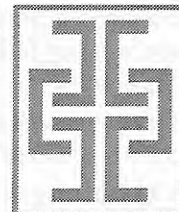


Newsletter

NUMBER 11
April 1997



COTAC
CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

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

INTRODUCTION

Best wishes somewhat belatedly for the new year. We are pleased to bring you in this issue a selection of news from various Network members and other friends beginning with Ireland's progress with conservation training in the Emerald Isle. Staying with the Celtic flavour, Trefor Thorpe of Cadw reports on encouraging developments with training in the Principality. We cross the Bristol Channel for Linda Watson from Plymouth University to relate their experiences in shrinking the geography of the West country by the use of teleconferencing. Moving East and Michael Forsyth tells of the proposed new Masters degree to commence at Bath University this autumn with a major "structural" flavour in the course content.

We next progress North to two new initiatives, the first at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery designated by English Heritage as one of the most important mining monument sites in the country. The aim here is to create a conservation training centre at the colliery to assist with its preservation. The second is a research project training scheme in conservation skills for long term unemployed in the Hamilton Quarter, Birkenhead on Merseyside, part funded by EU and SRB monies. The Northwest has long been a gap for membership of the Network and we are hopeful that this initiative will be the beginnings of representation in this part of the country.

We complete the summary of proceedings at the 1996



Ha'penny Bridge over River Liffey, Dublin

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

Registered Charity No. 1036263

COTAC International Conference with a synopsis of day 2. This leads us on to this year's event, which we have agreed to jointly organise and promote in Bradford, Yorkshire with the Civic Trust and support from the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The theme is "Local Pride – the catalyst for quality" and we wish to develop this demonstrating how local civic and amenity societies can have a major influence in this area. More information later in this issue. This is a result of recent encouraging meetings with the Trust and we welcome the article from its Director, Mr Michael Gwilliam which I am sure will provoke thought and comment from readers. As you may know the Civic Trust are organisers for the Heritage Open Days scheme outside London and we include their request for further properties prepared to open their doors to the public in 1997. Alternatively or in addition you may be interested in visiting some of the buildings.

Alastair Robertson of Q West Consultants, who has worked closely with COTAC in the development of the higher level NVQs, provides a very clear account of development, aims and the current state of play with their trials. We intend to include a similar report on craft NVQ development in a future issue.

Another new contributor – the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England – describe their lottery funded pilot project "Images of England" to create a CD-ROM based image of every listed building in England together with the buildings listings text. This links nicely to one of our own pilot Raphael projects which we have called "Arch" to develop a pilot database of Heritage Skills in conjunction with our Irish and Portuguese colleagues and the Council of Europe, European Foundation of Heritage Skills.

We are also working with the CITB, the same four partners above plus France, Italy and Spain on the Site Manager's International Exchange Project under the Leonardo da Vinci programme. This project has been delayed as funding was not agreed by the EU for exchanges this year but we are reapplying for 1998 and will report the outcome in a future issue. We have just submitted the Interim report for our other Leonardo da Vinci, Beta project and include a resumé.

The first transnational partners meeting has recently been held at Larissa and Ambelakia in Greece with Dimitra and others. Peter Hillman outlines the aims of this Raphael pilot project. Woodchester Mansion Trust have been successful with their lottery application, as indicated in the last issue and we include further details of their proposals.

The State of the Construction Industry statistics particularly relevant to the conservation, repair and maintenance derived from the Department of Environment report are included once again.

You may remember the article on thatch research in the last issue by Marjorie Sanders and in particular the device for early detection of fire risk. We hope to have further news from her in the future but this issue includes information provided by her colleague on the Property Log, an interesting concept to provide a detailed record of a historic building. Another novel concept which we hope will be of use, the Travellers Club, which organises visits to locations of specialist historic/conservation interest.

The Department for Education and Employment has recently issued guidance on the tax relief available in conjunction with Career Development Loans and we include a summary of these arrangements. Latest developments following on from the Latham Report are covered in the Construction Industry Board recent resumé.

Venice has suffered some particularly alarming weather conditions over the last year and our contact at Venice in Peril recounts the difficulties this has caused in the City. ABSA the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts whom we have reviewed in a previous issue continue their good works to promote matched funded schemes in the North of England with support again this year from the Department of National Heritage. Due to the success and popularity of this scheme available funds were used up before the end of the year so it is advisable for anyone interested to apply early. The Carpenters Award scheme has come round again and contact details are included with a review of its aims for interested entrants.

We have details on a number of short courses including the Colloquium at de Montfort University, those at Cressing Temple in Essex run by the County Council, by the Orton Trust in Northamptonshire, the University of Birmingham on Vernacular buildings and the RCHME surveying, recording and health and safety courses.

Details of other forthcoming events include Restorex/Refurbex in conjunction this year with Interbuild at the NEC, Denkmal in Leipzig 1998 and a number of BURA attractions.

Contributions for the next issue of the Newsletter are required by the Friday 11th July please and on 3.5" floppy disk if possible ideally in MS Word for Windows 6.0 or Wordperfect 5.1/6.0, ASCII or compatible formats.

Graham Lee

STOP PRESS

Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies (IoAAS), York

Administrative restructuring is taking place at York with the Centre for Conservation Studies and other aspects of the Institute being integrated with the Department of Archaeology. This will enable the Conservation Course to gain from links with the Training Programmes in Building Recording and Archaeological Heritage Management to be furthered. We are delighted to hear that the conservation courses for buildings

and landscapes will continue to operate at York.

We have every confidence that Peter Burman and his colleagues will continue to maintain the traditions of excellence that mark out the University of York as one of the most valuable centres of knowledge and education in our field, in research and CPD both here in the UK and world-wide.

TRAINING IN CONSERVATION AND TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS

The Current Situation in Ireland

There is an increase in the level of activity on the conservation and repair of older buildings in Ireland. This is similar to the trends in the rest of Europe and the sector represents one third of the construction industry output in the country. This increase in activity has created a demand for new skills and knowledge of traditional techniques for the repair of historic buildings. There has been a response to this demand through a series of training needs analyses and development of training models which will be incorporated into the mainstream activities of education and training. The whole process is being supported by the European Union, the State and Industry sectors.

The current training initiatives can be broken down into three main strands:

1. An ongoing needs analysis of training requirements and a process described as a skills audit to survey and record traditional skills.
2. The collaboration between the Industry, the State sectors of Education, Training and Heritage Services, local authorities and trade unions as a network (emerging) for promoting and developing the conservation skills initiatives.
3. The development of training and education programmes for industry involving the following:
 - Development of flexible learning courseware
 - Training of Trainers
 - Certification, Qualifications and Open Learning programmes

I. ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING NEEDS

A series of surveys to assess training requirements for conservation have been carried out over the past five years. There is an identified pattern of these studies as they have created an evolving process which on the one hand are linked, each study building on the previous and secondly the outcomes feeding into the mainstream policy. The following is a brief summary of each of the surveys:

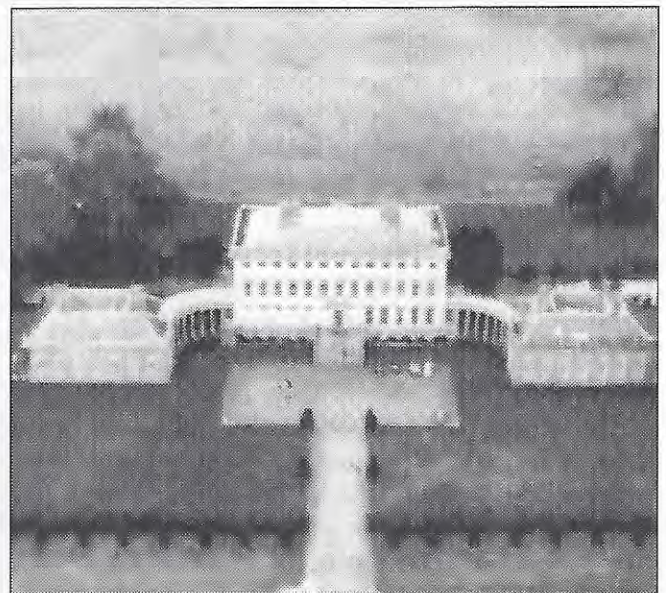
- 1.1 Evaluation of the Euroform Programme – Conservation of the Built Environment – A Training Initiative, the outcomes of certification for technicians and the use of new technology were identified as successful. The weaker area of activity was identified as the need for wider collaboration between the Education, Training and Heritage sector of the industry.
- 1.2 The ICOMOS Ireland study which highlighted the areas of training and the target groups requiring training.
- 1.3 The European Union (EU) FORCE Qualification study – a survey of training needs of SMEs in the area of conservation and a comprehensive analysis of training models in each of

the participating states Ireland, UK, Portugal and throughout the EU.

- 1.4 A Framework study for Training in Conservation carried out on behalf of the Construction Industry Training Committee identified a training and education network as a key strategy in putting in place the training requirements. A methodology for carrying out a skills audit was also identified.
- 1.5 Mainstream Policy creation: These surveys have now fed into a policy report which was presented in 1996 to the Ministry of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht which integrates the outcomes and strategies onto a wider policy for strengthening and protection of the Architectural Heritage of Ireland.

2. COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND THE STATE IN DEVELOPING TRAINING IN CONSERVATION

Co-operation between Industry, the Training and Education sectors, local authorities, trade unions, and the Heritage Services is now formally in place at a macro level through a steering group which represents each of the named players and is in the process of being expanded. The steering group's role is to guide each of the separate elements of training and education in conservation which will be directed in the future through specialist subcommittees. Each of the partners are brought together through workshops which demonstrate correct standards and procedures in conservation. The area of prequalification and certification of firms and individuals working in this area has been identified as a key role and process which will be developed in future by the steering group.



Castletown, a Palladian style country house near Dublin

3. DEVELOPING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The process of developing training and education programmes for conservation involves the following main elements:

3.1 Developing training materials and courseware in manual format, CD-ROM and interactive multimedia and in the future as on-line training using the Internet, E-mail and other tele-matic forms of communication. The main areas of training are as follows:

- Traditional Building Techniques
- History and Evolution of Buildings and Architecture
- Building Science and Conservation Technology
- Theory of Conservation

3.2 Training of Trainees through a series of workshops in the identified key areas of conservation training and education.

3.3 Certification and pilot programmes: The development of certification is based on recognised Irish and EU awards and qualifications within vocational education and at the required levels. The course material will be piloted towards the latter end of 1997 as open and flexible learning programmes for the industry.

The programmes of training and education are piloted and evaluated before the successful outcomes are introduced into the mainstream. The piloting phase allows for innovative methods of training to be introduced such as new technology training or new teaching models.

EVALUATION OF PRESENT OUTCOMES AND FUTURE STRATEGIES

An interim evaluation is now underway of the progress and successful outcomes of the development of training and education programmes and the process of taking these into the mainstream. The evaluation is being carried out by the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht and the initial findings are as follows:

- The process of developing courseware and mainstream programmes is well underway with course proposals for technician and craft training being put in place in the Dublin Institute of Technology's Faculty of the Built Environment and in the regional Technical Colleges at Galway and Tallaght.
- The process of collaboration between the State and Industry sector has been successful especially in the area of conservation workshops in plaster, wood and stone.
- New technology is assisting the process of course development. The needs for the future have been identified as:
 1. Developing certification and prequalification for firms operating in conservation.
 2. Develop a multidiscipline approach within the training programmes.
 3. Introduce Communications and Information Technology Training Systems.
 4. Develop the training Conservation site.

Maurice Murphy M Phil

COTAC: WELSH NOTES

Progress in Wales can be summarised according to the old analogy with the curate's egg. In South Wales the future of architectural and built heritage education courses now looks promising as The University of Glamorgan's School of the Built Environment extends their previously mainstream Building Technology course structure to embrace a BSc Building Conservation course for the 1997/98 academic year and plans a less technically based BA/BSc Built Heritage degree course for commencement in 1998/99. Both of these departures will require additional academic expertise and input from external practitioners. Discussions are due to take place with Cadw to pursue the scope for facilitating appropriate and effective relationships. Pembrokeshire FE College in Haverfordwest currently runs an HND Building Conservation course under a franchise arrangement with the



University of Glamorgan and interest has escalated considerably since details of the course have appeared in the UCAS Guide. They plan a part-time HNC course in Architectural Conservation for next year. Bridgend FE College's link with Lambeth College which has piloted the COTAC/City and Guilds, Mastercrafts Diploma in Building Conservation, Restoration and New Work, also continues to be effective. These expanding existing courses and proposed ventures are extremely good news in an area where the availability of good practical knowledge and awareness of historic building conservation matters has historically been extremely limited amongst

The newly re-rendered Gatehouse of Plas Mawr, Conwy. Part of the repair and restoration of this virtually complete and unique Elizabethan town house due for completion this Spring, and the largest single conservation project ever undertaken by Cadw.

professionals, contractors and authorities alike. In North Wales however, despite the recent evidence of some extremely good and high profile conservation projects (e.g. Plas Mawr, Conwy; Penrhyn Castle, Bangor; Chirk Castle, Nr. Oswestry), local conservation expertise remains thin on the ground and educational initiatives paralleling those in South Wales are yet to get off the ground. Increased encouragement clearly needs to be targeted here.

1996 was a disruptive year for local authorities in Wales following the changeover to the new unitary arrangements and some planning departments are still tuning their administrative

practices. Not all have experienced professional conservation advisers either, and this is an area which Cadw intends to target through its promotion of a Heritage Forum. This will involve local planning authorities and Cadw and will endeavour to establish an ongoing relationship designed to raise awareness, encourage better practice and develop experience. Scope exists to draw practitioners and educational establishments into this interaction, thereby raising the profile of architectural conservation within the Principality and improved links between all those involved in it.

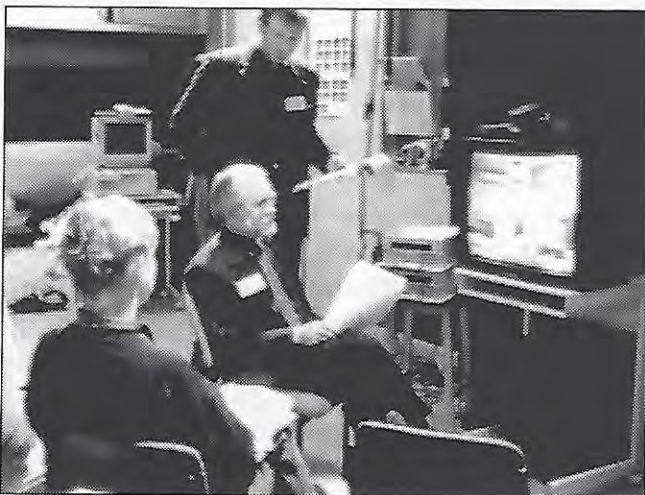
Trefor R Thorpe 25 February 1997

CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY COURSES - CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

Plymouth School of Architecture's location on the South West peninsula has, until recently, limited the catchment of those able to attend short courses particularly on a day release basis. The distance from large areas of population is a disadvantage and the dispersed nature of the South West with its poor public transport discourages the possible regional audience.

