new ones. Many times, if not already provided, electric power, air, gas, water, steam or heat must be brought from the source to equipment to satisfy codes and occupants' requirements. In addition to interfering with architectural integrity, badly made mechanical/electrical installations in older structures have economic implications, because they adversely affect the cost of repair, maintenance and operation. Consequently, this work should not occur without attention to impact on original design and historic fabric. Otherwise it could cause serious cost overruns, untold aggravation and irreversible damage to the property itself, diminishing the community's cultural heritage. Therefore, for both economic and cultural reasons, improved awareness and education in this field are essential. The industry should realise that this is a large, potentially lucrative segment of the market for those who are knowledgeable.

Oddly, the subject of mechanical/electrical systems is usually absent from most otherwise well-rounded conferences worldwide, almost as if it were a naughty word. However, aside from caves and ruins (and often even they are floodlit), most people today expect safety, lighting, heating/ventilating/air conditioning, plumbing, communications and lifts almost wherever they go. Such services in fragile properties can be quite simple, but they should always be discreet and concealed to retain the historic ambiance desired.

Two of the most destructive elements for buildings and their contents fall within the mechanical/electrical category. They are unbalanced temperature/humidity levels, and lighting. Both, if uncontrolled, rapidly accelerate deterioration of organic materials like wood, textiles, paper, leather, and ivory, and introduce among other insidious phenomena condensation, desiccation and fading.

Whether for private or government clients, only qualified bidders should be included in the invitation to quote. But who bells the cat? Who decides who is competent, without opening up the Pandora's box of favouritism, bribery or worse? That answer cannot be covered in this brief paper, but it must be solved early on, otherwise the whole exercise is for naught.

Even before beginning the mechanical/electrical aspects, sufficient care must be taken to ensure structural stability, and then to protect properties with architectural and historic importance from damage during the ensuing construction. This includes the existing building envelope, adjacent landscaping, and the interior components. It is essential that all participants in the venture be told of the significance of the project, and cautioned of the consequences of their lack of thought, carelessness or attempts to take unwarranted shortcuts to save a penny.

The ICOMOS Guidelines on Education, adopted in August of 1993, should be included in the *undergraduate* curriculum of every

institution training all members of the team involved in these projects. This includes owners, managers, administrators, design professionals, contractors, craftsmen, governmental/regulatory agencies, consultants and even financial/legal advisors. To wait until the graduate level to introduce this basic information is too late. All students should be acquainted with these fundamentals, even if they never handle a historic site, because this knowledge fosters an orderly method of approaching complex problems so that the simplest solution is found in either new or old properties.

Standards should be established, and codes written to take into account the special needs of historic buildings. Naturally safety should remain uppermost. Inspectors should be kept up to date on products and procedures.

## SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- A. Techniques of older Building Construction, in order to discover interstitial space to be used to conceal new systems.
- B. Properties of original materials, so that effects of temperature/humidity, dissimilar metals and the freeze/thaw cycle are known.
- C. Diagnostics to determine true cause of problems in properties over 50 years old. Only if the real reason for the failure is known, can the proper solution be applied.
- D. Previous methods of repairing, replacing, upgrading, maintaining or installing systems which have been successfully used on similar historic projects.
- E. Materials and technology used profitably elsewhere in the world.

A thorough scope of work, including current and near-future needs, should be created, after careful inspection of all existing systems (if any), or interstitial spaces, within which to insert new services. No matter how long the phased project takes, a Master Plan should ensure that when finally completed, it will be all of one piece, and not like the tunnel dug from both ends, which met with one leg two metres above the other!

Necessary initial actions include meticulous research before preparing specifications, and carefully inspecting any electric wiring over 30 years old. Advance planning for disaster, and compliance with disabled access are challenges which have to be met with innovation.

There should be a conductor in charge of this orchestra to whom all actions are reported, such as discoveries of historic interest and permission for penetration of original fabric. The leader of this team must keep open communication and co-oper-



ation of all adjacent trades, and closely monitor the fire and safety conditions. Detailed progress documentation should be used with strict adherence to the schedule, bonuses for on-time, and penalties for late completion of work.

Adequate temporary lighting (not tungsten halogen) should be included. No mechanical/electrical device should be installed without easy access for maintenance, repair or replacement. Existing fittings, such as radiators, lighting fixtures, sinks, should be put in operating condition, if possible. They may even be kept in place, but no longer operating, for aesthetic reasons, with modern replacements actually doing the work elsewhere.

Correct light levels for the period should be used which eliminate damaging infrared and ultraviolet rays. Glass fibre-optics architectural lighting is eminently suited for this purpose. It can be

retrofitted into antique units and provide illumination without having to view the hardware.

Ducts, pipes, conduits and wiring should not traverse ornamental planes of masonry, plaster, paint or wood. Safety fittings should be designed in an unobtrusive manner, not like huge beehives clinging to decorative surfaces. Lighting fixtures should be of the same style as the rest of the surroundings. For example, Art Deco uprights should certainly not inhabit a Victorian space. All sources of light, except for decorative luminaires, should be baffled so only the illumination, and not the glare, is visible. In fact, when all mechanical/electrical work is finished, the space should look as if nothing new was done.

*Gersil N Kay, Chairman,*

*BUILDING CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL*

---

## VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - THE SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE

---

### BACKGROUND

On the Scottish education and training scene, a number of inter-related initiatives have now reached the point where their combined benefits are beginning to produce results. Historic Scotland's Technical Conservation Research and Education Division has a major commitment to training and education in architectural conservation. As a result, it has a direct remit to keep in touch with these developments, and to plan to accommodate them in its current and future work.

### INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Concerned with good practice, the Investors in People initiative is the national standard for auditing training and staff development. The aim is to achieve maximum potential from all staff, from the time they enter service of an organisation until the time they leave. The initiative is about ensuring that training and development commitments have a very clear focus which helps the organisation meet its overall business objectives. The initiative is also about ensuring that the investment which is made in training and development is evaluated, and that the expected outcomes will be achieved. As a result, the initiative helps organisations consider how they can become more effective in the future.

The national standard is broken down into parts and any organisation

committed to the initiative will have to demonstrate that they effectively meet all the indicators of these parts in what is, essentially a plan for good practice. Topics covered include links between management plans and the individual's job description, the type of information available to assist staff find out about training opportunities, and whether management and staff talk about training and development needs.



*Scottish Conservation Bureau internship: Rebecca Little with Tim Meek at Brodie Castle.*

### THE SCOTTISH VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (SCOTVEC).

Established by the Government in 1985, SCOTVEC works in close partnership with all Scottish sectors of commerce, industry, government and training providers. It aims to develop qualifications which are relevant to the needs of employment, are flexible, and are recognised at both national and international levels. The Council's range of awards include National Certificate modules, Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNCs and HNDs), professional development awards and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs).

Scottish Vocational Qualifications were introduced in 1989 as part of a national drive to improve the skills of the British workforce. SVQs, like NVQs, are qualifications which are directly related to jobs. They are designed by industry, for industry and



intend to prove that someone can do a job to the standard set by a consensus of related industry interests. SVQs are not training courses. They are, however, qualifications based on an assessment of what people can do under workplace conditions.

SVQs and NVQs are based on the same national standard, so are compatible and enjoy mutual recognition throughout the UK, and elsewhere. Overall, they plot a route for a wide-range of participants who can show they have the ability to undertake elementary routine tasks under supervision at level 1, up to a clear demonstration of complex problem-solving and managerial skills at level 5.

## **ADVISORY SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING TARGETS (ASCETT)**

The establishment of ASCETT was announced by the Secretary of State for Scotland in March 1993. Its stated remit is to oversee, and report annually, on progress towards achieving the National Education and Training Targets (NETT). It also has a role to advise government on performance and on policies needed to achieve the targets whilst, at the same time, providing employer leadership to raise the skills levels implied by the targets.

