

CASE STUDY – *London Coliseum*

Client:

English National Opera

Architect:

Renton Howard Wood Levin
Partnership

Construction Manager:

Gardiner & Theobald
Construction Management

Engineer:

Arup

Trade Contractor:

Stonewest Ltd

Value: £2.25million

Date: 2002-2003



Description

Stonewest prepared a schedule of works based on a scaffold inspection, followed by trial cleaning and paint removal and structural investigations.

The works involved:

- All façades were paint stripped to expose structural damage and assumed post war damage that had resulted in major areas to corners being filled with concrete.
- New terracotta was sourced using traditional fired blocks designed to replicate the original to include a dragged tool finish.
- Management of the terracotta manufacture was a continuous process, integral to the project.
- Several thousand new damaged terracotta blocks were carefully cut out and replaced with new build.
- Structural secondary steels had corroded beyond their useful life and were contributing to the fracturing of terracotta. A complete section of the tower was temporarily 'jacked' to allow replacement of this steelwork; this also entailed a complete rebuild of the decorative terracotta and the backing brickwork.
- New lead coverings to all main cornices and string courses were installed to appropriate falls with separate flashings.
- At high level around the globe, the decorative supporting statues were missing; this required the design of sculpted maquettes at 1/8th scale for client approval prior to the production of the full sized version.