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25 October 2005

Building Design Partnership

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FTB Restoration
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B-2280 Grobbendonk
BELGIUM

For the Attention of Filip Moens

Dear Filip,

**GW07265: KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM
INTERNAL STONE CLEANING**

This is just a brief note regarding your latex poultice system that was used for cleaning the internal stone at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. I have written below a brief account of the issues that were faced on this project and how your Arte Mundit latex poultice system provided the solution to a difficult challenge. Please feel free to use this letter as an endorsement of FTB Restoration's Arte Mundit latex poultice system.

As you are aware, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museums is a Category 'A' listed building over 100 years old. It is the most visited museum in Britain outside London and is Glasgow's most loved building. Because of this it was essential to find a suitable way of safely cleaning the stonework and to satisfy the concerns of the conservators that this could be done safely without damaging the stone.

The blonde Giffnock sandstone used extensively internally in all the high profile public areas had been exposed to decades of carbon polluted air which had darkened the light honey coloured stone to a dark muddy brown. Earlier 'unsuccessful' attempts at cleaning the stone had also left their characteristic marks. Prior to embarking on a full scale cleaning process small tests were carried out on selected stones using a number of different cleaning techniques including - Laser, Doff, Dry Dental Grade Steam Machine and different strengths of Latex Poultice.

It was quickly determined, from the results of these tests, that the Arte Mundit Type III Latex Poultice system was the most effective method that would allow the extended scope of works to be carried out within programme at a competitive cost. This was supported by further large scale site tests and laboratory analysis of the Arte Mundit poultice system (by Robert Gordon's University, Aberdeen). The results of these tests also provided the Design Team, the Client

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(Glasgow City Council), Historic Scotland and the Planning Authorities with the reassurance that the system was safe to use and had no detrimental effect on the stone.

The nature of the system also allowed the works to be carried out in a phased controlled manner to suit the Contractor's programme and any minor Health and Safety issues were readily dealt with. The product worked exceptionally well on heavily soiled dry stone, particularly the carved stone. It did appear to be less successful on 'damp' stone and stone that had previously been cleaned using other techniques. However, it is unlikely that there is another system currently on the market that could have produced as good results without the need for copious amounts of water, and the possible risk of damage to the adjacent finishes.

As such, we would not hesitate to use FTB Restoration's Arte Mundit latex poultice system again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith B. Stephen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith B Stephen
Associate For Building Design Partnership Ltd.

cc.File