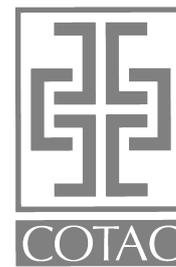


Newsletter

NUMBER 15
September 1999



CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

COTAC is supported by the Heritage Grant Fund, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

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INTRODUCTION

Almost the end of August as I write, autumn approaches and with it our International Conference in association with the Building Research Establishment at their headquarters in Garston near Watford. To be held on Friday 5th November, the theme is 'Profiting from Building Conservation' and aims to provide practitioners and owners with tools for evaluating cost effectiveness of conservation options. There will be the opportunity for a conducted tour of the Establishment's facilities followed by the Conference dinner in the evening. A study tour has been arranged for Saturday 6th to St Albans, the Abbey and other subjects of conservation interest in the historic centre and surrounding area. Linking with this theme of cost effectiveness, there is an interesting article on Page 7 in which a Building Maintenance Information (BMI) study concludes that refurbishment costs average 2/3 of new build.

We were due to publish the second part of the transactions of the 1998 Swindon Conference in this issue but due to lack of space this will be carried forward

to Number 16. We continue with the updated format for this newsletter, as Number 14 received several appreciative comments. A full index of past issues is in preparation and will be available shortly. Development of the Website continues and the latest Newsletter is, and will from now on, be available to read online or download. Our E-mail and Website addresses are included at the bottom of this page. Please note there was a slight error in the address given for the Website in the last issue as the "~" before "cotac" was omitted, so please amend your records accordingly. We have recently updated our course list and the latest edition is now available in paper form and on our Website.



Equestrian statue of King George I at Stowe.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to hold the April meeting of the Standing Conference at the National Trust site at Stowe. Our thanks go to Richard Wheeler, Senior Land Agent and his colleagues for making the arrangements and kind hospitality. Following the formal proceedings of the morning conference, we were treated to a splendid lunch and tour of the temples and garden

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buildings, with an erudite and amusing explanation by Richard. He has kindly provided an article for the Newsletter that captures much of the spirit of his commentary.

It is very sad, following on from our first ever obituary in the last issue for Zibby Garnett, that I have this time to include another, for Michael Stratton who died earlier this year. Michael was the COTAC Network representative for Archaeological Heritage Management, in the Department of Archaeology (incorporating the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies), at the University of York. His colleague Peter Burman provides a wonderfully eloquent tribute. Michael was part of the COTAC team for a relatively short time but his cheerfulness and enthusiasm immediately made him a popular colleague. We all concur with Peter's comments and Michael will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know him.

COTAC is undertaking a programme of architectural conservation and building crafts training for the King's Cross Partnership in North London. Partners working with COTAC are the Building Crafts College, Camden Training Centre and Lambeth College who between them are able to provide courses from foundation to advanced craft levels across the spectrum of traditional building trades. The programme has three main aspects: initially community events to increase public awareness of the opportunities and demand for high-level traditional building crafts skills. This will be followed by practical workshops and "taster sessions"; and finally a series of formal training courses, starting from very basic, pre-vocational level, with the opportunity to progress to advanced crafts and beyond. Suffice it to say that an element of traditional craft and a respect for the history of buildings will be present in all parts of the project.

I mentioned in the last issue our need for additional help and am delighted to confirm that since then we have gained three new members of the team, all working part-time. Roy Butlin, recently retired from BRE, has kindly agreed to assist John Taylor with the King's Cross training project. Isabel Brooks who completed the Stone Masonry Diploma at the Building Crafts College this summer is assisting Roy and John with Kings Cross and providing general administrative help in the office (including updating our database, course list and an index for past Newsletters). Isabel is also a qualified librarian so there is a good chance she might get all our records in order. Last but not least Satish Kapadia who with extensive accountancy experience in banking has agreed to take over the financial management from Chris Croke who is currently on a sabbatical tour in South America.

Following on from the Urban Task Force report, BURA's Chief Executive, David Fitzpatrick gives some views on the importance of the creation of 'a sense of place' in urban regeneration. In passing he mentions BURA's involvement with English Heritage for the proposals to bring life back to the Chatterley Whitfield mining complex, a site which was featured in a previous issue.

We focus on Lambeth College, one of our original Network members, with an update from Len Conway,

Head of School on the latest situation at the College and training opportunities available. The pedestrian bridge between Lambeth College and South Bank University was reopened recently after nearly 30 years, to provide a physical link to their new partnership, which has resulted in a Centre for Information Technology being created specifically for the construction industry. Opened by CITB Chairman Hugh Try as part of National Construction Week, the new alliance has been described by some as a re-enactment of the former Brixton School of Building.

John Preston reports on progress with the new Register for Architects Accredited in Building Conservation assessment for which relies heavily on the ICOMOS Training Guidelines. In parallel we note details of the RICS accreditation system for surveyors.

The Construction Industry Training Board reported earlier this year that despite reduced workload expectations, firms are still facing skills shortages in 1999. They note that there is a new emphasis on upgrading the existing workforce abilities with on-site assessment and training. Further that the return to direct employment has meant a large shift in CITB levy rates and grants policy is being fundamentally reviewed.

We have a number of specialised reviews from academia including the importance of professionalising teaching by Professor Gummett. This explains the role of the new quality assessment organisations for Higher Education, the Institute for Learning and Teaching (the ILT) and the Quality Assurance Agency (the QAA), established following the recommendations of the Dearing Report. Consumer Students – now that they are required to pay for Higher Education – may increasingly choose to exercise their 'rights as consumers' just as in any other market says Marianne Harris-Bridge, Director of Marketing at De Montfort University. Sheila McKechnie discusses the encouragement from Government for business to support innovation in education and the potential benefits and dangers of overt business involvement. This can range from high-quality materials to blatant sales and marketing. Many agree the former provides added value, whilst others see any such involvement as an exploitation of young people and the education system. Teachers and practitioners agree that it is essential that these resources reach the high quality, balance and integrity expected of all educational resources. As ever, the problem occurs in deciding who defines what is meant by quality!

Computers and the Internet in particular form an ever-increasing influence on our lives and Paul Foley reviews the growing business opportunities offered by the "Web". Both building conservation and education have much to gain from its effective usage.

You may have read recently of the technique developed to grow synthetic diamonds in the laboratory that are almost indistinguishable from those occurring in nature. Well now sculpture and fine masonry can gain from a similar technique for growing marble as explained in the "re-arm" article.

David Linford, Chairman of the Heritage Building Contractors Group has supplied the first of what we hope will be a regular feature of "letters to the editor" on topical matters of interest or concern. Do you have something that you are concerned about or want to share with others? It can be on any topic broadly related to building conservation and education

We continue the News feature and there are several items of interest. I especially like the lateral thinking applied by Kajima for the use of airbags in construction. The Industry has a terrible record for safety and falls are particularly prominent in the statistics. Let us hope that they catch on and we are able to encourage our 'macho' workforce to use these new jackets.

Space permitting I am delighted to include brief reviews of publications if we may have an inspection copy. We are

also keen to provide details of as many Exhibitions, Conferences, Seminars and Courses and I try hard to search out what is happening. It will be very helpful if Education Officers, Course Leaders, Directors or whoever ensure that they have COTAC's details on their database for regular mailings (or even better, Emailings) of updates. Copy date for the next issue 30th November 1999.

Last, but certainly not least, is the welcome news that we have the final UK-wide approval for the higher level NVQs. These, along with the CITB conservation options for crafts, provide us with the framework that has been needed for the establishment of consistent national standards. Richard Davies summarises the immediate next steps but no doubt there will be much more on this in subsequent editions.

Graham Lee, Project Manager

NEWS

AIRBAGS TO CUSHION HARD FALLS

Fatal falls from on high are now avoidable thanks to an ingenious adaptation of car airbag technology.

Japanese construction company Kajima Corp is marketing a shock-absorbing life vest, which inflates before the wearer hits the ground.

Aimed at builders on construction sites – where 80 workers were killed by falls last year in Britain alone – a sensor in the vest will inflate the jacket in 0.2 seconds in any fall above two metres.

Worn in a similar manner to life jackets, the vests fit over workers' clothing and extend up the neck, covering the lower back and waist.

The vest works on the same principle as a car airbag and uses the same mechanism, say its creators, except that the bag is activated by the fall itself, not an impact.

A Kajima spokesman said it will reduce by half the shock usually experienced in such falls and will save countless lives.

It may also reduce the number of major injuries – 4,623 people were injured on building sites in Britain last year.

The life vest could also guard against accidents incurred at home. It might have saved Rod Hull, the entertainer, who fell to his death from the roof of his house earlier this year.

There were more than 10,662 DIY accidents in Britain involving falls last year.

Despite some of the strictest regulations for work safety in the world, Japan saw 313 construction workers plunge to their deaths last year. It has taken researchers at Kajima four years to perfect their vest design.

An earlier prototype – featuring an airbag that covered the legs and included a circuit cord – was rejected because the builders complained that they had to remove the vest every time they took off their shoes.

CATHODIC PROTECTION REGISTER

To provide specifiers with a reference database of projects that are currently employing cathodic protection techniques as a remedial measure for protecting reinforcement in concrete, the Cathodic Protection Association (CPA) has established a register of significant projects that have been benefiting from the process since 1984.

The list includes car parks, road bridges, residential blocks and underground tunnels. The register gives the data of installation, the location, a description of the superstructure to which the technique is applied, the anode type employed and the approximate square metreage of concrete being treated on each structure. As new significant installations are completed and reported, they will be added to the list.



Use of an airbag jacket could save lives in falls

Corrosion of embedded steel, through the action of de-icing salts, airborne sea salts and salts cast into the concrete at the construction stage, is arguably the most serious cause of deterioration of reinforced concrete structures. The use of cathodic protection eliminates the danger of cracking and spalling concrete, thus enabling structures to realise their full design life.

A recent Department of Transport report highlighted that more than half a billion pounds worth of cathodic protection work is needed to preserve the motorway and trunk road system in England and Wales alone. It is not surprising therefore that the technique is becoming more and more established and increasingly accepted as the practical long-term solution for repairing and monitoring reinforced concrete on car parks, bridges, jetties, wharves and other buildings.

Between 1988 and 1998 members of the CPA have been involved in the installation of more than 200,000 sq.m. of cathodic protection to reinforced concrete and related structures. The same companies have also undertaken the installation of approximately 50,000sq.m. of re-alkalisation and chloride extraction systems.

Copies of the CP Register can be obtained free of charge from: The CPA, Tel: 01252 321302, Fax: 01252 333901, Email: john.fairley@btinternet.com

RAISING THE ROOF ON POOR PRODUCTS

The new Roofing Industry Alliance (RIA) Hallmarked scheme, launched at the end of March by Construction Minister Nick Raynsford, offers a two-pronged attack on poorly finished products in the roofing industry through the introduction of guaranteed quality standards and a commitment to training.

Mr Raynsford said: "The scheme has been organised by the industry, but will be administered by an independent body to ensure that it will equally benefit clients, customers and the industry. The aim of the scheme is simplicity itself: to provide subscribers and their clients with an effective way of achieving a fault-free final product – by ensuring that every aspect of contracted work is carried out to the highest standards."

Companies and contractors will be assessed by an independent body and successful applicants will be identifiable by the RIA logo. A company or contractor with the logo will offer clients a package of high quality workmanship, products, materials, contractors and design.

The scheme has been established by the roofing industry in order to raise client confidence at all stages of the roofing process in an industry whose business is worth £2 billion each year in the UK.

Training

There are 45,000 people employed in the roofing industry with just under 2,000 joining annually and of these new entrants only between three and four hundred are formally trained. The RIA National Training and Recruitment Plan will increase the number of operatives with all individuals accredited through NVQs being monitored, tested, assessed and Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards arranged. This will make it easier for the client to ensure that he has picked the right firm for his particular project.

The Hallmarked scheme will primarily be of benefit to commercial clients, but as the logo becomes more well known as a guarantee of quality, it is foreseen that a greater demand for equal standards of roofing work will be required by the domestic sector.

In order to achieve RIA status, roofing companies and contractors will apply to The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) via four delegated assessment organisations (DAOs): TRADA, The Building Research Establishment (BRE), Roofing Industry Certification (RiC) and the British Standards Institute (BSI).

ADVISORY SERVICE ON EU FUNDING

A new advisory and support service to help the construction industry take advantage of European Union research funding opportunities has been announced by the DETR.

The service will consist of a helpline and website that will provide information on the European Commission's calls for proposals. It will also give general advice on writing proposals, consortia and partnering issues.

Welcoming the new service, Construction Minister, Mr Raynsford, said:

"This is a direct response to what the construction industry told us it wanted from government in terms of the new EU Research Programme. The service will provide advice and assistance to help firms to take part in collaborative European projects, in the hope that it will attract and encourage a wider range of UK organisations to become involved in the beneficial partnerships such projects can foster".

Initiatives

Amongst other initiatives, the service will advise companies on how to obtain funding from the EU's fifth Framework Programme (FP5) for research and industrial development. The programme has a total budget of around £10 billion available for the period 1999 - 2002. Calls for proposals will be issued from Spring 1999.

FP5 represents a major initiative to enhance the competitive position of European industry and to improve the quality of life for EU citizens. FP5 aims to deliver through

a number of thematic programmes that include quality of life, sustainable growth, energy, environment and sustainable development.

Contact details for the support and advisory service for construction are:

UK Contact Point for European Construction Research and Innovation (EUCRI) The National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0LW Tel: 0181 943 6660 Fax: 0181 943 2989 E-mail: eucri@npl.co.uk Web://www.npl.co.uk/npi/fp5/eucri/

CONCRETE – NOT ALL IT’S CRACKED UP TO BE

If you were tuned in to BBC Radio 5 recently, you may have heard the Chief Executive of the British Cement Association in full song. He was intoning on his favourite subject, which is, funnily enough, cement. Apparently, the Chief Exec. has been singing about cement for some years now, but has recently felt moved to record a whole cassette – an album, even – extolling its virtues.

Now, don’t get me wrong; I’ve always got time for anybody who is that keen on their subject. But it might be worth pausing to consider which aspects of cement are worth putting to song and which should provoke howls of protest, because cement, if used inappropriately, can cause a lot of damage to buildings.

Before we get into that, let’s get a few basics out of the way. Cement as we know it was patented as recently as 1842 and the British inventor, Joseph Aspdin, called it Portland cement because he thought the hardened material resembled Dorset’s Portland stone. The cement that you buy now in paper sacks at builders’ merchants – the fine grey powdery stuff – is still called Ordinary Portland Cement.

Incidentally, until recently, those sacks weighed a hundred weight, or 50kg, which was far too heavy for most people to lift without doing their backs in. So the Health and Safety bods have decided that bags of cement should now be only 25kg, which seems rather small, so some builders try to pick up two at a time... and do their backs in. The 25kg bag is also a bit of a tight fit for the average shovel, so sometimes, when you’re trying to get a bit out, you end up lifting the whole bag up on the end of the shovel. This, too, can do your back in. No one at the Health and Safety Executive knows about any of this, because none of them works in the building game.

Lay people often refer to cement when they mean concrete. Concrete is the hard stuff that foundations, motorway bridges and some road surfaces are made of, and cement is but one part of it. The other ingredients of concrete are stones and sand and water, which react chemically with the cement to make it go hard. Concrete is a wonderful material – it can be cast into any shape and

quickly reaches great strength; the modern construction industry would be lost without it.

But cement is also mixed with sand and water to make bricklaying mortar. This can cause problems, because the strength and rapid hardening that are such valuable attributes of concrete can be positive disadvantages when applied to mortar. Every construction textbook explains that the mortar should be softer than the bricks, to avoid cracking and rainwater penetration, yet almost every builder in Britain uses sand-and-cement mortars that are hard enough to crush diamonds.

They do it because they don’t know any better – the skill of making bricklaying mortar, using slaked lime, has been forgotten. So when buildings move – as all buildings do – the mortar is unable to accommodate the shift, and the brickwork cracks. This is especially regrettable when cement mortar has been used to repoint the brickwork of a Victorian or older property: the soft lime mortar underneath expands and contracts with the seasons, but the faces of the bricks are now locked in a rigid gridwork of sand-and-cement. Irresistible force, immovable object – as the song says, something’s gotta give.

So it would be nice if the British cement industry – which also manufactures lime – would consider some kind of education programme for builders, explaining that cement is great for concrete, but lime is better for mortar. That really would be something to sing about.

Article by Jeff Howell from the *Daily Telegraph*.

VAT ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS: HISTORIC BUILDING GROUPS COMMISSION SURVEY

The 17.5% VAT levied on work to repair historic buildings is an onerous financial burden. It is also incompatible with current government policy on the historic environment, sustainable development and re-using brownfield sites. Owners of historic buildings and conservation bodies have long pressed for action with little success. Encouragingly, however, during the last few months others – notably the Urban Task Force and The Empty Homes Agency – have recognised the wider implications of this problem, which punishes efforts to bring existing buildings back into use. The time is ripe for an equal, lower, rate of VAT on new-build, alterations and repairs.

But what would be the fiscal impact of such equalisation? Would the government gain or lose by reducing VAT on repairs and rehabilitation and introducing it on new-build and alterations? Astonishingly, no empirical research has been undertaken. Neither Customs & Excise, nor the Treasury, nor those who suffer from the current regime, have any relevant statistics on VAT revenue. The need is pressing for relevant data, particularly if the government is to take the case for change to Europe.

To obtain this, 19 historic buildings organisations have commissioned research by an independent statistician. The particular focus is historic buildings, but the research will include any analysis of figures for new building work and refurbishment work on existing buildings that do not qualify as historic. It will also set out potential administrative savings and other advantages to be derived from simplifying VAT for building work, and the likely impact on employment of any equalisation.

The results of this research should be of very wide use and interest. The survey has just begun and should be completed within about three months.

For further information, contact John Sell on 01795 590240 or Hilary Weir on 0171 925 0199.

Members of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies: The Ancient Monuments Society, Council for British Archaeology, Garden History Society, Georgian Group, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Twentieth Century Society, Victorian Society.

Others: The Architectural Heritage Fund, Churches Main Committee, Historic Chapels Trust, Historic Houses Association, Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, International Council for Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS), National Trust, SAVE Britain's Heritage, National Trust for Scotland, Theatres Trust, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, United Kingdom Association of Building Preservation Trusts.

RATING (VALUATION) BILL RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT

The Rating (Valuation) Bill has been given Royal Assent. Local Government Minister Hilary Armstrong said: "If the Government had not acted, the valuations made for the 1990 and 1995 rating lists, and the work already under way for the 2000 rating lists, could have been called into question. The Rating (Valuation) Act 1999 therefore restores the law to that which was thought to apply before the Lands Tribunal decision in Benjamin versus Anston Properties."

Non-domestic property is revalued every five years on a common date. Revaluations are based on the assumption – derived from long-standing case law – that properties are in a reasonable state of repair.