The National Education and Training Targets were first promoted by the CBI in 1989 in its publication "Towards a Skills Revolution". These targets have been endorsed by the Government and are widely supported by the principal education and employment interests. They also underpin the Government's "Strategy for Skills".

Under the banner of "developing skills for a successful future" the aim of NETT is to improve the UK's international competitiveness by raising standards and attaining levels in education and training to world class levels. This is to be achieved through ensuring that all employers invest in employee development to achieve business success. In addition, all individuals should have access to education and training opportunities, leading to recognised qualifications, which meet their needs and aspirations. Over and above, it is recognised that all education and training provision develops self-reliance and flexibility in breadth through, in particular, fostering competence in core skills.

ASCETT operates in parallel with the National Advisory Council on Education and Training Targets (NACETT), a body which carries out similar tasks in England and Wales, and co-ordinates, monitors and reports at national level.

At its 1994 launch, ASCETT delivered a compelling case for the need to achieve the required training targets. It also promoted the view that this could be realised through an involvement by companies in the Investors in People initiative. In Scotland, ASCETT's intention is that all young people who can benefit should be given an entitlement to structured training, work experience or education, leading to a SVQ level 3 or 3 Highers, or equivalent (GCE A levels). In 1994 it was hoped that at least half of the employed workforce should be aiming for qualifications (or units towards them) within the S/NVQ framework by 1996, preferably in the context of individuals following personal plans, with support from employers.

With a requirement that all education and training provision be

structured and designed to develop self-reliance, flexibility and a broad competence, ambitious targets for the year 2000 were set:

- 85% of young people to attain SVQ level 2 or 5 Standard Grades, or equivalent, in their foundation, education and training;
- 70% of young people to attain SVQ level 3 or 3 Highers, or equivalent, as a basis for further progression;
- 60% of the employed workforce to be qualified to SVQ level 3 or 3 Highers, or equivalent, as a minimum;
- 50% of organisations to be recognised as, or committed to, "Investors in People".

## **INDUSTRY LEAD BODY DEVELOPMENTS IN ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION**

Against that background recent developments by COTAC/CISC/CITB in the field of Architectural Conservation are particularly relevant. This development work has, been explored in earlier editions of the COTAC Newsletter, so there is no need to rehearse the range of initiatives which are currently occurring at individual centres and through the developing network throughout the country.

Though this work, COTAC is, yet again, clearly influencing the national trend on how Architectural Conservation will be dealt with in future for a wide variety of professional, technological and craft groups.

Through working in tandem with education and training providers, these foundations are being firmly set, upon which industry-derived targets can be realised. Furthermore, in taking this lead COTAC has done much to determine what the actual operating levels of these standards should be, and how these should be recognised in the construction industry.

The COTAC Network arrangements also go a long way to help address the critical issue of who "trains the trainers", bearing in mind that architectural conservation has recently arisen in its ascendancy at a remarkable speed. In Scotland, the Scottish Conservation Forum in Training and Education greatly benefits from these COTAC links.

Inevitably there will be differences, and issues, such as local variations, brought about by different abilities, different needs, and a variety of topics, such as the impact of available finance, core expertise and variations in the materials used to construct our built stock still remain to be addressed. That, however, is part of the challenge.

## **TECHNICAL CONSERVATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION DIVISION (TCRE) HISTORIC SCOTLAND**

In support of these national initiatives the work of TCRE aims to integrate research requirements with training and education needs, and materials supply availability in Scotland.

Undertaking relevant conservation research is a fundamental requirement of the work of the Division. Through looking at specific Scottish Conservation issues, the majority of the projects are commissioned from Scottish Universities. Where possible,



this is also undertaken in partnership with industry interests. The aim is to translate the scientific understanding of conservation matters into helpful material for that practitioner. As this material is also written with the education and training provider in mind, TCRE is finding that its published works are steadily being incorporated as relevant course curriculum material throughout the country. As a bi-product of this approach the researchers, in themselves, become better informed on Scottish Conservation matters, and are therefore better placed to educate future generations of students.

The publication programme which emanates from TCRE's research has also been devised to be supportive of the development work which is occurring in S/NVQ units. Here, the research reports, practitioner's guides and technical advice notes are already being integrated as core material. Through them, a wide

range of conservation issues are being addressed for the first time. A future aim of the Division is to work more closely with the education and training providers. This approach will, hopefully, help to plug any curriculum gaps by focusing the future research programme where that is needed the most. As a result, Historic Scotland is attempting to address the question who "trains the Scottish trainers" whilst, at the same time, providing relevant material in support of the wide range of initiatives which are currently occurring in the field of architectural conservation.

By adopting this approach it is believed Historic Scotland is directly supporting the Investors in People initiative, whilst providing fundamental material to help determine, and support, the emergence of relevant standards in the Scottish vocational qualification field, and elsewhere.

*INGVAL MAXWELL, Director, TCRE, 11 September 1996*

---

## NVQs/SVQs - Who's Involved?

---

### INTRODUCTION

This article concerns the roles of different organisations within the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) framework, and in particular the role and nature of Awarding Bodies (that grant awards) such as City & Guilds. The article cannot, obviously, provide specific details and discusses NVQ issues generally. Please contact City & Guilds if you require further information.

#### *What is an NVQ?*

NVQ stands for National Vocational Qualification. They are offered at various levels and signify that the candidate is able (competent) to perform a specified range of work-related tasks. NVQs are associated with a particular occupation, but parts of them (known as units) may have an application in more than one sector.

#### *NCVQ, What is it?*

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications. Set up by the Government in 1986, it is a quality assurance body which administers the whole NVQ framework within England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has to promote, develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive system of NVQs and General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs).

#### *SCOTVEC, What is it?*

The Scottish Vocational Education Council has the same role in Scotland as NCVQ in England but significantly there is also a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Awarding Body.

### THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

#### *Who are CITB and CISC?*

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the

Construction Industry Standing Conference (CISC) are both designated Lead Bodies for different sectors of the Construction Industry. Some overlap takes place but generally CITB looks at levels 1-3 with some at level 4, whilst CISC deals with Levels 3-5. Lead Bodies develop and produce Occupational Standards of Performance for their industry sectors. CITB is also an Awarding Body and an Industry Training Organisation (ITO). It has to show a division of interests and provide structures that do not have conflicting roles in its deliverance of duties as an ITO, Lead Body and Awarding Body.

#### *City & Guilds, Where do we fit into all of this?*

The City and Guilds of London Institute was founded in 1878 for the advancement of technical education by the City Corporation and 16 Livery Companies, and to give continued and improved effect to their traditional responsibilities through the apprenticeship system to young people, employers and the community for technical education and vocational preparation.

Within the present context of S/NVQs, City and Guilds is an Awarding Body that offers the largest range (of any Awarding Body) of S/NVQs across all industrial sectors. Specifically in the construction sector, City and Guilds partners with industry organisations or Lead Bodies, examples being CITB/City & Guilds Awarding Body Partnership which offers construction NVQs covering approximately 40 occupations across 600+ centres which are verified by 240+ External Verifiers. The organisational expertise and monitoring of this network and system is allocated between the Joint Awarding Body of CITB/City & Guilds.

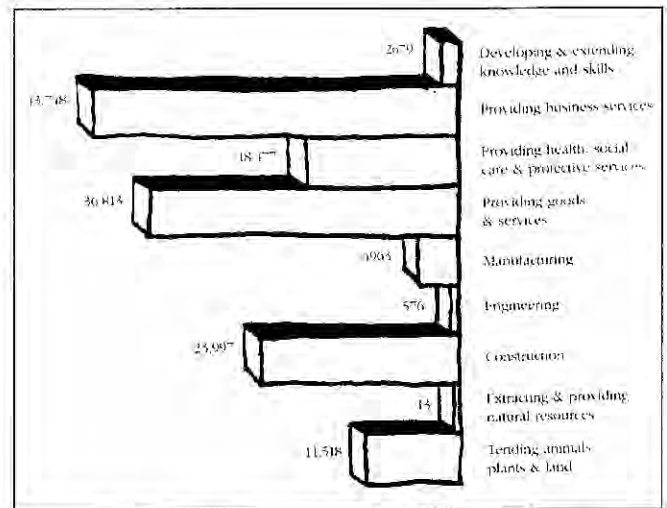
Another smaller, but nonetheless important Awarding Body Partnership, is with IMBM, The Institute of Maintenance and Building Management, which offers NVQs at levels 3 and 4 in Building Maintenance and Estates Services.



