

The Importance of Retaining Historic Mortars

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Introduction

- Importance of retaining historic renders and plasters
- What I'm finding in my practice
- Why it is happening
- Results/impacts
- What can be done

Why retain original renders and plasters

- Cultural
- Historic



Why retain original renders and plasters

- Best Practice
- Conservation Principles
 - Minimal intervention
 - Reversibility
 - Ethics



Why retain original renders and plasters

- Strength
- Durability



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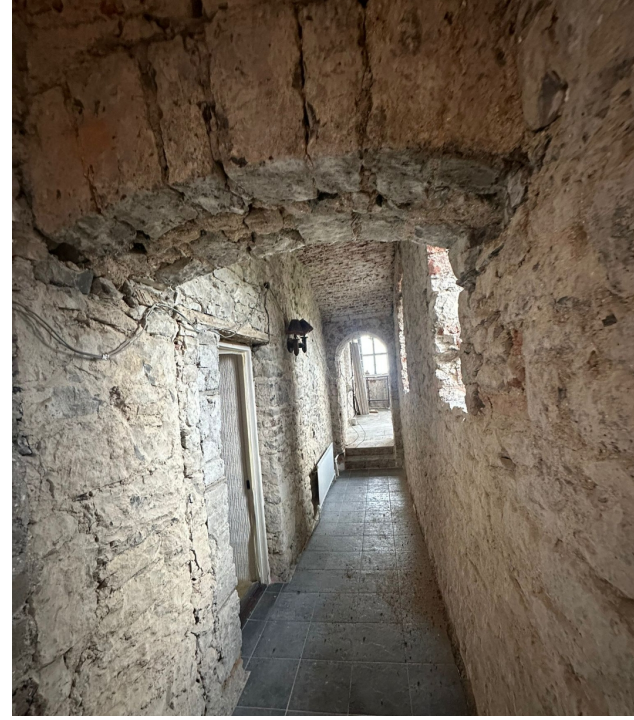
What I'm seeing

- Removal of external render



What I'm seeing

- Removal of internal plasters and decorative elements



To save money

- Perception that the render will all have to come off anyway
- See it as work they can do themselves
- Perception that old automatically equals defective

Why

- Lack of information
- Wrong information
- No assessment
- No engagement with conservation professionals before starting

Why

- Pressure to achieve a high BER rating
- Promotion of bagged insulative plaster

Results

- Inconsiderate removal of render: Portland cement and Lime
 - Damage to underlying fabric
- Unnecessary removal of sound historic render
- Unnecessary removal of sound internal plaster
- Disregard for best practice guidelines

Results

- Increased costs
- Over engineering
- Water ingress issues not fully resolved

What can be done

- Increased awareness of our historic buildings
- Increased understanding of how solid wall structures work
- Increased information to homeowners
- Increased training and upskilling
- Increased protection for our vernacular buildings
- Increased promotion and development of Our Built Heritage Strategy

Retain original fabric



- Retain original fabric
- Dry out the building
- A dry building is a warm building

Retain original fabric