The Lands-Tribunal decision of March 11, 1998 in the case of Benjamin versus Anston Properties Ltd decided valuers should instead reflect the actual condition of the property on the valuation date.

The Act restores the position and applies to all future valuations, including those for the rating list coming into force on 1 April 2000, and retrospectively to valuations carried out for the 1990 and 1995 rating lists.

It will not however apply to the ratepayer in the Benjamin versus Anston Properties case or to any other property where a proposal for an alteration of the rateable value

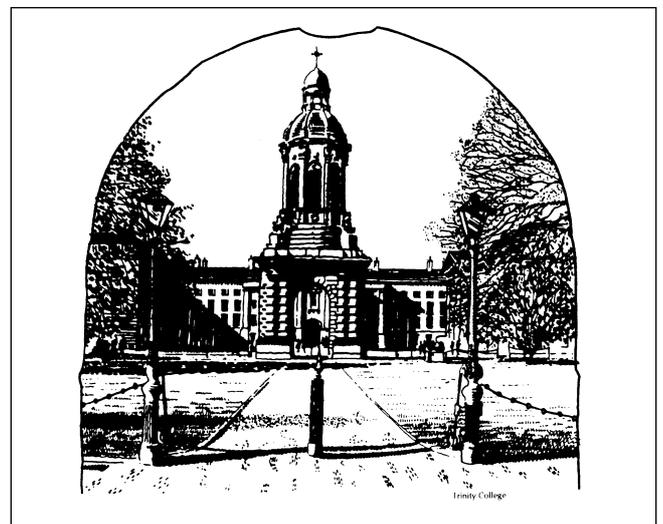
shown in the rating list was made before 12 March 1998, the day after the Lands Tribunal decision.

Copies of the Act are available from The Stationery Office at PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. Telephone 0171 873 0011.

NEW REPUBLIC OF IRELAND BRANCH FOR IHBC

On Wednesday 8th September, the Republic of Ireland Branch will be officially launched by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ms Sile de Valera, TD. The launch is also being attended by approximately 20 representatives from IHBC Council including existing IHBC Branches. Conservation is finally coming into its own in Ireland with the imminent passage of two Bills regarding the protection of the Irish heritage in January 2000, the appointment of conservation officers and the provision of conservation grants on a nation-wide basis. Now is certainly the time to organise a network of individuals and organisations dedicated to the protection of the architectural heritage. It is proposed that the IHBC would serve as such a vehicle for the exchange of information and ideas in Ireland. Having a Republic of Ireland Branch will also mean that current members of the IHBC living in Ireland, will no longer be overseas members!

It all started when a number of people involved in conservation in the Dublin area were invited to attend a meeting in October of 1998 with a view to the establishment of a Republic of Ireland Branch. This meeting was attended by Ms Julia Smith, Branches Secretary, and Mr Laurence Manogue, Chairman, Northern Ireland Branch. Introductions were given by both, the floor opened for questions and following numerous glasses of wine, it was decided to set up a Steering Group. This was given the aim of setting up the Republic of Ireland Branch and raising the awareness of the IHBC in Ireland.



Founding of IHBC branch in Ireland.

NEWS

Since October the Steering Group has come along way. Meetings have been held fortnightly with a view to setting up a Branch in the Republic. A mail-shot, introducing the IHBC and announcing the launch of the Republic of Ireland Branch in September has been received by over 700 people in the Country who are involved in the conservation of historic buildings, one way or another.

And so the Republic of Ireland Branch is born!

Reproduced from *IHBC Newsletter 10*.

WITNESS A NEW WEBSITE

The newly launched web site of the Society of Expert Witnesses is filled with information and advice selected from the Society's correspondence, newsletters and regular conferences. It can be visited at: <http://www.sew.org.uk>.

The web site will provide information and practical advice in a clear, succinct and accessible format to members and to any non-members interested in expert witness work. Information about the Society, its aims and rules, how to join, and details of forthcoming events will be posted.

In case you didn't know the Society of Expert Witnesses is an independent, non-profit making association that provides a forum for experts from a full spectrum of disciplines. Committed to promoting higher and more uniform standards of expert evidence, it offers its members practical support on the legal and business aspects of providing expert services, and acts as an independent voice for the expert witness community.

If you would like to know more about the Society of Expert Witnesses, call them on 0345 023014.

PROFESSIONAL REFURBISHMENT CAN COST TWO THIRDS OF NEW-BUILD

Refurbishing existing buildings costs around two thirds of the equivalent new-build according to the latest refurbishment study published by BMI (Building Maintenance Information).

The actual relationship varies, as can be seen from the table of some of the more common building types. The results range from 56% for Banks and Building Society Branches to 80% for Flats.

The study provides information on the average amount spent on the rehabilitation of existing buildings. It is based on the analysis of contracts for over 1900 building projects. These cover the complete refurbishment of the building but the amount of work included in any particular project will vary and this is reflected in the range of costs reported. The study also includes some conversion schemes where the function of the building has been changed by the refurbishment work. In all cases the buildings have been classified by their final rather than their original use.

The exact content of the schemes is not defined and some caution must therefore be used in applying the figures. However, for strategic planning and early cost advice the figures should prove extremely useful.

REHABILITATION COSTS

Building Type	Rehabilitation Mean Cost £/sq.m.	New Build Mean Cost £/sq.m.	Rehabilitation as a Percentage of New Build
Factories	246	369	67%
Offices	479	791	61%
Banks/Building Society Branches	566	1008	56%
General Hospitals	676	935	72%
Public Houses	546	797	60%
Community Centres	511	666	77%
Churches	504	809	62%
Schools	416	695	60%
Estate Housing	262	456	57%
Flats	421	525	80%

BMI Special Report 274 'Rehabilitation Costs' is available as part of the BMI subscription service, or individually priced £30.00 each, from BMI, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD.

STOWE



Standing Conference delegates at the start of the Stowe tour.

Stowe has been described as the ‘outstanding monument to English Landscape gardening’. It is this landscape, together with the sublimity of the architecture of its 30 or more temples and garden buildings, which is the aspect most apparent on a visit to the gardens now.

However, the lost element of Stowe is its meaning, or iconography. In the 1730s Richard Temple, Lord Cobham reordered his garden, not only to express his support for parliament and a constitutional monarchy, but also to set out in buildings, landscape, statues and inscriptions, a moral essay for his group of political nephews, and their literary friends. These included the Grenville brothers, Richard (who inherited Stowe and was made Earl Temple), George, Thomas and James, other nephews, Lyttelton, Pitt, and West, and the poets Pope, Thomson, Hammond and Glover. All probably had a hand in the ideas behind Stowe, and they began with perhaps the best academic joke on the place, with the inscription for the statue of **King George** on the North Front. The King is in the guise of Marcus Aurelius, that most worthy and (militarily) most successful of emperors, and reads:

‘In medio mihi Caesar erit...’ In the middle of my garden I will place Caesar

All quite simple and straightforward, but the joke lay in the omission of the second half of the line, (from Virgil’s third Georgic):

‘...templumque tenebit.’ ...and he will have Temple.

that is, Richard Temple, Lord Cobham and his friends, behind the throne, pulling the strings.

South of the house, in the gardens proper, the theme changes. To the west, there is, or was, a garden describing the unfortunate *path of vice or sensual pleasure*. Centring on the Rotondo, occupied by a gilded **Venus, the goddess of Love**, the visitor was taken past murals in the Lake Pavilions of *unrequited love*, based upon scenes from Guarini’s opera, *Il pastor Fido*, by the muralist Francesco Sletter, thence to the Sleeping Parlour with its **Epicurean exhortation**:



The Rotondo under repair.

‘Cum sint tibi incertus...’ Since all things are uncertain, indulge thyself.

Past the Rotondo, lies Dido’s Cave, of course representing the *hopeless love* of the Carthaginian queen, Dido, who committed suicide after being seduced and then abandoned by Aeneas. The murals depicting this seduction were covered over with tufa in the early 19th century; they are now being conserved in a partially exposed state, together with their inscription:

‘Speluncam Dido dux et Trojanus...’ to this cave came Dido and the Trojan general...

Three more buildings, now sadly demolished, completed the tour; a temple of Bacchus, a roothouse dedicated to St Augustine, and a great pyramid designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, and inscribed without, to his memory, and within to ‘elderly sensualists’:

‘Lusisti satis, edisti satis, atque bibisti...’ You have ‘played’ enough eaten enough and drunk enough, now it is time to leave the stage for younger men.

Although demolished in the 1770s the pyramid is still represented by a substantial mound on the north side of the western garden, and will be restored as such to provide a viewing point as a culmination to the tour around this part of the garden.

On the other side of Stowe’s great South Vista, the message changes to the more acceptable paths of *Virtue, Friendship and Liberty*. These imperatives formed the basis of 18th century political morality, and the main tenets of Whig philosophy.

Virtue is represented in Stowe’s Elysian Fields, centring on one side of the River Styx, on the Temple of Ancient Virtue, with its statues by Scheemaker of the four heroes of the ancient world, **Homer**, the greatest of the poets, **Socrates**, the greatest philosopher, **Epaminondas**, the greatest general, and **Lycurgus**, the greatest of the Spartan law-givers.

The antithesis to Ancient Virtue, Modern Virtue, was



The Elysian Fields and Temple of British Worthies.



The Grenville Column topped with the Muse of Heroic Poetry.

represented by a ruined temple in the edge of the trees, occupied by the headless torso of a statue, which, like the remains of Priam left lying on the beach after the fall of Troy, showed the result of seeking fame rather than allowing others to recognise it, unprompted.

Over the Styx, and looking up to the Ancient Heroes, is the Temple of **British Worthies**; all those men of letters, and men (and one woman) of action, who aspired to such virtue. In the niche above them sat a bust of **Mercury**, the messenger of the gods, who:

‘Campos ducit ad Elysios...’ Who led them to the Elysian Fields.

In the same sequestered valley and upstream from the Elysian Fields is the dark and melancholy Alder River, perhaps representing Tartarus, the hell of the ancient world, just as Elysium was the heaven. And at the head of the river stands William Kent’s Grotto, occupied, until one of the Stowe sales, by a copy of the **Crouching Venus**, in a marble basin, and with a jet of water sluicing over her.

After *Virtue*, the visitor to Stowe is enjoined to follow the path of *Liberty*. Eighteenth century dogma held that British Liberty and our Constitution derived from our Saxon and Gothic ancestors, those freedom loving tribes of Northern Europe, who drove out the decadent and degenerate Romans from these islands, and established the Witan, the parliament of those Saxon Kings. As with all good invasions, they landed at the island of Thanet, so at Stowe there

is the Thanet Walk, leading to Stowe’s Temple of Liberty, the Gothic Temple. And in the wood beyond the Temple were situated the gods of our ancestors, one for each day of the week. Hence **Sunna** for Sunday, **Mona**, **Tiw**, **Woden**, **Thuna**, **Frigga** and **Seater**. These statues, all by Rysbrack, stood in a grassy grove in the Wick (week) Quarter, surrounded by venerable yew trees.

One of the commonest aphorisms of the eighteenth century was ‘*libertate amicitiaeque*’ to *friendship and liberty*, and to complement Stowe’s Temple of Liberty is one to Friendship. Now a ruined facade, it was where Lord Cobham and his political, literary and poetaster friends used to meet for harmonious social intercourse, well away from the ladies of the house, half a mile away at the other end of the Hawkwell Field, in their own Lady’s Temple, (now the Queen’s Temple). Within this Temple of Friendship were the busts of all these other worthies of Stowe; **Frederick, Prince of Wales**, the Earls of **Chesterfield**, **Westmoreland**, and **Marchmont**, Lords **Gower**, **Cobham** and **Bathurst**, and **Richard Grenville**, **William Pitt** and **George Lyttleton**.

Lord Cobham had included within his tour of Liberty, a Grecian Temple, by a Grecian Valley, where the goddess would have had her genesis. This temple, the greatest of his projects at Stowe was begun in the 1740s, but the task was too great, and he died in 1749 before it was complete. His nephew and successor, Richard Grenville, Earl Temple continued the work, finally in 1763 rededicating it to Concord and Victory, to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Seven Years War, which consolidated the British Empire in Canada, India and the West Indies. The temple was surmounted by a statue of **Victory**, and two **Roman Ladies** on the acroteria at the eastern end of the building, and the **Liberal Arts**, **Diagraphica** and **Sculpture** at the western end.

The interior became home to its own statue of **Liberty**, taking pride of place in the aedicule in the cella of the temple.

This statue, sadly, was lost in the last century, and her place is now taken by a headless torso, found abandoned, in a quarry on the Home Farm, and known locally as the Duchess. The iconographic significance of her presence has not yet been decided.

*Richard W Wheeler,
Senior Land Agent, National Trust*



Temple of Concord and Liberty.



The Marble Hall at Stowe.

NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS APPROVED

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) has finally approved the higher level awards for Conservation Site Management, Conservation Control and Conservation Consultancy. This was not a simple matter and with the approval came a series of questions and some useful advice.

The main thrust of the last moment enquiries from QCA was to obtain assurances on the scale of the existing training demand and of the potential for the future. Our response was to quote the attitudes of a selection of the more influential players in the field. For example, both the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and the National Trust were able to assure QCA of the significance of the qualifications as benchmarks for the future action. In due course, they will be using the qualifications as a specification of performance that will apply to staff in consultants' and contractors' firms as well as the basis for the job specification for their own staff or, for the IHBC, their membership.

QCA seemed to be very excited by the prospects for the whole of the range of Conservation awards, including the craft qualifications managed by CITB. We do now have a real prospect for all those wishing to show progression throughout their career in this broad area. The relevance of conservation skills to the whole of the maintenance sector was accepted as well as to those concerned with facilities management. The current emphasis within Government on

sustainability and on improved quality of service from the construction industry were all seen as signals of increasing interest within the industry at large.

Passing this final hurdle in the approval process now means that we are working with our partners in the awarding body, EDEXCEL, on the delivery mechanisms. The support mechanisms for the centres that will be appointing assessors and assessing applicants will now be defined in detail along with the financial implications in terms of costs and the financial support for candidates.

Current advice from QCA and EDEXCEL is that considerable attention needs to be given to the type of support that busy mid-career candidates require. The idea of providing them with distance learning advice, guidance and tutoring on the creation of a portfolio of their work is one area that will need to be developed. Also likely to be of interest is the concept of assessors moving to the candidates rather than candidates travelling to centres. This having been said, the need to concentrate the initial development on centres, in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a solid track record in conservation training must be the starting point for the launch of the new higher level qualifications.

Enquiries from prospective candidates or centres are welcomed by COTAC (Telephone 0171 973 3615) or by EDEXCEL (Telephone 0171 393 4500).

Richard Davies

DR MICHAEL STRATTON, INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGIST

Michael John Stratton was born 15 May 1953 at Barnet, Hertfordshire, and died

at his home in Oulston, North Yorkshire, on 29 April 1999, aged 45. He made a tremendous contribution to the study of building types associated with manufacturing processes and transport of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, showing not only that they possessed considerable value but also limitless potential for re-use at the turn of the Millennium. Through his enthusiasm and industry in research he greatly enlarged our understanding of the materials of which they were characteristically built. At the time of his death he was a Senior Lecturer in Conservation Studies, and responsible for the direction of Archaeological Heritage Management, in the Department of Archaeology (incorporating the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies), in the University of York.

However, his whole life seemed to be a kind of preparation for the sphere of knowledge to which he contributed so much. He retained a schoolboyish enthusiasm throughout his life, and his early interests in railway engines and architecture, in classic motor cars, translated seamlessly into the book on *Conservation of the Railway Heritage* which he and I edited and part-authored in 1996. Similarly the book on *The British Car Factory: a Complete Historical, Geographical, Architectural and Technological Survey*, which he co-authored with Paul Collins in 1993. Close and warm collaboration with other scholars came more naturally to him than to most, and he contributed outstanding essays to such classics as the new 1994 edition of Alec Clifton-Taylor, Archie Ireson's *English Stone Building*. Michael Hunter's *Preserving the Past: the Rise of Heritage in Modern Britain* of 1996 is required reading for anyone seriously interested in understanding how we view and use our heritage in the late twentieth century. It is no surprise that Michael's contribution should have been on 'Open-Air and Industrial Museums', for he had been closely involved with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in his capacity as Lecturer (later Senior Lecturer, and Programme Director) at the Ironbridge Institute of the University of Birmingham. Here also began his long and fruitful collaboration with Barrie Tinder, with whom for example in 1997 he published *Industrial England*.

I met him for the first time while he was still at Ironbridge, when he came here to York to give a lecture for us in 1990 on terracotta as part of our teaching programme on brick, terracotta and other ceramic materials used in architecture and decoration. He was already well advanced with the book on *The Terracotta Revival*, which he published in 1993, and is now a well-established classic on

THE UNIVERSITY of York
CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION



both sides of the Atlantic. This book followed a Churchill Fellowship in 1988 to study the manufacture and conservation of architectural terracotta in the USA, and a Hagley Fellowship in 1990 to study industrial and architectural links between Britain and the United States in the late nineteenth century. From as early as 1981 he was a member of the committee of the Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society, and he was also closely involved with the work of English Heritage, the Victorian Society, the Twentieth Century Society, and the International Committee on the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage.

From January 1995, when he joined us at the University of York full-time, he became my closest colleague and a dear friend; we thoroughly enjoyed working together, and I learned to admire and feel deep affection for those gifts which will have struck everyone who came into contact with him. His friendly disposition, openness, complete lack of rancour in the groves of academe, his thoroughness, enthusiasm and deft abilities as an effective 'networker' which took him to so many countries and conferences as a greatly-valued contributor. His ability to do several things at once, his guidance which was eagerly sought by students and colleagues alike, his infectious enthusiasm, his energy, and his spontaneity. Of all those qualities, many stories could be told.

In 1997 he was a leading participant in the conference at York University on 'Conserving & Using Industrial Buildings', in collaboration with the Prince of Wales's initiative on 'Regeneration through Heritage'. Later, he worked on a Database on the Re-Use of the Industrial Heritage, with Sue Taylor, and a forthcoming publication on *Making Industrial Buildings Work* will be in many ways a fitting memorial to him. Right up until the time his illness began, he took every opportunity he could to carry out further research. In another year, had he only been spared, there would have been a tremendous flowering of publications, not only because he was at the height of his intellectual powers, but also because he had a superb sense of timing and knew when to give priority to what would be most telling and effective.

Among the most enjoyable activities we shared was the running of study tours for our MA students in Conservation, and here his thoroughness was a particularly helpful trait. Our enterprises included expeditions to such far-flung places as Puerto Rico, Tbilisi in Georgia, and St Petersburg. In St Petersburg I was amazed to find that Michael went out jogging at about 6:00 a.m. every morning (an hour when, I suspect, some of our students had

only lately composed themselves to rest). This was not simply for the exercise but also to search out the ground which our group of some thirty-five would cover later in the day. Since none of us had ever been to St Petersburg before and none had any knowledge, to start with, of the Cyrillic alphabet, this not only made us feel more secure but probably averted disaster on more than one occasion.