City & Guilds is an independent organisation, the oldest assessment and Certification Body of its kind in the world offering a range of services and qualifications.

City & Guilds as an NVQ Awarding Body works directly with partners in some sectors to accredit the NVQs with NCVQ, approve assessment centres, register candidates, issue certificates, monitor and externally verify assessment centres and deal with all the day-to-day operational activities involved in running NVQ schemes/qualifications.

With the wider context of NVQs, City & Guilds has representatives on committees and conferences. Examples of these are COTAC and CISC together with others that are involved in the construction sector. City & Guilds is a keen supporter and main player along with its partners in delivering NVQs. With a number of relatively recent reports and consultation documents we are now proceeding to establish NVQs so that access to these qualifications is open to all, including the existing workforce as well as new entrants. So, hopefully, although it seems everyone is grappling with the implications of Beaumont, Dearing, Capey and various DfEE consultation documents relating to National Training Organisations and NCVQ criteria, City & Guilds are committed to working with industry organisations and Lead Bodies in enabling individuals to attain nationally recognised and



NVQs issued by the City & Guilds Group, by sector 1994-95 (Total: 142,764).

up to date qualifications and the attainment of national education and training targets.

For further information on the role of Awarding Bodies and/or City & Guilds information, please contact: Customer Services Enquiries: 0171 294 2468.

## FIRE AND THATCH

The objective of a research project being carried out by a team at RHM Technology is to identify and eliminate the major causes of preventable fires in houses with thatched roofs. Research has shown that a high proportion of thatch fires are chimney related, probably as much as 90%.

### MAJOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

Thatch fires make up a minor portion of all domestic fires in the UK. Unlike other fires there is seldom loss of life, however structural damage is usually severe, often amounting to total loss. The only question currently asked at the time of a thatch fire is... "what is the source of ignition" (malicious or otherwise)? However, insurers are becoming alarmed by the increasing number of fires associated with thatched properties. The extent of damage from a thatch fire means claims are high. Insurance records indicate that the incidence of thatch fires is seasonal, with most occurring in early autumn, late spring, during cold snaps, weekends or holiday periods. Fires seldom start in unoccupied houses. For the insurance company 'CGA Select' 50% of the value of claims are fire related, although they constitute only 7% of the total number of claims submitted.

### PROBLEMS OF FIRE FIGHTING

Fire brigades with a large number of thatched properties in their area have special problems. Each has its own strategy for dealing with thatch fires. Experience shows that, whatever the initial response, thatch ultimately demands a high level of manpower and equipment in attendance. Fighting thatch fires is problematic; properties can be in isolated rural locations and difficult to find especially in the depths of winter. The fire is often well alight before it is detected and the Brigade called.

Fire fighting is frustrated for a variety of reasons; pouring water onto thatch is ineffective. A thatched roof is designed to repel water. The insulating properties of thatch also counteract any cooling benefit from water. Once established, a thatch fire may be sustained by oxygen diffused from within the roof. Wire netting on the outside of the roof, restricted loft access and barrier boards, all add to the difficulties of dealing with a thatch fire. Under these circumstances the brigade's strategy can often only be one of salvage. Thatch has an ability to burn unseen, making the cutting and placing of fire breaks difficult.





## CURRENT ADVICE

Current advice to thatched property owners concentrates on containing or retarding a fire, rather than identifying the most likely causes. Many thatched houses are listed buildings. There is inconsistency in advice given across county borders, planning requirements vary. Some conservation officers favour the installation of "thatch batts" and barrier foil as "underlay" for thatch. Research elsewhere is examining this practice in relation to moisture migration through thatch and its effectiveness as a fire barrier. In some areas unless straw or reed is treated with chemical fire retardant, thatch as roofing material is not allowed. Only limited records are available to indicate the effectiveness of chemical pre-treatments as a means of controlling fires.

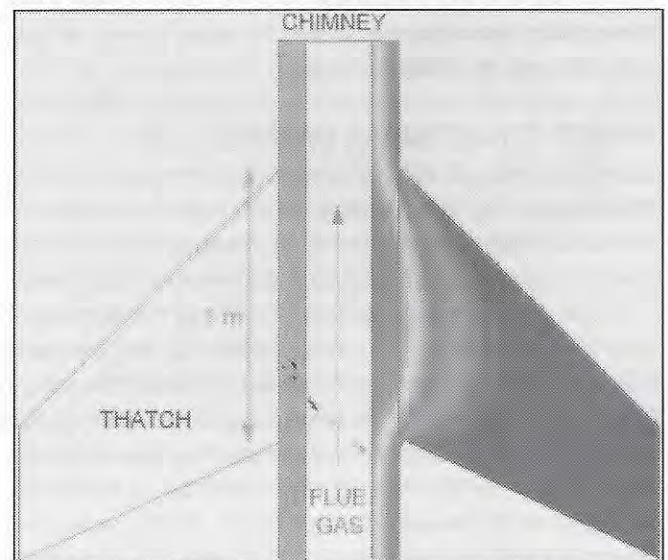
The modern thatching industry faces a variety of challenges. Listed thatched properties constitute a valued part of our heritage. A fire in a listed building is doubly distressing not only to the current owners, but in the irretrievable loss of a unique structure. In the light of current findings, it may be necessary to re-examine entrenched views to ensure that buildings are protected from fire as well as other modern types of wear and tear.

## PREDICTIONS

Mathematical modelling of the processes of heat transfer in thatch have produced a series of temperature, time and condition profiles. They indicate conditions which are likely to result in a thatch fire. The majority of thatched properties have chimneys built prior to the 1960s, when chimney construction was usually only a single brick thick. At the time many thatched properties had large inglenook fire places, where flue gases would be mixed with large quantities of air, drawn in through ill fitting doors and windows. This rush of air helped keep the flue gas temperatures low.

*Above: Long straw is being applied over barrier foil on this listed property. Local Building Regulations require a chemical fire retardant to be applied after thatching has been completed.*

Traditional thatch maintenance techniques often involve a spar coating being applied over existing thatch. Under these circumstances, over a long period of time, the depth of thatch can reach up to 2 metres; 1 metre is not uncommon. This depth of thatch, in addition to providing excellent insulation, often hides poorly maintained chimney stacks. The insulating characteristics of the thatch surrounding the chimney mean that little heat is lost through the body of the thatch. 10 cm of brick is a relatively poor insulator, even when the brick work is sound. Heat easily transfers into the thatch around the chimney where it is retained.



*Diagram to show the temperature profiles which can develop in thatch a metre deep, when flue gases reach 300°C. This level of heat transfer can occur after only 12 hours of continuous use.*



## A FIRE IN THE MAKING

Once a sustainable temperature of over 200°C within the thatch has been reached, conditions are favourable for the first stages of slow breakdown and char. Over a period of time changes can occur which may lead to a fire. Because these changes occur deep within the body of the roof, a fire generated in this way may be well alight long before discovery. Prolonged high temperatures can lead to ignition of thatch even with an intact chimney, where a faulty flue allows gases to escape the risk is greatly increased.

