



Natural Stone

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Specialist

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St Paul's Cathedral

London

COMMENDED

Repair and Restoration

Owner/Client: *The Dean & Chapter of St Paul's* | Architect/Designer: *Martin Stancliffe, Purcell Miller Tritton* | Main Contractor: *Nimbus Conservation Ltd* | Principal Stone Contractor: *Cathedral Works Department* | Stone Supplier: *Albion Stone* | Stone Used: *Portland limestone* |

The project

Following a five-year period when tests were carried out to find the best way of cleaning the Portland limestone interior of St Paul's Cathedral it was determined that Arte Mundic, a latex-bound EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), should be used. The project started in April 2001 and finished in May 2005 – without interrupting the daily life and work of the Cathedral either as a place of worship or as a tourist attraction. That meant high level bridging and suspended scaffold lifts to minimise disruption at floor level. Work on the famous dome required a rotating scaffold 14-storeys high. First, layers of dust of as much as 25mm thick were cleaned off. Then the Arte Mundic was spray applied and peeled off after 24-to-48 hours. The stone was sprayed with a light mist of water and scrubbed with various brushes, sponged and rinsed again. Unfinished replacement stones were carved and missing stones inserted.

Judges comments

“ This enhancement to St Paul's Cathedral combines aesthetic, academic and intellectual rigor to reveal the original glorious vision in the face of a determination to overcome the labyrinth of bureaucracy. ”