Towards the end, when I saw him for the last time, he had grown and developed spiritually as a result of the illness, which had so suddenly and unexpectedly struck him down in late January. All the old sparkle, even gaiety, was still there in a weakened body, but also a new depth, a new understanding and acceptance which was deeply moving and in the end, life-enhancing for his friends. On 6 May there was a great gathering at St Michael's Coxwold, one of the noblest churches of the North Riding, and it emerged that since putting down roots in the nearby hamlet of Oulston some four years before Michael had made himself an indispensable part of village life. For him 'loving his neighbour' was no empty concept but how did he find the time and energy for it all, to play his part so modestly and yet so effectively, from village green to the international stage?

This year we had to go abroad for our study tour to Berlin without him, though he had hoped until about a month before that he would be able to come with us. It was to a city that contained so many examples of the kind of

heritage, which he had taught us to enjoy and celebrate. On the day of the Coxwold service we held our own for him in the cathedral-like power station of 1937-8 at Vokerode, near Dessau, a birthplace of the Modern Movement. One of the students read out a heartfelt tribute as we stood in a circular pool of sunshine in the vast interior. A friend who was also present sang, with masterly judgement, a setting by Vaughan Williams of words by William Blake, which somehow helped to heal the echoing sense of loss:

"For he hears the lamb's innocent call, and he hears the ewe's tender reply: He is watchful while they are in peace, For they know that their Shepherd is nigh."

However, we thought not only of him but also of his wonderfully supportive wife Annabel, and of his two gifted boys Andrew and Timothy, who will carry that energy forward in other ways. The last reflection must be one of gratitude, that someone could and did give so much, with so little personal vanity or ambition, but always seeking to sustain and support his family, his friends (who were numerous), his colleagues, and – for he who was a born and natural teacher – his students.

*Peter Burman, Director,
Centre for Conservation, Department of Archaeology,
University of York*

EXCELLENT CENTRE FOR IT – BUILDING BRIDGES IN STOCKWELL

National Construction Week, 18-24th April this year, began with the opening of the IT Centre of Excellence at South Bank University. The launch of the new centre is a response to a number of measures implemented by government bodies to promote the use of IT in the construction industry following a number of recommendations including the Egan report.

The bridge between Lambeth College and South Bank University was reopened after 29 years to provide a physical link to their new partnership, which has resulted in a centre for information technology being created specifically for the construction industry. The alliance between the two establishments has been described as a re-enactment of the former Brixton School of Building. This well-known construction school became two separate institutions, South Bank Polytechnic and Lambeth College (formerly Vauxhall college) in 1970.

Lambeth College and South Bank University have joined forces to provide training facilities for local construction companies. Members of the centre will be able to use computer resources and software experts in a "one stop shop" for the London area. "The centre has been launched at the right time as we face the year 2000 and the challenges and opportunities offered by the 21st Century", said CITB

Chairman Hugh Try. The £630,000 project was part-funded by the European Social Fund through the Government Office of London, matched by money from the University and College.

Also speaking at the ceremony were Professor Rodney Howes, Head of School for the Faculty of the Built Environment, Professor Gerald Berbaum, Vice Chancellor of South Bank University and Adrian Perry, Principal of Lambeth College.

For further information please contact Norma Cook on 0171 815 7378 or Victor Mahalingham on 0171 815 7391



Hugh Try, Chairman of CITB, opens the IT Centre

KING'S CROSS PARTNERSHIP TRAINING PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

COTAC is undertaking a programme of architectural conservation and building crafts training activity for the King's Cross Partnership. The principal partners with COTAC are the Building Crafts College, Camden Training Centre and Lambeth College. The Building Crafts College was established over 100 years ago by the Carpenters' Livery Company. It specialises in advanced craft training in stonemasonry and fine woodworking, and also provides a range of construction NVQs. Camden Training Centre has a well established track record in training disadvantaged members of the community and a particular expertise in decorating and surface finishing at advanced craft level. While geographically removed from the Partnership area, Lambeth College provides a wide range of courses at basic and advanced craft levels, including fibrous plastering, lead-work, stained glass and tiling and has also piloted the very successful master craft course in building conservation. All three training institutions, taken together, are therefore able to provide courses from the foundation to advanced craft levels across the spectrum of traditional building trades.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The programme has three main aspects:

- A programme of community events, to increase the general public awareness of the career opportunities and demand for high-level skills in traditional building crafts, necessary for the conservation and refurbishment of historic buildings in the King's Cross area.
- A programme of practical workshops and "taster sessions" aimed at schools and adults returning to education, in order to generate further interest in traditional building crafts training.



- A series of formal training courses, beginning at a very basic, pre-vocational level, with the opportunity to progress, over time, to advanced crafts NVQ Level 3 and beyond.

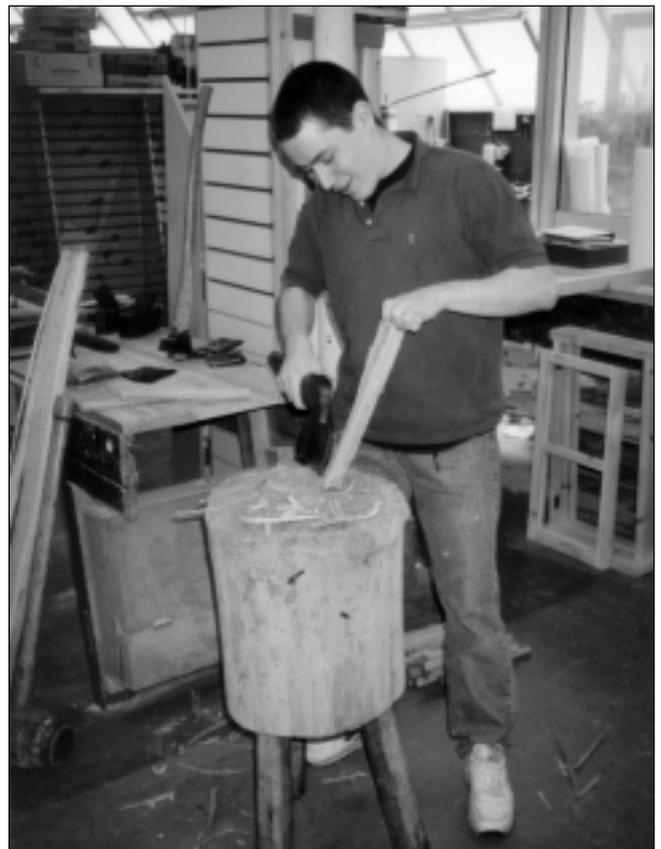
TRAINING PROGRESSION

Taster workshops

These will be half-day events in schools and community venues chosen to encourage maximum participation by all sections of the community in different parts of the Partnership area. These will include short, but simple audio visual presentations pitched at a basic level, aimed at stimulating interest in traditional building crafts, followed by simple demonstrations of craft skills and the opportunity for participants to try their hands.

Pre-vocational courses

These will provide approximately 80 hours training over 4–6 weeks to introduce students to a wider range of building crafts, to build confidence and allow them to make something with their own hands. The course will also provide an opportunity to assess key skills and to enable students to be guided towards an NVQ course best suited to



their personal interests and aptitude. Although modest in scope, these courses are intended to lead to City & Guilds Profiles of Achievement. (See box below)

FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING CRAFTS PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Based on City & Guilds 3791 Profile of Achievement
- 12 weeks, 16 hours per week
- Five stages:
 1. Introduction (1 week) initial review of previous experience and potential opportunities.
 - 2, 3, 4 Three consecutive craft stages (3 weeks each).
 5. Practical project stage (2 weeks) leading to a final review summary and action plan.

The three craft stages are introductions to wet, wood and decorative trades. These relate to corresponding NVQ 1 feeder courses, which would be the next stage in the progression, after the pre-vocational course.

The project stage enables students to explore further a craft area of their choice, leading to simple but tangible outcome – something that they have made for themselves. This is designed to boost confidence and generate the motivation to embark on subsequent training.

Basic craft training

Having completed the foundation course, students will be placed on the most appropriate NVQ course. In some cases, they will enrol on one of the basic skills' courses, such as woodwork or brickwork at NVQ Level 1 before progressing to a more specialist skill at Level 2. Alternatively, students could enrol on a multi-skill course, suitable for employment in general building maintenance or caretaking. NVQ Level 2 craft qualifications are available in decorative finishes, tiling, brickwork, plastering, lead-work, glazing, carpentry & joinery, and stonemasonry.

NVQ Level 3

Advanced craft qualifications are available at NVQ Level 3, but it is also intended to offer NVQ Level 3 building maintenance operations, and to develop a Level 3 qualification with particular emphasis on conservation work.

Diploma level

The Building Crafts College offers Diploma level courses in fine woodwork and stonemasonry, and Lambeth College runs a Master Craft course in building conservation.

On-site training

At all levels from NVQ 2 upwards, the project will need to identify on-site and live training experience, ideally linked to projects in the King's Cross Partnership area.

TRAINING TIME AND FUNDING

It is envisaged that the foundation and NVQ Levels 1 and 2 courses would need to be run on the 16-hour rule to enable unemployed students to remain in receipt of Job Seekers' Allowance. However, every effort will be made to place students at Level 2 on National Trainee-ship schemes, linked to work experience with a specific employer, in which case full-time training is possible and employers receive funding to pay wages. Having achieved NVQ Level 2, students will be guided into direct employment, with the option of attending higher-level craft training on a daily or a block-release basis. Some students may be signed up under Modern Apprenticeship or Construction Apprenticeship schemes.

NVQ courses and the pre-vocational, Profile of Achievement are eligible for FEFC funding. National Traineeships and the various apprenticeships can be funded by TEC/CITB.

LONGER TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Towards the end of the programme, it is envisaged that a sufficient number of local residents will have been trained, and have gained experience, at the higher levels of skill to enable the creation of some form of community enterprise trust. This could be capable of bidding for work on conservation and restoration projects in the King's Cross area and beyond. This enterprise could well be linked initially to a self-help conservation project creating workshop space and other facilities needed to enable craftsmen to bridge the gap between formal training and setting up their own businesses in the conservation sector of the building industry.



BURA AND THE URBAN TASK FORCE

The challenge of a “sense of place”

The Urban Task Force was given the job of identifying the causes of flight away from our cities and establishing procedures to reverse this trend whilst at the same time enunciating what would make cities better to live in. Its Report, published in June, has re-opened the discussion about what makes a “sense of place”. The Urban Villages Forum, now subsumed into the Prince’s Foundation, has spent much time debating this and the Prince of Wales himself sees this point as critical to sustainable regeneration.

Whilst the Task Force highlights and indeed details much that makes a city what it is, the Report does not and cannot come up with a panacea. The big question remains: what factors combine to make one place desirable to live, work and play, whilst another, perhaps mere streets away, is far less attractive?

Local people can often tell anyone willing to listen, the merits of one street against another. It is the process of regeneration that, all too often, fails to take this into account. Closer analysis of what is being demanded often reveals the importance of elements of heritage, even if in a broad sense of the word.

Statistics are beginning to show that the demand for housing stock will centre on the increase in single person households: may I go against those statistics by suggesting: “so what?” Even if the need is for single person households, this is often single person owning and not merely

occupying. The choice being made by those who have one is to live, work and play in areas with “character” – a subjective criterion often in the eye of the beholder. Nonetheless it can be seen that, for example in inner city areas of London, self evidently deprived under whole ranges of indices, it is still possible to find streets where houses sell quickly, for high values when they become available. Clearly, there is something about a sense of place that these homes seem to fulfil.

The issue therefore is how to identify what this is and to incorporate those findings into future regeneration strategy. This is a topic for wide-ranging debate. Here I intend to concentrate on one aspect of what I feel does indeed contribute to a sense of place.

After having hidden in the shadows of mainstream regeneration initiatives for quite a while, “heritage” has finally emerged, blinking into the light, now being a significant player in the regeneration agenda.

English Heritage, rightfully, would claim that “heritage” has always been a key factor in creating a sense of place – but it has not always been seen or understood as that by others. There is evidence right across the UK of some decisions taken with regard to our built environment that, with the benefit of 1990’s hindsight, beggar belief. Swathes of inner city Georgian and Victorian housing, offices, warehouses and industrial buildings, demolished in the rush to “modernise and improve”.



Launch of Chatterley Whitfield Project. From left to right: Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage; Councillor Ann Shaw, Chair of Planning Committee; Nicola Colley, Fegg Hayes Residents’ Association; Joan Walley, Stoke on Trent North MP; Peter Martin, Former Pit Worker; Margaret Mollart, Treasurer, Fegg Hayes Residents’ Association; David Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive BURA.

Many cities in the UK show evidence of such disappeared heritage. In the bulk of cases, what the war did not destroy, the planning and development regime that followed, did. The Buildings at Risk register, (recently launched at Chatterley Whitfield in Stoke on Trent, where BURA is helping to support the partnership trying to bring the coal-field site back to life) shows that the threat certainly has not gone away.

Where a built environment does remain, however, the evidence is that people, and work, are now returning as developers grasp this nettle of opportunity and bring our heritage back into use. The use chosen is also often of real interest and the buildings demonstrate their flexibility by readily lending themselves to beneficial re-use. There is often no sense of needing to have static internal structures; the “loft” and “live/work” explosion has shown that flexible use of space can be a major sale and use plus point.

Developers in Manchester, Liverpool and all major cities are now snapping up these older buildings in order to offer this new approach to living in the city. The main difference with these developers from those in the past is the wish to make these developments “work”, the wish to become part of the process that creates a sense of place. Clerkenwell, the London base for BURA, has seen itself transformed over recent times into prime inner city real estate. The problem here, as in so many other similar areas, is that the line

between gentrification and regeneration has been crossed. Almost no perceptible benefit accrues to the surrounding council estate population from the gentrification of the area.

This issue must ride high in the discussions surrounding the use of heritage as a tool for regeneration. Whilst many buildings clearly merit preservation at all costs, others must be seen as what they were – buildings to use and be used.

We need to ensure that the skills required to bring these buildings back into sustainable use exist in the local communities. We must ensure that re-use is seen within the context of the locality, too often a lovely local building has people parachuting in to see it and then disappearing away just as quickly.

The challenge for us erstwhile regenerators therefore is now to move on from the research, the strategic discussions and the proselytising. We need to progress towards recognising the place and role of heritage within regeneration, of ensuring that local considerations have adequate status, that flexible use is the mantra and that appropriate local skills exist to deliver the vision.

We need to identify what it is that contributes towards this “sense of place” and ensure that our regenerating actions enhance this, not destroy it.

David Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive, BURA



Redundant machinery at Chatterley Whitfield Colliery –

*The sheer scale of the place still amazes, with its four mine shafts,
towering winding gear, vast workshop sheds
and other buildings. It is, however, a site that has died.*

THE SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION AT LAMBETH COLLEGE

Building on the Past – Training for the Future

The School of Construction at Lambeth College is situated in Wandsworth Road close to Vauxhall in central London. Originally established in 1904 as the Brixton School of Building it is very aware of its heritage. The School offers one of the widest ranges of construction courses both for crafts and technicians.

The need for the training of construction craft workers has never been greater. However the opportunities for this training are now more restricted than ever before. In the context of our greater awareness of the need for regeneration of our towns and cities and the increase of activity in construction work, lack of skilled workers is now approaching crisis levels.

The ethos of training for the construction industry in Britain during the last decade has declined, as industry, for a number of reasons, has reduced the training of its workforce leading to a massive skills gap.

As over half the work of the construction industry in Britain now takes place on existing buildings, the need for workers trained in the skills appropriate to refurbishment, maintenance, restoration and conservation, as well as new construction work, becomes ever greater. As a consequence we have recently created a conservation division.

Whilst industry has greatly reduced its role in training, colleges are still recruiting large numbers of people onto construction courses. The School of Construction at Lambeth College recruits about 1400 students per year. It is however, very difficult to give trainees a full range of experience within a college that allows them to fully develop skills appropriate to the workplace. In addition the arrangement of work placements which may allow students to develop skills are difficult to arrange with companies. There is, however, no substitute for the proper practical training of craftspeople on site ideally within a building company.

The School of Construction at Lambeth College has recognised the need for work based experience as vital to the training of craft workers. In the absence of this within construction companies we have attempted to implement a number of initiatives to provide opportunities for some students.

Initially contact was made with a range of charity/community organisations that occupied properties in need of repair or restoration. For the cost of materials, groups of students carry out work on these properties developing both current and traditional skills. The conservation divi-



**LAMBETH
COLLEGE**

Sharing Success



sion within the School enables more advanced students under close supervision to carry out work on historic buildings such as the Old Kennington Law Courts and the reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre amongst others. We now have involvement in a number of building projects with over 200 students each year gaining valuable site experience in this way.

In developing our conservation training programme we now run discreet courses for a group of students, from various craft disciplines at NVQ levels 2 and 3, who work together on the restoration of an historic building whilst gaining accreditation towards their qualifications. Level 3 students on this programme will be accredited with optional con-

servation units.

The School wishes to become more responsive to the requirements of our industry and to this end we have established an Industry Forum to gain advice from companies and other industry bodies. Additional members would be very welcome.

Approaching the training in this way has led to the following benefits :

- Trainees gain from continuous on-site training and obtain real life experience working in occupied premises.
- Trainees get experience of working with other crafts.
- Many trainees find employment in jobs related to their craft training.
- Trainees gain experience of practising traditional craft skills in a real life situation.
- The college has developed a programme of project placements for many students which is ongoing with project supervision staff in post.
- The community has benefited from the work of the students with facilities created that might not be in existence without this programme.

Despite these initiatives the School recognises that the most effective training is still that given within construction companies, supported by a college. We offer a service that allows companies to train people for their needs, achieving

national qualifications and thus contributing to the stock of skilled workers in the industry. We welcome enquiries from companies who would like to take on trainees and because of our large numbers of students, we can often arrange for companies to take students who have already received some training.

The School offers training courses in the following areas:

**NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
AT LEVELS 1 , 2 AND 3 IN:**

- Bricklaying
- Plastering
- Wall & Floor Tiling
- Stone Masonry
- Mastic Asphalt
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Wood Cutting Machines
- Painting & Decorating
- Plumbing
- Glazing

AND AT LEVELS 3 & 4 IN:

- Site Inspection
- Building Maintenance

BTEC QUALIFICATIONS:

- Surveying – Higher National Certificate
- Construction – National Diploma
- GNVQ Construction – Intermediate
- Building – National Certificate
- Civil Engineering – National Certificate
- Town Planning – National Certificate
- Estate Management – National Certificate

CIOB:

- Site Management – Certificate and Diploma

**CITY & GUILDS QUALIFICATIONS AT LEVELS 1 , 2
AND 3:**

- Furniture Crafts
- Wood Carving
- Interior Design & Decoration
- Specialist Decorative Techniques
- Gilding
- Stained Glass
- Mastercrafts Diploma (level 4)
- Auto-CAD for construction (developed as part of the Centre for the Built Environment in partnership with the University of the South Bank)

SHORT COURSES

- Glazing and Stained Glass Techniques
- Stone Masonry
- Auto-CAD
- Fibrous Plastering Techniques
- Special Decorative Techniques
- Conservation and Restoration Methods

For a fuller description of training and qualification systems in the building industry please see the excellent article An Overview of Building Crafts Training Structures in the United Kingdom by John Taylor of the Building Crafts College – COTAC Newsletter 14, April 1999.