Enclosed multi-fuel stoves are becoming very popular with thatch property owners. Under normal operating conditions it is not unreasonable to expect flue gas temperatures to reach 300°C.. When a fire is burning strongly temperatures can easily rise to 600°C and higher. In properties with double glazing and extensive draught proofing, emission gas temperatures remain high for the entire length of the chimney. Thatch will reach 85% of the flue gas temperature after one day of continuous use, with little cooling across the brick work.

## THE EVIDENCE

Findings predicted by the model have been supported by evidence from fire brigades and 'post mortem' examinations carried out following fires in thatched properties. All the fires investigated in 1996 appear to be chimney related.

## LOOK FOR THE WARNING SIGNS ... PREVENT FIRE

- Spark arrestors, up until now, seem to be given tentative approval, though in this investigation every thatch fire had some type of restrictive device on the chimney pot. If fitted, spark arrestors must be cleaned regularly.
- Burn only dry and seasoned wood.
- Check pointing and flashing regularly particularly where the chimney is surrounded by thatch.



*Both these chimneys are faulty. The fire started in the chimney in the foreground. A wood burning stove had produced heat so intense that the entire chimney had distorted and cracked.*



*Long straw is cleaned back to sound material before the application of a new "spar coat" coat is applied. The crack in the chimney brick work requires repair before the thatch coat is completed.*

- Thatch separating from the chimney could be drying out from excessive heat. Ask a thatcher to inspect the condition of the thatch and chimney.
- Consider fitting a chimney liner, take advice from the National Association of Chimney Lining Engineers NACLE, telephone: 01785 811732
- Soot is a powder! Any solid material or tar falling from a chimney should be investigated.
- Have chimneys swept regularly and thoroughly, use a member of the National Society of Chimney Sweeps NACS. (Members are required to issue a written statement as to the condition of a chimney at each visit.) Telephone as NACLE.
- Whilst essential, smoke alarms in a thatch property alert the owner too late!

## IN THATCH FIRE PREVENTION IS ESSENTIAL, DETECTION IS USUALLY TOO LATE!

"Thatch Guard", a wholly unique way of tackling the problem of thatch fires, has been developed as a result of the findings from this project. It is an early warning system designed to be triggered when the temperature around a chimney reaches more than 200°C – below ignition point but above the recommended safety level. Heat sensitive lances monitor the temperature of the thatch surrounding the chimney and give audible warnings of potential problems. The alarm is monitored on a 24 hour basis by an independent company who are able to give advice and guidance as to the immediate action required to safeguard your home and to call the fire brigade if necessary.

This article is a summary of eighteen months ongoing research undertaken at RHM Technology, The Lord Rank Centre, Lincoln Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3QR. as a part of the "Partners in Technology" initiative funded through the Department of the Environment, CGA Select (Insurance Brokers) and supported by in-kind contributions from the National Society of Master Thatchers. For further information please contact the project leader: Mrs M Sanders Telephone 01494 428066.



---

## INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE COMMITTEES FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF VENICE

---

In response to the appeal launched by the Director General of UNESCO in 1966, over 50 private organisations were established in a number of countries to collect and channel contributions to restore and preserve Venice. Over the years, the International Private committees have worked closely with the Superintendencies of Monuments and Galleries of Venice, through UNESCO, to identify and address priority needs. Since 1969, they have funded the restoration of more than 80 monuments and 900 works of art, provided laboratory equipment and scientific expertise, sponsored research and publications and awarded innumerable grants for craftsmen, restorers and conservators to attend specialist courses in Venice.

Thirty years on, the Association of Private Committees has 24 member organisations representing 12 countries. The budget for the 5-year period 1992-96 is well in excess of Lit. 10 billion, a sum which includes the funding of around 100 restoration projects, including major work on nine of Venice's churches, the provision of over 25 bursaries and substantial contributions to the cost of the 1993 and 1995 ICCROM-UNESCO International Courses on the Conservation of Stone.

### JANUARY-JUNE 1996

At the end of January, the eyes of the world were once again focused on Venice for the unhappiest of reasons, this time because of the destruction by fire of the city's opera house, La Fenice. Since then, many of the Private Committees have played a significant part in stimulating efforts throughout the world to raise funds and provide constructive support for the rebuilding work now being planned.

However, the tragic event served also to remind the international community how fortunate we all are that most of the work on monuments in Venice still involves conservation rather than reconstruction, and how important it is to ensure that maintenance work in the city never loses impetus.

VENICE IN PERIL chose to dedicate the restoration of the statue set into the wall of Tintoretto's house near Madonna dell'Orto to its founder Sir Ashley Clarke, who died in January 1994. It also financed the restoration of the centrepiece of the new Museu dell'Opera within the Doge's Palace, and made contributions to the Churches of San Giobbe and San Nicolò dei Mendicoli's for renovation work on their ceiling and roof respectively.

A third project by VENICE IN PERIL is a thorough survey of the condition of Sansovino's Loggetta at the base of the Campanile in



Above: The Campanile, St Mark's Square. Below: St Mark's Square







*The Rialto Bridge*

St. Mark's Square, including an assessment of the effect of the products and techniques used twenty years ago during the last restoration.

To give an idea of the dramatic problems that can occur, recently at the Church of S. Maria Formosa, the north facade was declared unsafe and fenced off, just a couple of weeks before THE VENICE IN PERIL FUND inaugurated its restoration of the west facade, which had also required substantial static consolidation as well as cleaning and protection of the stone surface.

## INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE CONSERVATION OF STONE

UNESCO has a long history of active commitment to the conservation and protection of historic monuments. In 1975, together with ICCROM, the Organisation chose Venice, with its wealth of gravely threatened monuments built of stone from all over the Mediterranean Basin and further east, as the venue for a biennial International Stone Conservation Course. The eleventh in the series was held 30th March to 14th June 1995 and organised jointly by ICCROM of Rome and the UNESCO Liaison Office. The Course was based at the Superintendency of Galleries' Interdisciplinary Scientific Laboratory at the Misericordia, whose technical experts also provided instruction and assistance. The Superintendency of Monuments also gave its full support through teaching and provision of on-site practical work on the facade of the Church of S. Maria Formosa, one of the projects it is currently supervising in the framework of the UNESCO-Private Committees Programme, financed in this case by The Venice in Peril Fund. Course participants thus had direct access to a whole range of causes and effects of stone deterioration and were able to study and discuss them with architects, engineers, chemists, biologists and other conservation experts of world renown. As well as lectures, laboratory sessions and on-site project work, the course included visits and exchanges within Venice and a 4-day study-tour to Bologna, Perugia and Rome.

There were 17 participants, a balance of conservation professionals with specialist experience as chemists, architects or restorers. They were joined for parts of the 11-week course by 6 observers, mainly restorers already working in Venice. Finance for the course came from ICCROM, UNESCO, the European Union, Save Venice Inc. (with a contribution from the Delmas Foundation), the World Monuments Fund (with a contribution from the Kress Foundation) and The Venice in Peril Fund.



*The Grand Canal*

The 12th International course is to be held from 27 March–11 June 1997 and applications should be made to ICCROM, Training and Fellowship Programme Office, 13 Via di San Michele, I-00153 Rome, Italy, Telephone 00 39 6 585 531, Fax 00 39 6 5855 3349 by 31 October 1996 at the latest. The working language is English and a certificate of language proficiency is required, some knowledge of Italian being useful.

The course has an interdisciplinary approach addressed to all professionals involved in the conservation of historic stone. It uses lectures, discussions, practical sessions, demonstrations, case studies and visits to inform participants in the state of the art in stone conservation. The aim is the extension of expertise and contacts with conservation professionals from other disciplines to help participants be more effective.

Topics covered include ethics, conservation policy, basic geology and petrography, quarrying and carving techniques, decay mechanisms, diagnostic methods, treatments, materials and experience with specific stone materials.

Number of participants is 20, age range 25–45 years, fee US\$600 for members state's citizens, US\$150 per week for observers attending specific portions of the course.