However, a project to establish a new means of disseminating knowledge has begun to present many opportunities for conservation and community courses in the region. RATIO (Rural Area Training and Information Opportunities) are establishing a distance learning network in centres throughout Devon, Cornwall and Somerset and participants will be able to engage in teleconferencing and PILL (Plymouth Internet Learning Lab). The intention is that ultimately the entire population of the region will be within 15 kilometres of a RATIO centre.

Much of conservation and community based material is visual



Teleconferencing from Leeds with a community group representative.

and dynamic and suits teleconferencing. The project team of Linda Watson, Nicky Whittenham, Jane Fitzgerald, Jayne Richards, Mike Westley and Paul Burtnyk are developing a series of programmes which will comprise a pre-recorded video followed by an opportunity for the viewer/participant in the RATIO centre to engage in discussion with the experts from the video, via a teleconference link.

The first of the specialist videos has already been produced and was launched at 'The Great Green Buildings Fair' in Leeds on February 25th. It is entitled 'Community Empowerment - People, Places & Buildings' and serves as a pilot, promotional video for a postgraduate short course on community empowerment. The workshop was a perfect opportunity to combine the launch of our video and explanation of our course delivery methods with a demonstration of the capabilities of teleconferencing. The delegates at the workshop consisted of a cross section of people, all with an interest in green issues, sustainability and community initiatives. The participants based at the six other sites ranged from community project representatives to professionals working with communities. All were impressed by the versatility of teleconferencing and the opportunities it offers rural communities, in terms of access to further and higher education in their locality.

The course itself will comprise a series of teleconferencing programmes, each introduced by a video, focusing upon a current issue. The project team have begun production of the first video, with the ambition of completing the series for dissemination in the Spring of 1998. This is being funded by a grant from CVE (Continuing Vocational Education).

The production of a video on the conservation of cob buildings has also begun with a grant from TSL (Technology Supported Learning).

Linda Watson

A NEW POSTGRADUATE DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH

The University of Bath is offering a new Master of Science in the Conservation of Historic Buildings (MSc/Dipl Cons.) either 12 months full-time or 28 months part-time.



The new degree course contains the following taught modules:

- structural conservation (structural principles, faults and their causes, diagnoses and remedies, surveying and analytical techniques)
- materials, construction and skills (the technology and conservation of building elements from structure to finishes)
- history and theory
- the law relating to conservation and urban management

The aim is to provide training in structural and architectural conservation techniques and technology, together with an academic framework of architectural history and theory, including the philosophy of conservation and the teaching of classical architecture.

The course may be taken as either one year full-time or two years part-time. On either route there is the equivalent of two semesters of teaching (full, or part-time) followed by a

dissertation. Where students who do not wish, or are ineligible to progress to the dissertation, a Diploma is awarded after successful completion of the taught course only.

Taking place within the context of the world-heritage classical city of Bath, the course will be taught by leading architects, structural engineers and related professionals, directed by Dr Michael Forsyth. The University has a well-established tradition of education and training based on interdisciplinary co-operation between architects and engineers, as well as experience in related areas and techniques, including urban management and computer modelling.

The MSc degree course is open to engineers, architects and suitably qualified candidates from other fields including surveyors, planners, geographers, archaeologists, historians and managers with a first degree or equivalent professional qualification. At the discretion of the Board of Studies students may be admitted on the basis of extensive professional experience in a relevant field.

For further information contact Dr Michael Forsyth RIBA, Course Director, University of Bath, School of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Bath BA2 7AY, telephone 01225 826826.

COTAC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1997

“Local Pride – The Catalyst for Quality”

We are delighted to announce that this year's event is to be organised in conjunction with the Civic Trust. This is the result of positive discussions between our two organisations and an agreement to seek areas of mutual interest for future co-operation and collaboration.

We are also very grateful to the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council who have kindly agreed to host the Conference in the Bradford Design Exchange, created with high quality conversion of Victorian wool merchants' buildings in the Little Germany area of the City. It is particularly appropriate that we visit Bradford this year as they are recipients of a Europa Nostra award for conservation in the Saltaire area.

The Conference will be held on Friday 3rd October, with a dinner on the previous evening, Thursday 2nd. There will be a series of optional visits arranged on the Saturday to local places and buildings of interest.

The conference will seek to investigate how local pride in the quality of the built environment can create a demand for high standards. This can often be engendered by the local community, particularly through civic and amenity societies. Speakers will present a number of case studies from the UK and abroad of

conservation projects and the lessons to be learnt from them in this regard. It will present a number of novel initiatives including schemes aimed at creating new employment opportunities.

The Conference will be of interest to local civic and amenity society members, local authority members and officers, trainers, educators, professionals in the construction and development field and anyone with a concern for the quality of their locality.

A more detailed information flyer will be available shortly but please send initial registrations of interest to Mr C Crooke, COTAC, 429 Oxford Street, London, W1R 2HD, Tel: 0171 973 3615, Fax: 0171 973 3656.



Lower exhibition area, Bradford Design Exchange.

CHATTERLEY WHITFIELD INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE

Proposed Building Conservation and Recruitment Programme

Stoke-on-Trent City Council is working with COTAC and the Stoke-on-Trent College on a building conservation recruitment and training package focused on the site of the UK's largest and most complete collection of colliery buildings at Chatterley Whitfield.

The project is underpinned with European Social Fund monies which are available through the EC's RECHAR programme, which is designed to assist the re-skilling of areas whose workforces are affected by coal mine closures.

The training scheme aims to provide employment linked with advanced, fully accredited training and practical work experience in the building conservation trades and crafts by day release courses for skilled construction workers who already have a basic qualification in a relevant building trade. The training will be



Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, near Stoke-on-Trent; the most complete group of mine buildings in England.

delivered by a combination of theoretical and practical learning, and a wage subsidy is being made available as an incentive in the context that the employees would receive training for one day per week.

The scheme is designed to improve the skills of 15 local persons per annum to NVQ level 3, to encourage training support by small and medium sized enterprises, and to be linked to properly paid jobs. The project will create locally based training and employment for the surrounding residential estates where many former miners live. Suitable local residents will be given priority in the trainees recruitment procedure, but it is anticipated that all 15 chosen will live in the North Staffordshire Rechar area.

The building conservation training will be carried out by Stoke-on-Trent College, which has considerable experience in the delivery of building construction training, and will lead to an NVQ level 3 qualification accredited by the Construction Industry Training Board. It is intended to develop the training programme to NVQ level 4 after two years, so that persons obtaining level 3 can continue their training to a higher level.

The project is an integral part of the Chatterley Whitfield Industrial Heritage Centre scheme, Phase 1 of which is being funded through the Rechar European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme with other funding partners including, English Heritage and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. A linked application for Rechar European Social Fund support includes a wage subsidy component for 15 persons which will be linked to the training places, to provide an incentive for other local small and medium-sized building companies to upgrade the skills of their workforce.

Mick Downs

THE HAMILTON QUARTER (WIRRAL) HERITAGE SKILLS PROJECT

THE PROJECT

The Hamilton Quarter Heritage Skills Project is one of six set up in the Merseyside area of North West England, supported by European funding.

It is a research project aiming to investigate if demand exists for Heritage skills such as masonry, decorative painting, specialist plastering etc. This is to be based on market surveys which will be carried out alongside a carefully planned training programme for 10 Long Term Unemployed persons over 40 years of age who already have modern building craft skills. Long Term Unemployed is defined as having been out of work for at least two years.

The incentive for the trainees is a realistic wage of £6 per hour while training, the opportunity to rebuild their self confidence and

to substantially broaden their skills base so that at the end of the project their employment prospects will be considerably enhanced.

THE PARTNERSHIP

The Heritage Skills team is working in partnership with a number of organisations including the Hamilton Quarter Project, COTAC, the Laird Foundation, Wirral Pathways, CEWTEC and the Employment Service. The Hamilton Quarter project is an exciting initiative funded by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget Challenge Fund, to regenerate the historic heart of Birkenhead, Hamilton Square and its surroundings. The Square contains one

of the greatest concentrations of Grade I listed Georgian buildings in the country outside London.

COTAC together with Rob Burns, the Local Authority Conservation Officer, are providing specialist conservation expertise and advice. The Laird Foundation, a major training initiative established to respond to the retraining needs of former shipbuilding workers, chair the Steering Group, and provide strategic/training guidance. Wirral Pathways which was set up to ensure that European funding is targeted at the most disadvantaged Wirral residents have assisted in disseminating information about the project and recruiting trainees. CEWTEC, the local Training and Enterprise Council, are assisting with the training and industry links.

LOCATION

The training will be carried out in part of a former warehouse at Taylor Street. The Hamilton Quarter plan to bring the rest of this building back into use for refurbishment and storage of trams running on the new Birkenhead Tramway. The trainees have used their existing skills as a team to make appropriate alterations, set up workshops and install equipment which will be used for their training in this building.

TIMING

The timescale of the project is governed by EU requirements which have allocated funding until June this year. Since it was only

possible to recruit initial staff to the team in December and the trainees in January the aim will be to provide as much training as realistic in this timescale. The Hamilton Quarter Project are hopeful that they will be able to continue until September and the team will be seeking additional funding to continue the project beyond this enabling trainees to complete their training. The ultimate aim is to establish a Hamilton Quarter Heritage Skills Training Centre at Taylor Street.

THE TEAM

There were over 60 applicants for the training courses following initial publicity and distribution of leaflets. New applications continue to be received and a list of reserves is being built up to use when further funding is secured. The current group of trainees are very enthusiastic, keen to learn and have been very co-operative in surmounting a number of difficulties in this accelerated set up phase.

CONCLUSION

The Heritage Skills Project is an exciting innovative venture which should provide new sources of employment for its candidates whilst at the same time providing useful data for evaluation, monitoring and identification of perceived and actual needs for heritage skills.

Peter Leighton, Project Manager



Left: Simon Blackwell working on railings from Hamilton Square. Right: the Hamilton Quarter Heritage Skills Project team from the left, back row: Dave Rogers, Co-ordinator, Michael Hannah, Harold Hooper, Bill Mainwaring, Paul Cotgrave, Peter Leighton, Project Manager, front row from left: Adam Murdoch, Simon Blackwell, Robert Cook, Alan Tolley, Jim Smith, Gerry Morris. Those not on photograph are Dave Burriss and Ms Colette Ellis Administrator.

COTAC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 1996

The Role of Conservation Training in Urban Regeneration - Day 2 Summary



Aerial view of Bath

Professor Richard Frewer started the second day dealing with four main areas. The change of attitude to the city over the past 30 years; the shared strategy developed for the future of Bath and its relevance to the future of the town/city as a whole; his enthusiasm and reservations about inter-disciplinary education; and finally his proposals for the international summer school on urban design and management for historic cities.

He summarised the strands behind the thinking in Bath and what he called the pan-European initiative being developed with Elizabeth Kovacs from Hungary as follows:

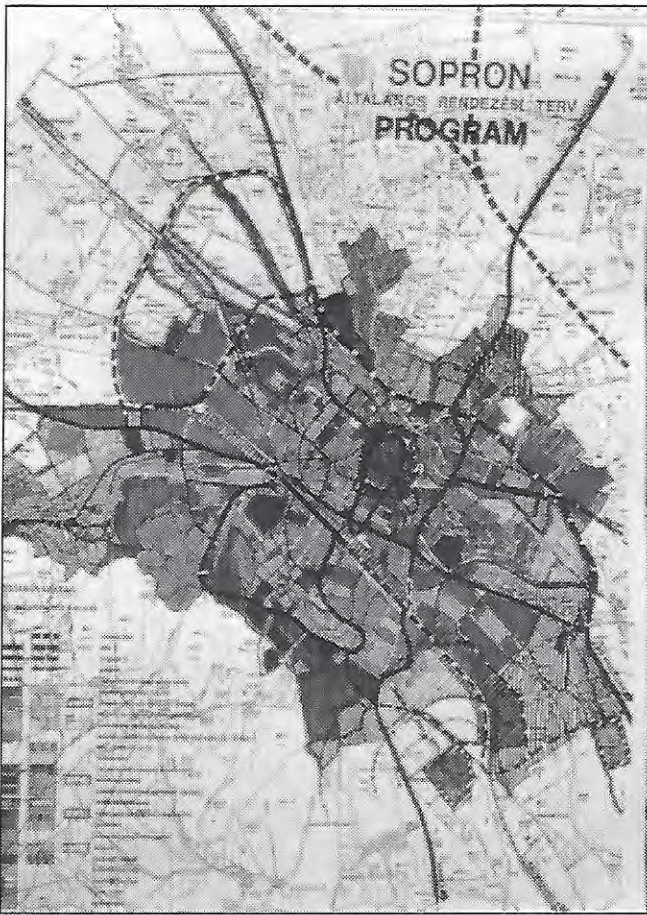
The town, particularly the historic town, must develop a sharp vision of itself to be able to plan for its future. It must bring together the historic tradition, the future direction in the light of post industrial and the electronic age in which the reason for the existence of the town itself may come into question. We must find ways of increasing the perceived value of urban life and thereby seek to achieve the reality of it. He also noted how very often one or a very small group of energetic people can steer the direction of a major scheme, and quoted an example of an architect who persuaded his councillors to peg the idea of a rather nasty standard office building in favour of regenerating a disparate series of buildings into a coherent solution which gave

new life to the buildings and an appropriate headquarters for the charming historic town of Hadleigh.

He emphasised the importance of inter-disciplinary working for city development and noted the difficulties of teaching this to undergraduates. He was more optimistic about this approach for post graduates.

Professor Frewer finished by discussing his vision for the summer school. He identified the need for three broad foci: how the city sees itself, how the outside sees it and therefore how it relates to economic development, and how to relate these to social and economic structure. He described in detail the pattern he envisaged for the school's activities.

On the same theme Elizabeth Kovacs spoke about co-operation between European historical cities, justifying this in relation to their common cultural and architectural roots, and explained how



Above: Map of Sopron. Below: view of Sopron.



the idea of a European Summer School on urban design and the management of historical cities had arisen.

She pointed out the similarities of abandonment of housing, traffic, parking problems, transformation of social structures, concentration on services/shops, and the consequences of depopulation that have led to radical changes in functions and form. Furthermore the deterioration and destruction of buildings despite increasing public interest in its heritage and considerable amount of rehabilitation and restoration work carried out. She noted the enormity of the task of harmonising the unchangeable geographical areas and the historical values of historic cities with a dynamically growing fabric.