If any construction employers would be interested in recruiting trainees, placing an employee on one of our courses or require any other information about the work of the School, please contact Len Conway – Head of School: Tel: 0171 501 5478, Fax: 0171 501 5403, e-mail: lconway@lambethcollege.ac.uk

Len Conway, July 1999



The ceiling in the marble hall at Stowe (see article p. 8)

PROGRESS ON CONSERVATION ACCREDITATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

The last few months have seen important progress on several fronts.

NEW REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS ACCREDITED IN BUILDING CONSERVATION

English Heritage, Historic Scotland, CADW, and DOE Northern Ireland have all given encouragement to the new Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation (AABC Register), which has been set up with a grant from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. This Register has emerged from that which was being proposed by the RIBA Conservation Group before it became defunct. It has now “floated free” and is overseen by a newly formed company (ACCON Ltd). The ACCON Ltd Board will include representatives of the architectural institutes of the UK, the UK statutory bodies, specialised architectural and conservation societies, and the amenity societies to represent the public interest.

Membership of the Register is open to Architects registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) who can demonstrate experience and technical competence in the field of architectural conservation. There will be categories for practising and non-practising architects; the latter include those who may be unavailable for practice because they are working for statutory organisations or teaching. The initial assessment fee is £150, with an annual registration maintenance fee of £25. Members will be fully re-assessed every 5 years, at which time a further full application will be required.

Applications for membership of the Register are assessed with reference to the internationally recognised ICOMOS Training Guidelines, adopted at Colombo in 1993 i.e. :

“Conservation works should only be entrusted to persons competent in these specialist activities. Education and training for conservation should produce from a range of professionals, conservationists who are able to:

- a) read a monument, ensemble or site and identify its emotional, cultural and use significance;
- b) understand the history and technology of monuments, ensembles or sites in order to define their identity, plan for their conservation, and interpret the results of this research;
- c) understand the setting of a monument, ensemble or site, their contents and surroundings, in relation to other buildings, gardens or landscapes;
- d) find and absorb all available sources of information relevant to the monument, ensemble or site being studied;

- e) understand and analyse the behaviour of monuments, ensembles and sites as complex systems;
- f) diagnose intrinsic and extrinsic causes of decay as a basis for appropriate action;
- g) inspect and make reports intelligible to non-specialist readers of monuments, ensembles or sites, illustrated by graphic means such as sketches and photographs;
- h) know, understand and apply UNESCO conventions and recommendations, and ICOMOS and other recognised Charters, regulations and guidelines;
- i) make balanced judgements based on shared ethical principles, and accept responsibility for the long-term welfare of cultural heritage;
- j) recognise when advice must be sought and define the areas of need of study by different specialists, e.g. wall paintings, sculpture and objects of artistic and historic value, and/or studies of materials and systems;
- k) give expert advice on maintenance strategies, management policies and the policy framework for environmental protection and preservation of monuments, and their contents, and sites;
- l) document works executed and make same accessible;
- m) work in multi-disciplinary groups using sound methods;
- n) be able to work with inhabitants, administrators and planners to resolve conflicts and to develop conservation strategies appropriate to local needs, abilities and resources.”

Applicants for membership of the Register have to provide details of 5 projects with a commentary on the philosophy adopted relative to the ICOMOS criteria. The assessment is carried out by teams, comprising 2 architects experienced in conservation joined by an external assessor to represent the public interest.

The Register is overseen by a Supervisory Board representing the Architectural Institutes (RIBA, RIAS, RSUA, RSAW), Statutory Bodies (English Heritage, Historic Scotland, CADW, DOE Northern Ireland), Specialised Institutes etc (among whom the Institute of Historic Building Conservation is grouped with the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association, ASCHB, and the Cathedral Architects Association), the Public Interest (Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies, Council for the Care of Churches, Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England). RICS Conservation Group has a representative on the Board. The aim is for the Register to be a fairly close counterpart of the RICS accreditation scheme (RIAS in Scotland have their own scheme already).

An initial seminar of the Supervisory Board and Assessors was held in June. This highlighted a range of issues involved in the assessment process, and the need to consider more precise development of the standards to ensure credible criteria and quality control. It was clear even at this early stage that the information requirements and the assessment process provide a systematic basis for accreditation, which will be a great improvement on the present *ad hoc* or self-certified lists of architects working in the conservation field.

The success or failure of the Register will depend on whether it achieves the “critical mass” needed to enable it to become self-supporting. A membership application involves significant cost and effort. The major potential incentive is for architects working in the field to promote their skills in repair works. Conservation officers will see the immediate advantages of being able to direct owners of historic buildings towards professionals with the relevant specialist skills, in a far more systematic way than is possible at present.

Registered Architects interested in membership can obtain further details from: Harry Fairhurst, The Hon. Registrar, AABC Register, 33 Macclesfield Rd, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2AF, Tel: 01625 523784, Fax: 01625 548328.

The greatest future incentives for encouraging membership of the Register, and for raising standards of conservation work generally, lie in the financial clout wielded by the national grant-giving and client bodies. It looks as though this potential could soon be realised in Scotland:

SCOTS COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONAL BODY ACCREDITATION FOR LEAD PROFESSIONALS ON GRANT PROJECTS

The Historic Buildings Council for Scotland’s Annual report for 1997-1998 (published March 1999) highlighted key issues relating to the quality of grant work and the need for accreditation:

“PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

16. The question of the appropriate background and experience for the lead professional on grant-aided projects continues to be a cause for concern. Fundamental difficulties have been experienced in seeking to achieve the appropriate quality and standards in a number of Historic Building Grant Scheme cases. It is acknowledged that amongst professionals there is a lack of understanding of traditional materials and how to use them, as most undergraduate training focuses on new build and modern technology, materials and methods of construction. In recent years, however, there has been a number of positive developments both in education and training

in conservation and in professional accreditation and Continuous Professional Development. There has also been a growing recognition that building conservation work should be entrusted only to persons educated and trained to be competent in these specialist activities.

17. We welcomed these developments, and considered that the National Vocational Qualification Level 5: Conservation Consultancy framework represented an appropriate method of supporting the professional body accreditation methodologies for practitioners and of providing a structured Continuing Professional Development approach in architectural conservation. We also agreed, that within a 3 to 5-year period, *professional body accreditation should become a condition of grant* [my italics] for lead professionals working on Historic Building Repair Grant projects.”

This requirement for lead professionals on grant projects to be properly accredited is the most positive commitment yet made by the funding bodies to raising professional standards, and provides a clear financial incentive for individuals to seek accreditation. It has to be seen against the background of established accreditation arrangements (RIAS as well RICS) within Scotland. This progress in Scotland will hopefully blaze the trail for developments elsewhere, but no equivalent commitment has so far been forthcoming from English Heritage or the other funding bodies.

The Historic Building Council for Scotland’s report is also notable for its reference to the Level 5 NVQ/SVQ in Conservation Consultancy framework, as an appropriate basis for supporting accreditation methodologies. This qualification provides a national set of standards based directly on the ICOMOS Guidelines, and as such has ideal potential for taking the current developments forward on a more rigorous basis.

NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS NOW APPROVED

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) has approved the three higher level NVQs in Building Conservation [Level 5 Conservation Consultancy, Level 4 Controlling Conservation and Level 4 Building Site Management (Conservation)]. Now that the long wait for formal approval is over, COTAC and EdExcel (the awarding body) are working on the arrangements for delivering the new qualifications, in consultation with the professions and the universities. For more information see article by Richard Davies on page 11

*John Preston, Education Secretary
Institute of Historic Building Conservation*

RICS ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR CHARTERED SURVEYORS IN BUILDING CONSERVATION – An Overview

The RICS Accreditation scheme was set up in 1992 with a view to developing a list of chartered surveyors with substantial experience in all aspects of building conservation for the assistance of organisations involved in large scale or important conservation projects. Since its introduction the scheme has done much to reinforce this and is now recognised and respected throughout the industry.

Applicants are required to show their competence by submitting 5 projects, which demonstrate substantial experience and competence with regard to conservation of buildings and sites within the confines of their divisional expertise. In this context conservation relates to surveys, care, conservative repair or restoration of historic buildings or sites. Projects for alteration, modernisation or extension would not normally be considered applicable unless they included a large element of conservation.

The onus is on the applicant to prove his or her level of competence and if considered necessary to highlight the most relevant aspects contained within the supporting documentation provided for each project. Methods and approach to conservation should be based on currently accepted good practice as promoted by English Heritage and the relevant amenity societies. It costs £30 to apply for accreditation and a further £70 on registration.

The scheme has recently been extended to include a further two subordinate levels, **Appendices A and B**, for those with a recognised qualification in building conservation and those with an interest in the subject (see below). The accreditation register and its two appendices are then

circulated annually to the General Synod, English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic Scotland, CADW amongst others:

- i) Members with a record of knowledge in building conservation (Appendix A) applicable to members who have a qualification from a recognised building conservation course* or those who have applied for full accreditation and have narrowly failed to meet the criteria. There is a £15 charge for existing members of the Building Conservation Group
- ii) Members with an interest in building conservation (Appendix B) All RICS members of the Building Conservation Group qualify for Appendix B and their names will automatically be added to the list.

RICS members wishing to apply for accreditation or for inclusion under Appendix A should contact the Institute on 0171 222 7000.

* Architectural Association, London; Bournemouth University, School of the Built Environment; De Montfort University; College of Estate Management, Reading; School of Architecture, Heriot Watt University; Department of Continuing Development, University of Bristol; Department of Archaeology, University of York; School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University; School of Architecture, University of Plymouth; The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' Scholarship.

MORE ON-SITE TRAINING!

- **Despite reduced workload expectations, firms are still facing skills shortages in 1999.**
- **There is a new emphasis on upskilling the existing workforce with on-site assessment and training.**
- **A return to direct employment means a big shift in CITB levy rates.**
- **Grants policy is being fundamentally reviewed.**

A major expansion of site-based assessment and training and upskilling of the existing workforce is in view as construction approaches the end of the millennium.

Despite a downgrading of output forecasts, contractors are said still to be facing a widespread and sometimes serious gap between skills supply and demand. In parallel, there is a growing call for a better quality workforce with accredited and certified skills. And a return to direct employment spells a substantial shift in the balance of the present levy system of funding training.

Positive signs at the beginning of the year included a near-record intake of young, new entrant trainees at the

Construction Industry Training Board's National Construction College at Bircham Newton. This saw a 25 per cent increase for courses such as plant mechanics, interior systems, and scaffolding. It is matched by a similar 25 per cent increase in entrants for engineering construction's national apprenticeship scheme together with a 36 per cent increase in the uptake of the sector's skills development programme.

Building and civil engineering employers are also hoping that its new, unified national apprenticeship scheme and the relaunched Bircham Newton college will aid recruitment and raise the industry profile.

Nevertheless, despite talk of a recession, latest employment and training forecasts from the CITB suggest that construction will still require about 74,000 extra workers in 1999 (see table p. 24 for breakdown). This compares with the Board's forecast of a year ago when it suggested that an extra 84,000 people would be needed this year. It comes amid economic expectations of an overall construction output growth in 1999 of just 0.5 per cent, rising to 1.5 per cent in the year 2000. The earlier manpower prediction was based on a 2.9 per cent output growth forecast.

The Training Board says it will be managers who are most in demand in the East Midlands and the Southeast (excluding London). Elsewhere the greatest need will be for carpenters and joiners.

The quantity of formal training undergone to meet these needs is expected to fall short of the requirement in almost every area, but significantly in the specialist building and civil engineering trades.

Improved training figures from engineering construction equally have to be seen in the context of the specialist sector's reliance on a Dads' Army of manual operatives who are close to retirement age. For example, one in five rigger-erectors is over the age of 55 and 40 per cent are over 50. The engineering construction training board's skills data bank records 19 people over the age of 70 who are still officially registered and, presumably, still working.

TIMEBOMB

Meanwhile, the so-called demographic timebomb has exploded. A sharp decline in the birth rate means the pool of potential industry young recruits is correspondingly diminished. And this has been accentuated by the tendency for more and more youngsters to stay on in full-time education.

Adding still further to construction's skill supply problems is the unacceptably high dropout rate among new entrant trainees. By last summer it was reported to the CITB that the overall dropout rate was around 45 per cent. This is reckoned to be costing at least £7 million a year in wasted resources.

The Board is hoping to cut this figure to 30 per cent and CITB chairman Hugh Try is optimistic, stating that he thinks the drop-out rate is going to improve as the selection process over the past year has been to much more stringent standards. He added that the big message for 1999 is the

new scheme for on-site assessment and training which is very important both for providing experienced operatives with formal qualifications and for upskilling. It links in with the industry's skills registration scheme and client pressure for accreditation of operative skills plus the demands of both Latham and Egan reports for better quality together with Government moves to eradicate the cowboys.

A pilot on-site skills assessment and training programme designed to provide a wide range of existing, experienced operatives with formal qualifications has already been hailed "a great success with significant potential".

The pilot involved 14 companies and 158 trainees in nine occupational areas leading to formal qualifications at NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Levels 2 and 3. Much of the programme was concerned with turning existing skills, everyday work practice and experience into evidence that can be used for NVQ assessment with the provision for on-site training to fill in any knowledge gaps.

The Training Board is building on the pilot to turn out a further 1,750 qualified operatives this year. In the longer term, within the next five years it foresees up to 3,000 contractors becoming involved in a scheme, which could produce up to 12,500 formally qualified personnel per year.

The report on the pilot concludes that on-site assessment and training offers the industry significant possibilities and opportunities. To succeed it will need to become a core component of the CITB's strategy with appropriate development, resourcing, and promotion. The pilot's success has been very timely with both Government and clients demanding a significant change in employer attitudes and the quantity and quality of training.

Keith Aldis, Director of Training at the Construction Confederation notes that the off-site training conventions of the past couple of decades are now viewed as being not universally cost-effective or appropriate.

The Confederation is pressing for a broader-based approach to training, which extends beyond the traditional emphasis on the craft trades. In this respect, it has initiated a major drive to extend Investor in People accreditation among its members.

Electrical contractors launched their own scheme for site-based accreditation of existing skills and top-up training a couple of years ago. Again there is also a fresh emphasis on site-based training in the sector's updated national training scheme which is being introduced in 1999. The key feature here is a revised NVQ level 3 which is fundamentally different as it relies on the continuous assessment of evidence which is collected in the workplace. There is no doubt that this will involve the employer more in the training process and contrasts with the existing NVQ which relies on end-testing against evidence mainly collected either at college or test centres under simulated conditions.

Aside from the quantity and quality of training, funding remains a crucial issue. Here, one of the major immediate factors is the switch back to direct employment and the

impact this will have on the shape of the CITB levy. A training board working party has already concluded that the levy should continue to be based on payroll. This is the Government's favoured option (although building specialists are still arguing for a levy based on materials).

The big decline in levy income from labour-only sub-contracting payments, however, means a concomitant rise in the PAYE (Pay as You Earn) rates which is going to be painful for some. Other employers will see their levy payments fall dramatically. Unfortunately, the contractors who will be hardest hit are those who have retained a directly employed labour force. And these have generally proved the biggest supporters of training.

Hugh Try, CITB Chairman, is at pains to stress that current levy plans are designed to maintain the current total level of income and aim to raise the same amount of money so there are bound to be both winners and losers. He notes that it would easily be possible to usefully spend a good deal more money if the industry is capable of doing so but that industry has to decide how much it is prepared to spend. This may not be much more at the moment as margins are still under pressure and the levy itself isn't the end of the story as employers are still picking up other training costs that are not grant aided.

TRAINING GRANTS

Firms are at least being offered the potential carrot of an improved training grants system. For some years just minor variations to the grants policy have been made. A grants review working party has had a couple of meetings in an effort to start with a blank sheet of paper and see if there is a better way of offering incentives to train. Plans are to get the shape of a new grants scheme ready this summer for approval in the autumn.

Finally, the Government demands of both the CITB and the broader industry include a more strategic approach to training as a whole.

In response, the CITB and several other specialist sector training bodies have established a strategic forum. Although at an early stage, it has so far set up a qualifications and standards panel that will interface with the powerful national Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, since it is vital to feed in good quality advice to the authority, which approves NVQs. It is also pulling together labour market information on an industry-wide basis in order to assist with deciding training strategy.

Just what this initiative produces remains to be seen but reliable and comprehensive construction labour market information would certainly be immensely useful. For too long construction employment data has remained largely a guessing game so it is high time something better was available on which to found a rational overall training strategy.

HOW THE LEVY BALANCE WILL CHANGE

The extent and speed of the return to direct employment has meant a radical recasting of the CITB training levy rates.

In 1997, the levy on labour-only subcontract (LOSC) payments accounted for four-fifths of the Board's total levy income with the levy on directly employed (PAYE) operatives contributing just one-fifth. By last Spring the Board was already recording a 30 per cent swing back to PAYE. This is set to accelerate the lead up to August changes in the self-employment tax rules. In order to maintain its income the Training Board has found it necessary to more than double the PAYE levy rate over the next five years in staged moves towards creating a unitary levy rate.

THE ESTIMATE OF EXTRA WORKERS NEEDED THIS YEAR	
Managers	7,900
Clerical	6,200
Professionals	1,900
Technicians	2,000
Carpenters/joiners	10,100
Bricklayers	6,000
Painters	4,500
Plasterers	2,300
Roofers	2,400
Floorers	1,100
Glaziers	400

OTHER SPECIALISTS	
Building operatives	1,800
Scaffolders	1,000
Plant operatives	2,200
Plant mechanics	1,100
Steel erectors	700
Other civil ops	4,400
Maintenance	1,200
Electricians	7,000
Plumbers	5,600

PROFESSIONALISING UNIVERSITY TEACHING

THE BACKGROUND

The academic profession, involving both teaching and research, traditionally operates in a different regulatory and control framework from many other professions. In the area of research the long-standing system of peer review was modified by the introduction, about a decade ago, of a formal rating system run by the Higher Education Funding Councils (the Research Assessment Exercise, RAE). However, the only external regulation of teaching was when other professional bodies or agencies required it; this situation is about to change. A number of recommendations of the Dearing Report (Higher Education in the Learning Society, 1997) were concerned with giving more thought to learning and seeing the student as the centre of the learning process; indeed, the Report uses the term 'facilitators of student learning' rather than lecturers.