*Prefettura di Venezia*

*Ufficio del Commissario Delegato  
per la ricostruzione del teatro "La Fenice"*

## LA FENICE

The Open invitation to all member states and a limited list of non-members to participate in the reconstruction of the "Fenice" has recently been announced by the Venice Prefect's Special Commission. Conglomerate/consortia organisations able to undertake all the work involved, (not single skill) had to register their interest by 11th October to include details of previous relevant work experience, 3 years accounts, bank guarantees, their qualifications as builders and membership of appropriate national associations. The budget price for the work is not to exceed Lit. 120 billion (approximately £50 million). Selection will be based on price, aesthetic and technical ability, future maintenance costs and time to rebuild, in that order of priority with 29 months being the maximum period to completion. The shortlist of those to be invited to further their initial expression of interest, is to be announced by 20 November.



---

# CITIES FOR THE FUTURE

---

## INTRODUCTION

The importance of town centres has become a prominent theme in Government policy. PPG 6 and PPG 13 are welcome support for traditional urban centres, and seek principally to redress the balance between town centre and out of town development. But what is the role of the city in an age dominated by technology, and are we becoming too mesmerised by retail activity as the sole barometer of success?

This article draws on a seminar on urban living organised as part of the Quality in the Built Environment feature at Interbuild 95 and more recent work undertaken by BURA on the Future of the High Street. In particular, I acknowledge the input of David Pratley, formerly Director of Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development, Bath City Council, whose presentation at Interbuild won widespread acclaim (and which was reported in an earlier edition of the COTAC Newsletter) and that of Andrew Carter of BURA who undertook the research work on High Streets.

## WITHER THE CITY?

Once magnets for commerce, social reform and intellectual debate, cities in the Western world have declined in vitality and influence as those with the means and opportunity to leave them have done so, leaving behind fragile communities often marginalised by the new technology-based society.

Cities that were built to protect us from the environment now constitute one of the principal threats to it. The combination of spatial separation of land use and ever increasing personal demands for mobility have placed an intolerable strain upon the infrastructure, and resulted in unsustainable environmental impact. Great damage to the informal society of cities has also been caused by this compartmentalised living, in which movement between housing estate and school, or from zoned business park to shopping centre, in a car sealed from social contact, has become the norm.

Cities that grew as market places for the exchange of goods and services are no longer required to meet many of the commercial needs of the modern economy. Out of town retail and leisure developments and the new electronic market place in services threaten the economic viability of cities as trading centres.

Cities which grew as places of manufacture are no longer necessary to many of the new and decentralised production processes. Cities which grew as places of learning and communication now work in a global information market in which the production and dissemination of knowledge no longer requires an urban mass; simply a desktop machine connected to a cable, or a camera plugged directly to a mobile satellite transmitter.

## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS

Against the background of this catalogue of misfortune, we may take some comfort from the fundamental needs of the human race as social beings, who will continue to seek out a community of shared discourse, shared work, pastimes and as a forum for creative pursuits and new ideas.

Despite the vast supply of information and entertainment which can now be relayed to an increasing proportion of the population, life at home and at work will become more isolated. A diverse, vibrant, and shared culture, experienced in live form, marks out urban from rural life and continues to act as a powerful magnet for the renewal of cities as younger generations, weaned on computers and multimedia systems, thirst for social and cultural enrichment which modern technologies alone cannot provide.

## URBAN SPACE

As the processes by which things are made or services are provided increasingly focus on high technology, and as domestic activities and business networks become more extended, so the facilities we require in our homes and at work grow more similar. Thus, technology is breaking down the traditional uses of urban space, and within them the division between public and private activities becomes daily less clear.

Social needs and the implications of technology therefore point to the importance in revitalised towns and cities of a 'third space' outside the home and workplace; a space that provides places to meet friends, and to exchange news, opinions, and information.

However, even this space cannot ignore modern communications and the capacity they provide for enriching the community as a whole. Just as books in municipal libraries gave earlier generations equitable access to knowledge beyond our immediate experience, so facilities for access to new technology must be provided for those who cannot afford them in their homes.

## THE ROLE OF TOWN CENTRES

With over 75% of the population living in urban surroundings, the role of the town centre requires clarification. Despite the growth in out of town developments and electronic shopping, town centres remain an important focus in the lives of most people. The real challenge lies in shaping the future form and balance of activities in what we still call the High Street. Can they regain something of their traditional role?

Town centres work best where people are attracted to a pleasant, safe, clean and accessible environment with diverse retail outlets and a mixture of cultural, leisure and heritage activities.



Public events, festivals and entertainments are increasingly popular. Town centre businesses are keen to encourage these kinds of features as a means of reinforcing the trading activity.

## TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

In many cases, a major obstacle to effective town centre improvement has been the lack of co-ordination. A catalyst is needed to draw together the disparate elements, which on the one hand bring the essential variety and character to a town but which on the other often have no recent history of working in collaboration. An integrated approach is necessary in promoting and managing the necessary arrangements, and many towns have now appointed Town Centre Managers for this purpose.

Despite this, recent surveys have identified that only 20% of local authorities plan to spend more than £1m on town centre improvements over the next three years. This lack of investment poses more of a threat to town centre retailers than the arrival of the out of town operators. Local authorities need to treat their town centres as businesses, with the full involvement of the commercial sector and the local community if workable strategies are to be implemented.

## URBAN LIVING

While an urban lifestyle does not appeal to everyone, and the disadvantaged can feel trapped, it does suit growing sections of the population, for example younger residents, those without young children and those who are prepared to reduce their dependence on the motor car. Town centres must adopt strategies to attract residents who choose to live in an urban environment, and it is important to recognise that the residents themselves have a major part to play in the process of renewal.

As part of this change of attitude, the provision of residential space should be a key part of the mix of activities. This should include the development and occupation of retail buildings above ground floor level, as advocated by the Living Over The Shop campaign, schemes to convert secondary office space to residential uses and experiments in the conversion of older industrial premises into 'loft living.' This kind of mix will itself attract different types of tenant, and add further to the diversity of urban living.

## TOWN CENTRE ATTRACTIONS

At present it could be argued that too much emphasis is being placed on the retail sector. The need for the 'third space' has already been discussed. Greater priority should be given to the encouragement of non-commercial space in city centres, opening

up the prospect of a different kind of urban society, one in which the physical focus of the community is no longer predominantly commercial.

It is unrealistic and probably undesirable to encourage car-borne, bulk shopping in town centres. The high street of the future must, of course, retain some of its retail activity, catering for the general needs of local residents and encouraging specialist shopping from a wider catchment area. Other economic activity however could cater for education and leisure and encourage a range of social and cultural interactions.

Like its latter day commercial equivalent, the 'public' anchor of the future would attract a whole raft of private sector spin-offs and supporting activities – small book shops, cafés, pubs, clubs and restaurants, banking facilities and specialist services. Given this change in emphasis, the town centre would be less dependent on the car, being a place to acquire 'experiences' rather than commodities.

The town centre can provide a wide range of attractions that an out of town superstore is unable to match, attractions that go beyond rose-tinted visions of traditional high street shopping. These attractions cannot be fitted into a standard template; each town has its unique character. Key organisations must be encouraged to develop solutions in partnership with residents and the local authority, which build on the local identity and promote both 'gravitational' attractions and mixed use developments which will assist in handing town centres back to the people in a way that purely commercial operations cannot.

## CONCLUSIONS

Everywhere cities are showing social, economic and environmental problems at their most acute. It is in cities that the challenges of the new millennium will be at their most intense and change will be at its greatest.

Despite technology, an electronic interface cannot replace the physical attributes of a city as a unique place in which people will want to conduct social activities. Of all the facets of urban living, it will be the city's capacity to provide for this 'public' activity, education and culture that will attract new residents and maintain the foundation of its economic and social well being.