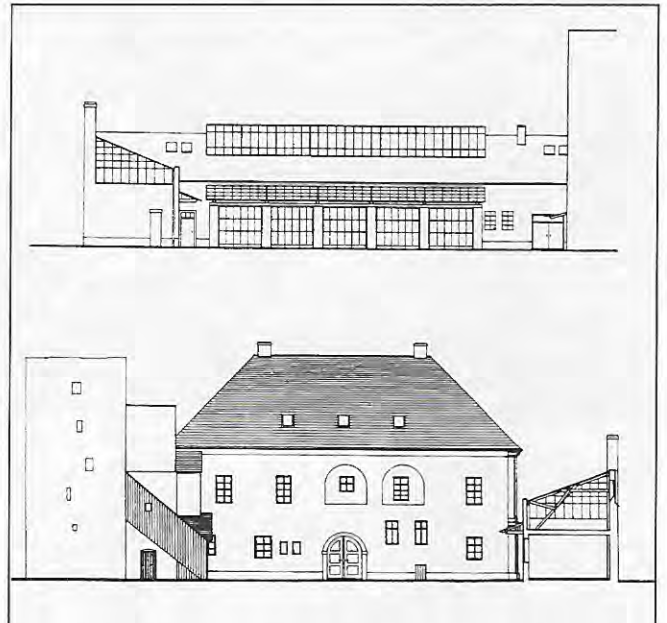
As part of the recognition by Professionals and municipalities of the need to address these problems, potential partnerships were explored through visits to the two Hungarian historical towns of

Koszeg and Sopron. The potential benefits of a partnership arose from the similarities between Sopron and Bath that became apparent.

Elizabeth demonstrated these by showing a number of very interesting slides, mostly of Sopron but also covering the historical development of both these historical European cities.

In describing the Lytomysl School **Gerard Menuhin** changed the emphasis from the broad scale to the detailed and the need for manual competencies in an ever more artificial world, which tends to denigrate manual skills. He noted that one of the few beneficial effects of 45 years of political stagnation in Eastern Europe has been the survival of crafts in a wide variety of disciplines and thus a rich tradition of indigenous expertise on which to build small enterprises. He discussed the western tendency towards greater numbers of unemployed with university degrees and said a redirection of education is needed, back towards the manual disciplines and the kind of crafts offered by the 19 state technical schools for 14-18 year olds in the Czech Republic.

Existing post secondary school training is relatively difficult and very time consuming and therefore yields a woefully inadequate number of trained restorers. He was worried that young people



Above: Conservation School, Litomysl. Below: Work on the prospectus of the scenery called 'French Garden', Castle Theatre, Litomysl.



may be attracted by the variety of choices resulting from political change in Central and Eastern Europe, and tempted by lack of local opportunities to renounce their villages and home towns to reach for a media promoted Utopia. To combat this the Litomysl School would offer a much more expedient process towards gaining this critical knowledge. He said the aim should be to create a regional network of centres for teaching traditional crafts throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Eventually, through regular exchanges of instructors, apprentices and information, the network could be extended throughout Europe and even beyond.

The spark which ignited the Litomysl school idea was the restoration of Yoseph Vachal's uniquely eccentric 1920s murals in a house in Litomysl. It was immediately clear that there were a number of positive elements which would facilitate the development of a school. The town was booming, and loaned the school a handsome Baroque building for 1 Czech Crown a year and pledged £11,000 for its restoration, and Ladislav Vorazec declared his intention of sitting outside the Minister of Education's door until the school received official recognition – which it eventually did. This allowed the school to receive an annual per student subsidy of about £700 amounting to 27% of the cost of a student.

The Litomysl School will also achieve sustainability through income from its own conservation consulting company which will hire out school graduates, giving them an opportunity to experience private enterprise before launching them in business, while funding the school from the proceeds of contracts to restore historic buildings.

There have been a large number of applicants for places at the school, which began operating on 20 September 1996 with a complement of 18 apprentices and 6 instructors, this has grown to 42 students with an internal and visiting staff of 26.

Gerard Menuhin listed the school's supporters and illustrated its work with slides. He hoped it would serve as a model for regional schools throughout Europe and in the EU. However he noted that while the upheaval which overtook the former Soviet Bloc was the opportunity to start anew, it may be more difficult to stimulate the more comfortable countries of Western Europe, whose local authorities may not yet perceive the social and economic benefits of regional training centres.

Reverting to broader considerations **Clara Vieira** described recent initiatives in Lisbon. She first put the overall plan into context, explaining that the integrated programme for the castle is one of the rehabilitation operations for the historic quarters of Lisbon begun in 1986 by the Municipal Council. Since then it has become clear that a piecemeal approach was not enough. It is necessary to revive the social and cultural life, as well as rehabilitating public areas, monuments, and buildings of historical and heritage value, preventing the loss of the resident population, by giving them better housing and encouraging the pursuit of economic activity.

She went on to describe the area, the causes of its decline – deteriorating buildings, access difficulties, lack of parking, and routes which do not help tourists get the best appreciation of the area, nor contribute to the development of commercial activity and local handicrafts.



Above: Map of Castle area, Lisbon. Below: Typical houses in Castle area.



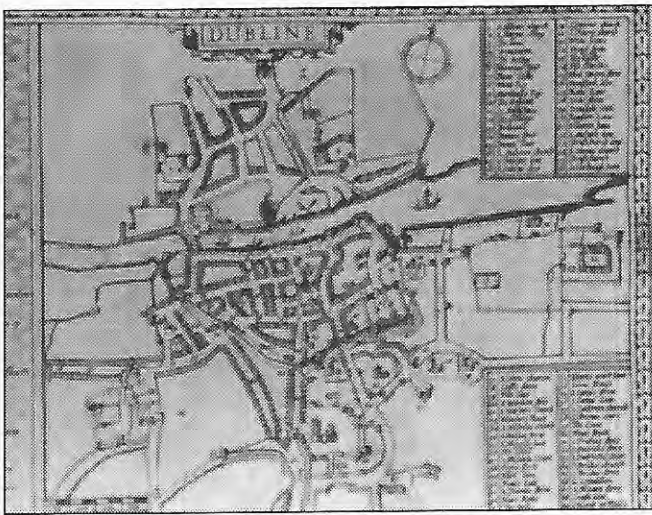
She then explained the main intervention strategies planned: restoring buildings for housing, improving public areas, renovating monuments, archaeological remains, stimulating economic activity, improving tourist, leisure, social facilities and access routes. Further, that as well as the different municipal departments, local residents are being encouraged to contribute to this process.

She finished by describing the joint public and private approach to funding this pioneering, £14 million scheme

Paul McMahon's followed tracing Dublin's development, by introducing the current debate about the considerable building activity in the city at present, and highlighting some urban regeneration challenges facing conservationists.

He started by showing Speed's 1617 Map of Dublin and explained that the City at that time was more or less the continuation of a Viking settlement. It was only in the mid 17th century after the restoration of the crown that the city began to assume its modern character.

The bulk of the new work was based on private speculative ventures in the production of estates of exclusive houses on small parcels of land. The layout of the city was not based on an overall plan, but on these estates, which were derived from older patterns of ownership between medieval lanes, still apparent in Dublin today. Another feature is the overall 18th century vision



Speed's map of Dublin, 1617.

that the Wide Street Commissioners gave to Dublin by opening new avenues between major public buildings. Their work included site assembly, negotiation and supervision of street design, something which many of us would like to see repeated in the 20th century.

Following the Act of Union Dublin's fortunes declined. However Dublin's poverty in the 19th century ensured that wholesale Victorian reconstruction did not occur and today it is ranked amongst one of the finest Georgian cities.

Paul showed a number of illustrations of Dublin including the 1816 Ha'penny Bridge, the second to be cast in Coalbrookdale, on one side of which is Dublin's Temple Bar area. An investment of £200 million of public and private funds has now generated more than 1,000 jobs and created some of the most exciting architecture the city has seen. This is considered by the Irish equivalent of the National Trust to have caused losses of architectural conservation opportunities, but also gets credit for a number of exemplary conservation schemes and the creation of new public spaces.



Temple Bar area of Dublin.

On the other side of the River Liffey the issue is again achieving the right balance between historic building conservation and good contemporary architecture "to reflect the former glory and grandeur of the terrace streetscape on a largely cleared two acre site".

Paul finished by noting that while the wheels of conservation grind slowly, there have been encouraging political inputs by the main opposition party promising a scheme of tax incentives for

residential conversions, and government grants under the EU operational programme for urban renewal for conservation projects.

After lunch **Mark Gilks** set the scene for the tour of Camden later in the afternoon. He felt that although there are four thousand listed buildings in Camden, some very well known such as The British Museum, many people don't realise how much of a rich heritage exists in the Borough. He illustrated how this heritage might fit into the King's Cross Partnership's vision for the future, with a very comprehensive slide coverage of both the area's older and more modern buildings.

He pointed out that conservation areas cover about fifty percent of the Borough, and cited Studham Chambers as an example of the need to stop new development proposals to achieve positive conservation results. In this case the building is now listed and used for social housing. Hampstead Town Hall was another example of community use, and this was the subject of a lottery bid.



Listed gas holders near St Pancras Station.

As well as older buildings, he felt that people are beginning to realise that modern architecture can also mean quality, and showed several examples including Centrepoint and Michael Hopkin's house in Hampstead. He went on to highlight the importance of considering maintenance in relation to being different and imaginative.

He concluded by saying that Camden viewed its heritage buildings and sites not as a constraint but as an opportunity, to link the area with the past and to give them a role in the future, as a vital ingredient to the success and quality of the redevelopment of this urban quarter of London.

The final speaker was **James Bettley** who gave a very interesting historical background to the Roundhouse Project. He started by pointing out that several of the buildings shown by Mark Gilks had been considered as repositories for the RIBA collections, as alternatives to The Round House, which itself has already been used for a variety of purposes. It was only in use as a railway building for the first 15 years of its 150 year life.

The designer was the company's resident engineer Robert Benson Dockre assisted by a Mr Normanville. Robert Stephenson the company's engineer is often credited with the design, but only because he's generally better known. He was of course the engineer for the actual railway.

The Roundhouse at Chalk Farm was not the first of its kind, one

had been built in Derby in 1839 and is still there. Many more were built all over the world because Goods locomotives could be accommodated economically in a round building, and from the engineering point of view round buildings made good sense because of their structural stability.

It was built to house 23 locomotives, the engines come in, onto a turntable and thence into the 23 bays radiating from the centre where they would be stored, maintained and got ready for their next journey. However railway technology was developing so rapidly at this time that within 15 years the Roundhouse had become obsolete as the new generation of locomotives was simply too large to fit into it.

By 1862 it had become a goods shed. Then in 1869 the distillers and vintners W & A Gilbey, of Gilbey's gin fame, took a lease on the building from the railway company. They removed the remaining tracks, blocked up the original entrance, built more staging and inserted a wooden gallery and added a loading bay and doors to the Chalk Farm Road side. With that the building had in effect turned its back on the railway and for the best part

of 100 years it was used as a bonded warehouse for storing wines and spirits.

But it is as a theatre and rock music venue that the Roundhouse is best known to many people today, although this stage of its existence was actually relatively short lived. In 1961 the playwright Arnold Wesker established Centre 42, which acquired Gilbey's lease in 1964. But this relied very heavily upon subsidies from the Greater London Council and London Borough of Camden. When these were withdrawn in 1982 the theatre rapidly collapsed. Since then it has lain empty apart from occasional use.

So it is now the subject of a bid, by the British Architectural Library Trust, to the Heritage Lottery Fund. As well as providing ideal space for storing and displaying the collections, the Roundhouse will offer increased exhibition space for other material, facilities for school visits and other educational activities, as well as the opportunity to display models and other objects from the RIBA's collections that are never normally seen by the general public. We are sad to learn since the Conference that the Lottery application was not successful.



Left: Historic internal view of Roundhouse. Right: External view of Roundhouse.

RENEWAL THROUGH HERITAGE AND DESIGN

The Civic Trust, as part of its 40th Anniversary Campaign, has recently published a new Manifesto "Pride of Place" which renews its commitment to improving the quality of our towns cities and villages, and proposes a new plan of action to further that cause. The Manifesto focuses particularly on the need for greater effort to build on the regeneration success of recent years and drive for a true "urban renaissance". The Trust believes that we have a particularly good opportunity to achieve such a goal in the next few years, but it is also all too easy for that opportunity to be lost.

Amongst the key themes in the Manifesto are the importance of a much more widespread application of good design, the need for a stronger link between heritage projects and wider renewal and improvement.



The Civic Trust's Awards Programme is well-known and demonstrates our long-standing commitment to good design. We now want to reinforce this theme by promoting two further design dimensions. Firstly the need for "Sustainable Design Construction", and secondly "Urban Design".

"Sustainable Design" requires us to pay more attention to such factors as energy use, sustainable materials, ease of maintenance and durability, and to blend these creatively with the aesthetic and functional criteria we already associate with good design. Secondly, we need to spread understanding of the concept of "Urban Design" and the way in which it helps us think "holistically" and three-dimensionally about urban form, by the blending of public and private spaces, buildings and access, alter human scale and the prospective

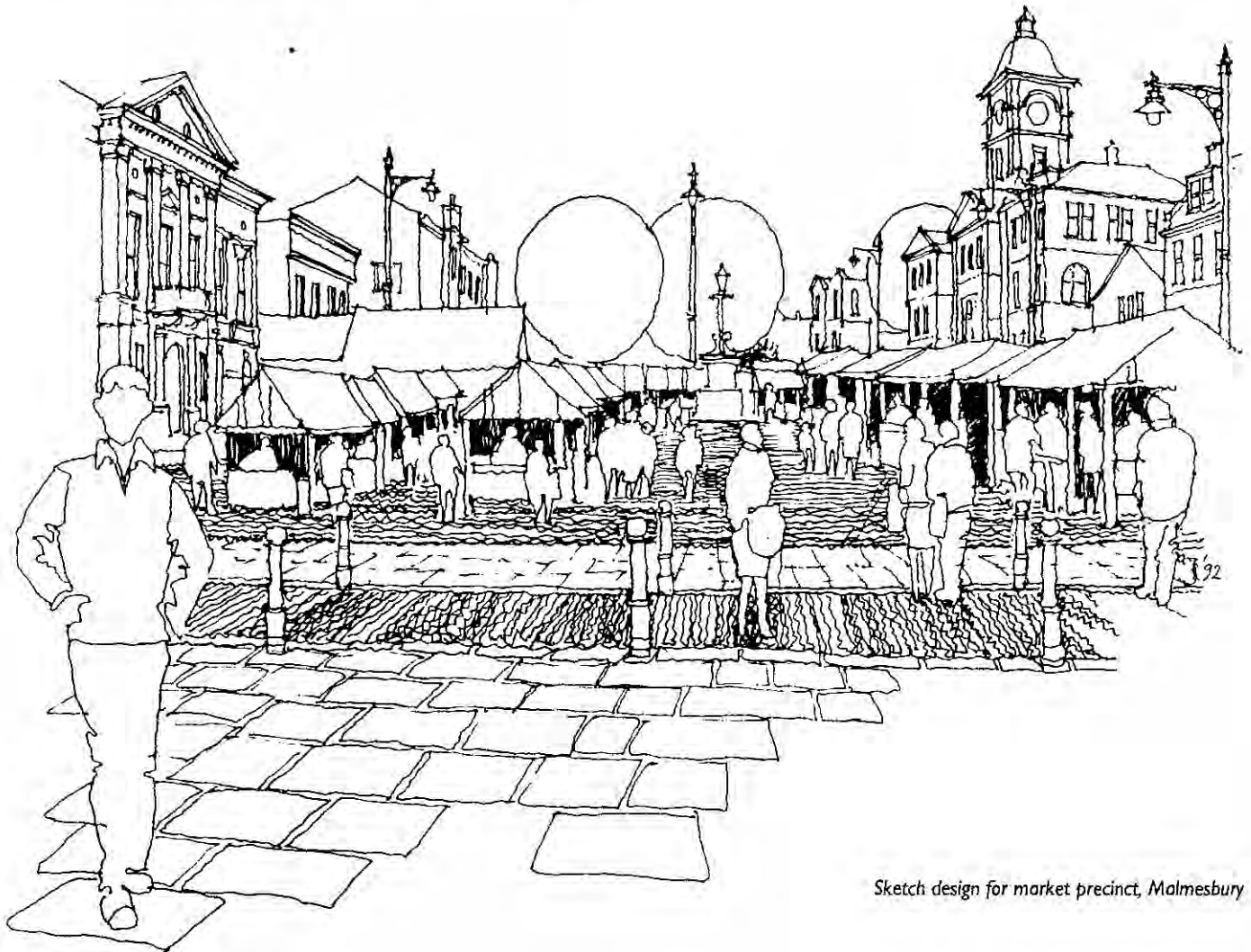
communities. "Urban Design" should involve a coherent mosaic of related sympathetic uses and styles flowing across a town or city.