Two bodies, the Institute for Learning and Teaching (the ILT) and the Quality Assurance Agency (the QAA), are being established to implement and oversee procedures to ensure the quality of HE teaching. The need for change is driven by a combination of several factors: professional accountability; the sheer scale and diversity of HE today; the concern of society, particularly students and parents, about value-for-money. All of these have changed the context of HE and, as a consequence, the approach to teaching.

THE STAFF

The ILT's function is to ensure that staff are properly prepared for teaching in HE. Under its supervision, universities are setting up a common system for training and updating staff. The training is likely to involve about 50 taught hours and some 350 hours to produce a portfolio of work demonstrating appropriate skills. It is important to take full account of the whole range of activities involved in supporting student learning, not just traditional ones like lectures and laboratory classes but other modes, including various forms of computer assisted learning. There will be a system of mentors for inexperienced staff.

The research pressures exerted by the RAE and career progression have tended to push staff time away from teaching activities. If this is to be reversed, proper account must be taken of staff time spent on teaching and credit must be given for it. Also, careful thought must be given to the role and rewards of the mentors. Overall, there is a need to look at the good use of staff time across the whole spectrum of activities involved in teaching and research, and their administration.

THE INSTITUTION

The QAA, based in Gloucester, is the 'OFSTED' of the university system. Its function is to review the quality of pro-

vision for each subject in each university. The inspection process is based on several elements: curriculum design; the nature and quality of teaching delivery; student progression and loss through the course; support and guidance for students; learning resources, e.g. library and computer provision. The inevitable league tables compiled from the published results, like all such tables, can be misleading because they present only a small part of the picture.

At present the system is self-referential, with departments being judged against what they say they set out to do, but a new system is to be introduced with the objective of achieving greater commonality of standards between institutions. This will involve a number of changes, for example making course contents more specific. What kind of system can ensure consistency of standards? It will need a series of benchmarks, not just of knowledge but of skills and qualities in some cases, for each degree programme. They should provide a basic statement of what a graduate should be able to do, and what distinguishes one class of degree from another. Pilot schemes are being run in chemistry, law and history, and others will follow.

As it is run today, the system of review is very burdensome and intensive, involving a large number of documents, many hours of staff time and a lot of pressure. It may be possible to replace it with a system of external auditors who participate in the normal internal five-year subject reviews. However, this would not necessarily result in a significant reduction of the workload involved. Despite complaints about the present system, it is interesting to see the positive impact it has had on the attention departments pay to matters related to teaching. What is needed is a system which does the job but is not too oppressive.

THE DISCUSSION

Contributions and questions were invited from members present; the response showed that there was great interest in the topic. Several speakers, while recognising that attention to quality in HE is important, expressed serious doubts about whether the growing amount of external control would have a significant impact on the quality of teaching. Points were also made about a number of other factors that adversely affect the student learning experience and the difficulties of assessing their relative importance. Among those mentioned were: the growing financial burdens on students and their families; the previous education, motivation and expectations of students; the large increase in student-staff ratios and class sizes.

This talk was given by Professor Philip Gummert, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University to a meeting at the University earlier this year.

THE CONSUMER STUDENT

Are universities part of the service sector, now that students have to pay?

The words 'consumers' and 'education' are something of a dichotomy. The concepts of markets, service contracts and customer care, just a few years ago would have been unheard of in the context of qualifications.

Students used to be educated, have their minds expanded, absorb information and other such passive terms. Worthy academics who knew what students needed to know and imparted that information as they saw fit were the means by which the future skilled workforces and thinkers were groomed. Today we are all consumers – of goods, services, entertainment, holidays, and leisure – so why not education?

The consumer or customer student is already with us. Students select the right pathway, course, qualification and experience to proceed to greater things. They choose from more than 100 university 'brands' and a multitude of courses, study options and locations – including their own homes and offices. In addition, welfare, accommodation, leisure facilities and many other factors influence choice, but there are also issues of reputation that increasingly affect students and the parents, friends and teachers who in turn influence students.

And now there is the added dimension of finance to consider. The introduction of tuition fees in autumn 1998 has made people think about paying for what was previously almost considered a right. Of course, it was not actually free: parts of costs were from grants, much from repayable loans and ultimately the taxpayer covered the bulk. But now students are paying directly.

In the United States, students have been paying for higher education for some time. There, students demand consumer rights, which they will fight for when necessary. There has been litigation from students who claim not to have received what was promised by their institution and in the UK legal companies are already jumping on the insurance-against-litigation bandwagon. The modern student knows that the seller, the university, needs their business to meet its statutory and financial obligations. There has been ample coverage of universities' lack of finances, and activities such as Clearing, the period in which universities with vacancies try to recruit students looking for places after A-level results and just before the term starts, receive much publicity.

So the modern consumer student increasingly demands value-added services and high standards of delivery to differentiate between institutions and to justify the expense of

commitment. Course X may well be offered by several institutions, so what are the benefits of selecting it over another and what are the obligations (stated or otherwise) of the institution to deliver?

Consumer pressure has brought marketing to education as the range of services has snowballed. There are many institutions competing for the chance to influence our future workforce and develop their research interests. This has created the need for universities to understand and meet the needs of their markets.

Only a few years ago, knowledge of why students took certain courses, what they liked and disliked, who they were and where they came from was sparse, and often in one person's head. This information became a necessity as the competition intensified to attract and retain the best students – those most likely to succeed.

Developing new courses is also a marketing art form. If customers (students, employers, industry) don't want a course, the best academic rationale is hard pushed to dedicate scarce resources to supporting education for a specialist minority. As with any business, the justification may well not be finance-related, but the books still have to balance at the end of the year.

There are obvious advantages for students operating in this market. The emphasis is on universities to deliver, meet needs, establish high standards of service and check progress against these criteria spanning the whole student experience rather than just the educational programme. The implications for universities extend even further. If the student is 'king' then usually investment in attracting and retaining them is essential. This requires both expertise and hard cash.

In future, there will be further increases in the appointment of marketing specialists – traditional universities are following the modern trend as we speak – and the employment of customer services experts.

The challenge is for higher education, a relative newcomer to this field, to embrace and support consumerism. Students must be viewed as a catalyst for improving standards and services rather than as a threat to protected territory.

*Marianne Harris-Bridge, Director of Marketing
De Montfort University*

Reproduced from the Winter 98 edition of *This Quarter* magazine.

BUSINESS INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

For many years, business and industry have been encouraged by the Government to support innovation in education. This has manifested itself in a variety of ways, the common theme being the desire to provide education that prepares young people for work and life beyond school.

School-industry links have different but complementary emphases: education about the workplace (knowledge); education for the workplace (values and attitudes); education in or through the workplace (a resource/context for learning).

While the thrust in each of these areas is to make resources and activities meet the demands of business and industry, the competing demand is that of curriculum fit.

There has been a significant increase recently in the variety of business-sponsored materials and activities in schools. Many agree that high-quality materials provide added value for schools through a wide range of information and resources for use in the classroom, whilst others see it as an exploitation of young people and the education system.

Teachers and other practitioners agree that it is essential that these kinds of resources need to reach the high quality, balance and integrity expected of all educational resources. The problem occurs in deciding who defines what is meant by quality. In an educational environment where financial resources are being continually squeezed and the need for quality resources increases, it is easy to see why there is a need for guidance to be available to schools so that they are able to make judgements about quality and added value.

The added value for businesses is clear: they can increase consumer awareness of the company and its brands. Many companies operating in this area are acutely aware of the need for sponsored materials to have integrity, while still achieving the desired outcomes. The possible cause for concern is new activities associated with business and schools, which may be no more than basic marketing and have little or no educational value. Examples can be found that demonstrate both extremes, but in reality most resources are somewhere in between.

Companies approach their involvement in education at different levels: the role they play at a community level; the responsibility that they acknowledge in contributing to education; innovation; and putting across a particular message. These sort of activities often fall within public or community relations departments, and can be viewed as



Sheila McKecknie on the role of business in education.

putting something back into the community as a whole.

At the other end of the spectrum is the need for every company to ensure its share of the market. For many companies the school-age market is relatively untapped. Although youngsters are targeted outside school, schools have remained a relatively advert-free zone. There are different views about the acceptability of advertising and marketing in schools in all their manifestations and the issues have aroused considerable debate. Resources and activities now available to schools through business sponsorship span sponsored gifts, information packs for teachers, videos, CDs, posters for the classroom and sponsored use of notice-boards and hoardings.

Many companies, including the producers of such materials, are looking for guidance in their production.

The National Consumer Council Sponsorship in School: Good Practice Guidelines 1996 is a checklist produced for teachers, parents and governors to raise awareness of the issues as decision makers and to assist in developing a consistent policy for dealing with a variety of sponsored materials and activities. It includes questions to ask, such as whether the educational value outweighs any marketing message and if the subject is balanced and up-to-date.

The research carried out by Consumers' Association used the guidelines to examine the issues in the debate. In general, teachers felt that the guidelines were essential, but the issues arising from them needed to be more widely debated. Teachers felt ill at ease with heavily branded products because of their potential to pressure pupils and parents into purchasing. They therefore felt it crucial that all pupils are taught about the purpose of advertising and marketing so that they can distinguish between different types of information for different purposes. Finally, they felt that companies involved in producing such materials for schools should act responsibly, making sure that all materials are of real educational value.

It is impossible to predict accurately what the future may bring. Agreements between commercial TV companies and schools in America in exchange for resources illustrate how quickly commercial activity can dominate in the classroom.

The production of guidelines and the outcomes of the project will be a significant help to schools in making decisions about how to choose and use resources. This level of awareness needs to be more widespread and will drive up the production of quality resources and negate the need for schools to be involved in financially desirable but, from a

consumer point of view, problematic activities.

It is clear that well thought out materials and activities sponsored by business add value to the taught curriculum. It is also clear that there is a need to discriminate between those resources and activities that add value and those that do little to improve the quality of what goes on in classrooms but provide resources for schools. The question for

schools is how far do you want to go and at what cost?

The Sound Bite above is the outline of a speech delivered on 19 November 1998 by Sheila McKechnie at a conference entitled *Education or Exploitation? – the Role of Business Involvement in Education*. Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF.

PROFIT FROM THE WEB?

In 1993, there were less than 100 websites. Today, it is estimated there are approximately 120 million Internet users and more than 1.25 million websites, containing over 66 million pages of information. Is this growing market just waiting to be exploited?

During the last five years, the Internet and particularly the World Wide Web, has created almost unthinkable improvements in access to information and opportunities for trade. It is easy to read newspapers from Australia, Russia and almost anywhere else in the world on the day they are printed. For many people the information available at websites is overcoming the everyday frustrations of making telephone calls to find out train departure times or surmounting the problems of not having the A to Z or road map for the city or town you are visiting. Well-known high street shops such as Tesco, Gap and Waterstones have gone on-line, and on-line stores with no high-street presence, such as Amazon.com and CDNow, have been created. It is estimated that nearly 10% of Internet sites are commercial operations. As a result of the prolific increase in Internet users and electronic commerce, some commentators have put forward amazing forecasts for future growth.

The highest, and certainly the most outrageous, say that a billion people will be using the Internet in 2000 and more than £125 billion of world trade will be transacted using the Internet. It is sobering to remember that although there are many highly publicised successes, there is an equally long list of less-publicised failures. Most surveys still report that less than one in two or one in three electronic commerce sites are profitable.

The International Electronic Commerce Centre (IECO) at De Montfort University has been examining these forecasts. The key concerns and opportunities for users and on-line stores can be highlighted by considering the process that anyone attempting to buy something on-line will have encountered.

The speed of response for most users is slow; it is difficult to find what you want and there are hesitations and pangs of doubt as you type in a credit card number. The potential for electronic commerce is considerable, but improvements are required to overcome all three of these problems.

Research undertaken by the International Electronic

Commerce Centre has highlighted that many of the solutions being introduced are overcoming problems and changing the ways in which trade is undertaken. This impact is not limited to on-line stores – the impact on terrestrial shops and services could be equally dramatic.

Speed of information flow has always been a problem. This is probably the easiest issue to overcome, as technological improvements are being developed apace. Connection speeds are being boosted through the development of faster modems, the introduction of ISDN telephone links and improvements in the backbone of interconnections linking Internet service providers.

Major obstacles identified in all studies of electronic commerce are security concerns about using credit cards and the absence of universally accepted and secure Internet payment systems. However, in the last two years more than 35 Internet payment systems have been proposed.

Three systems are currently in use on a trial basis in the UK. Mondex, in Swindon, and VisaCash, in Leeds, can be used in shops and banks participating in the trial as well as on the Internet. The third, BarclayCoin, can only be used on the Internet. Most systems use smart cards that have an embedded microchip, which functions as a microcomputer. This provides a high level of security and far greater protection than traditional credit cards for both users and vendors.

Importantly, all three systems require pre-payment by users to obtain or increase the level of credit or money on the cards. This is different to credit cards, where users are only required to make a payment four to six weeks after they have made a purchase. This delay results in high overheads for the credit card issuer, which must be recovered from the vendor in the form of a commission on purchases.

The pre-paid nature of the Internet payment systems being developed means that overheads for the issuer are minimal. This should allow very low, or even zero, commission charges to vendors and micro-transactions of far lower value than is currently possible using credit cards.

Problems associated with making small charges (perhaps just a few pence) for access to information on websites, such as newspapers and bulletin boards, could be coming to an end. Indeed, some forecasters have predicted that the use of Internet payment systems based on smart card readers will become as common as CD-ROM drives.

When trading on the Internet commenced, many observers suggested that this new method of communication would enable buyers to purchase directly from producers. They suggested this would reduce the cost of products for consumers and raise profit levels for suppliers because the mark-up and co-ordination costs imposed by wholesalers, agents and retailers could be bypassed. Sadly, from consumers' (and suppliers') viewpoints, one of the biggest difficulties encountered in trying to buy something on the Internet is finding a particular product or service. The lack of refinement of current Internet search engines makes it difficult for purchasers to find suppliers. It is usually relatively simple to find suppliers of standard products that are easy to describe, such as books, CDs or videos, and prices for these items are often cheaper than those available in the high street. But products that are more complex to describe can be difficult or impossible to find.

This problem is equally difficult for those supplying goods or services. On the Internet, information about a product or service has to replace the item itself. This information must replace touch, taste, smell, and in most cases sight and hearing as well. Sales of products over the Internet that generally need more than two senses to appreciate them, such as the look and feel of clothing, are likely to be limited. New trading processes are emerging that provide shoppers with better access to product information provided by on-line stores.

Improved access to information is provided by a new group of intermediaries on the Internet, called aggregators. They provide almost immediate access to relevant product information, relieving purchasers of the tremendous effort of gathering information from numerous, often obscure, on-line suppliers.

Some aggregators work in partnership with on-line suppliers to provide an on-line mall or marketplace. Excite, the search engine site, is one of the best-developed sites. It has relationships with numerous on-line suppliers, which provide almost anything, including flowers, tea, wine and fragrances. Such other aggregators as BargainFinder search the catalogues of numerous on-line stores throughout the world and report the availability and price of the selected product. BargainFinder specialises in providing information about CDs; other aggregators of this type also specialise in single product categories. Users enter the name of the product (CD title and group, in the case of BargainFinder) and the aggregator reports on the availability and price of the CD and provides a direct link to the stores so that the

item can be purchased.

Although exceedingly useful to purchasers, aggregators could have a detrimental effect on vendors. They increase competition for the providers of standard goods or services, such as books, CDs, financial services and flight information, where products can be easily described. Aggregators will be able to provide potential purchasers of these products with a stark price-oriented, basis for comparison of one company's offerings with numerous other on-line suppliers. The effect of this level of information availability, which could take many hours or days to collect in the terrestrial world, could impact on the competitiveness of both terrestrial and Internet suppliers.

Some amazing statistics have been put forward for growth of the Internet and the World Wide Web. But in the United States, where the Internet was welcomed earlier, there is evidence of a slowdown in the number of new users and a relative decline in the number of purchases made by new users. It is evident that the United States may be reaching a ceiling in the number of users and purchasers using the Internet. A similar ceiling will probably be reached in other countries as their on-line markets mature. However, expansion will continue in the future as students and school children that have used the Internet during their education maintain access via connections from their home or workplace.

Many of those developing Internet technologies or providing access to the Net have a vested interest in the real or perceived expansion of electronic commerce. Most forecasts of prodigious growth during the next five years are based on extrapolating earlier rapid growth trends. In the short term, the quantitative impact of electronic commerce is likely to be limited. IECC predictions suggest the amount of on-line shopping completed over the Internet by 2000 is unlikely to exceed the current trade of the two largest mail order companies in the United States. However, new developments and trading methods developed on the Internet are already having a significant impact in industries where products or services are particularly suited to electronic commerce. All businesses need to carefully evaluate the impact that the Internet will have on their operations.

Paul Foley is Professor of Business Development at De Montfort University's Faculty of Business and Law and director of the newly established International Electronic Commerce Centre. He has undertaken comparative research on the use of the Internet by businesses in Australia, USA and the UK and has been a programme committee member of several international Internet conferences. Paul has undertaken funded research on new technologies from governments, businesses and universities throughout the world. Tel: 0116 257 7212. Reproduced from the Winter issue of *This Quarter*.

CONSTRUCTION ORDERS IMPROVE

According to the DETR Information Bulletin, the March and April 1999 provisional estimates for orders for new construction show a significant recovery from those of the previous three months. In current prices the provisional estimate for the total value of new orders in March is £2695 million and for April is £2229 million. Estimates for November 1998 to February 1999 have been revised to take account of late returns and are published for the first time.

A quarterly comparison shows a fall in new orders between the third and fourth quarters of 1998 of five per cent and a fall of just one per cent between the fourth quarter of 1998 and the first quarter of 1999. Comparison year on year shows the fourth quarter 1998 total up 11 per cent on the previous year; the first quarter 1999 is down just three per cent on last year's estimate.

The total volume of new orders received by contractors for construction work in Great Britain in the three months February 1999 to April 1999 was three per cent higher compared with the three months November 1998 to January 1999 and was unchanged compared with the three

months February 1998 to April 1998.

New orders in the private housing sector in the three months February 1999 to April 1999 were 17 per cent higher compared with the previous three months, but were 14 per cent lower than in the corresponding period a year ago. Public housing and housing association orders in the latest three months were 26 per cent higher compared with the previous three months but were eight per cent lower than in the same period a year earlier. Public non-housing orders (excluding infrastructure) in the latest three months were four per cent lower compared with the previous three months, but were 19 per cent higher compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Private industrial orders in the latest three months were nine per cent lower compared with the previous three months and were 16 per cent lower compared with the same period a year ago. Private commercial orders in the latest three months were nine per cent higher compared with the previous three months and were ten per cent higher than in the corresponding period a year ago.