Grass roots regeneration is now accepted as a more effective catalyst for change than top down policy dictates. Policy guidelines, of course, provide the broad context, but it is genuine partnerships formed at a local level which offer the best prospects for sustainable regeneration strategies, tailored to the needs of the urban community.

*John Taylor*  
Chief Executive

*British Urban Regeneration Association*





---

## CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

---

### THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

To set the scene, it is helpful to look at the wider context. There has been a global explosion of knowledge in recent years. This resulted in a thirst for education in nearly every country which in turn meant that there was no place for mediocrity; the competitive world demanded high quality and value for money. The development of higher education systems in other countries was clear and, year by year, there were more international competitors for high quality staff and the best qualified students, especially perhaps in the USA and Australia. Academic disciplines operate within an international peer review system and this acted as a spur to the maintenance of high quality, especially in relation to research and curriculum developments.

Turning from the international to the national scene, new funding arrangements are in place: a single funding council for higher education in England (HEFCE), a single university sector (itself intensifying an already competitive environment), separate funding streams for teaching and research, administrative resources to be seen as providing value for money, and a grading system for teaching and research.

There are increasing pressures for accountability in every activity: in teaching (through quality assessment, academic audit, and the Government's student charter), in research (through research assessment, financial accountability, and policies of selectivity), and in support services (through pressures for

efficiency, economy, and effectiveness). Financial accountability generally is emphasised through the Universities' internal and external audit arrangements and through the Financial Memorandum with the Funding Council and through the National Audit Office.

Government policies are also having their impact in other ways. The earlier aim was to achieve, by the year 2000, a participation rate in higher education of 30% of those aged 18, but the current view is that universities are achieving this too quickly. A period of 'consolidation' has therefore been decreed, which is presenting problems for some universities which hadn't increased student numbers as much as they might have done and now find the opportunity denied. Moreover the unit of teaching resource has been driven down continually by as much as 2% per annum and, in 1995/96, research was also be subject to an 'efficiency factor'. Resources available to students are under most severe pressure.

This complex and sombre background has influenced the restructuring of many administrations.

In summary, the recent years have seen the ever increasing impact of external factors on higher education. Universities are responding to the rapidly changing scene by seeking to strengthen the quality of their management and by devolving greater responsibilities to faculties and departments.

Many have or are carrying out strategic reviews and are seeking to reduce their cost base in order to compete without reducing activities.

---

## DEARING COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY

---

SIR RON DEARING's appointment as head of the new National Committee of Inquiry into higher education to lead a fundamental review of the sector is very timely as the inquiry provides an opportunity for impartial scrutiny.

Though stimulated by financial crisis, it offers the possibility of positive alternative recommendations to the student top-up fees recently proposed by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP).

As higher education has expanded economies of scale have reduced student expenditure *per capita* which are now

approaching the point where further efficiencies cannot be made without affecting quality.

The National Committee began work at Easter – its brief to assess the future demand, shaping UK higher education taking into account new technologies, the global economy, needs for labour market flexibility and the maximisation of participation in lifelong learning.

Its report, due in the summer of 1997, will impact on the higher education development for the next 20 years.

---

## NEW DTI GROUP AND NEWSLETTER

---

To exploit the huge potential for educational exports, the DTI has formed the Education and Training Sector Group under the chairmanship of Baroness Perry.

The response from the sector so far has been very positive. As

part of this initiative, the DTI publishes *Exporting Education*, a newsletter to inform the sector of opportunities and promote co-operation. Circulation of the publication has grown from 500 at its launch to over 4,000 in a year.



---

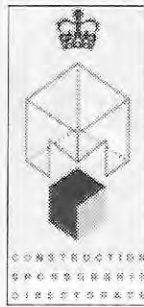
## THE STATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT

---

Output declined by 1% in 1995 and there was a slight fall in the first quarter of 1996. New work output fell by 3% in 1995 compared to 1994, and by 2% in the first quarter of 1996. R&M output, in contrast, grew by 2% last year, and showed a further increase in the first quarter of 1996.

Repair and maintenance, including housing improvement work, has grown in importance to the industry over a long time period and now accounts for over 40% of the total volume of output. New work has doubled since 1955 but has shown much greater swings in volume. Repair and maintenance output has grown more steadily and now is around 2½ times its level in 1955.

**Housing repair and maintenance** – which also includes improvement work – was virtually unchanged in the first quarter of 1996. **Other public sector repair and maintenance output** increased 1% over the previous quarter and 4% over the same quarter a year earlier. **Other private repair and maintenance output** showed particularly strong growth – up 16% on the same quarter a year earlier. Continuing the increase noted in the last report, it is now at its highest level since records began in 1955. The recession in the construction sector



has continued to depress demand for key construction materials. Materials prices have remained generally stable over the past 12 months with only marginal increases in some products.

The trade deficit in building materials continued to improve in 1995 – reducing by about £¼ billion from £1.74 billion at the beginning of 1995 to £1.46 billion at the end of that year.

**Tender prices** tended to be steady or fall very slightly in the first quarter of 1996 after increases which began in the latter half of 1993. In 1996 the major forecasters expect **total R&M** to fare better than new work.

Employment in the construction industry, as measured by the DOE, fell by around 40,000 in the first quarter of 1996 to 1.35 million. This was 1% lower than a year earlier. Figures for the preceding two quarters had suggested that employment was recovering slightly, despite the decline in total output. This was thought to have been attributable to a shift in workload mix between new work and repair and maintenance work, which is more labour-intensive. That shift apparently continued in the first quarter of 1996, but on this occasion employment has moved with total output.

---

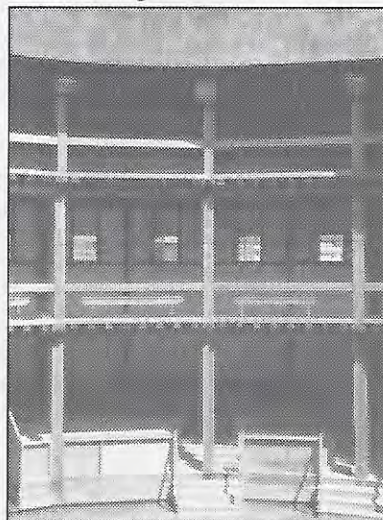
## LAMBETH COLLEGE PLASTERING STUDENTS GIVE SHAKESPEARE A HELPING HAND!

---

*Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer  
by these sons of Lambeth College!* (apologies Will.)

The dream of reconstructing Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the South Bank of the Thames has been helped along by the staff and the students of the plastering section of the School of Building Crafts at Lambeth College.

The theatre is a large oak structure which has panels infilled with split oak lathes coated in lime, sand and animal hair plaster. Early work on the panels resulted in cracking and a solution to the problem proved illusive. Alan May, Head of Plastering in the School of Building Crafts at Lambeth College, ran tests on special rigs reproducing the panels, which were brought to our Vauxhall Centre by the Globe. As a result of research already carried out at the Globe, Alan formulated the best techniques for the application of the plaster, such as the correct regular spacing of the oak lathes and the allowance of longer drying time between each coat. Alan then proceeded to give training to the Globe workers, and our



Globe Theatre showing plaster panels

own plastering students, in the appropriate techniques.

As a result of the work done at the college, the building managers at the Globe asked if students from the college could help out at the theatre. Since that time four mature students from the plastering section worked on the Globe for 3 months. They are: **Desmond Bond, Colin Macintosh, Manley Videll, Shani Thomas.**

During this time Alan made regular visits to the site to supervise the work,

After the 3-month period of working on the theatre Desmond and Colin were employed directly by the Globe.

We feel, very privileged that our staff and students have had the opportunity to participate in the building of this most interesting and prestigious project and understand that we may be invited to help with the plasterwork required for the stage.

The motto of the School of Building Crafts is: *'Building on the Past – Training for the Future'* and this is a good example of how it is implemented.