We want to promote the practical application of these ideas much more widely, and to persuade the wider public to take a greater interest in these and other aspects of design. As a first step on this road we are therefore delighted that the Secretary of State has recently announced a special new Urban Design Award which will form part of the Civic Trust's Awards programme in 1997/98 and subsequent years. The Award will be offered for a project which outstandingly applies the principles of good urban design.

Turning to Heritage and Conservation, the Trust's record in promoting these causes is a proud one. We initiated Conservation Area Acts and pressed for improved processes of listing and protection of historic buildings. We do now have some concerns. Firstly, designation can be seen as an end in itself, rather than as a mechanism to assist improvement and action. In some cases designation has acted as simply a preservative spirit, a "legal formaldehyde". Secondly, designation can become a mechanism which actually inhibits change including sensible renewal, remodelling and re-use. Many old buildings and conservation

areas need to adapt over time if they are to find enduring new uses. We believe that, save for demolition, one of the worst things that can happen to an old building is that it should lie empty for more than a short while. A well designed new building may also enhance a conservation area or a nearby listed building, as well as bring vitality to the area. At a time when there is a need to increase the use of old buildings in our central areas, and when renewal and good design are key national themes, it is time to place the emphasis on a more positive approach. We therefore want to see the focus now on creative re-use and adaptation rather than designation, and a stronger link to wider regeneration efforts. A new programme which more forcefully treated such "Heritage Action" in our towns as a catalyst for regeneration and redevelopment, would meet a real need.

We want to hear people's reaction to these ideas and to explore practical ways forward over the next few months. If you want to comment on these ideas or hear more about our Manifesto as a whole, please write to me Mr Michael Gwilliam, Director, Civic Trust at 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW. Or phone us on 0171 930 0914.



Sketch design for market precinct, Malmesbury

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS '97 - 13TH AND 14TH SEPTEMBER 1997

"Hidden Architecture" sought for England's Open House Weekend

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September 1997 hundreds of England's finest and most fascinating buildings, old and new, will open their doors to the public absolutely free. For the fourth year running Heritage Open Days '97 will

provide a weekend of free access to properties that would be closed to the public or that normally charge admission.

Last year the public made over 650,000 visits to nearly 1800 properties in England over the Heritage Open Days weekend – a tremendous success. Every style and type of architecture was represented. Participating properties included theatres, buildings, windmills, a leech house, a sports stadium, sewage works and a traffic control centre. The work of architects including Wyatt, Soane, Lutyens, Webb and Foster was represented. Architects' practices opened across the country including Nottingham, Oxford and Norwich. The organisers and organisations that contributed to the event were rewarded with a unique opportunity to publicise their activities, attract more visitors and forge closer links with their local communities.

Participating properties need not be old or stately. Modern buildings are very popular with visitors and the Co-ordinator of this year's event would like to see more examples of good contemporary architecture involved as well as examples of sympathetic and innovative refurbishment of older properties. In 1996 restoration projects in Durham at Aykley Heads House, and



in Leominster were just two of a number that took part in the event. Many Conservation Officers gave talks about their work or led walks to look at significant buildings. Heritage Open Days is the only national event aimed at stimulating

public interest in the country's rich architectural history and promote awareness of the issues surrounding today's built environment. The event provides architects, owners and managers of buildings with a major opportunity to explain the strengths of British architectural design and let the public learn more about tomorrow's architectural heritage.

Heritage Open Days '97 is co-ordinated by The Civic Trust and funded by the Department of National Heritage. In London the event is known as 'Open House '97' and is co-ordinated independently by London Open House which receives its funding from the London boroughs. Both events are part of European Heritage Days in which over 40 countries participated in 1996, opening 29,000 properties and attracting 15 million visits. Parallel events are held in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

February 1997

For further information and entry forms, please contact Diane Clements, Co-ordinator, Heritage Open Days '97 (Dept G), The Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW, Telephone: 0171 930 0914 Fax: 0171 321 0180



Lytham Hall, Lytham St Anne's

WILL NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IMPROVE CONSERVATION PRACTICE?

When the winds of change blow, some build walls, others build windmills
Old Chinese Proverb

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and SVQs in Scotland, have now been around for more than 10 years, more than 1 million people have acquired an award, yet they are still poorly understood by most and still regarded as a dangerous innovation by many.

As evidence of misunderstanding, they are frequently portrayed as a training course – which they are not – rather than an assessment scheme – which they are. Even as an assessment scheme, they are often perceived as a rather narrow skills testing process rather than a methodology designed to reveal both competence and capability; to address knowledge, understanding, and skill.

As with any scheme of assessment a balance must be struck between how much evidence must be examined to facilitate a sound and safe decision about competence and the cost and inconvenience of collecting and assessing it. A balance must also be struck between the extent to which we rely on evidence relating to an individual's intellectual potential and how much regard we pay to the individual's demonstrated ability to apply their knowledge in a practical context. There are no right answers to either of these problems. Pragmatically, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ), which oversee the whole system, turned to experienced practitioners and those that employ them to help derive criteria that, even if imperfect, are at least widely acceptable and also generally affordable.

There are also qualitative issues: to what extent, for example, can we rely on evidence of past performance to make an inference that individuals will perform equally well in the future. In the same way that a driving licence offers no guarantee that the holder will always drive well, an NVQ will not ensure that holders will always demonstrate standards of excellence in practice. No vocational qualification can ever do more than offer re-assurance that the holder has been assessed, at some point in time, and judged capable then of meeting the requirements of practice. The worth of any qualification is never more than the inference an employer or a client feels able to make about a holder's potential to act capably, competently and consistently in the future.

As to whether NVQs are a dangerous innovation, problems here are likely to have much more to do with people's fears about status and disturbing the order in society than with any technical risk in the new system. Most of the components of the NVQ system already exist and have been drawn from current good practice in technical and professional assessment and examination systems.

Also, what qualifications people hold are rarely the sole basis for their selection or appointment. In circumstances where there are long-standing and well developed relationships between clients and advisers or employers and their staff, a qualification is unlikely to add much value to the sum of knowledge about how people are likely to perform. However, in circumstances of rapid

change, of transient relationships, of high labour mobility and increasing levels of business risk, there is often neither the time nor the facility to explore what people are able to do and how well they can do it. A qualification, if they trust its authenticity and relevance, offers a short cut to the decision maker.

How much weight is attached to qualifications will vary from organisation to organisation. They may do no more than help in shortlisting. They may be regarded simply as evidence to those above, or who act as regulators, that in their personnel selection decisions they have exercised due care. If qualifications are highly valued, they may overtly influence the selection decision.

For the holder, a qualification must, at the very least, support and legitimise their bid to obtain work or employment. But for the individual holder there is much more to it than this. The knowledge that they have attained relevant and demanding standards and that they have been fairly and comprehensively judged by those whose opinions they respect, is in itself important and builds self-confidence and self esteem. People will be proud to use 'good' qualifications in defining to others who they are as individuals as well as what they can do well; a characteristic of professional awards, long exploited by the senior institutions.

But what makes a good qualification?

COTAC, in embarking on the NVQ trail, quite properly started from the standpoint of need. With around 50% of all construction spending in the UK now focused on existing buildings rather than new ones, and a significant proportion of this maintenance and refurbishment market having conservation implications, it is self-evident that there is a growing national (and international) need for the development of good conservation practice – at all levels. A need reinforced both by increasing legislation and changing public opinion. While the general need for improving conservation practice has long been understood, there has not been, until COTAC's intervention, any consensus among the leading bodies involved in conservation as to how best to respond to education and training needs.

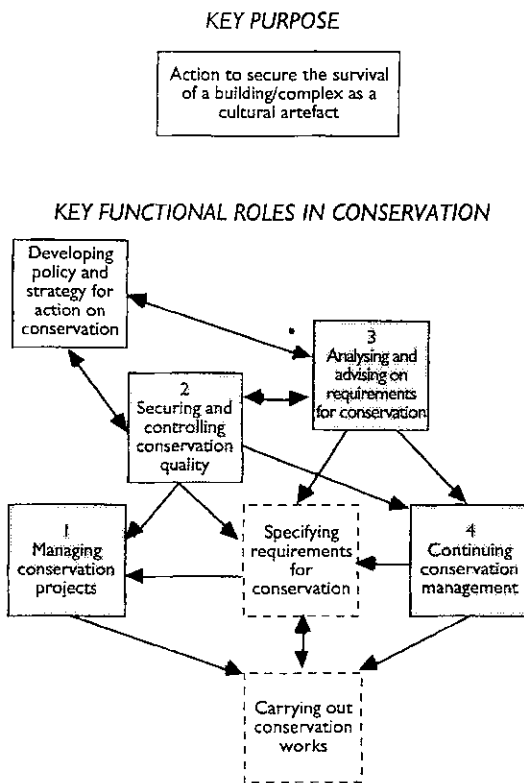
It is not that nothing useful has been done: the past 20 years has seen the growth in the number and quality of conservation courses in the UK, initially in higher education and more recently in further education. However, courses started in the early 1970s by enthusiasts for enthusiasts are now being asked to address a much larger practitioner audience whose needs are broader and whose professional roles in conservation practice are more diverse and complex. Except for COTAC's continuing, informal involvement with course providers there is no coherent national framework for course provision or qualifications in conservation and, increasingly, this stands in the way of growth and develop-

ment and also of employers preparedness to sponsor staff on courses.

The starting point for COTAC was therefore to bring together a group of acknowledged experts in the field to explore what need there was for standards of conservation practice that could underpin national course provision. Two seminars were held by COTAC in the Summer of 1994 to examine the processes involved in conservation – in technical, professional and managerial areas¹ – and who is responsible for what functions.

Out of these discussions emerged an acceptable general statement defining the key purpose of conservation and the primary roles and interactions between those involved at senior level in conservation.

Key purpose of and key functional roles in conservation



The key roles defined for which conservation expertise was paramount were:

1. **managing conservation projects:** the role of those managing operations on a conservation site
2. **securing and controlling conservation quality:** the statutory role of the conservation officer
3. **analysing and advising on requirements for conservation:** the role of the specialist consultant
4. **continuing conservation management:** the role of those with ongoing responsibilities for managing sites and properties.

Two other key roles were also defined:

- developing policy and strategy for action on conservation; and
- specifying requirements for conservation

Expertise in policy and strategy almost always derives from the ability to understand and take account of expert opinion (in this field- from conservation officers and specialist advisers) , to evaluate it in the context of public expectations, political imperatives and resourcing realities and devise a framework for action which balances all of these. It may require knowledge about and sensitivity to conservation issues – but it is essentially a senior policy management role and does not specifically require conservation expertise.

In a similar context, those responsible for specifying the requirements for conservation, architects, engineers, urban planners and so on are already likely to be expert in the process of specification. Their needs are not to do with how to specify or how to design but how to understand and respond effectively to the parameters defined by conservation officers and specialist advisers. From the outset, the COTAC group were quite adamant that they did not wish to create separate professional development routes. The issue for specifiers, was therefore about how further to develop their expertise (in analytical and advisory roles) rather than about the creation of parallel professional streams.

The result of this first stage was for COTAC, in November 1995, to invite working party collaboration from senior practitioners in each of the four target areas. Working groups were formed in three of the four areas (resources were initially insufficient to tackle continuing conservation management) under the leadership of: Oliver Longley, James Longley & Co. Ltd (conservation site management group), Chris Smith, English Heritage (conservation control group) and Ingal Maxwell, Historic Scotland (conservation advice group)

The initial task set for each group was to analyse in depth what functions were carried out by practitioners and what standards were relevant to defining practice competence in each field. To provide a critical appraisal for the work of all three groups, a reference group (the Validation Group), formed from senior representatives of all key bodies and institutions involved in conservation, was established.

The logic of this process is straightforward. If training and qualifications are to be relevant, they must be based on a careful analysis by experienced practitioners on what people in key roles are expected to do, what activities this involves and to what standard in each activity they are expected to perform. Also, if recommendations for standards and new qualifications are to have validity, they must be seen to carry the support and endorsement of representative institutions.

If the logic of defining standards is simple, the practice is rather more complex. There are many and sometimes divergent views of what comprises good practice in conservation. Consultation by COTAC and associated research indicated that the most helpful current framework defining good practice was that encapsulated in the ICOMOS guidelines.² ICOMOS presents two clear advantages: firstly, their guidance is internationally accepted; secondly, they do address in some detail what performance is expected of practitioners.

¹ COTAC is also, through separate initiatives, involved in conservation craft practices.

² ICOMOS: the Guidelines on Education and Training in the Conservation of Monuments, Ensembles and Sites adopted at the General Assembly of ICOMOS in Colombo in July/August 1993 and the COTAC profiles presented to this Assembly.

Work by the groups on standards development concentrated initially on identifying existing occupational standards which might provide useful templates for deriving those standards with specific relevance to conservation. For the most part, standards developed by general practitioners in the construction industry under the auspices of CISC³ provided the raw material. More than a year was spent in the refinement and contextualisation of these standards.