A CHANCE TO RE-ARM THE VENUS DE MILO

A natural alternative that will save sculpture from perils of time and chemicals

HOW IT WORKS

Solutions of calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate, when exposed to warm streams of carbon dioxide, produce rapid crystal growth. The process can be used to regenerate and protect marble.

A saturated solution of calcium hydroxide in distilled water is applied to the surface with a spray gun. The treated area is exposed to carbon dioxide gas at room temperature until the surface dries. This is repeated five times.

Calcium carbonate suspended in water is sprayed onto the surface. It is again dried at room temperature and the process repeated five times before calcium hydroxide is reapplied.

An even layer of stearic acid in water is sprayed onto the surface. This prevents water from soaking into the marble, but allows the marble to dry out by 'breathing' water vapour.

Scientists have developed a technique for 'growing

marble' that will revolutionise the restoration of sculpture. Just as doctors can recreate body parts, so art surgeons could enable the Venus de Milo to grow back her arms, or the British Museum's reclining Dionysus to find his feet and hands again.

Marble – a limestone subjected to volcanic pressure – takes millions of years to form but the scientists have found a way to grow marble crystals within two to four minutes. The technique, which is easily applied, can replicate with precision the original stone. While scientists have cultivated human cells from which they can clone an individual, the art world could reproduce entire copies of sculptures.

The possibilities are enormous: as well as replacing sculptural features lost or eroded over the centuries, the public could be allowed to touch precise copies of works that are too delicate to be seen in anything other than dim light and through a glass case. It could be used to eradicate graffiti and to fill cracks in sculptures such as The Arch, Henry Moore's majestic abstract in Kensington Gardens, which have long required attention.

The renowned conservation centre of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM), which

has won awards, primarily for research into laser technology, is collaborating with Loughborough University scientists in a project that will transform conservation techniques.

John Larson, the NMGM head of sculpture conservation, said: "This research has provided us with an exciting technique for preserving marble that is chemically compatible with the original, allows stone to breathe, does not alter its colour and also allows for retreatment."

He said that when marble degraded because of pollution it became "sugary". Researchers are working on a 2,000-year old Roman head, its nose and chin lost and its base crumbling. It has become a "mass of sugar" inside the skin. "You can't touch it without bits crumbling away," Mr Larson said. Until now restorers have tried to halt such deterioration with synthetic resins – acrylics or plastics that can harden or consolidate the most severely weathered sculpture. That has, however, been a temporary and expensive measure. Within 15 years the surface loss and degradation begins again. More seriously, the plastic cannot be removed because it has seeped into the material, and resins often cause a darkening of the surface.

Resin blocks internal pores so that a second application may have little effect or even damage the sculpture. There have been cases in Italy where resins form a gel in the stone; when a fresh application was put in it caused the gel to swell and the sculptures to expand and crack.

Mr Larson said: "One argument that has become important is the ethical one. By saturating a sculpture with a synthetic resin, conservators can be accused of destroying the integrity of the object by turning it into a block of plastic."

The new technique was borrowed from industry, which grows diamonds and pure crystals required for industrial processing. Loughborough and the NMGM discovered that a combination of limewater, marble crystal and water sprayed on to a sculpture was absorbed deep into the marble. Warm carbon dioxide gas produced crystals indistinguishable from the original in a form of 'microscopic welding'.

David Jacobson, a sculptor who works in stone, likened the technique to 'growing skin to help burns'. He said that restoration of pieces such as Moore's *The Arch* was extremely complex because they had to be dismantled and removed from the site. The new technique meant that repairs could be done on site.

The scientists and restorers are designing equipment that can be used up a scaffold, allowing restorers to spray the solutions on to the sides of cathedrals and churches. They are also working on technology that, with the help of scanned three-dimensional images, will extend to bronze



A new technique will make it possible to grow replacement limbs for statues.

sculpture, building up a work from metal powder and doing away with moulds. Mr Larson said that turbine blades were already being made in that way.

"The technology is incredibly exciting," he said. But he acknowledged that forgers were likely to agree with him. "As a national museums conservator, I have to verify things. If I didn't know this technology and understand it, I wouldn't know if a £500,000 to £1 million sculpture could have been produced in Taiwan last week. A lot of museums are foolish in not taking an interest in technology. Forgers will become incredibly sophisticated."

The NMGM conservation centre is open 360 days a year. On March 18 it demonstrated its laser techniques as part of the National Week of Science, Engineering and Technology. Information is available on 0151-478-4999.

BARN-AGAIN BUSINESSES

The Rural Property Database helps match unused farm buildings to tenants

Take the growing numbers of those living out of town and who'd jump at the chance to base their work, or start a business, closer to home. Then throw in all the landowners and farmers who'd welcome the chance to utilise and earn cash or income from their redundant farm buildings.

Stirring this pot is the revised PPG – which encourages planning authorities to look favourably on the conversion of such buildings to business or light industrial use.

Yet despite these demand factors, rural surveyors find it hard to exploit the potential of these opportunities. Small quantities of isolated, often undeveloped business space offering low returns on letting office space and which rarely justifies the time and costs involved has been a problem. Marketing in the past has largely been by word of mouth, supported by limited advertising.

So the creation of a mechanism to link landowners and farmers with potential tenants – the Rural Property Database (RPD) – has been warmly welcomed by rural property owners, business people and their advisers. Piloted in Hereford and Worcestershire over three years by Business Link, the government-sponsored information agency, the RPD has recently been expanded to an England-wide service.

Most farmers were opting, if anything, for residential conversion – not only as the most lucrative route but as the one easiest to manage from their point of view. For commercial conversion, there appeared far more hurdles to overcome with regard to planning along with finding the tenant and setting the rent.

The Country Landowners Association together with Business Link, which agreed to fund the hardware and software, mailed out information to 1,800 members in the region with 80 responding. Three-and-a-half years later, the database lists around 150 properties and draws 40 enquiries a month.

Business Link has established itself over that period, and was keen to take the initiative nation-wide. Although an obvious vehicle for advertising a converted property, the RPD is unusual, because it also tests the waters for unconverted premises. The owner has choice of agent or adviser and this is often farming estate's own agent, but a national network of commercial and land agents willing to offer free initial site visits and registration of the property is growing.

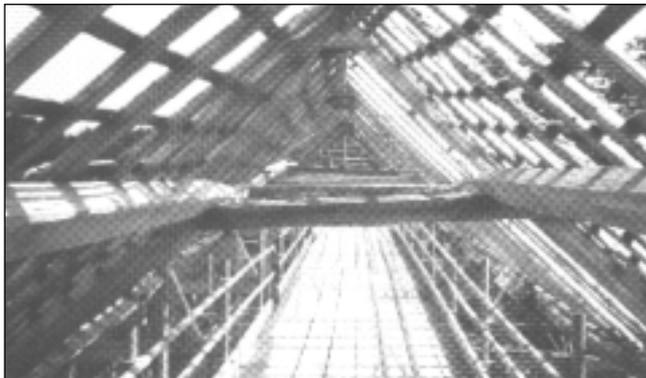
Owners are checked to ensure they are ready to move ahead at the same speed as the tenant, without incurring a huge initial outlay.

However supportive the private sector is of the RPD, the nation-wide initiative depends greatly on its uptake by Business Link outlets. Out of 85 Business Links nation-wide, around 40 have substantial rural constituencies of which so far 2 have agreed to participate, covering over half of England.

Many local authorities are operating their own commercial property databases, in some cases in association with Business Link. Hereford and Worcestershire County Council now directs relevant enquiries to the database. Resistance from some areas seems to be based on the fear of undermining existing partnership arrangements for marketing commercial property but the RPD doesn't compromise these initiatives as in the main it is concerned with small buildings that won't find their way into mainstream commercial use.

The cost of RPD registration is £70 plus VAT, per annum, per property (discounted for CLA and NFU members), payable to the local Business Link. Agents registering a property pay £7 to cover administrative costs and Business Link provides a bimonthly feedback to property owners on the degree and nature of enquiries. Access to the Rural Property Database, on 0800 137316, is free.

Prepared from an article by Catherine Paice in *Estates Gazette*.



A new database of barns available to let for business use

LETTERS

TENDERING TIMES

This is an open letter from David Linford, Chairman of the Heritage Building Contractors Group and Linford-Bridgeman Ltd, sent recently to a number of construction publications.

Amongst the 'hoo-haa' over who is to blame for the continuing poor performance of the building industry, the Code of Practice for tendering seems to have been totally forgotten by Architects and Quantity Surveyors alike.

Constant examples of ridiculously short times to bid come into our office every week.

Often starting with the best of intentions, the professionals' initial enquiry usually says "there will be four weeks to tender" but very rarely does this actually occur. Time slips in architect's brief to QS and QSs sending out full information are the regular failures. If the professionals study the calendar, they would realise that the working week is five days; if the enquiry is late, the bid time reduces very

quickly to 3 weeks or less. Requests for return of bids are very often on Mondays, meaning bids have to be finished and despatched the Friday before; bank holidays are an increasing erosion of bid time. An even greater reliance on sub-contractor/supplier quotations also threatens the efficiency and competitiveness of the bid and this is not serving the Client in the best way! Short bid times unnecessarily cause a waste of money, increase risk of errors, reduce the number of bids received and prevent sensible discussion on points of specification, contract issues and programme periods, all to the detriment of service to Clients. Tendering is very, very expensive, often appallingly wasteful. Even if contractors were to be paid (as the professionals are), there can be no more excuses for causing bid periods of less than four, full, clear weeks at the least. If the Client and/or professionals cannot, for whatever reason, allow a minimum of four weeks they would be better advised to negotiate with one bidder, or select two with whom to negotiate a two-stage bid.

PUBLICATIONS

Technical Advice Notes (TANs)

We continue with the review of the Technical Advice Notes issued by Historic Scotland as an occasional series of advice leaflets on practical and technical issues, which arise in the care and conservation of historic buildings and monuments in Scotland. They provide guidance on the principles involved in a particular issue and are not intended to be used as prescriptive documents or specifications on site.

For further information on TCRE's publications, other services and to order, contact: TCRE Division/Scottish Conservation Bureau, Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH. Tel: 0131 668 8668, Fax: 0131 668 8669.



TAN 7 ACCESS TO THE BUILT HERITAGE

Many historic sites can present difficulties for visitors with disabilities. In July 1996 Historic Scotland produced Access for Disabled Visitors, a guide to Historic Scotland's properties for people with access difficulties or impairments. The publication provides information on access to properties in State care along with descriptions of the types of display and the tactile qualities of artefacts, which are available. It is designed for use with

Historic Scotland's Guide to Over Sixty Historic Sites in Scotland and is intended to ensure that, where possible, visitors to the properties can enjoy what is being offered.

This Technical Advice Note is the 7th in an occasional series of notes on practical and technical issues, which arise in safeguarding the nation's heritage and promoting its understanding and enjoyment. It intends to give guidance on the principles involved in providing access for disabled persons to historic buildings and monuments open to the public. It is not intended to be used as a prescriptive document or as definitive specifications for provisions on site.

Although primarily aimed at offering advice and information for use by Historic Scotland staff, its content is of value to others who have to consider proposals to improve access, for visitors with disabilities, to historic buildings and monuments that are open to the public.

When such works are proposed for a site or property which is scheduled or a building which is listed, the appropriate approvals. Scheduled Monument Consent in the case of the former and Listed Building Consent for the latter must be obtained before any works are undertaken. The fact that advice is given and recommendations are made in this Note does not in any way imply that a proposal will receive consent. Where work is proposed on a scheduled ancient monument situated on Government land, scheduled monument clearance will be required through Historic Scotland. Work carried out to a listed building, other than a monument listed in Schedule 1 of Part A of the Technical

Standards for compliance with the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 1990, will also require a building warrant. Where a listed building is a Crown Building, any new work will require assessment by an independent building control certifier as, although new work must comply with the regulations, Crown Buildings are not subject to the procedures administered by local authorities. Where it is the case that work to a listed building is unable to comply with the regulations in all respects a waiver must be sought.

The Note is based on field research carried out between October 1993 and August 1995. The study investigated access provision at a number of Historic Scotland sites and at two National Trust for Scotland properties. It was researched and written by Victoria Young (Research Assistant) and Dennis Urquhart (Project Director) of the Masonry Conservation Research Group and the photographs were supplied by Peter Duncan, all at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. The rear cover illustration and Plates 2 and 5 were provided by Chris Hutchison, Historic Scotland Photographic Unit. The project was managed and co-ordinated by Robin Kent, Senior Conservation Architect, Technical Conservation, Research and Education Division, Historic Scotland.

Particular thanks are due to all those individuals and organisations that participated in, and contributed to, the study and supported the pragmatic approach which it adopted.

TAN 8 THE HISTORIC SCOTLAND GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CHARTERS

Heritage Conservation is by no means unique to the modern age as objects and sites of value were preserved in ancient times. However, since the eighteenth century there has been a massive growth of interest in the topic. In Scotland, early evidence of this interest is found in the record of monastic ruins published in 1693 by the King's military engineer, Captain John Slezer in his *Theatrum Scotiae*. Following the 1587 Act of Annexation of James VI, and even more so after the abolition of the episcopacy in 1689, the State became technically responsible for a number of cathedrals in Scotland. This commitment was extended to a wider range of monuments from 1882 onwards by the various Monuments Acts.

Among the nineteenth-century pioneers who were promoting public interest in conservation in Scotland was Sir Walter Scott and his views were given wide currency because of his international reputation. Robert Reid, the King's Architect in Scotland and founder of the short lived Scottish Office of the King's Works, showed a clear grasp of the principles of minimal intervention and the preservation of authenticity and historic value. As early as 1829, he wrote: "I conceive that in all cases of this kind restoration or embellishment should not be the object, but that repairs... should be executed... with the view solely to their

preservation, and in effecting that object the less appearance of interference with their present state and construction the better." Reid's approach anticipated that of William Morris in his Manifesto which was, and still is, promoted by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. Reid also guided the work of the Clerk of Works in Scotland, and other forebears of Historic Scotland with his vision.

Over the years, various attempts have been made to clarify and modify conservation principles and a number of statements, the Venice Charter being the best known, have been produced. In addition, over the century that has passed since William Morris penned his Manifesto, much has been learned about different aspects of technical conservation. For example, more is now known about traditional building materials and construction methods: new means of non-destructive investigation and recording have been developed and scientific research has provided increased understanding of the complex processes of decay. Whilst being informative in their own right, such advances in knowledge often create dilemmas for practitioners as they can directly challenge previously published statements on the philosophy and ethics of conservation work.

By bringing together for the first time and analysing over seventy national and international statements of conservation principles in this advice note, we hope that this guide by Dr. Bell, Director of the Scottish Centre for Conservation Studies, Edinburgh, will provide the basis for a better informed approach to building conservation work in Scotland and elsewhere.

TAN 9 STONECLEANING OF GRANITE BUILDINGS

Over the last decade there has been an increasing concern by many throughout Scotland that the physical effects of stonecleaning were having a potentially damaging consequence on both the fabric and the aesthetics of stone buildings. As a result, a 2-stage research programme was devised. Initially, the programme investigated the effects of stonecleaning sandstone structures, sandstone being the predominant building stone used in Scotland. This led to the production of 6 different publications on the topic, and the hosting of an International Conference in Edinburgh during April 1992.

To assist those actively involved in writing specifications in this difficult area a subsequent publication entitled "Stonecleaning: A Guide for Practitioners", was published by Historic Scotland in April 1994. Although this volume considered such topics as the soiling of building facades, aesthetics, physical and chemical cleaning methods, testing methodology, health and safety, and planning issues, it largely only addressed the sandstone issue. Whilst a number of contemporary publications have also been released, the associated problems of cleaning granite had not been dealt with in any degree of detail so far, and this has had to be considered separately.

TAN 10 BIOLOGICAL GROWTHS ON SANDSTONE BUILDINGS: CONTROL AND TREATMENT

Granite is generally perceived as being a very durable stone and less prone to the decay processes more usually associated with sedimentary rocks. To the lay, and to many professionals, it appeared that it might be cleaned using comparatively straightforward techniques, and that the stone would be left undamaged by these processes. To the more initiated, it was realised that there was no detailed research evidence to support this belief.

In recognising that it was unlikely that similar problems would occur to those investigated regarding the cleaning of sandstone, Historic Scotland thought that there was a need to provide more relevant information for practitioners upon which informed decisions to clean, or not to clean, could be made.

In order to obtain this understanding some basic historic data was required. In addition, the physical characteristics of the various granites needed to be identified, together with an awareness of the nature of previous interventions, earlier cleaning works and associated repairs. Against that background, a detailed research project into the cleaning of granite was projected and the brief for a multi-disciplinary scientific and technical commission prepared. This brief qualified the intention that the research work should pay particular attention to the techniques currently being used by industry.

To fully realise the project's objectives, work was required to put the Scottish problem into a wider context. This called for a literature review, which required an investigation of available sources of national and international information relevant to the cleaning of igneous stone.

The study required an assessment of current and proposed cleaning methods, techniques and materials, and a detailed analysis of the chemicals liable to be used.

The research project was jointly funded by Historic Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and Grampian Enterprise Limited, and commissioned from The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen in January 1993. The final report was presented, with the Literature Review, to the commissioning clients in December 1995.

The outcome of that study has since been translated into this Technical Advice Note. Building upon the exemplary work already undertaken by The Robert Gordon University into the cleaning of sandstone, this new work on granite will greatly assist with the provision of further advice and guidance to practitioners and others operating in the field. However, it should be borne in mind that stonecleaning of listed buildings and buildings within Conservation Areas is not "permitted development" under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992. Listed Building Consent or planning permission is required. This advice note, therefore, is also intended to be read in conjunction with Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (1993), to be revised 1997, where that need arises.

As the Governments' agency responsible for safeguarding Scotland's built heritage, Historic Scotland maintains some 330 monuments in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland. In the past, the control of biological activity and plant growths on the historic masonry of these sites was routinely carried out using a variety of "approved" treatments. However, there was some disquiet expressed that these applications may have been damaging the physical fabric to which they were applied. At the same time, there was a developing Health and Safety awareness in the general use of such chemicals. As a result, some 10 years ago, the treatments were stopped, pending a programme of detailed investigation into the need for them, and their effects.

In a related area, there was a growing concern over outbreaks of algal growths, which were occurring on many of Scotland's stone buildings cleaned in the extensive "facelift" programme of environmental improvements carried out since the 1960s. This "clean to green" phenomenon inevitably provoked the use of other untested masonry biocides and chemical applications.

Responding to the emerging evidence of physical loss and damage to sandstone by some stonecleaning methods.