*Len Conway, Head of Building Crafts, Lambeth College.*



---

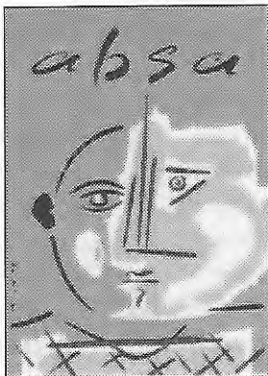
## AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR BUILT HERITAGE

---

ABSA, the Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts – Built Heritage Pairing Scheme, launched in April 1995 as a one year pilot, is now in its second year because it was so successful. Heritage organisations have until March 1997 to apply for the £150,000 available under this innovative new scheme, which is helping attract new business sponsors to the heritage sector. Awards totalling £149,000 have been made in the Scheme's first year to a wide variety of projects. These include a heritage trail through the Little Germany area of Bradford, a schools exhibition interpreting the building of Durham Cathedral, a buildings study module for schools at Fountains Abbey near Ripon, and repairs to Blackpool Grand Theatre.

The "pairing scheme" as it is known, is to encourage business sponsorship for heritage organisations so that they can widen access to and assist with the repair of built heritage. The scheme is an initiative of the Department of National Heritage and is managed by ABSA. It works by matching the financial contribution of a business sponsor – £1 to £1 for a first time sponsors, £1 to £2 of new money from a second time sponsor and £1 to every £4 of new money from an established sponsor. It is intended as an incentive for business to sponsor the built heritage for the first time or increase their financial commitment.

Awards between £1,000 to £35,000 are available for suitable heritage projects in the North of England. Projects can include: the repair of the built heritage, fund-raising events, widening of access, community and education projects, new marketing activities.



It is hoped to extend the scheme to a wider geographical area in future years.

If you have a built heritage project in the north of England that you feel may be eligible, please contact Ceris Morris, Manager – Built Heritage, ABSA North, Dean Clough, Halifax, HX3 5AX on Tel: 01422 367 860/Fax: 01422 363 254.

### *Some examples of projects supported include.*

Awards totalling **£5,776.60** were made to Sheffield City Council's **Abbeyle Industrial Hamlet.**

Urgently needed repairs to the Hamlet's waterwheel were sponsored by four major industrial companies all based in the city – **Avesta, Forgemasters, British Steel** and **Stanley Tools.**

**Blackpool Grand Theatre** was awarded **£40,000** for urgent repair work to this Grade II\* listed building which was sponsored by **Fylde Saab, National Westminster Bank, In the Pink Leisure, Barclays Bank** and **Midland Bank.** Re-slating, re-pointing, stone and brick repairs have begun on the building which was designed by Frank Matcham, one of Britain's finest theatre designers.

**\*£5,225** was awarded to the **National Trust (Yorkshire Region)** for a Building Study Module at **Fountains Abbey** sponsored by **Shepherd Building Group.** The module is designed for school children and will be linked to the National Curriculum. The children will look at the architecture and building construction of Fountains Abbey.

**\*£25,000** was awarded to **Chester City Council** for a feasibility study sponsored by **MANWEB** which will develop an Architectural Lighting Strategy for the city. This will make detailed proposals for lighting up Chester's historic buildings, sites and monuments bringing wide benefits to the city including improving its historic identity. The Strategy will form part of Chester's Millennium bid.

*Barry McKenzie, from Pairing Scheme award winners Silentnight Holdings plc, points out the badly eroded stonework around the windows at Fountains Hall. The award was given for Silentnight's sponsorship of the National Trust's 'Music by Moonlight' restoration fund-raising evening at Fountains Abbey. Photograph: Judy Tapp for the National Trust.*





---

## WOODCHESTER MANSION

---

The Woodchester Mansion Trust has won a major grant of £800,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for works to the Grand Stairs, rainwater system and the West Range. The Grand Stair is a huge project involving stone masonry expertise that is rarely



required in this country. Preparatory work has already been completed, partly funded by the Getty Trust. It is such an unusual and significant project that opportunities for training are particularly important and master-class weeks are being prepared now.

The second phase is the rainwater system, an interesting project in that not much is yet known about the system. The third phase comprises repairs to the West Range including provision of accommodation for a resident warden, allowing the Trust to operate mainly from within the building itself.

Two training projects were completed in 1995-96: repairs to Dormer Window 2 by students from City of Bath College and, by students from Weymouth College, the external doorway to the laundry. The open joints in the vaulted ceiling of the drawing room have also been carefully filled with lime mortar, serving two purposes:

to make the vault more secure and allow easier monitoring of any movement. Other students visiting have included those from the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York and SPAB Scholars.

Woodchester Trust is working closely with the National Trust, which has recently purchased the Park Valley in which the Mansion stands, on all aspects of mutual concern including future opening arrangements.

The Trust's current annual spending on training is £28,000. Training courses planned for 1997 include:

- Lime mortars, Saturday 10th May**
- Grand Stair Master Classes, May/June;**
- Lime plasters and renders, Saturday 6th September**
- Earth mortars and walling, September**

For further information please contact The Woodchester Mansion Trust, 1 The Old Town Hall, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1AP, telephone 01453 750455.



*Laundry doorway, 1995 training project with Weymouth College. Above: the Laundry door before repair. Below: after repair. Photographs: Margaret Lister.*



**T**wo Camden schools, South Camden Community School and Acland Burghley School, have been involved in a year-long curriculum project with the construction industry and COTAC using St Pancras Chambers as a context for learning in science and technology.

The two schools were amongst the few groups allowed access to this magnificent building and were lucky enough to make over fifteen visits for Year 9 pupils as well as sixth form students. The first visit was a training day for teachers in the two schools with representatives from the Camden Education Business Forum, inspectors from the Education Department and representatives from the North London Construction Curriculum Centre (NLCCC) who very kindly funded the project.

Acland Burghley design students were given a



Students from Acland Burghley School outside St Pancras Chambers with teachers Kerry Furneaux and Alistair Cooper and Camden Borough Archivist, Malcolm Holmes.

design brief. Each student made two visits to design and make a print which could be used in a restored and redecorated Midland Grand Hotel.

The project is continuing courtesy of the new owners, with the support of the Education Industry Adviser and additional funding through the NLCCC this academic year. Plans are under way to extend the work into other subject areas and to further explore the historical context.

---

## EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, COURSES

---

**denkmal'96**

EUROPEAN TRADE FAIR FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC  
BUILDINGS AND URBAN RENEWAL,  
FROM 30TH OCT. - 2ND NOV. 1996  
IN LEIPZIG

## BURA

BRITISH REGENERATION ASSOCIATION

### BURA CHARITABLE TRUST AWARDS 1997

**Best Practice in  
Community Regeneration**

**Best Practice in Promoting  
Sport in the Community**

Completed forms and supporting inform should be sent to:

Andrew Carter, BURA Charitable Trust Awards,  
33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX  
Tel: 0171 253 5054 Fax: 0171 490 8735

*Nominations must be received no later than  
30 November 1996*





Day and Weekend Schools in  
Local History and Architectural History  
1996/7

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

**The Seigneurial Residence in Europe**

Friday 11 – Sunday 24 November 1996

A comprehensive review of recent research into the seigneurial residence from palace to manor house over much of Europe. There will be a large number of papers from leading practitioners and younger scholars to ensure as wide a coverage as possible and a few of them will be presented in French.

Fees from £57.50

O96E201HCR [HSP]

**The Later 18th-century Great House**

Friday 10 – Sunday 12 January 1997

The fourth in our annual series devoted to the current research interests of scholars of the country house and its setting. This year it will concentrate on the period 1750–1800 and will include contributions from Scotland and Ireland as well as England.

Fees from £52.50 (including copy of papers) O96E202HCR [HSQ]

**A Civic Centenary: Oxford Town Hall**

Saturday 15 February 1997

The annual day school on an Oxford theme will celebrate the centenary of the official opening of the Town Hall with an exploration of Oxford's civic buildings and the life and works of the architect, Henry Hare. It will include a visit to the building and an opportunity to see the magnificent collection of plate and regalia.

