



By appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Building Façade Restoration
and Conservation



71 Lombard Street

Major external masonry repair work carried out to the façade of the Lloyds TSB Bank headquarters for Bovis Europe and Ove Arup & Partners by Paye Stonework & Restoration, highlighted structural problems that could prove a multi-million pound headache for owners of similar London buildings.

The Lombard Street Grade 2 listed building, designed by Thomas Tait and constructed between 1927 and 1929, incorporated a steel frame over which Portland Stone cladding had been erected. Corrosion within the steel beams caused fracturing and displacement of the stone masonry. The Department of the Environment has estimated that hundreds of steel-framed buildings built between 1908 and 1939 could be suffering from similar corrosion problems, generating potential repair bills in excess of £300 million.

PAYE masons have carefully cut out and matched all the defective Portland Stone on both the Lombard Street and Cornhill elevations. Before replacing the damaged sections of ashlar façade, the company's repair experts had to halt the corrosion to the old steel framework which they exposed by preparing and applying modern anti-corrosion compounds. In addition, Paye has installed cathodic protection to parts of the outer façade judged to be at most risk. This computer controlled system passes low voltage currents throughout the stonework to create a corrosion retarding electronic field around the steel framed members at risk.

This unique combination of traditional skills and modern technology allowed the building to remain occupied and left the original façade largely undisturbed. Adrian Paye, Managing Director, states that there are many buildings in London suffering from the same corrosion blight.

'We have completed similar rescue work to Reuters' Fleet Street Offices and several other facades in Regent Street and Oxford Street. There are many major buildings which are typical of the 1920s construction technique, built with steel skeleton frames with a stone and brick cladding. Rusting frames in these structures are not uncommon' he said.

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www.payestone.co.uk

Stationmasters House Mottingham Station Approach London SE9 4EL
Telephone 020 8857 9111 Fax 020 8857 9222
enquiries@payestone.co.uk