Once each group had derived a framework of relevant standards, the issue of their fit within qualifications was considered in some detail. A standard simply defines what level of performance must be met. In defining a vocational qualification, other important considerations come into play including:

- what areas of competence defined by standards must be covered;
- whether there are aspects of competence that some require and others do not i.e. should there be options within qualifications;
- at what point, in career terms, should someone be able to gain a qualification;
- what would be appropriate linkages between a vocational qualification and professional entry; and
- at what level of responsibility and seniority should the qualification be pitched.

Some of these are practical and pragmatic issues:

- if the scope of functions covered by a qualification are too wide, take up and access to qualified status may be too limited;
- if the standards are pitched too high, people may not get the qualification until, say, their late 30s or 40s. If the requirements are too low, they would carry little currency value: the outcome in either case could be de-motivating and undermine the utility of the qualification.

Some are political issues, for example:

- would new qualifications undermine or distort present professional arrangements?
- is the NVQ/SVQ Level at which the awards are pitched compatible with expectations?

At the end of this stage the three working groups went back to the Validation Group with the recommended form and structure of the first three awards and the levels at which they would be submitted for national accreditation. The recommendations, which were accepted by the Validation Group were for:

Building Site Management (Conservation Option) at NVQ/SVQ Level 4

This award builds on an existing national award offered jointly by SCOTVEC, CITB and the Chartered Institute of Building and offers two specialist optional modules (Units) for those working as site managers on conservation sites.

Conservation Control NVQ/SVQ Level 4

This award, in which the Association of Conservation Officers has taken a leading role in development, is designed for all operating at a senior level in local government and national agencies. There are no existing awards for those in this field and it has been widely welcomed as a benchmark standard.

Conservation Advice NVQ/SVQ Level 5

This award has two intended purposes: as a full post-professional award for senior conservation consultants who provide a comprehensive range of investigative and advisory services. As a set of advanced modules is specific areas of conservation practice as CPD Units for those who have particular fields of specialisation. The CPD Units will provide opportunities for specialist accreditation for those involved, for example in conservation control, and also those with highly specific fields of expertise such as Quinquennial inspection, surveys and so on.

Assessment requirements

With the resolution of these issues, the working groups turned their attention to assessment requirements. Effective assessment arrangements are fundamental to the credibility of the awards, but also to the cost of achieving them.

As with most current types of professional assessment, NVQ assessment is multi-dimensional and is built around the development by the candidate of a portfolio of evidence. Evidence that can come from practice experience, previous achievements, from courses and from formal examinations. The working group task was to define the characteristics of the evidence to be produced by candidates for assessment purposes. Evidence relating to practical performance but also to the management of processes and relationships and critically about their knowledge and understanding of conservation issues, contexts and practice.

Specifying the type and scope of evidence required is a balancing act. As all assessors for NVQs and SVQs must be competent practitioners and qualified to assess, an over-prescriptive specification can be inflexible and unnecessarily complex. Conversely, specifications that are over-simplified can lead to problems of consistency and interpretation. What is developed by working groups at this stage will be rigorously tested in the next step: the field trials.

Property Management at NVQ/SVQ Level 4

During the development work on standards and qualifications for conservation site management, control and advice, COTAC was advised of development work being initiated in the Property Services Sector on property management and invited, because of its interest in the ongoing management of conservation sites, to participate. The result of this initiative has been to develop the fourth award for conservation specialists:

This award will be relevant to all involved at senior level in the management of historic buildings and sites. It is a broadly based award and will offer opportunities for those who move into or on from the conservation field.

³ CISC: The Construction Industry Standing Conference. The lead industry body for construction whose membership includes all professional institutions and most trade federations in the construction, planning, transportation and property services field.

Pilot Trials

To test, with practitioners, the scope, quality, content and achievability of the four conservation awards, COTAC has mounted field trials for the first three, and trials for the latter are being organised by a consultant appointed by CISC. Trials in all four areas were launched at the end of 1996 and planned to run over a four month period. So far they have involved more than 100 practitioners across all the qualifications.

Each candidate in the trials is paired with an assessor and tackles a selected group of standards. Over the whole trials programme all the standards in each award are covered, mostly by several candidates. The candidates are selected from those who would be expected to meet the requirements without further training as the prime purpose is to test the qualification. Of course the trials do show up gaps in what people can do – or can prove they can do, and in the review of the trials these issues are examined very carefully as a judgement must be made at this point as to whether the requirements of the award are unreasonably demanding (and should be modified) or the requirements are quite reasonable, but have revealed important gaps in individual capability.

Feedback from the trials programme will be taken back in the Spring of 1997 to the working groups who developed each award and appropriate modifications, if justified, will be made. The modified award proposals will then be returned to the Validation Group for their final endorsement. At this point several of the institutions involved may choose to consult their own constituencies in greater depth and before giving their seal of final approval. While this can sometimes cause delay, it is a generally a price worth paying for formal endorsement.

In parallel with the final development and trial stages of these four awards a dialogue has been opened up with COTAC members regarding their preferred arrangements for awarding the qualifications. As many institutions have been stakeholders in their development, many will be interested in how they are implemented, and some will wish to have a direct role in their award.

The Awarding Body has two primary functions: the control of the administration of the awards (fees, certification, candidate registration and so on); and the quality assurance (QA) of the awarding and assessment arrangements. Most NVQ and SVQ Awarding Bodies covering higher levels are consortia, with one partner taking the administrative lead and others contributing to QA.

For the conservation awards, at the time of writing, final agreements have not been reached. However, the Chartered Institute of Building, who are one of the largest professional institutions in the industry and already established as an NVQ awarding Body, has offered to form a joint Awarding Body with COTAC and take on the role of administrative partner. COTAC, it is proposed, through its network of member organisations would take the lead on quality assurance. In Scotland, it is likely that SCOTVEC will provide the administrative partner role, again in collaboration with COTAC.

When the final awards have been prepared and approved by the Validation Group and the detail of the awarding arrangements agreed between partners, there remain two further steps:

Firstly, the proposed awards must be endorsed by the construction sector, as represented by CISC. This process is to

ensure that proposals are coherent with other technical, managerial and management awards developed by, and carrying the support of, the whole industry.

The final stage is national accreditation by the NCVQ and SCOTVEC. This is where both the proposed qualifications and the awarding arrangements are scrutinised against national criteria applying to form, structure, level, assessment and QA arrangements, certification and marketing. Accreditation will initially be for a period of 3 to 5 years, at which point the awarding body will be invited to review and report on the effectiveness of the award and recommend changes.

How will QA of these awards work?

For those accustomed to architectural education, the system will be familiar. The awarding body will only permit its awards to be offered through approved institutions. Criteria will be set for the approval process. Interested organisations will apply; be inspected (and periodically re-inspected) by a visiting expert panel; and successful institutions will be approved to offer assessment services. The NVQ/SVQ approval process is however, only concerned with assessment arrangements, not with courses. This will mean that some 'approved centres' will only have an assessment role and not necessarily a training function as well.

While it is possible that some of the larger employing organisations involved in conservation will wish to be approved centres for these awards, it is more probable that most will be based on teaching institutions and/or professional bodies.

What are the implications for teaching institutions of NVQs and SVQs in conservation?

This is a complex question to answer. However, there are some basic facts to consider. Firstly, while NVQs indicate what standards a qualified practitioner should achieve for certification, they are not a syllabus and they offer no prescription for candidate selection, teaching methods or course length.

Secondly, as involvement in conservation practice is generally a mid-career move by people who are likely already to hold a higher academic or vocational award, the motivation for people to seek further qualification is likely, on the one hand, to be dependent on the enthusiasm (or requirements) of employers, clients and regulators for more definitive evidence of competence, and on the other, on personal ambition and professional opportunism. There is potentially a further influencing factor should the professional institutions move more towards mandatory and assessed CPD requirements.

Thirdly, funding for post-graduate provision and vocational training, both for those running courses and those participating, is increasingly being linked to an assessment by the funding agencies of the validity of the provision and evidence of what outputs are achieved. In some fields, only courses which contribute to the achievement of NVQs or SVQs qualify for funding support.

Because the NVQ/SVQ assessment process does not need to be coupled with course provision, course providers are always in a position to be selective regarding their coverage of the requirements. As evidence for assessment is almost always likely to come from a combination of sources, though primarily from the work environment and coursework, NVQs offer course providers the

opportunity to develop more robust arrangements with employers and also to exploit the possibilities of open learning. Similarly, if they do choose to become approved assessment centres, that assessment service can be offered independently of course provision.

There is also a potential international dimension to the conservation NVQs and SVQs. Not only are NVQ and SVQ awards encapsulated in European Union legislation relating to the mutual recognition of vocational qualifications, but also UK developed standards and NVQ/SVQ awards are now being marketed internationally as far afield as Mexico and South East Asia. In a related context, a number of other EU countries are developing their own equivalent systems and countries such as Australia and New Zealand already have comprehensive arrangements in place in all technical and professional fields.

To return to the original question – Will NVQs improve conservation practice? The answer must be a qualified 'yes'. That

is if we believe that improved practice will come from better prepared people working to standards of best practice, set by experienced practitioners and assessed by experienced practitioners.

The qualifications on success are many: if take-up is too limited; if price rather than value is how investment is judged by employers and clients; if we are not prepared rigorously to review and modify these new awards as the circumstances demand; and if we remain elitist and fail to see the importance of developing conservation expertise through the whole supply chain, then NVQs and SVQs will not work – or not as well as they could.

*Alastair Robertson AADipl AADipl (Trop Arch) DBA
Q-West Consultants, Ty'r Wennol, Croes Faen, Penallt,
Gwent NP5 4SF. Tel/Fax: 01 600 715781
4 April, 1997*

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Images of England is a project instigated by The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), aimed at producing a digital record of all the listed buildings of England on the eve of the millennium.

We plan to include a 'defining image', taken by volunteer photographers selected through the Royal Photographic Society, of every listed building in England, with associated indexing from the Listed Buildings schedule.

The resulting project could be accessed at local and national levels, and would be a national multi-media resource for education and conservation, linking images and text.

In 1997 The National Heritage Memorial Fund approved funding to RCHME to work on a pilot study testing the effectiveness of using expert volunteer photographers to take high quality photographs of listed buildings and how well information could be linked to them.

Derby in Derbyshire, Tendring in Essex and the rural area around Salisbury in Wiltshire were chosen to be photographed in the pilot study because of the range of building types available, their cohesiveness and the quality of the listed building information available. Derby is an urban area with industrial, civic and domestic buildings among a wide range of building types, Tendring in Essex is a mixed urban, rural and coastal area, including Clacton, with primarily domestic buildings and the rural area around Salisbury in Wiltshire contains a mix of agricultural, domestic, military and experimental buildings.

Volunteers from the Royal Photographic Society were then provided with guidance from photographers from RCHME that



Dovecot at Wilsford House, Wiltshire. Photographer D. Taylor

would enable them to locate the listed buildings in their allocated area and to take the 'defining image' of that building. Kodak provided the photographers with Kodak Gold 400 film. The photographers were asked to take photos from the public highway whenever possible although photographs did on some occasions have to be taken, with permission, from inside gardens. To cover these situations the photographers were issued with a letter of introduction.

When the photographs of the listed buildings had been taken, the undeveloped films were then returned to Kodak for processing. The highest quality images were then scanned on to 9 Kodak Photo CDs at 5 resolutions and returned to RCHME, who produced a database of information relating to the buildings that had been photographed. For the pilot this database was created through the Kodak Shoebox Image Manager software, allowing a user to define various fields of information which can then be filled with whatever information is required. The fields for the pilot study include the building name, the county, the photographer's name and a unique Listed Buildings System Identification Number. All of the fields can be searched and the Image Manager Software will bring back the results as images with text, that is accessible through a printed information sheet. In this way a visual database was established on screen and for each of the CDs.

After the database had been created, it was copied on to floppy disks and returned to Kodak with the 9 original Photo CDs. Kodak then created three CDs, one for each of the three areas covered in the pilot study. These CDs contain all of the scanned

images for their respective areas, the database of information relating to the pictures and the Kodak Image Manager software which links the images and information together. All of the listed building information and scanned images from the pilot study can thus be accessed from virtually any PC that runs Windows and has a CD-ROM.

At the Commission we are now in a state of testing and consultation, prior to submitting a formal bid for full project funding to the National Heritage Memorial Fund. We have demonstrated the results of the pilot study to a wide range of people from various heritage related organisations to ascertain their feelings and opinions. The feedback has been positive. Many people commented on the high quality of the photographs taken and the quality of the hard copy printouts from the scanned images themselves.

A major project would we believe be of great heritage and community benefit and it is hoped that access to the database could be achieved through work stations in museums and libraries as well as through our offices in London and Swindon. It could also be possible to make the database available over the Internet.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the Images of England project should contact me at RCHME.

Nick Cox, Computer Support Officer, RCHME, NMRC, Churchward, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ. Telephone: 01793 414617.



Bridge in Tea Garden at Heale House, Wiltshire. Photographer D. Taylor

COTAC EUROPEAN PROJECTS UPDATE

Arch - Raphael Pilot Programme

This one year project follows on well from RCHME Images of England article, since it is to pilot a database of Heritage and Conservation Skills in Europe. The partner countries are Ireland, Portugal and UK with the Council of Europe established European Foundation for Heritage Skills. Initial work involves surveying and assessing what exists in the form of databases in three countries to assess what the likely requirements of users will be and from this to evolve a format for the skills database. This will take maximum advantage of new technology.

Site Managers International Exchange Training - Leonardo da Vinci Project

COTAC are working on this project with the Construction Industry Training Board from the UK and European Partners from France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain together with the European Foundation for Heritage Skills once again. It has been reviewed in detail previously in the Newsletter.

News from Brussels late in '96 was disappointing as the EU had not agreed to provide funds for the '97 exchanges. All is not lost however and we were encouraged to submit a revised application in the current round to allow exchanges in '98 (possibly commencing late '97). A decision should be known in late summer/early autumn. Meanwhile any firms with potential candidates or individual site managers who are interested and have not been in touch should contact me at COTAC. Previous applicants details are being carried forward. The delay will mean that a number of the host sites previously identified will change as work may have been completed. We still have some budget difficulties to overcome for the UK participation and would appreciate financial assistance/sponsorship.

Built Environment Training Action (BETA) Project

The aim of this project has been to develop training material in response to the requirements identified in the FORCE Project No. P/93A/1/2113/Q-FPC in terms of the needs for occupational skills in building restoration and conservation in three countries Ireland, Portugal and the UK. In addition the project links two further countries, Finland and Hungary, with the aim of testing the new products developed in these countries as well as the three main partner countries in the intended third year of the project.

The first year has comprised a series of transnational workshops, seminars, literature and reference research and

accumulation of potential training material in various formats in the three countries. The aim is to utilise and build on existing material wherever possible rather than "reinvent the wheel", developing new material where necessary. Meetings have been held with SMEs to discuss the proposed approach and training material development. From this a firm proposal to provide a series of specialist and general training modules in building conservation has evolved. Course design is being based on the priorities identified in the FORCE survey and will provide trainers guidance notes using a Portuguese model provided by CENFIC as well as the ICOMOS Training Guidelines. It is proposed to utilise the UK National Vocational Qualifications as the basis for curriculum design and accreditation suitably modified to take account of local needs in the other partner countries.



*Built
Environment
Training
Action* 

The Objectives of the Project are:

- 1 To make strong links and encourage co-operation between training organisations and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) so as to adapt the training programmes to the reality of the needs of these businesses.

In order to achieve this, a mixed working group has been formed of trainers representing Training Centres and job supervisors representing the firms. The former will provide the pedagogical support and the latter the pragmatic approach required for working sites. The job supervisors will also act as tutors/testers of the training output.

This approach will give the trainers a good perspective of the realities of the work place and job supervisors an insight into the availability of and an interest in training.

- 2 The creation of flexible, modular material allowing the application of site experiences by the trainees so that they can achieve training credits for prior existing knowledge hence avoiding any time being wasted.

- 3 New technologies will be applied in two areas:
 - a) in technical restoration and rehabilitation
 - b) in flexible learning both telematic and the use of CD-ROMs

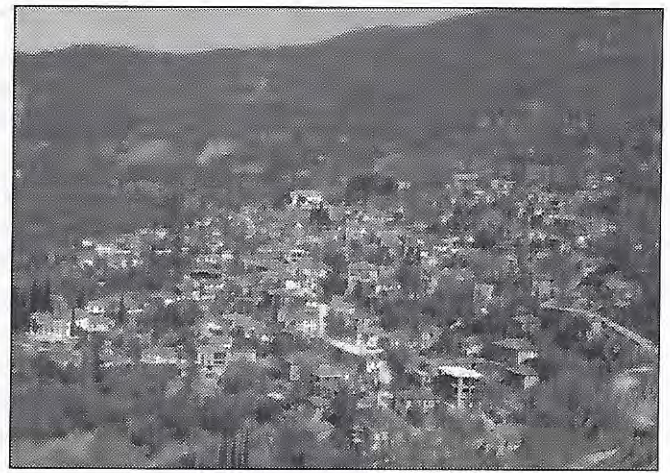
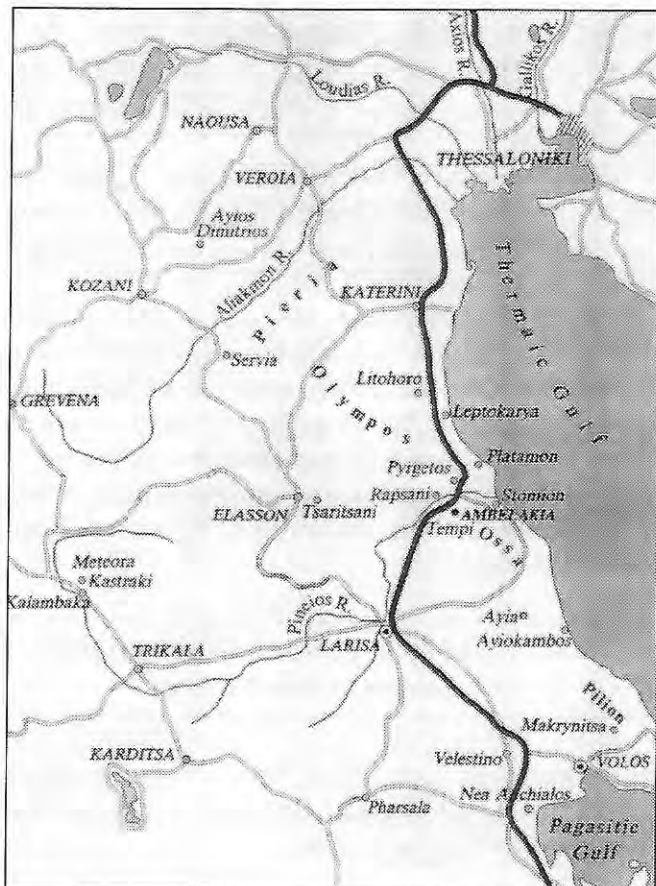
The material will be made available in a variety of formats including CD-ROM multimedia, computer disk, video/audio cassette and hard copy suitable for use in colleges, training centres, firms and for distance learning.

Graham Lee

Raphael - The Rizari Project Ambelakia Larissa, Greece

During the past two years DIMITRA (Institute of Training and Development, Larissa, Greece) has been actively involved in planning a comprehensive National and European strategy. As one of its major components it seeks to set up a European workshop, site school for conservation and restoration of the architectural and cultural heritage. The implementation of this strategy is centred around the regeneration and conservation of Ambelakia, Greece. Ambelakia, once described as "the jewel of Thessaly," earned its place in Greek and European history as the pioneer and founder of one of the world's first working commercial, co-operative movements.

In 1780 the spinners and dyers of Ambelakia who had been producing red dyes from the Rizari plant (*Rubia tinctorum*), formed a 'joint partnership' to market and distribute the brilliant coloured cotton yarn they produced, which was noted for its stable colour. Due to the rapid success of this venture, a network



A view from Ambelakia.

of European offices as far afield as London was soon established. This ensured the financial prosperity of the Ambelakians and soon manifested itself in the distinguished architecture of the mansions in the area and their cosmopolitan, decorative features. Ambelakia was also famous for the establishment, in 1749, of an advanced academy of education, the "ELLINOMOUSSION" famed for its distinguished national scholars of the day.

At present the European Commission has not agreed the final budget for the European Community Action in Support of Culture (Raphael Programme) with the finance ministers of the member States. This was programmed to be settled at the beginning 1996 but agreement should now be reached by the end of March or beginning of April 1997. Due to this delay, the promoters of Raphael instigated five pilot programmes during 1996 for completion in 1997 which were under the following actions:

- Development and promotion of the cultural heritage
- Networks and partnerships
- Access to heritage
- Innovation, further training and professional mobility
- Co-operation with third countries and international organisations

Dimitra and its partners – the Ambelakia Cultural Association, Greece: COTAC, UK: Fundacio Centre Europeu Del Petrimoni, Spain: and the National Board for the Protection of Historic Monuments, Hungary: – were successful in obtaining one of only one hundred and forty seven approved projects selected, out of two thousand applications.

This application within the "Call for proposal of activities and/or events of a European dimension in favour of the preservation and increased awareness of the European cultural heritage" is for the promotion of an awareness of the historical, cultural and vernacular architecture of Ambelakia.

The partnership will create and promote an inter-active CD-ROM, to be utilised through 'touch screen' technology and produced in three European languages – Greek, French and English. The format of the CD-ROM will contain the following features:

- Inter-active/voice/video capabilities
- Introduction to the history of Ambelakia
- Location maps
- Maps showing the routes and European cities where the dyes were sold and used

- Photo story + short text about the production of "Rizari" and its uses
- Maps showing the evolution of the village, identifying important houses, mansions, churches, workshops and highlighting their architectural features.

A permanent exhibition/visitors' centre will be established on the ground floor of a three-storey disused factory/workshop, once used for the dyeing and weaving of the cotton yarn. Equipment will be installed to utilise the appropriate technology. The aim is to disseminate to as wide a national and international audience as possible, the historical, architectural and cultural richness of this once enterprising and socio-economic important village, by the means of the implementation of modern technology including the Internet.

It is also proposed to further develop the upper floors into a craft museum at a later date. It is intended that the exhibition will have an architectural theme e.g. photographs, drawings, architectural artefacts and craft tools. A copy of the CD-ROM will also be distributed to the local library services and other institutions e.g. colleges and universities, that teach textile design and related subjects, in the sixteen towns situated in eight European countries¹ that accommodated an agency office during the eighteenth century, as well as to local/regional schools and colleges.

Dimitra and its partners view their involvement within this

action as a precursor to a major submission within the main Raphael programme. The roles of the partners within this action are as follows:

Ambelakia Cultural Association, Greece:

Historical research

Provision and preparation of exhibition site

COTAC, Conference On Training in Architectural Conservation, UK:

Architectural perspective within a European context

Venue for dissemination via International conference

Dimitra Institute of Information Training and Development, Greece:

CD-ROM design and production

Management team leaders

Fundacio Centre Europeu Del Petrimoni, Spain:

Cultural, tourism and environmental perspective within in a European context

National Board For The Protection of Historic Monuments, Hungary:

The receivers of advanced information and communication technologies that will foster complementary activities and co-operation with a similar project or comparative study in Hungary

Peter Hillman, Project Manager, Dimitra

WOODCHESTER MANSION TRUST WINS TRAINING AWARD



The Grand Staircase, Woodchester Mansion

Woodchester Mansion Trust has won a Regional Training Award in the annual National Training Award competition run by the Department for Education and Employment.

The award recognises the unique nature of the Trust's work and its "positive commitment to training" in stonemasonry and conservation.

Since its formation in 1989 the Woodchester Mansion Trust has brought a new dimension to the training of young stonemasons, using the repair of the Mansion for vital practice in high quality conservation work.

"I am absolutely delighted to have won an award in such a prestigious competition," said Jamie Vans, the Trust's Director of Training. "Combined with our success with the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, this will enable us to offer a range of the most exciting courses in building conservation in the country."

The award was presented at a ceremony at the Bath Spa Hotel on December 10th, when the winners of the National Awards were announced.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND GRANT OF £815,000
(announced October 31, 1996)

The grant of £815,000 will fund 75% of a three year phase of work at the Mansion involving major repairs to the Grand Stair, rainwater system and West Range.

The Trust will use all stages of the work for on site training for stonemasons, architects and other professionals in building conservation.

Masterclass courses in Stone Vaulting are planned for spring 1997.

For further information please contact:

Gillian McLoughlin on 01453 750455.

Woodchester Mansion Trust,

The Old Town Hall,

High Street,

Stroud, GL5 1AP.

WOODCHESTER MANSION OPEN DAYS

May 2nd,* 3rd, 4th, 5th – May Bank Holiday

24, 25th, 26th – Spring Bank Holiday

June 7th, 8th

July 5th, 6th

August 2nd, 3rd

23rd, 24th, 25th – Summer Bank Holiday

September 6th, 7th

October 4th 5th

* Extra Open Day for Nailsworth Festival

STATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (Extract from Department of Environment/CIC Report)

KEY POINTS

- **Construction output** was flat during the first two quarters of 1996, picking up in the third. The latest survey suggests this increase has continued into the fourth. However, construction recovery still lags behind the general economic recovery.
- **Infrastructure, private housing, private commercial new work and private non-housing R&M** showed the strongest growth in 1996. **Public new work** the biggest decline.
- **Total orders for new work** in 1996 were 1% higher than in 1995.
- **Large-scale projects** – including Private Finance Initiative and Millennium Fund are expected to make an increased contribution over the next few years.
- **Material demand**, housing, commercial and industrial showed improvement in the second half of 1996. Capacity utilisation is expected to meet demand over the next year.
- **Employment** rose slightly in the second and third quarters of 1996.
- **Most professionals** expect an improvement over the coming months.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Over the past year, the **private housing repair, maintenance and improvement** has remained fairly flat. **Other private repair and maintenance** output has shown particularly strong growth over the past year. There are three main reasons for this: by companies against the background of economic recovery, new entities created by privatisation required to maintain assets at higher standards and data on some of this type of work may not have been available until now.

TOTAL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Most forecasters expect total repair and maintenance work to track new work in 1997 and some growth for private housing Repair Maintenance & Improvement, as the housing market rises. A continuing flat profile for public housing while public non-housing R&M will decline as expenditure continues to be held back.

Tender prices have been virtually static over the last year. Legislation has made it compulsory for subcontractors to hold Inland Revenue identification cards. Analysts believe this will result in a rise in labour costs as well as changing employee/self-employed figures.

VOLUME OF OUTPUT BY SECTOR (at 1990 prices and seasonally adjusted)

	Volume of construction outputs in 12 months to end Sept 1996 (£m)	Comparison: 12 months to end-Sept 1996 v previous 12 months (%)
Infrastructure	6273	4
Total new work	28172	-2
Total R&M	21629	2

ARCHIVAL ASPARAGUS

One of the side issues identified by RHM Technology's thatch research project (see "Fire and Thatch", Newsletter No. 10) was the need for an ongoing record of changes affecting period and listed buildings. Taking up the challenge, a new company recently launched "Property Log". Linda Playle, a director of the East Grinstead based company explains the reasoning behind the launch.

It is interesting to note that the average Briton will automatically insist on a full service and ownership record before buying a car for a few thousand pounds, on the sound principle that it will afford him some guarantee that it has been well looked after. When it comes to spending tens or even hundreds of thousands on a new home however, his interest seems to extend little further than the reassurance that it has been lawfully built and is not about to disappear into a hole in the ground.

Perhaps the biggest surprise when the idea for a property log book was first discussed was the fact that no one had apparently considered it before, as being a viable proposition. And yet the desirability of being presented, when you move into a new house, with a handy book that tells you where all the mains services are, whether the walls are plaster board or solid, the name and type of bricks and tiles used plus the other hundred and one things that would make home ownership so much easier, seems to make compelling good sense.

Conversely however, it could be argued that producing a log book now for use in old or listed buildings is a bit like the famous instruction for growing asparagus; "First prepare your bed five years ago", although in this particular instance the desirable period of time would be somewhat longer!

The key is perhaps the word "desirable". It would of course be wonderful to know in detail in both structural and historic terms what has gone on over the past few hundred years in even the most modest of listed houses. The absence of this information to date need not, however, prevent us from correcting the mistakes of our forefathers. History is a constantly moving feast and there is good reason to ensure that future generations are not similarly starved of full details of our triumphs and mistakes in the use of building materials or techniques.

A good example of this is the current research work being undertaken by RHM Technology into various aspects of thatched roofing, from fire prevention to longevity of materials. In collecting samples from existing roofs it became abundantly clear that information on who thatched the roof, with what, and where it



came from, usually lasted as long as the memory of the current owner of the property – assuming he has incurred the work. In a time span of twenty years, even less if the property changes hands on the average of every seven years, this important information is therefore frequently lost. When one bears in mind the current arguments on the use of local and appropriate thatching materials, and the vast quantities of imported reed now being used with no real track record, this lack of ongoing meaningful information could already be building a potential time-bomb for the future of thatch conservation techniques.

Problems of this nature are not, however, restricted to thatched properties. David Nicholson of The National Trust in Dorset, whose estate includes a number of cob walled cottages, points out for example the importance of knowing what exterior paint has been used in the past on this type of property. The need for cob to "breathe" to allow for the proper

adjustment of moisture content is radically affected by the use of modern plastic-type paints which seal the surface. An unsuspecting purchaser of a cob walled home with a damp problem would be in a much better position to effect an early cure if the indiscretions of the previous owner – well intentioned though they may have been – are written down for all to see.