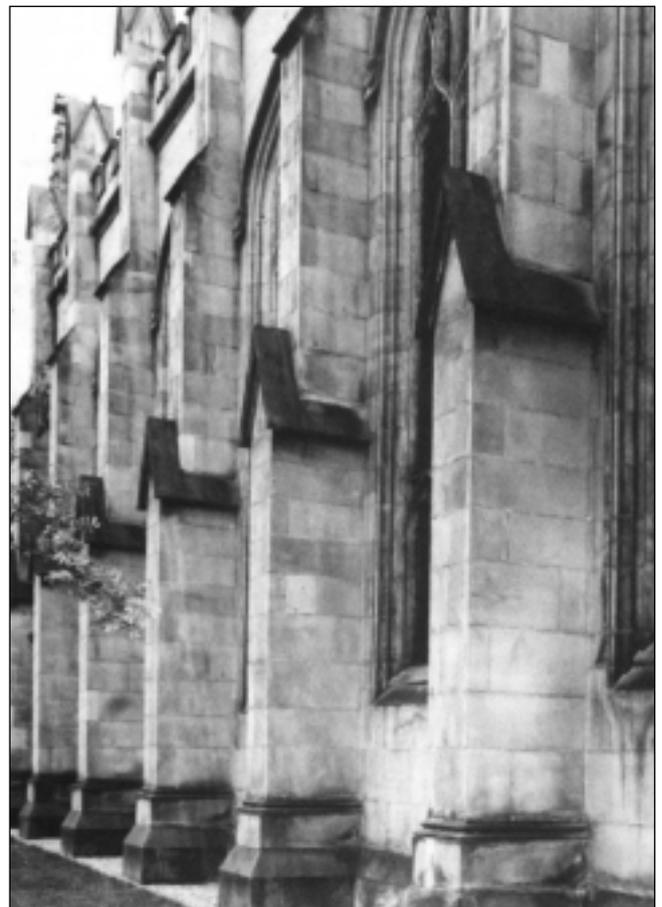


Illustration from within Tan 10 showing high level of biological growth on sloping surfaces and mouldings.

Historic Scotland and Scottish Enterprise initiated research with the Masonry Conservation Research Group (MCRG) at The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, in 1989. The research findings were published in 1992 as *Stonecleaning in Scotland*, followed in 1994 by *Stonecleaning: A Guide for Practitioners*. This work led to a number of additional questions being raised, among them that of the "greening" of buildings by surface biological growths, and what could be done to effect control of this without creating the risk of further damage.

In August 1991, Historic Scotland commissioned the MCRG to undertake a programme of further research. The aim of this was to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms of biological growth on sandstone structures, their influence on stone decay, and the efficacy of various biocide treatments which might be applied. Building on earlier associated studies, the resulting research report, *Biological Growths, Biocide Treatment, Soiling and Decay of Sandstone Buildings and Monuments in Scotland*, was presented and published in 1995. The findings of that detailed study form the basis of this publication.

This Technical Advice Note has also been informed by RGU's related PhD research work by Maureen Young, and their Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council funded project, carried out at Historic Scotland's Hermitage Castle, by Dr Melanie Jones and Dr Rachael Wakefield.

The 10th in the Historic Scotland TAN series, this publication is not intended to be a prescriptive document. Rather, it aims to better inform practitioners as to the range of technical issues which should be considered when faced with a building covered by surface growth, in order that individual specifications can be devised to respond more effectively to the particular factors involved.

It was written by Sonja Cameron, Dennis Urquhart, Rachael Wakefield and Maureen Young, all of The Robert Gordon University, MCRG, Aberdeen, with support from Robin Kent and Una Lee, Senior Conservation Architects, TCRE Division, Historic Scotland.

Particular thanks are due to the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute for producing and providing the scanning electron micrographs, and to all other associated individuals and organisations, that participated in, and contributed to, the research work.

Ingal Maxwell, Director TCRE

Conservation Plans in Action Proceedings of the Oxford Conference, March '98

This publication is a useful reference for anyone responsible for the preparation of a Conservation Plan or more generally assessing the significance of a historic site. The Conference attracted nearly 200 delegates to hear a comprehensive range of experts present their experience on the subject and engage in healthy debate. Edited by Kate Clark,



Head of Historic Analysis & Research, at English Heritage, it is attractively presented with a logical progression of the discussions finishing with an update of the subject during the year since the Conference.

Requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have reinforced the initial work of the National Trust on Conservation Plans and this has snowballed as many

others including government departments, local authorities and owners of complex historic sites have taken an interest. A model brief for a Conservation Plan is included as an Appendix and the Proceedings can beneficially be read, accompanied by the recently issued HLF document 'Conservation Plans for Historic Places'

The Proceedings are available from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton, NN6 9R7, telephone: 01604 781162 (24hrs); fax: 01604781714 for £15 quoting Product Code: XH20127.

Building Pathology **Principles and Practice** by David S. Watt

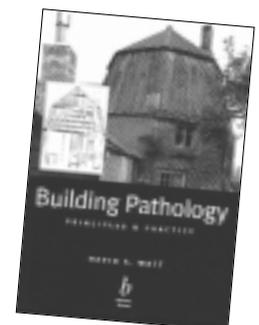
SPECIAL OFFER – 25% DISCOUNT
to readers of this issue of COTAC Newsletter
Normally £37.50 (incl. p&cp) – now only £28.00

Building Pathology provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of building defects and the appropriate remedial action. It considers how a building's structure and materials relate to its environment, occupants and the way the building is used, so as to develop a better understanding of building failures.

This book provides a well illustrated introduction to the concept of building pathology, bridging the gap between the current approaches to the surveying of buildings and the detailed study of defect diagnosis, prognosis and remediation. It features a number of case studies and a detailed set of references and further reading. It is the first of a series of books on aspects of building pathology.

Order Form enclosed with this issue. Please return to:

Sarah-Kate Powell
Blackwell Science Ltd
Osney Mead,
Oxford OX2 0EL, UK
Tel. (01865) 206086
Fax (01865) 721205
www.blackwell-science.com



ORDER FORM Please return this form to Sarah-Kate Powell at the address shown

Please send me _____ copy/copies of *BUILDING PATHOLOGY* (0-632-04875-1), Illustrated Paperback, 288pp. at the special COTAC price of £28.00 each (inc. £1.75 p&p)

I enclose a cheque made payable to *Marston Book Services* for £ _____ (total)

Please debit my MasterCard/Visa/AMEX for £ _____ (total)

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b

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www.blackwell-science.com

**Structural Studies, Repairs and
Maintenance of Historical
Buildings VI** **NEW**

Editors: C A BREBBIA, *Wessex Institute of Technology, UK* and W JAGER, *Technical University of Dresden, Germany*

Featuring state-of-the-art research and recent case studies, this book contains a large number of contributions from the Sixth International Conference on Structural Studies, Repairs and Maintenance of Historical Buildings (STREMAH).

Series: Advances in Architecture, Vol. 6

ISBN:1-85312-690-X 1999 928pp

£290.00/US\$455.00

**Structural Studies, Repairs and
Maintenance of Historical
Buildings**

Editors: S SANCHEZ-BEITJA, *University of the Basque Country, Spain* and C A BREBBIA, *Wessex Institute of Technology, UK*

This book comprises the papers presented at the Fifth International STREMAH Conference. Topics covered include: History and Architecture; Monitoring and Testing; Computer Simulation; Deterioration and Protection of Materials; Material Evaluation and Restoration;

Retrofitting; Different Types of Structures; Domes; Masonry.

Series: Advances in Architecture, Vol. 3

ISBN: 1-85312-466-4 1997 696pp

£198.00/US\$299.00

**Structural Studies of Historical
Buildings IV**

Editors: C A BREBBIA, *Wessex Institute of Technology, UK* and B. LEFTHERIS, *Technical University of Crete, Greece*

The proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Structural Studies, Repairs and Maintenance of Historical Buildings.

Volume 1 – Architectural Studies, Materials and Analysis

ISBN: 1-85312-425-7; 1-56252-343-0 (US, Canada, Mexico) 1995 464pp £128.00/US\$196.00

Volume 2 – Dynamics, Repairs and Restoration

ISBN: 1-85312-426-5; 1-56252-344-9 (US, Canada, Mexico) 1995 384pp £106.00/US\$163.00

Set

ISBN: 1-85312-314-5; 1-56252-238-8 (US, Canada, Mexico) 1995 848pp £210.00/US\$322.00

(Over 10% saving)

For further information and to order contact: WIT Press, Ashurst Lodge, Southampton, SO40 7AA Tel: 44 (0)2380 293223, Fax: 44 (0)2380 292853
Email: marketing@witpress.com

RICS Library: Abstracts & Reviews; Conservation and Website

The RICS Library continues to improve its reading reference lists and the monthly Abstract and Reviews includes reference to articles in the RICS *Building Conservation Journal* and is part of the Library Information Service available by subscription which includes 'daily briefings'.

The Review section is available to non-subscribers as well, and costs £5. It focuses on a particular topic, is about 8 pages long, and those for April and May 1999 are devoted to Building Conservation. Abstracts are more general and feature all matters of interest to the chartered surveyor.

For more information contact Louise Clark at the RICS Library on 0171 222 7000 ext. 434, Email: lclark@rics.org.uk. The RICS Building Conservation Group now also has its own Website: www.rics.org.uk/division/conservation.html

EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, COURSES

THE 1999 COTAC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE in association with BRE

PROFITING FROM HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Supported by the EU Leonardo da Vinci Programme – Transfusion Project

Friday 5 November 1999, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford

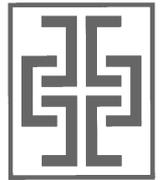
The Conference will address the latest approaches to the evaluation of investment options in the field of building conservation.

Expert speakers from BRE, English Heritage, Historic Scotland, Ireland, prominent architects, developers and universities will cover topics to include: Regeneration of historic buildings, cost effective listed buildings, creative re-use, application of BRE's CALIBRE system to refurbishment, sustaining the cultural heritage, conservation training through European projects, whole life costing and value achieved from recycling buildings.

A reception and tour of BRE facilities and its research work will follow the conference with the Conference dinner later in the evening. There will be a tour to St Albans town centre, Abbey and the surrounding area on Saturday.

Costs: Conference £95 to include refreshments and all conference papers
Dinner £30 including drinks with meal, Saturday tour £30 to include lunch

For further information or to book contact Robin Rolfe or Graham Lee at COTAC, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5EE. Tel: 0171 973 3615, Fax 0171 973 3656, Email: cotac@tcp.co.uk



COTAC
CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION



“HERITAGE FORUM”

Proposed International Congress
and Exhibition on Conservation
and Restoration,
20-22 June 2000,
Business Design Centre,
Islington, London, UK



LEIPZIGER MESSE

Being promoted by Leipzig Messe which has run the Denkmal Exhibition and Conference in Leipzig for a number of years, this promises to be an exciting event with widespread support from UK conservation organisations. The proposal is for a 3-day International Congress alongside an exhibition with the possibility of study visits/excursions. More information in the future as proposals evolve.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FINDS THE BEST ROUTE

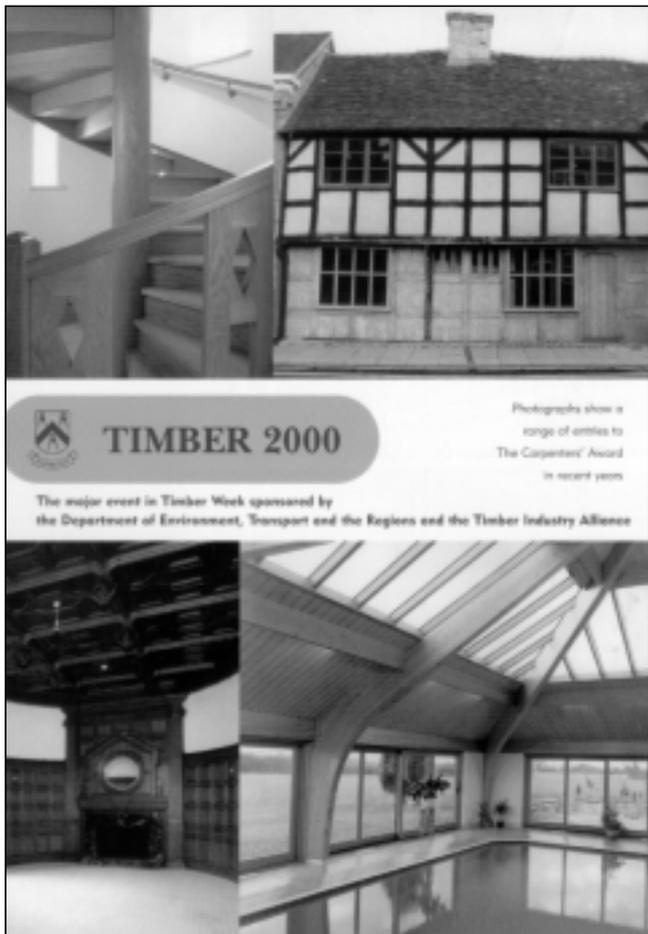
The use of geographic information technology has become widespread and now appears in products such as Geographer's A-Z maps, on CD-ROM, maps with Scoot (www.scoot.co.uk) and MS AutoRoute. At GIS99 (28 to 30 September 1999 at Olympia 2 in London), the latest GIS solutions from over 100 systems and data suppliers will be exhibited. Workshops, seminars and an advice centre will also be available at what is Europe's largest event for geographic information. Running in conjunction with GIS99 will be the Association for Geographic Information's conference.

This year's conference theme is 'IMPROVING ACCESS TO BETTER INFORMATION'. As well as plenary sessions that focus on the major issues confronting the GI industry there is an extensive programme of parallel sessions:

- data exploitation and public access with particular reference to NLIS (National Land Information Service) and NLUD (National Land Use Database);
- the built environment, digital cities, crime and disorder, and areas of social deprivation; and
- central and local government, GI infrastructures and cross-government initiatives.

Christopher Roper of Landmark Information Group will chair a session looking at how Web-based technologies affect the deployment of GIS over the Internet.

Details on www.gisexpo.com or telephone 01203 426422



TIMBER 2000

One of a series of Millennium Construction Seminars, 'Timber 2000' is being sponsored by

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CARPENTERS to promote the use of timber in construction of new buildings and in conservation.

It will be held on Wednesday 20th October in the Carpenter's Hall, Throgmorton Avenue London EC2N 2JJ.

Topics will include:

Restoration of Historic Buildings

with an introduction from Dr Charles Brown and presentation from Giles Down of the Sidell Gibson Partnership, adviser on the new design aspects of the restoration of State Apartments at Windsor Castle.

Timber for all Seasons

by John Bonnington of John S Bonnington Partnership and Roger Venables, Timber Consultant,

Carpenter's Award

by Terence Mallinson,

Timber in Construction: Past, Present and Future by Peter Ross of Ove Arup and Information Technology in Construction and Education by Alan Benjamin, and

Construction of the Globe Theatre

at the Globe by Peter McCurdy of McCurdy & Co

Delegate fee is £65 (£10 for students) booking to Timber 2000 at Carpenters Hall, address as above Tel: 0171 588 7001, Fax:0171 638 6286

terra 2000 - TORQUAY, ENGLAND 11-13 MAY 2000

International Conference on the study and conservation of earthen architecture

International interest in the study and conservation of earthen architecture has been growing steadily since the first international conference on the subject was held more than twenty five years ago. Increasing concern for sustainable development, affordable housing and energy conservation have together heightened interest in earth for new construction in many parts of the world.

Building on the results of previous conferences, Terra 2000 aims to provide an international forum for the exchange of new ideas and developments, which will ensure the survival of the earthen architectural tradition into the next century. The conference also affords an opportunity to share the wealth of earth construction in the British Isles, from dramatic prehistoric fortifications to more modest dwellings and rural complexes.

Venue: The conference will be held in Torquay on the Southwest coast of England, an area which contains England's largest collection of earth buildings.

Themes: archaeological monuments and sites, materials and craftsmanship conservation, repair and maintenance, continuity of tradition: new earth building political, legal, and economic context; promotion and consciousness-raising

Languages: The conference will be English, French and Spanish with simultaneous translation.

Exhibitions/poster session: A number of national and international exhibitions will be mounted during the conference together with a display of delegates' posters and videos.

Tours: A tour of cob buildings in Devon will form part of the conference programme with the option of several post-conference tours to view earthen architectural heritage in diverse regional locations of the UK.

Terra 2000 will be linked to a series of related events including:

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSE: The care and repair of cob buildings from 3rd-10th May 2000.

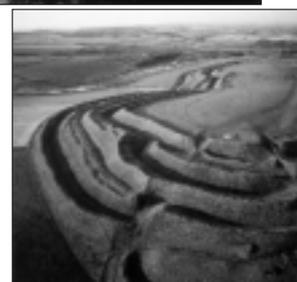
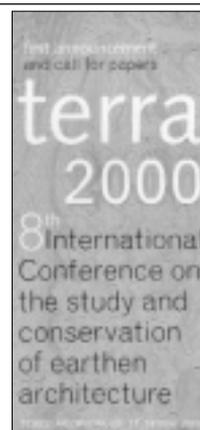
TRADE FAIR: Products and equipment related to earth construction will be exhibited.

EARTH BUILDING FESTIVAL: This community event will include design and construction of an earth sculpture park.

For further information contact:

Centre for Earthen Architecture, University of Plymouth, Faculty of Technology, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA, England, UK

Fax: 44 (0)1752 233310 E-mail: terra2000@plymouth.ac.uk



Construction History Society Annual Lecture

1999

**THE BUILDING FIRM IN
CONSTRUCTION HISTORY**

by Christopher Powell

'Builders shape construction, but what shapes the builders?' Construction history can be regarded as having three essential elements: products; the processes creating the products; and the agencies of production.

It is this last element upon which Christopher Powell focuses in his Lecture, concentrating on those firms which are typical of 19C attitudes and business modes.

He will address the development of the history of firms and their use and compare the merits of individual histories with thematic studies. The value of learning from other disciplines, such as business history, will be explored and he will consider how and if the time boundary can be usefully pushed back.

Of particular interest to construction professionals today will be his analysis of the factors which favour either integration or division of firms into specialist functions.

The overall theme of Christopher Powell's Lecture will be to evaluate the status of construction history in terms of direction, purpose and possibilities.

**The Lecture will be given on Wednesday,
20 October 1999 at 3.30pm at
The Gallery, Cowcross Street,
London, EC1M 6DR.**

*Non-members of the Society are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Peter Harlow at the CIOB, Englemere, Kings Ride, Ascot, Berks., SL5 7TB.
Tel/Fax 01844 346270.*


ENGLISH HERITAGE
NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
RECORD

**EVENTS FOR 1999/2000 AT
THE NATIONAL
MONUMENTS RECORD
CENTRE, SWINDON**

The National Monuments Record Centre, home of the public archive of English Heritage, schedule of public events for 1999 to April 2000 will attract anyone interested in art, photography, or the archaeological and architectural heritage of England.

This year's highlights include a major event, the launch of the Heritage Study Centre at the NMRC in October.

The GALLERY at the NMRC provides exhibitions, events and gifts and is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11.00am to 5.00pm, including Bank Holiday Mondays but not Easter Sunday.