Fees from £23.00

O96E203HCJ [HSR]

**Public Inquiry Workshop**

Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 March 1997

The workshop will take the form of a practical course to introduce potential witnesses and advocates to Public Inquiries dealing with the historic environment. A mock hearing will be realistically staged and the filmed results will be analysed constructively.

Fees from £180.00

O96E204HCR [HST]

**The Cecils and Cultural Patronage**

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 May 1997

The Cecil family, particularly Lord Burghley and his son Lord Salisbury, were the most important patrons of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period. This course will explore their influence on architecture, gardens, music and collections and place them in the context of their time.

Fees from £42.50

O96E205HCR [HSV]

**Planning and the Historic Environment:**

**Highway Works in Conservation Areas**

Tuesday 20 May 1997

A day school which will look at the impact of highway works on the special character of conservation areas, illustrated by selected case studies.

Fees from £46.00

O96E206HCJ [HSW]

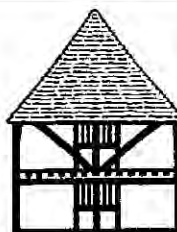
*If you would like further information about any of these courses please contact*

The Local History Course Secretary

LOUDCE, 1 Wellington Square

Oxford OX1 2JA

Tel: 01865 270369



WEALD &  
DOWNLAND

SINGLETON  
CHICHESTER  
SUSSEX PO18 0EU

OPEN AIR  
MUSEUM

TELEPHONE (01243) 811348  
FACSIMILE (01243) 811475

Winter Courses and Lectures  
Programme

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Wednesday 22 January

*Timber – Identification of Species:* David Woodbridge

Thursday 23 January

*Timber – Strength Grading:* David Woodbridge

Wednesday/Thursday 19/20 February

*Re-pointing Historic Brickwork:* Gerard Lynch

Friday 14 March

*An Introduction to Charcoal Burning:* Alan Waters, Museum Charcoal Burner, and Pooran Desai of the Bioregional Charcoal Company

SATURDAY LECTURES

7 December 10.00–5.00

*The Ritual Protection of the Post Medieval House:*

Timothy Easton and June Swann. An exploration of how shoes, animal bones, and scratchmarks on doors and chimney beams were intended to give protection. £20.00.

25 January 10.30–12.30

*Tree Trunks to Tallboys:* David Olby and Andrew

Cossar. The history and construction of early furniture: an illustrated talk and demonstration with a woodturning lathe. £5.00.

*Buildings in the Landscape – The Western Weald:*

Marjorie Hallam. A repeat of this popular four-part course, starting 8 March.

*Human Beings and the Landscape* is a four-day course of lectures and study visits on the social history, cultural geography and archaeology of the South Downs on 29 May – 1 June, organised by the Museum in conjunction with West Dean College where it will be based.

*Shire horse work experience days:* Enquire for details.

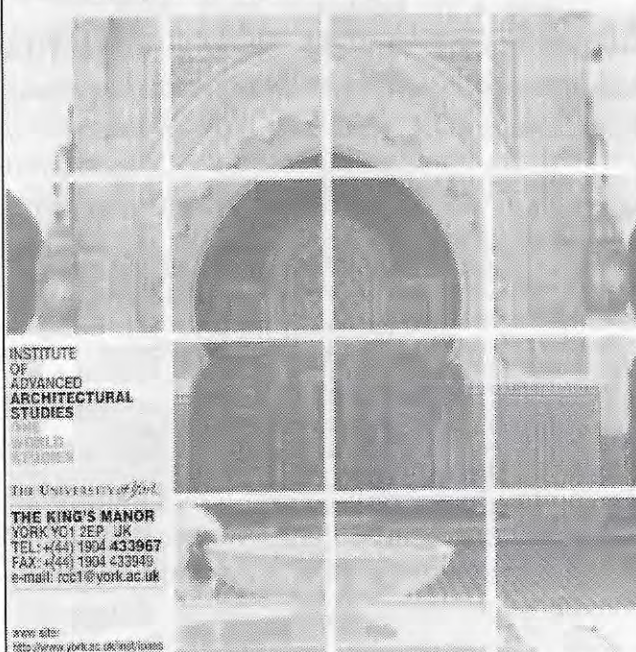


THE UNIVERSITY of York

**Conservation and Urban Regeneration in the Islamic World**

10 week Advanced Course 13 January – 21 March 1997

Organised by the World of Islam Festival Trust, The Bazaar Trust, and The British Council



INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY of York

THE KING'S MANOR  
YORK YO1 2EP UK  
TEL: (+44) 1904 433967  
FAX: (+44) 1904 433949  
e-mail: rcc1@york.ac.uk

www site:  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/iaas/>



**School of Conservation Sciences**

**Seminar Series Autumn 1996**

**Continuing Education Office  
School of Conservation Sciences  
Bournemouth University  
Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow  
Poole BH12 5BB**

**26 November**

Professor David Rhind, Director General Ordnance Survey; title to be advised

**3 December**

Roger Leech, RCHM; 'The interpretation and understanding of urban buildings' (to be confirmed)

**10 December**

Bill Putnam FSA; 'The Dorchester Roman Aqueduct 1996'

*Seminars are open to anyone interested at no charge. Parking available on campus. For further information contact Katherine Barker, Continuing Education Office, Tel: 01202 595273/595516.*

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOANS**

**DEE**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOANS**

**Investing in your future**

- Do you want to improve your future job prospects in either your present career or by completely changing direction?
- Have you been prevented from taking a vocational education or training course because you do not have the money to pay for it?

**If so, a Career Development Loan (CDL) can help you borrow the money you need.**

- CDLs are available through a partnership arrangement between the Department for Education and Employment and four major banks - Barclays, The Co-operative, the Clydesdale and The Royal Bank of Scotland.

**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

**CDLs help people to pay for vocational education or training by offering a deferred repayment bank loan.**

**WHAT COURSE CAN YOU TAKE?**

**Any course whether full-time, part-time, open or distance learning - as long as it:**

- is vocational, ie related to the work you want to do;
- lasts no longer than two years plus, if relevant, a maximum of one year's practical experience where it is part of the course. Longer courses may also be considered for CDL support.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

**Anyone living in or intending to train in Great Britain who can say 'yes' to the following:**

- You will be 18 or over on the day the loan starts and will not be in receipt of a mandatory grant, or other financial support for the costs you need a CDL to cover.
- The CDL supports up to two years vocational training plus, if relevant, a maximum of one year's practical experience where it is part of the course, and is suitable for work you want to do in the UK, elsewhere in the EU or otherwise within the European Economic Area.
- You will be applying for a loan of between £200 and £8,000 and will not otherwise have funds to pay for the training.

**PHONE**

**0800 585 505**

**FREE OF CHARGE BETWEEN  
9.00 am and 9.00 pm  
MONDAY to FRIDAY**



---

## 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.  
BA Hons in Conservation and Restoration – 3 years

---

**Contact:**

Mrs Z Garnett, Co-ordinator,  
School of Applied Arts & Design,  
De Montfort University Lincoln,  
Lindum Road, Lincoln LN2 1NP.  
Telephone: 01522 895076  
Fax: 01522 895137

---

### **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.

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held by COTAC or the Editor. COTAC assumes no liability whatsoever in respect of contributed articles. The products and services advertised in this publication are accepted in good faith but are not necessarily endorsed by COTAC. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without prior written consent of the Editor.

Do you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of the COTAC Newsletter in future? Please add their details:

Name .....

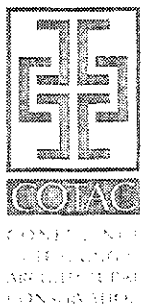
Title .....

Organisation .....

Address .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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



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

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....