In addition to providing space for the type of scenarios mentioned above, Property Log also includes pages for the recording of extensions and structural alterations (plus dates and forms of listed and other planning consents) major damage and insurance claims, interior renovations, electrical work, timber treatment plus pages for photographs and floor plans. On the basis that gardens frequently form an important part of many homes, headings are included to note the planting of specific trees or shrubs and any landscaping activity.

In designing Property Log to be used (rather than placed on a bookshelf and ignored once the novelty had worn off) we concentrated on three areas:

1. Content; 2. Handiness; 3. Durability

In terms of content, the book runs to more than 50 pages with 20 different headings to take into account all of the major, and a good deal of the minor, alterations and occurrences that effect the average building. In compiling this, advice and assistance was sought from as many professional bodies that were able to help, although RHM Technology, David Nicholson of the National Trust and Penny Morgan of BRE need particular mention. However, having, owned several houses ourselves, a good deal of personal experience was also incorporated.

By making the log book A5 size we took the view that whilst it would enable plans and correspondence to be included, a larger format would quickly take on the look of the average office file, viz, untidy, out of order, and consequently unused. We have also been careful to ensure that all materials used are durable and long

lasting, covers are leather, and all paper is of archival quality.

Finally, the underlying purpose of Property Log is to allow interested home owners or guardians the opportunity of creating a detailed and comprehensive journal of the alterations, renovations and improvements to their property. This has the advantage of saving them time and effort in the future and, as it is designed to remain with the property when it changes hands, will have the added benefit of providing generations to come with a chronicle of great practical importance and historical value – just think what documents would now be available if someone had thought of it 200 years ago!

For further information please contact Linda Playle, The Property Log Ltd, 1 Old Stone Link, Ship Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4EF, Tel: 01342 321120/Fax: 01342 301462.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND TAX RELIEF

As you may be aware, The Chancellor of the Exchequer has in the recent budget statement announced proposals to extend and simplify tax relief for vocational training.

From 1 January 1997 Vocational Training Relief (VTR) has been extended to include those who use a Career Development Loan (CDL) to pay for their training – so long as the training qualifies for tax relief. VTR is available to trainees on courses which lead to National Vocational Qualifications or Scottish Vocational Qualifications, and to those aged 30 plus on any full-time vocational training course lasting between four weeks and one year.

You should be aware that where a trainee receives a CDL, the lender may pay for the trainee's course directly on the trainee's behalf. The fact that the lender is paying directly does not prevent VTR from being available. In these circumstances, you may therefore accept payments net of the basic rate of tax, provided that the other conditions for giving relief at source are met.

If you need to know more about the changes please contact:
FICO, St John's House,
Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L69 9BB.
Telephone: 0151 472 6155



CIB RECOMMENDATIONS

The need for stronger industry regulation is likely to be a major issue this year as the Construction Industry Board strives to get the main recommendations of its 14 working group reports implemented, chairman Sir Ian Dixon said in a round up of the board's activities.

Since it was launched in February 1995 the CIB had established itself as the forum for partnership between the industry, its clients and the government. Now with the CIB and the Latham review he believes the industry can begin to change for the better.

Some of its reports are running late but six have already been published. They have dealt with: the selection of consultants on the basis of quality as well as price [WG4A]; improving training systems and practices [WG6]; the image of the industry [WG7]; women in construction [WG8]; improvements to professional education [WG9]; productivity and cost improvements [WG11]. The remaining seven reports were due to be published by early March in advance of the Board's annual consultative conference on 18 March with a paper on implementation being presented to the conference.

Once the working groups' reports are complete they will be stood down and the work handed over to standing panels concentrating on three main areas including productivity and cost

improvements, good practice, research and innovation [also including training, education and registration]. A fourth panel will be set up to influence workload by producing state of trade reports on schools, houses, hospitals, etc. It is hoped that these will be used by others to lobby government.

Sir Ian said he hopes this mechanism will encourage all parties in the construction process to speak with one voice and avoid one sector being played off against the other. "The National Farmers' Union has a much stronger voice because it speaks as one," he said. He stressed the need for clients to take a lead in implementing the proposals. "In the past the industry has been supply side led, it has been all about what the builder wants and there has not been enough emphasis on what the client wants. Now we are moving in the direction of the client taking a much stronger lead. We have to spend more time satisfying client needs".

He warned that some would be pushing for much stronger regulation of the industry and sanctions for companies indulging in malpractice.

A national contractors' construction week is planned for mid-October to raise the profile of the industry.

THE TRAVELLERS' CLUB

Welcome to the Travellers' Club – a small personal organisation that arranges escorted tours with history, art, architecture or archaeology as a focus. There is no charge for membership – simply contact us if you would like to be on the mailing list and would like to see details of any part of our programme. The kinds of activities arranged and a list of some tours in 1997 follows.

The main aim of the Travellers' Club is to arrange imaginative and enjoyable holidays, designed and led by experts. Our tour leaders are chosen for their knowledge and enthusiasm, but equally for being good communicators and enjoyable travelling companions. Before and after our tours, we normally arrange events when members and tour leaders can meet. There are days with illustrated lectures to explore some aspect of a tour, visits to museums or galleries, or social events such as a pre-tour lunch party, summer barbecue, fund raising party for a particular cause, or informal reunion of members. All this helps us to travel with more insight and as friends rather than strangers.

While we would not miss major sights and attractions on tour, we may NOT explore every painting, church, temple or mosque! Rather, we aim to select, take a *longer* look and enjoy what we do see. And as well as major or minor attractions we try to offer sights or experiences that tourists may not find. Whether a 'village visit' (see below), a little visited gem, an invitation to a private gallery or house, or a meeting with a local expert, we hope to provide greater insights into the art or culture of the region. A member's diary entry for an Indian tour may give an idea of what we seek to offer:

...Time for shopping after visiting the temple and gardens. Back to the hotel for lunch and swim. Set off at 2pm to remote village (Shivpuri) school. Until 4pm with children in lessons and games, afterwards discussion with teachers. Then drove to Jaisamund dam for boating and picnic. Magnificent

dam with marble elephants and pavilions, superb views. Back to village where Ajay sent us off to explore in twos and threes with the children we'd met in school. Instructed to use eyes and ears! Invited into homes for tea, to watch milking buffaloes and cows, potters at work, village people returning from fields with fuel and fodder. A. met at temple at 7pm to find that Ajay had arranged a folk festival: musicians, dancers, puppets, costumes, gnat. Huge, enjoyed by villagers and our group. Long farewell and back to the dam where supper was served in a pavilion. Very late back! Free day in Udaipur tomorrow.

We seek to provide a real holiday, using good hotels (though sometimes preferring 'charm', 'character' or hospitality to the anonymity of some modern hotels), comfortable travel and adopting a relaxed pace. This allows time for personal exploration, whether another church or gallery, restaurant, shopping, lying by the pool or sleeping! Except when we are 'in transit' members are always free to join in or omit the day's planned programme.

As well as arranging escorted holidays, we also help **individuals and groups** plan holidays to suit their interests, their dates and their pockets! We can call on experts to advise, find suitable hotels and make travel arrangements with the security of a bonded agent. We have helped a couple travel around Iran, travellers cope with India and China, and have arranged tours for Museums (including the Open Air Museum) and Galleries, NADFAS branches and other interest groups, with or without our own leader. Do ask if you feel we may help.

Finally, we do try to offer very good value for money (partly by avoiding costly brochures!). However, we do use an excellent bonded travel agency – Prestige Holidays (ABTA 13176 and ATOL 2509 and AITO) to ensure financial security.

SOME OF THE TOURS PLANNED FOR 1997

SICILY FROM ANTIQUITY THROUGH THE MIDDLE AGES – 12-19 May with Ruth Chavasse	£695
BRUGES, WITH GHENT AND ANTWERP – 18-23 June with Serena Quartermaine	£475
TRAVELLING TOWARDS BYZANTIUM: Ravenna, Venice and Torcello – 22-29 September with Paul Jenkins	£645
ANATOLIA OFF THE BEATEN TRACK – 20-23 September (half board) with Godfrey Goodwin	£895
ISTANBUL: Highlights of the Byzantine and Ottoman City – 30 September-5 October with Godfrey Goodwin	£475
VIENNA TO BUDAPEST	£695
HISTORIC CITIES OF NORTH ITALY	£649
THE BEST OF NEPAL	£1595
A GRAND TOUR OF SRI LANKA – 3-20 November (or any dates for individuals or private groups)	£1359
THEME DAYS AT HALNAKER PARK COTTAGE, from 10.30am–4.30pm including coffee and lunch with wine:	
1. Better Holiday Photographs with Norman Shepherd – Sunday 13 April	£20
2. Byzantine Mosaics and Monuments of Ravenna and Venice with Paul Jenkins – Saturday 31 May	£17

For further information contact Richard Hunt, The Travellers' Club, Halnaker Park Cottage,
Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QH. Tel: 01243 773597. Fax: 01243 773246

THE VENICE IN PERIL FUND

November 4, 1996 marked the 30th anniversary of the 1966 floods in Florence and Venice – where the high tide reached a record 1.94m above mean sea level. Since the only comparable high tide (1.66m) was registered in 1979, some degree of complacency prevailed – encouraged by the extensive programme carried out by the Ministry of Public Works on the sea walls defending the Lido, the creation of new seaward beaches with breakwaters to lessen the force of the tides and to regulate currents flowing in the lagoon. But



the results of a prolonged period of sustained high tides, from 14th November 1996 and lasting until the second week in January 1997, have undermined public confidence. Tormental rain over northern Italy, together with the tidal surge in the Adriatic and persistent south winds, provoked a tide of 1.34m, the 16th highest this century, creating inevitable difficulties for householders, shopkeepers and the general public for whom elevated duck-boards along the lower-lying routes were not a solution; there was a roaring trade in gumboots and waders. 1996 also set a new record for this century with 99 tides over 80cm which affected not only the historic centre but the more highly populated areas of Mestre and out on to the terra firma and Chioggia. The river systems and canals interlacing the territory around the lagoon are no longer able to absorb such inundations. A number of remedial actions are under consideration.

Some 50 conservation projects were completed during the July '95–October '96 period, the majority on or in religious buildings which constitute such a large part of Venice's cultural patrimony.

A new initiative taken by VIP, in response to concern over one of the many problems at the root of the of the continuing exodus of Venetians from the historic centre, is a technical study of the methods and materials for the **restoration of so-called 'minor' historic housing stock**. The miracle is that so much of this urban texture has survived

and is still, just, habitable. A universally recognised model for restoration, designed to regulate methods of restoration compatible with reasonable costs, is to be researched jointly by the Superintendency for Architecture and the Municipality's Public Works Department – with the enthusiastic approval of the Mayor and Director of Town Planning. VIP will fund this pilot project; publication of its conclusions will provide a manual whereby housing restorations can be more accurately costed.

Finally, news of **La Fenice**. There are good grounds for believing that the total cost for rebuilding (estimated at 152 billion lire) will be raised. Bids to tender have been accepted from ten international and Italian firms and their offers must be submitted by the end of March. The winner is expected to be announced at the beginning of June, with work beginning in July.

John Millichip

THE CARPENTERS' AWARD 1997

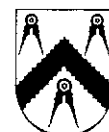
William McMorran, of the architectural practice McMorran & Gatehouse, winners of the Highly Commended Award for a major project in the 1995 Awards with the entry of a Mews house in London, W1, spoke of his delight in having won the Award: *"We regard it as a most prestigious Award – it is not just an architects' award for architects – but one for design and craftsmanship within the construction trades. The Awards Presentation is a magnificent occasion, drawing together the different strands of the building world."*

The Carpenters' Award 1997 offers a number of opportunities to present designs and associated craftsmanship of joinery or timber construction to a wide professional audience:

1. All that is required are six photographs, a brief description of the purpose of the work completed, the building owner's permission and completion of the simple entry form. There is no entry fee.
2. All entries are exhibited at The Carpenters' Hall for two days to be seen by a selected audience of building owners, developers, architects and directors of construction companies.

3. An invitation to attend The Award Presentation on Wednesday, 29th October, 1997 goes to every entrant of The Carpenters' Award 1997.
4. All entries will be exhibited on Stand 4737, Hall 4 at Interbuild from 23rd to 28th November 1997, to be seen by thousands of professionals in the construction industry.
5. The winners of each category of The Carpenters' Award 1997 are exhibited at The Building Centre for two/three months in early 1998.
6. Entries are selected to illustrate design practise and craftsmanship in technical and design journals internally, with full credits given.
7. Anyone associated with the building can enter this award, with the building owners permission.

Anyone interested in entering please contact
Margaret Prior
Award Organiser
(tel/fax: 0171 727 9474)
for an entry form.



BUILT HERITAGE PAIRING SCHEME - 1st April 1997 - 31st March 1998

Following on from the article in the last issue we are delighted to announce that the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for National Heritage, Lord Inglewood, has agreed to the continuation of the Built Heritage Pairing Scheme in the North of England. The Scheme, launched in April 1995, will operate for a third year and eligible heritage organisations have until March 1998 to apply for the discretionary awards available.

A number of important changes have been made to the Scheme which will benefit both heritage organisations and businesses. These are particularly aimed at encouraging repair projects and works to improve physical access to built heritage and are as follows:

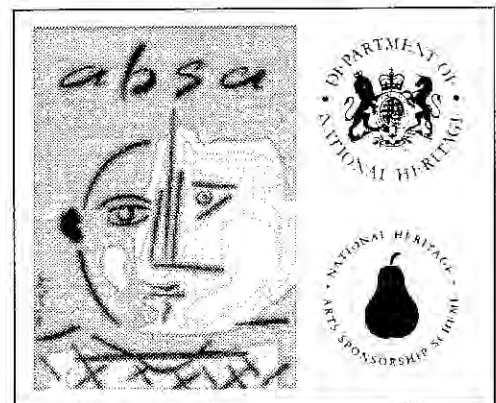
- Battlefields on the English Heritage register and designated wrecks are now included under the definition of 'built heritage'.
- First time sponsors of built heritage are eligible for 100% match if:
 - a) the sponsored project involves work designed to improve physical access or
 - b) if the sponsored project involves the repair of the built heritage.
- All other projects are eligible for matching at 50%.
- The maximum single Built Heritage Pairing Scheme Award has been reduced from £35,000 to £25,000 in order to spread further the number and amount of Awards.
- Applicants are now required to submit their application eight weeks before the start of the project.
- Applicants must now provide evidence of the status of their property, whether listed, an ancient scheduled monument, or on the English Heritage register of parks and gardens, the English Heritage Battlefields Register, or designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973.

The revised application forms, procedures and a full set of rules will be in the application booklet available from the ABSA North office from the beginning of March 1997.

Awards totalling £250,000 have been made to a wide variety of projects in the first two years of the Built Heritage Pairing Scheme. The scheme is an initiative of the Department of National Heritage and is managed on their behalf by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA). It works by matching the financial contribution of a business sponsor to provide enhanced benefits not otherwise available. These range from 25% to 100% of the sponsors contribution. Awards between £1,000 to £25,000 are available for suitable heritage projects in the North of England. Projects can include: the repair of the built heritage, fund-raising events, widening access, and community and education projects.

If you are interested in learning more about the Scheme or feel that you may have a suitable project, please contact

Ceris Morris, Manager,
Built Heritage Pairing Scheme,
ABSA North Office,
Dean Clough, Halifax, HX3 5AX
Tel: 01422 367860
Fax: 01422 363254.



EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, COURSES

*De Montfort University with the support
of the Museums & Galleries
Commission's
Conservation Unit*

CONSERVATION RESEARCH: NEEDS AND PROVISION

A one day colloquium, with postprints, which aims to draw together the Conservation and Heritage communities in addressing Conservation UK research needs and provision across the sectors in order to establish:

- a clear picture of current research**
- a strategy for future development**
- a network of conservation research professionals**

Speakers to include Professor Vincent Shacklock, Mike Corfield, Max Hebditch, Martin Caroe, Sarah Staniforth, Richrd Halsey, Kate Foley, John Fidler, Dr Nigel Seeley, Dr Clifford Price, Dr Jonathan Ashley-Smith.

Date: Tuesday 1 July 1997

Fees £60 per delegate including VAT, buffet lunch, refreshments and postprints

Location: at De Montfort University Leicester (City Campus, Queens Building)

Department of Arts & Associated Studies

Tel: (01522) 895082 Fax: (01522) 895147

BURA

Dates for Your Diary

- May 13 BURA REGIONAL VISIT TO THE SOUTH COAST
In conjunction with Sussex Enterprise
- June 3 BURA AWARDS FOR BEST PRACTICE IN
URBAN REGENERATION and SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT'S AWARD
FOR PARTNERSHIP IN REGENERATION
Ceremony and Dinner, London
- tbc BURA/WIGAN CITY CHALLENGE CONFERENCE
"Education for Change"
Wigan Investment Centre, Wigan

For further details on any of the above events please contact the BURA Office:

BURA, 33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX
Tel: 0171 253 5054 Fax: 0171 490 8735

NEW CONSERVATION SKILLS Training Courses

Conservation officers at Essex County Council are so concerned about the lack of skills available in the county when it comes to repairing and conserving historic and traditional buildings that they are setting up special short courses for tradesmen. The subjects to be taught are joinery repairs, lime mortar and pointing, rubbed and gauged brickwork, lime renders and plasters, in-fill panels (wattle & daub) and flint walling. One of the barns at Cressing Temple, near Witham, has been converted to form a large heated workshop. Cressing Temple itself will provide many examples of repair work, and there will be opportunities to work on other live projects.

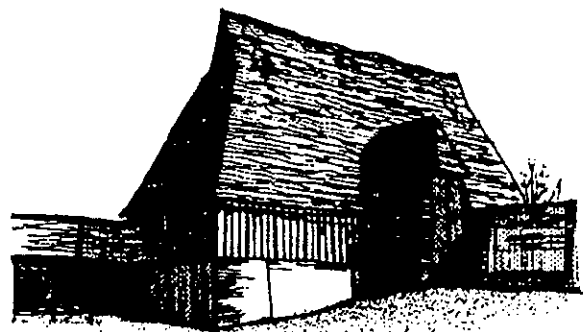
Much of the work of the conservation officers of the Historic Buildings & Design Section is concerned with trying to ensure the correct use and choice of building materials and techniques, when dealing with Listed Buildings or those in Conservation Areas. It is considered that this would be best addressed by providing special education for those who will be actually doing the work. In order to encourage contractors to release their staff, the courses will be very moderately priced. They will run from January-May 1997.

Short courses at Cressing Temple this Spring being run by Essex County Council include:

Flint Walling	7 & 8 April	£70
Lime Plaster	28 April	£35
Wattle & Daub	15 & 16 May	£70

All courses run 8.30 am - 5.00 pm daily

For further information or to reserve a place please call Ann Holden, Historic Buildings & Design Section, Planning Department, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LF, Tel: 01245 437666.



The Wheat Barn, Cressing

THE ORTON TRUST

O T

Weekend Courses for Stonemasons 1977

All courses, with the exception of the Architects' Course, start at 09.00 hrs on Friday and finish at 17.00 hrs. on Sunday.

They are held in the disused Parish Church and Hall at Orton, which have been converted into a training workshop and lecture room respectively. Orton is situated just over one mile to the South-West of Rothwell in Northamptonshire and has easy access from the A14 and A6 in both directions.

The fee for all courses is £70.00. This includes tuition, lunches, tea and coffee, but not accommodation which is the responsibility of the student. Bursaries of 50% to masons employed by Cathedral Workshops and of 33% to apprentices and staff of small firms employing six persons or less may be deducted from the normal course fee of £70.00. Courses are approved by the CITB for grant.

Advance Booking deposit of £10 for each place required.

MASONRY SKILLS

Intermediate June 6 to 8.

Advanced October 10 to 12.

Modern stonework course April 18 to 20

Stone – an appreciation November 29 to 30. (Sat & Sun)

Restoration Carving September 5 to 7

Monumental Carving September 16 to 28

Lettering courses

May 9 to 11

October 24 to 26

SETTING OUT COURSES

Basic November 14 to 16.

CONSERVATION COURSE

Theory and practical work for Architects, Quantity Surveyors, etc., as well as stonemasons. June 27 to 29.

Contact: Murray Coleman, 20 Copelands Road, Desborough, Kettering, Northants NN14 2QF, Telephone: 01536 761303



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION



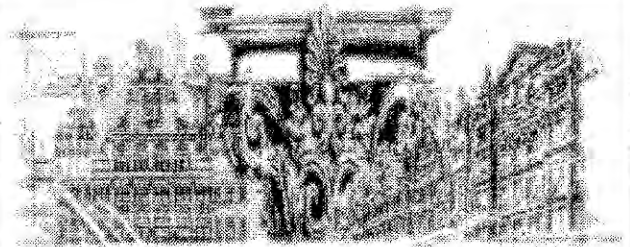
RCHME/ Oxford University Courses

The Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in conjunction with the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford are offering a series of short courses this summer. They include:

	<i>Non Residential no meals</i>	<i>Non Residential with meals</i>	<i>Single Residential</i>
HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS			
30 April-1 May	£87.50	£108.50	£135.75
BUILDING SURVEY WEEK			
2-6 JUNE	£180.00	£245.00	£354.00
FIELD SURVEY WEEK			
23-27 JUNE	£180.00	£245.00	£354.00

All are held at Rewley House in Oxford.

For further information or to reserve a place please contact
Mrs Marie Bryan, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square
Oxford OX1 2JA. Tel. 01865 280349/270360.



denkmal'96

EUROPEAN TRADE FAIR FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC
BUILDINGS AND URBAN
RENEWAL

LEIPZIGER MESSE DENKMAL '96

(30TH OCTOBER TO 2ND NOVEMBER 1996)

DENKMAL '96 WAS HOST TO 16,000 VISITORS FROM 27 COUNTRIES AND 602 EXHIBITORS FROM 16 COUNTRIES.

THE NEXT EUROPEAN TRADE FAIR FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND URBAN RENEWAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN LEIPZIG FROM 28TH TO 31ST OCTOBER 1998.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Certificate of Higher Education in British Vernacular Architecture

This country boasts an unrivalled survival of traditional buildings. From the houses of wealthy urban merchants to rural barns, from mills and dovecotes to cottages and kilns, such buildings have been a characteristic feature of Britain's towns and villages from the medieval period onwards. Recent years have witnessed an ever growing interest in the conservation and study of these buildings, and of the people who built, lived and worked within them. This unique part-time course will give you a detailed understanding of all aspects of British vernacular buildings. How, and by whom, they were built; what they were used for; and how they can be researched, surveyed and conserved.

The course is of five modules over two years with credit awarded for each module in accordance with the University's modular degree programme. Each year, one of the modules will be taught at a series of nine all-day meetings (once a month on a Saturday). Each meeting is devoted to a particular theme and taught in a combination of discussions, lectures, groupwork and fieldwork. The other module of each year is a one-week residential course, consisting mainly of discussion sessions, structured visits, demonstrations and workshops. Thus, to attend the course you do not need to live locally, but only to attend once a month for a day. The final module is a Personal Study.

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

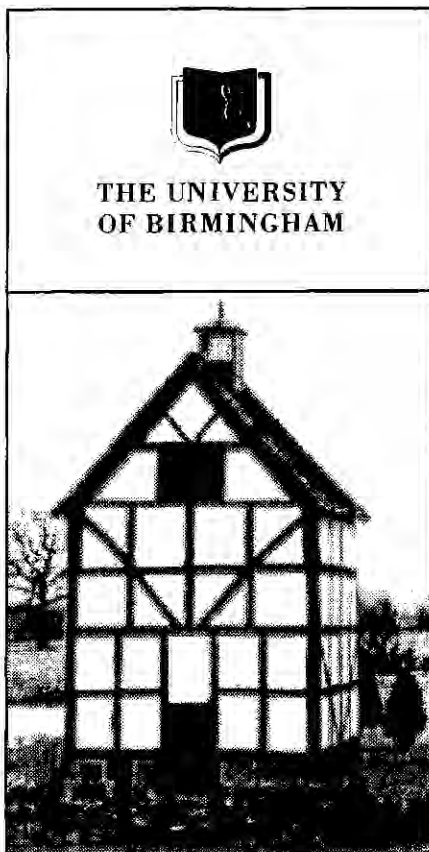
Modules 1 and 3 will take place at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4JR, as follows;

Module 1: The Vernacular Tradition in Britain

From October 1996 and will take place on Saturdays, October - June, 9.30am - 5.00pm.

Module 2: A Regional Study, Vernacular Buildings in the West Midlands

Residential week based at Avoncroft College, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove in August 1997.



Module 3: The Documentary Evidence for Vernacular Buildings

Once a month on Saturdays from October 1997.

Module 4: Construction, Repair and Conservation Techniques

Residential week based at Avoncroft College, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove in August 1998.

Module 5: Personal Study

Work to be completed within the second year of the course.

TWO RESIDENTIAL COURSES

1. Buildings of the Farmyard - Dovecotes, Barns, Granaries and Waggon Sheds, 11-13 July 1997

A weekend residential course based at Avoncroft College, Stoke Heath, near Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

This programme will identify the functions of the various traditional, farm buildings and will relate them to their form and construction. Traditional farming was less specialised than modern agriculture and always involved the combination of livestock husbandry with the cultivation of cereal crops. The emphasis will be on the farms of the English lowlands. A visit to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings will be included.

2. Towns, Trees, Prosperity and Cattle: The Forest of Arden in the 15th Century, 3-5 October 1997

A weekend residential course based at the Lord Leycester Hotel, Jury Street, Warwick.

It has long been appreciated that the 15th century was a time of great social turbulence and misery, characterised by a shrinking population, the abandonment of land and economic decline. This programme will determine the extent that these problems impacted on the inhabitants of the forest of Arden in Warwickshire, through a series of seminars, lectures, investigation of original sources and field visits.

**For further information please contact:
Valerie Stephenson, School Marketing and
Publicity Officer**

**School of Continuing Studies
University of Birmingham**

Birmingham B15 2TT

Tel: 0121 414 7259 Fax: 0121 414 5619

Who to contact on the Restorex/Refurbex team at Interbuild

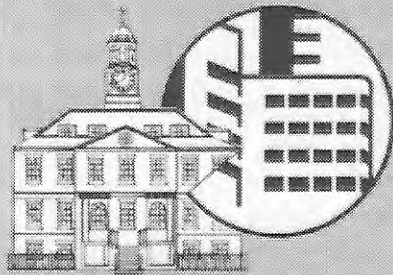
Restorex/Refurbex at Interbuild 97 is organised by Montgomery Exhibitions Ltd

11 Manchester Square
London W1M 5AB UK
Tel: +44 (0)171 486 1951
Fax: +44 (0)171 487 3260
E-mail: ib@montnet.com
Internet: http://www.interbuild97.com

MONTGOMERY EXHIBITIONS



Colin Drake, Senior Sales Executive
Tel: +44 (0)171 486 1951
Fax: +44 (0)171 487 3260



RESTOREX 97
REFURBEX

interbuild

23-28 November 1997
National Exhibition Centre
Birmingham UK



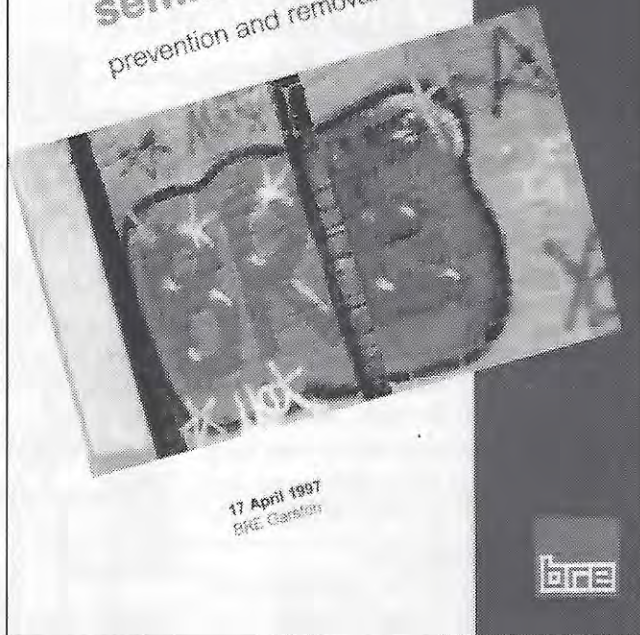
For further information please contact:

Heather Cran
RIAS, 15 Rutland Square
Edinburgh EH1 2BE
Tel: 0131 229 7545
Fax: 0131 228 2188
Early booking is advised



The First National anti-graffiti seminar

prevention and removal



Tutorial and Lunch £95.00 (£75.00 to members)

For further information contact
Conference and Seminar Unit
Building Research Establishment
Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 7JR
Tel: 01923 664775/4765



PRACTICAL/THEORY BUILDING CONSERVATION SHORT COURSES

For those responsible for, or keenly interested in, building conservation and traditional crafts

14 MAY: TIMBER FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Henry Russell & Richard Harris

15 MAY: TIMBER FRAME REPAIR

Roger Champion & Richard Harris

Date tba: STICKING A CORNICE - Ged Gardiner

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUILDING CONSERVATION:

Building Conservation Practice and Timber Building Conservation

In association with Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences.

Next two year courses start October 1998

Further details from **Carol Hawkins**
Adult Education Organiser - 01243 811363

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

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

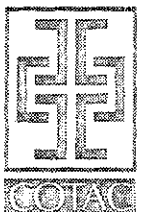
and forward to:

**Mr Graham Lee
Project Manager
COTAC**

**429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD**

Telephone: 0171-973 3615

Fax: 0171-973 3656



CONSERVATION
TRUST
UNIVERSITY OF YORK
CONSISTENT

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

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