The Public Search Room at the NMRC is open Tuesday to Friday throughout the year, (except over the Christmas and New Year break) and on occasional Saturdays (see below for dates). Visitors can discover the riches of the 12 million items in the record, which covers historic buildings and archaeological sites throughout England. Simply call 01793 414600, or visit our Website: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>.

EVENTS CALENDAR 1999

Wednesday 1 September

- lecture at The GALLERY on 'Unravelling the Landscape' by Mark Bowden, English Heritage Archaeological Field Investigator, 7.30pm; tickets 01793 441735

Saturday 11 September – Heritage Open Day

- special tours and events at the NMRC.
- Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

From Saturday 9 October

- new free exhibition at The GALLERY, Full Steam Ahead! Advances in transport during the Victorian period, open until 9 January 2000.

Saturday 16 October

- free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

October – Launch of the Heritage Study Centre

- Open day for the new Heritage Study Centre. Details to be announced.

Wednesday 10 November

- lecture at The GALLERY on 'Brunel: The Great Engineer' by Tim Bryan, Keeper, GWR Museum, 7.30pm; ticket enquiries 01793 414735

Saturday 20 November

- free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

Saturday 11 December

- free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

EVENTS CALENDAR 2000

From Saturday 15 January

- new free exhibition at The GALLERY, Images of England, opens until 8 April 2000.

Saturday 22 January

- * free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- * Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

Saturday 19 February

- * free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- * Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

Saturday 18 March

- * free tour of the NMRC leaves The GALLERY at 2.15pm
- * Public Search Room Saturday opening, 10am to 4pm

The National Monuments Record Centre is on the Great Western Village, adjacent to the Great Western Designer Outlet and just 3 miles from M4 Junction 16 or ten minutes walk from Swindon railway station. Free car parking adjacent to the centre is provided for all visitors. Contact: Michelle Hogg: 01793 414 617

A collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage and
The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, supported by the Radcliffe Trust

building conservation masterclasses

A range of intensive courses for professionals, combining
lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises

STONE TREATMENTS BC 2D3

21-23 September 1999

Bill Martin and Seamus Hanna

An up-to-date survey of conservation techniques for delicate stone surfaces covering a range of specialised methods and materials – including history and philosophy of consolidant use, mechanisms of stone decay, evaluation of materials, update on current research.

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF STONE MASONRY BC 3D10

19-22 October 1999

John Ashurst and Colin Burns

An overview of the complex issues involved in the conservation and repair of stone masonry: stone identification, recognition and diagnosis of decay, condition assessment, repair options and techniques, cleaning, surface treatments and specification.

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF FLINT BUILDINGS BC 2D4

16-18 November 1999

John Ashurst and Colin Burns

The characteristics of flint buildings, regional variation, strengths and weaknesses of flint construction, repair techniques, mortar and flint selection, cleaning and maintenance.

CONSERVATION ENGINEERING BC 2D5

7-9 December 1999

Ian Hume and Peter Badcock

A course of special value to those wishing to gain a new perspective in applying engineering principles to the conservation of historic structures.

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF ASHLAR MASONRY BC 3D11

18-21 January 2000

John Ashurst and Colin Burns

A specialist course concentrating on the successful repair of good quality ashlar masonry: construction history and detailing, condition and repair schedules, repair techniques including piecing in, mortar repair, cleaning and surface treatments, survey and specification.

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF PLASTERS AND RENDERS BC 3D12

22-25 February 2000

John Ashurst and Colin Burns

Covers remedial work to lime, gypsum and cement-based internal and external wall plasters and renders, from roughcast to stucco and including plain, moulded and cast work: history, documentation, condition survey, repair options, execution and specification.

Masterclasses run throughout 2000; a new brochure will be available in January.

For further information, please contact the Building Conservation Masterclasses Co-ordinator
at West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ.

T 01243 811294/811301 F 01243 811343 E-mail: westdean@pavilion.co.uk

Web: <http://www.westdean.org.uk/>

From ICCROM Conference Calendar

23/24 Sept 99 – Santiago de Compostela, Spain
RESEARCH FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN ENTERPRISES (EC Conference connected with SIPAC'99 International Heritage Fair)
Universidad de Santiago de Compostela Centro de Innovacion y Transferencia, SIPAC'99 Apartado de Correos, 2082 E-15780 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Email: sipac@mail.xunta.es

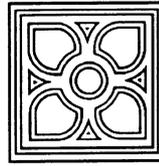
21-24 Oct 99 – Santiago de Compostela, Spain
CULTURE, MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY AND URBAN RESTORATION
Organisation of World Heritage Cities, General Secretariat of the OWHC, Bureau 401 – 56, rue St-Pierre, Quebec, IK 4A1, Canada
Email: secretariat@ovpm.org

2-4 Dec 99 – London, UK
CONSERVING THE PAINTED PAST; DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO WALL PAINTING CONSERVATION. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Amanda Holgate, English Heritage, Conference Office, Room 227, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, UK
Email: amanda.holgate@english-heritage.org.uk

19-25 Mar 2000 – Tusnad, Roumania
THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES OF MONUMENT PRESERVATION
Built Heritage and Society, Oficiul Postal, ICP 379, R-3400 Cluj, Roumania
Email: tusnad@mail.soroscj.ro

24-26 Oct 2000 – Krakow, Poland
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Zbigniew Wiklacz, Instytut Historii Architektury, Wydział Architektury Politechniki, 31-002 Krakow, Poland

Contact details for ICCROM
13 via di San Michele, I-00153,
Rome RM, Italy Tel: 00 39 06 585 531
Email: iccrom@iccrom.org75



WOODCHESTER MANSION TRUST PRACTICAL COURSES 1999/2000 for Architects, Surveyors, Contractors, Conservation Officers & Home Owners

LIME MORTARS & STONE REPAIR
Wednesday 29 September £50

DRY STONE WALLING in Woodchester Park
Saturday 9th October £45
(with option of further practice on Sunday 9th October, weekend price £60)

INTRODUCTION TO STONE AND STONEMASONRY TECHNIQUES by the Trust's Mason in Charge
Wed 3rd & Thurs. 4th November £90

HURDLE MAKING in Woodchester Park
Saturday 15th April 2000 £45
(or weekend £60)

For further information contact:
GILLIAN HANCOCK
WOODCHESTER MANSION TRUST,
1 THE OLD TOWN HALL,
HIGH STREET, STROUD, GL5 1AP
Tel: 01453 750455
Email: training@wmtrust.free-online.co.uk

Details of future courses at Website:
www.wmtrust.free-online.co.uk

The Woodchester Mansion Trust's training programme and technical publications are supported by a grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Woodchester Mansion Trust Ltd is a registered charity, which raises funds to restore the Mansion. Registered in England No. 2454467, Registered Charity No. 900315

SPAB TECHNICAL DAY INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW TO HISTORIC PAINT TECHNOLOGY 12 November

Held in conjunction with The Traditional Paint Forum. How to identify the difference between a soft distemper and oil bound water paint and define emulsion paint. Of interest to anyone who wishes to know the basics of traditional paint technology. Due to demand, the course is being repeated in Newcastle on Tyne. Exact venue details to be confirmed in response to booking.

Cost: £50.00 (inc. of refreshments and course papers). To reserve a place or further details contact:
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY Tel: 0171 377 1644 Fax: 0171 247 5296

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY AT OUDCE



A CENTURY OF PUBLIC SURVEY IN ENGLAND 26- 28 NOVEMBER

From the foundation of the Survey of London in 1894 to the demise of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England in 1999 there have been many attempts to create a definitive national inventory of knowledge about the past. The weekend will celebrate not only the contributions of a diverse range of bodies such as the VCH, RCHME, the Buildings of England, SMRs and English Heritage but will look to the future of survey in the next millennium. Fees from £49.50

THE EDWARDIAN GREAT HOUSE 14- 16 JANUARY 2000

The seventh in the popular annual series, presenting current research interests of scholars of the country house and its garden setting. This year will be devoted to the period between 1880 and 1914. Early booking is essential. Fees from £79.50 including a copy of the papers

JOHN RUSKIN'S OXFORD 5 FEBRUARY 2000

The Centenary of Ruskin's death will be celebrated by an examination of his particular links with Oxford including a visit to an appropriate building in the city. Fees from £32.00

PUBLIC INQUIRY WORKSHOP 15 – 17 MARCH 2000

A practical course to introduce potential witnesses & advocates to the techniques and procedures of Public Inquiries dealing with the historic environment. A mock hearing will be staged and the filmed results will be analysed constructively. Fees to be confirmed.

QUEEN ANNE TO NEO-CLASSICAL: ARCHITECTURE AND FURNITURE 25 MARCH 2000

The predominant design style in eighteenth-century England was classical. Its influence can be seen in architecture design and furniture from Queen Anne to George III. We shall explore the succeeding styles from Palladian to neo-classical as seen in the great country houses of England. Venue: At The Misbourne School, Great Missenden. Fees from £25.00

PLANNING AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: EUROPE; A COMMON HERITAGE YEAR 3 – 5 MAY 2000

The annual conference this year will revert to three days to explore European cultural landscapes in association with ICOMOS as part of a major European initiative. Full details will be available shortly. Fees to be confirmed.

BEYOND THE GRAND TOUR 12-14 MAY 2000

From the 16th century to the present day travel has broadened the mind and enriched the collections of every generation in search of enlightenment and pleasure. This weekend will look at British travellers, their destinations and their interests. Fees from £49.50

For further details of all Architectural History Courses contact:

Administrative Assistant, Day and Weekend Schools, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Tel: 01865 270368

4th SERIES OF PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING DAYS

Run by Essex County Council's Historic Buildings & Conservation section

These courses are mainly designed for working tradesmen but this year we are incorporating a lecture period, which could be useful to Conservation Officers.

20-22 Sept Lime mortar & conservation brickwork.

18-19 October Lime, plaster, pargetting & run mouldings.

22 November Practical leadwork.

3-4 February 2000 Joinery repairs.

1-3 March Rubbed & gauged brickwork.

3-4 April Timber frame repairs

8-9 May Wattle & daub.

5-6 June Flint walling & knapping.

For further details contact Anne Holden

Tel: 01245 437666

Email: anneholden@essex.gov.uk

GEORGIAN GROUP DAY COURSES

The education initiative by the Georgian Group in the form of day courses on Georgian architecture aimed at people working in the field of historic building conservation and restoration continue.

Costs: £40.00 or £30.00 for full-time students (to include refreshments).

Venue: The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London. Tickets available for remaining individual days.

21 September – Regional Study Day

19 October – Annual Symposium

23 November – Georgian churches.

Further details from William Palm, The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6DX.

Tel: 0171 387 1720. Fax: 0171 387 1721



**COURSES IN BUILDING
CONSERVATION & USE OF
TRADITIONAL MATERIALS &
PROCESSES – WEALD & DOWNLAND
OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

A wide range of practical workshops and seminars for surveyors, architects, craftsmen and anyone else with a keen interest in building conservation to include the following. All courses suitable for CPD (seven hours per day).

23 September – REPAIR AND REPLICATION OF HISTORIC IRONWORK

£80, Leaders: Andrew Breese & Charles Brooking.

28 September – TRADITIONAL WOOD AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

£80, Leader: Charles Brentnail & associates.

18-20 October – REPAIR OF TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED BRICKWORK.

£180, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

4 November – REPAIR OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

£80, Leaders: Richard Harris and Roger Champion.

17 November – JOINERY BY HAND – SASH WINDOWS.

£80, Leaders: Ged Gardiner and Charles Brooking.

20 November – PRACTICAL AND RITUAL MARKS ON BUILDING MATERIALS

£65 Day school of illustrated lectures Leaders: Timothy Easton & Richard Harris.

25 November – TIMBER DECAY AND ITS TREATMENT

£80, Leader: Brian Ridout.

27 January 2000 – RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS FOR CONSERVATION

£60 First of three linked day schools Leader: Richard Harris.

24 February 2000 – REPAIR OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

£80 Day school Leaders: Richard Harris and Roger Champion.

1 March 2000 – DEALING WITH CHANGE IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

£80, Design and Town Planning; first of two linked days. Leader: James Strike with other specialists.

16 March 2000 – RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS FOR CONSERVATION

£60 Second of three linked days. Leader: Richard Harris.

29 March 2000 – DEALING WITH CHANGE IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS

£80, Building works, the second of two linked days. Leader: James Strike and other specialists.

30 March 2000 – DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION OF LEADWORK

£80, Leader: Nigel Johnston of the Lead Sheet Association.

27 April 2000 – RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS FOR CONSERVATION

£60, Third of three linked days. Leader: Richard Harris.

24 May 2000 – HISTORIC FORMS OF JOINTING AND POINTING HISTORIC BRICKWORK

£200, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

15-21 May 2000 – TIMBER FRAMING FROM SCRATCH

£350 Leader: Joe Thompson.

15-17 May 2000 – THE LYCHGATE WORKSHOP

£200 Leaders: Richard Harris and Roger Champion

19 May 2000 – HISTORIC TIMBER, PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND USE.

A research seminar in collaboration with ICOMOS.

24 May 2000 – JOINERY BY HAND – SASH WINDOWS

£80, Leaders: Ged Gardiner and Charles Brooking.

12-14 June 2000 – TRADITIONAL GAUGED BRICKWORK

£200, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

15 June 2000 – LIME MORTARS FOR BRICKWORK

£80, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

11-13 July 2000 – ADVANCED GAUGED BRICKWORK

£200, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

26-28 September 2000 – REPAIR OF TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED BRICKWORK

£200, Leader: Gerard Lynch.

Enquiries about these, and other courses to Diana Rowsell, Training Co-ordinator in the Museum Office, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex on 01243 811363, Fax 01243 811475 or Email: Wealddown@mistral.co.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE

ENGLISH HERITAGE COURSES

TREATING DRY ROT IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS 24 November

Thorough treatment of timber & walls with dry rot killers is largely a C20 invention. The book *The Dry Rot Problem* (1963) recommended cutting infected timber 1M back past the last signs of decay, while *BRE Digest 299* (1993) suggested a margin of 300-400mm need not be 'a hard and fast rule'. The difference in approach may make a dramatic difference to the loss of historic fabric and finishes, but the approach used is likely to depend more on entrenched beliefs than accurate fungus biology of building conservation. The Conference will assemble a team of experts on dry rot and conservation to evolve a treatment protocol to minimise destructive intervention and to inform English Heritage's forthcoming Advice Note on 'Timber Decay and its treatment in historic buildings'. Cost £75.00. Venue: 23 Savile Row.

CONSERVING THE PAINTED PAST 2-4 December

An international conference on standards and practice of wall painting conservation. Aimed principally at a professional and technical audience of wall painting conservators, architects, surveyors and engineers, art historians and material scientists responsible for the care of these marvellous works of art. Designed to take stock of recent scientific developments in the field and plan the way ahead on standards and practice for the new millennium. The three-day conference including site visits and evening reception costs £150, (£125 UKIC members and £65 registered students).

**Further details for both above from Amanda Holgate, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row London W1X 1AB
Tel: 0771 9733314 Fax: 0171 973 3249 Email: amanda.holgate@englishheritage.org.uk**

IHBC COURSES

URBAN HERITAGE – BUILDING MAINTENANCE – 25-27 October

Two part congress as part of the European COST-C5 programme to establish European 'state-of-the-art' in urban heritage and building maintenance, investigate the options to extend its life and stimulate exchange of information. The first stage at Delft University, Netherlands covering Foundations; Concrete and, Cast Iron/Wrought Iron and Steel. Registrations (for one course day) may be made by fax or e-mail. Registration will cost 75 Euro or 165 Dutch Guilders plus 50E or 110DG per day.

Contact via Fax: 31 15 2784178 to Leo C. W Verhoef Email: L.G.W.Verhoef@bk.tudelft.nl

MODERN DESIGN IN HISTORIC AREAS – 3 November

Conference organised by the IHBC North West Branch supported by English Heritage.

The conference will confirm the Urban Task Force view that good design is a key to regeneration and examine how local authorities, development agencies and clients can encourage exciting and innovative design, and how architects can contribute to the future quality of historic areas. Case studies in both urban and rural areas will be discussed. Cost: £50.00 for the day inclusive of buffet lunch. Venue: Dukes 92 bar and functions suite, Castlefield, Manchester.

Information & booking form: Tanya McBurney, 13 Beech Hill Road, Grasscroft, Saddleworth, Oldham, OL4 4DR.
Tel: 0161 3423118 B; 01457 820756 H; Fax: 0161 3423111 Email: planning.conservation@mail.tameside.gov.uk

CONSERVING THE RECENT HERITAGE OF MILTON KEYNES – 19th November

A look at the best new buildings/areas of the new city: should they be protected, and if so how? Organised jointly by Milton Keynes Council and The City Discovery Centre and supported by the IHBC South Branch and the 20th Century Society. Cost: £15.00 (inc. a short tour & lunch at the new MK Theatre in the city centre. Venue: Berrill Lecture Theatre, The Open University, Milton Keynes.

Further details from: Anne Williams/Julia Smith Tel/fax: 019081 252599, Email: anne.williams@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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:

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:

Carol Ryan, 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

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LINCOLN SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS & DESIGN

Access Certificate to HE, Conservation & Restoration – 1 year + various
MSc in Conservation Science (taught at Leicester & Lincoln) – 1year full time, 2 years part time
MA in Conservation of Historic Objects – 1 year full time, 2 years part time
BA(Hons) in Conservation & Restoration – 3 years

Contact:

School of Applied Arts & Design, De Montfort University Lincoln, Lindum Road, Lincoln LN2 1PF. Telephone: 01522 895076 Fax: 01522 895137

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

MA in Architectural Conservation – 1 year full time, 2 years part time. Includes Architectural History, Conservation Law and Policy, Repair and Re-use of Historic Buildings, Garden History and Conservation.
MSc in Conservation Science (taught at Leicester and Lincoln) – 1 year full time, 2 years part time

Contact:

Dr Judith Roberts, Centre for Conservation Studies, De Montfort University Leicester, 12 Castle View, Leicester LE1 5WH Tel: 0116 253 2781

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, surface decoration and masonry – 3 years part 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.

BARTLETT SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

University College London

MSc Refurbishment Management – 44 contact days plus residential management weekends and part-residential intensive module on understanding refurbishment design, taken in 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time, including writing a research report. Can be spread over 5 years taken as a modular degree. Can be taken as a Diploma in 9 months (excludes the research report).

Contact:

Course Director,
Refurbishment Management MSc,
Bartlett School of Graduate
Studies, University College
London, Gower Street, London
WC1E 6BT. Telephone: 0171 391
1738/380 7777 Ext 5912. Fax:
0171 916 1887. E-mail:
bartlett.pgclerk@ucl.ac.uk

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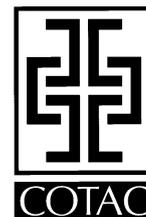
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Any other suggestions for articles for inclusion or improvements to future issues:

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CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION