Restoration of All Saints Church - Greater Manchester

Hayles and Howe have recently completed a project in this beautiful Victorian Grade I listed Church in Barton-on-Irwell, designed by Pugin in 1867 and described by Pevsner as a masterpiece.

Though the plasterwork was broadly intact the wooden structure behind was found to be suffering extensively from dry rot. It was determined that plaster sections would have to be sacrificed in order to allow removal and replacement of affected timbers.

Hayles and Howe replaced sections of the ribs from the chancel ceiling as well as window arches and also undertook flat wall work. Traditional methods were used as well as some fibrous elements to expedite the program.

The project was completed under the expert guidance of Restoration Manager Martyn Watchurst, who’s experienced site team included Derek Bond, Matthew Bourne, Lee Corbett, Luke Harvey, John Fowler and Nick Roden.

During the extreme weather in January the team stopped work as temperatures dropped below 5°C which disables the setting point of plaster. The team wished that the work could have been carried out in summer; apart from the cold a plaque in the church offers a year’s remission of sins to the faithful present on June the 8th.

This exciting project had a large team of people working together to ensure a successful completion including Architect Lloyd Evans Pritchard, Quantity Surveyor T Sunner Smith and Main Contractor Lambert Walker.

Hayles and Howe Highly Commended by FPDC

Hayles and Howe Ltd are delighted to have received a ‘Highly Commended’ at the FPDC Plasterers’ Awards 2009 for their work at Greenway House in Devon.

The Judges commented that Hayles and Howe completed “A delightful and virtually undetectable example of rendering restoration. The project, on a listed building using traditional materials, included running of a new eaves cornice moulding to match other elevations and perfectly matched render on a curved bay, along with three new chimneys with beautifully moulded cappings.”

The project reproduced Lime plaster finishes both internally and externally to a high standard.

For more information on lime finishes see page 4  

Above; the interior of All Saint’s Church before Restoration

Greenway House on completion of the project

Above; David and Jenny Harrison, receiving the award at the FPDC Plasterers’ Hall, One London Wall on February the 24th 2010

“delightful and virtually undetectable example of rendering restoration”
Hayles and Howe, Inc. is located in Baltimore, Maryland on the east coast of the United States. In the early 1980’s, two senior craftsmen from England’s Hayles and Howe Ltd. were contracted to restore the scagliola in the New Jersey Statehouse in Trenton, NJ. Because of their superior work, more projects were contracted, more craftsmen were sent to the US from England, the Hayles and Howe reputation grew until it became clear that a United States plasterwork and scagliola company would flourish.

In 1990, Hayles and Howe, Inc. was incorporated and under the leadership of Graham Banks, the company has grown steadily in reputation, in workforce, and in a consistent workload of prestigious projects. From its beginnings as a British/American company, Hayles and Howe Inc. has become even more international, now employing many fine artisans from Central and South America. The company workshop and offices have made progressive moves to three locations in the Baltimore area where the present office spaces are re-splendent with the company’s own ornamental plasterwork and the workshop space is ample for any size and combination of projects.

All artisans are trained by Hayles and Howe, Inc. to its standard, and to sustain interest in the traditions of plasterwork for historic restoration as well as new and modern applications, the company offers educational opportunities: university student workshop tours, continuing education credit presentations to architects and designers, and classes designed for graduate student independent study. Originating in the heart of the finest European ornamental plasterwork and scagliola traditions, the Hayles and Howe, Inc. sensibility broadens the American understanding of the practicality and beauty of plaster finishes and decoration.

Hayles and Howe, Inc. offers design, drafting, mouldmaking, running, casting and installation of ornamental plaster; lathing and application of gypsum, clay and acoustic plaster smooth finishes; and design, fabrication, and installation of marezzo and traditional scagliola. The company specialists are equally comfortable with historic restoration and new design, and they are always available for consulting.

About Hayles and Howe Inc.
Expanding the Brand

With its solidly-established foundation of gypsum plasterwork experience throughout the United States, Hayles and Howe, Inc. is always open to new ways to utilize the skills of its master craftspersons. The company has become a certified installer of two “green” plaster systems in response to the demand for more environmentally-friendly building materials which can contribute LEED points to building projects. American Clay Plaster is a non-toxic plaster utilizing local clays, earth pigments and recycled aggregates. It is shipped in re-usable bags, and comes in a wide array of beautiful colors. It can be applied in commercial or residential settings, and helps to regulate heating, cooling, and air quality by means of its moisture retention and release. BASWAphon is a mineral-based sound-absorbing panel and plaster system which is effective in large public spaces. It can be implemented in historic buildings as well as newly constructed ones.

Hayles and Howe, Inc. is proud of its beginnings in England, equally proud of its establishment and development in the United States, and looks forward to further expansion in the American market.
HR at Hayles & Howe

Following a couple of weeks of consultation with all the staff at Hayles and Howe UK, we now have updated contracts, job descriptions and a new staff handbook.

With the paperwork in place, every one is happy to continue with the production of award winning plasterwork with the confidence that their workplace is governed by a set of rules that have been affirmed by all and that are in line with government legislation. A big thank you to all who have made this happen!

The Parabola Arts Centre - Cheltenham

After ten years of planning the Parabola Arts Centre at Cheltenham Ladies College opened last year on a site opposite the College gates. The site originally consisted of two regency semi-detached villas and a 1970’s office extension. The office extension was demolished and replaced by a new build foyer and auditorium, while the Villas themselves were restored and renovated to create a multi-purpose arts space. The site is in Cheltenham’s central Conservation area which presented a particular challenge for the architect Tim Foster of Foster Wilson Architects.

As part of this Hayles and Howe were called in to restore the lath and plaster, cornice and ceiling roses of the villas, now connected to each other and the auditorium by a new glass link.

Nick Roden and his team did a fantastic job in restoring the decorative plasterwork. A recent article in Sightline, the Journal of Theatre Technology and Design praised the refurbishment of the plaster ceiling decorations as being ‘to a very high standard’.

Inside Outside and Cheepie Chirp– UK

The company wishes to send Richard Feroze and his family condolences in the loss of his father Sir Rustam Feroze.

On a happier note we would like to offer congratulations to Krzysztof Sonny & Mark Burston at Credition on the recent birth of their babies (a little girl and boy respectively). We would also like to wish Jon Para a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to work.

Boyd, our Quantity Surveyor (pictured left lifting 97.5 kg) has come first in his age and weight category at both the South West Counties Weightlifting Championships and the British Weightlifting Championships. At the British Championships Boyd lifted a personal best of 175kg.

As far as we know Boyd is the only Weightlifting Wine merchant and Quantity Surveyor in the World.

Congratulations Boyd!

John Fowler is our featured employee and winner of the bottle of wine this quarter following his success in being awarded a SPAB William Morris Fellowship (see below).

Thanks as ever to sponsors Redfield Wines, and congratulations John!

Our pet collection continues to expand with the addition of two more goldfish and some water snails to our tank - where will this end?

SPAB - Hayles and Howe’s John Fowler awarded Fellowship

Hayles and Howe are proud to be members of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Buildings (SPAB). The society was founded by William Morris in 1877 and is the oldest and most technically expert national pressure group fighting to save old buildings from decay, demolition and damage. SPAB also provide training to both the next generation of craftspeople and the owners and occupants of historic buildings and represents the practical and positive side of conservation.

The companies ties with SPAB have recently been strengthened as John Fowler has been awarded a William Morris Fellowship, this will see him gaining new skills in the company of some of Britain’s finest craftspeople. This Fellowship is a bench mark for craftspeople as well as being an indication of the quality of the companies employees.

During the course of the year the Fellows spend six months (3 two month blocks) experiencing a variety of restoration and conservation projects around the country, building on their knowledge and understanding of care and conservation of old buildings. This years Fellows are from the fields of: carpentry, stone masonry, lead working and plastering. John has said that the Fellowship is of great value representing a variety of experience that may otherwise take a life time to amass. The number of Fellows is obviously very limited and it a great honour to be selected to join their number and John feels very humble and lucky to have been chosen out of the many that applied.

We wish John every success and look forward to hearing all about his experiences.
Hand Modelling and Design

Our talented and experienced in-house designers and sculptors produce some truly stunning plasterwork. Shown above is an ivy enriched cove in the process of being modelled and a finished column capital enriched with doves and thistles, this was specially designed for a private residence.

All Hayles and Howe cornices, ceiling roses, corbels etc are hand crafted in clay, Stucco (a lime plaster mix) or gypsum by our highly talented and creative workforce. The companies design teams and sculptors are well versed in the many historical styles needed to complete any design brief.

Lime Plaster

Hayles and Howe are specialists in the use of Lime Plaster and have been involved in many prestigious Lime Restoration and Conservation projects including the award winning external render at Greenway House, the restoration of Arnos Vale Cemetery Anglican Chapel and Windsor Castle.

The use of Lime as a building material has been dated to 5600BC and is therefore a tradition worth preserving. When approaching a new Lime Plaster project, Hayles and Howe are more than happy to visit a site at the pre-contract stage under their consultancy umbrella which involves a thoroughly researched approach and written report if required.

Internal Lime plasterwork undertaken includes securing existing historic plaster coats to failing backgrounds, patch repairs and crack filling, replacing perished laths and applying new coats of plaster render and finish.

External works include the preservation of existing historically important render coats to failing backgrounds and if and where necessary replacing with new lime plaster render.

Archive Item

Barlaston Hall - Award Winning Solid Plastering Restoration

In 1996 Hayles and Howe were called to Barlaston Hall to renovate the late 18th century plasterwork designed by Robert Taylor.

The house had sat unused for many years and was a rotting hulk when it was purchased by SAVE Britain's Heritage for £1 in 1981. By that time most of the ceilings and plasterwork had fallen through to the basement.

The Hayles and Howe team reinstated Taylor’s ornamental schemes in the entrance hall, library, salon and dining room from clues and vestiges of the historic 18th century plaster.

All original work had to be conserved and embedded in the new work using traditional lime plaster techniques.

Each room was a triumph of its particular style: the severe Georgian entrance hall leading to the more ornate library. The salon with a deep enriched frieze then the dining room, most fanciful of all, rococo with touches of chinoiserie.

FPDC judges commented that ‘each style, each flourish, has been exquisitely followed in the new work’ as they awarded Hayles and Howe the Humber Silver Salver for Solid Plastering.

In particular the square bracketed dome and crowning lantern in the stair-hall was singled out for the judge’s praise, described as ‘a really moving space’.

All the vaulting was carried out on new split laths while the cornice was run in solid plaster with planted enrichments.

Hayles and Howe also successfully completed the re-instatement of what were described as ‘some fine examples of hand carved ornaments and medallions’. In one case the ancient original had been lost without trace and a new medallion of *John Betjeman was substituted.

Barlaston is now once more a private family home.

* The John Betjeman Memorial Award, SPAB was made to commemorate one of its most famous committee members.