

CASE STUDY – *The Lancasters*

Client:

Northacre plc

Construction Manager:

Woolf Ltd

Architect:

Nilsson Architects

Specialist Trade Contractor:

Stonewest Ltd

Value: £2.1million

Date: 2009-2011



Description

One of the largest stucco repair projects in the capital in recent years. Stonewest have carried out extensive repair and conservation of the listed stucco facades as well as the complete external redecoration of all three elevations of this substantial Grade II Listed French Renaissance style terrace building. Originally designed as 15 ambassadorial residences, and then the site of the Lancaster Gate Thistle Hotel, the building has been redeveloped into 77 luxurious apartments.

The works involve:

- To establish the full scope of the works the facades were first cleaned and any loose paint removed.
- Defective stucco was carefully removed back to a sound substrate whilst retaining as much of the original material as possible.
- Using traditional trade skills and repair mortars to match the existing, removed features were expertly reproduced in exacting detail.
- The main cornice was rebuilt using corbelled brickwork with the original moulded detail replicated through use of traditional specialist restoration techniques.
- Lions heads which are incorporated within the cornice were manufactured and cast from moulds taken from original heads to ensure accurate replication.
- The roof top parapets were lowered to allow more light into the penthouse apartments together with new cast baluster bottles and copings.
- The first floor balcony slabs, which were also identified as defective, have been carefully removed and reinstated.
- New lead capping were installed over the main cornices on completion of the repairs.