

ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Project: The Assembly Rooms, York



“ The emergency ceiling repair project at The Assembly Rooms, undertaken in 2017, was a complex and challenging project and we were delighted with the positive and proactive attitude displayed by all the contractors involved. The main piece of work was the replacement of the Great Assembly Room ceiling. This work was undertaken by the skilled craftsmen of Ornate Interiors, who worked tirelessly and diligently under difficult conditions to replace the full lath and plaster ceiling using exactly the same materials and techniques used when the ceiling was first erected in the eighteenth century. It was an immense achievement to complete the project to a very high standard in such a tight window of time.

York Conservation Trust are very grateful to Ornate Interiors for displaying such commitment. ”

Guy Bowyer
Architect

York Conservation Trust

This contract value was £92,500

Project: The Assembly Rooms, York



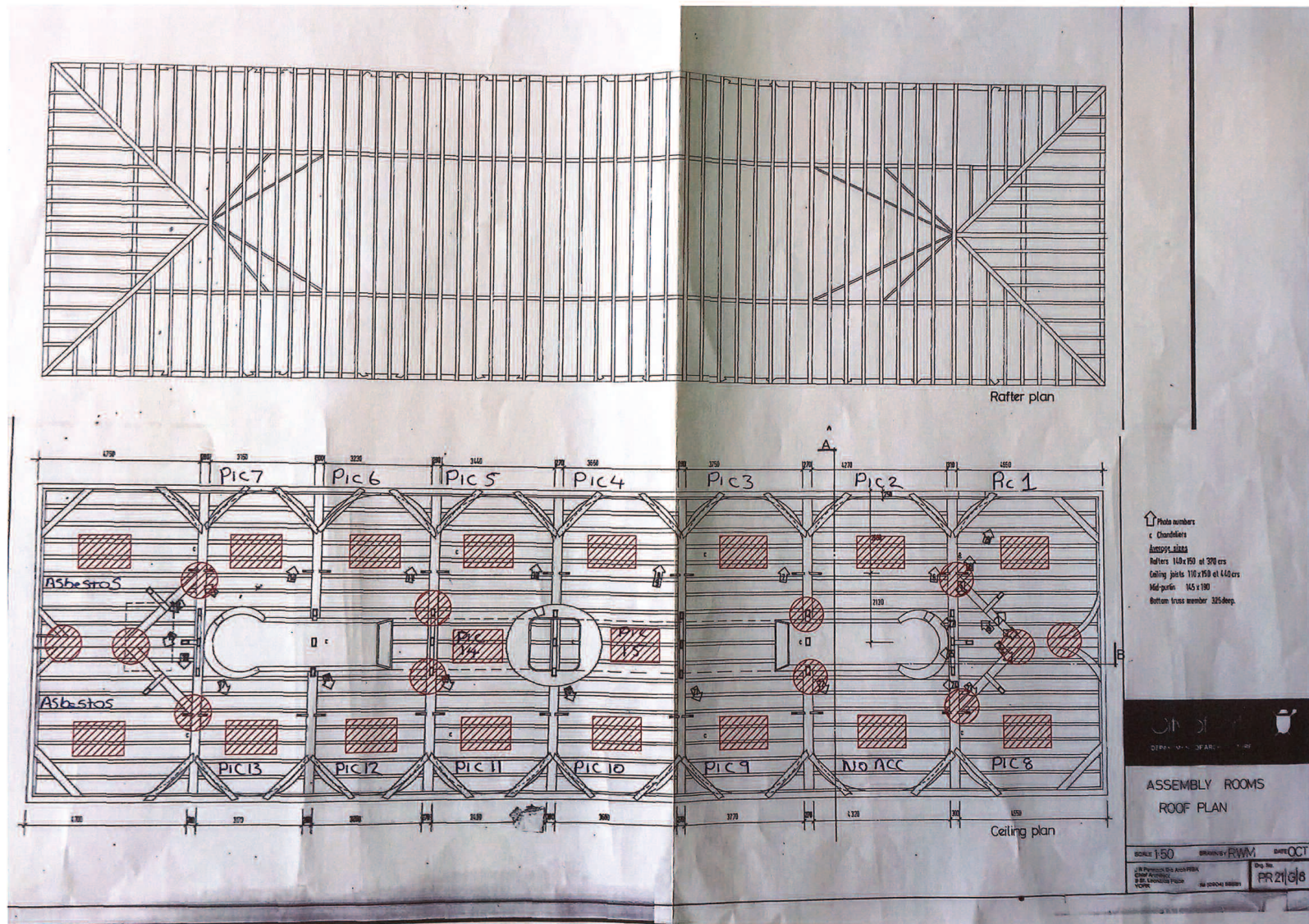
The Assembly Rooms, York, as they would have appeared in the building's Georgian heyday. Reproduced courtesy of the YAYAS Evelyn Collection.



The Assembly Rooms in Blake Street, York, were completed in 1735, some 36 years earlier than the famous Assembly Rooms in Bath, and are probably the earliest example of neo-classical architecture in Europe. They are therefore of considerable importance and a Grade I listed building.

Project: The Assembly Rooms, York

The roof plan.



Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**

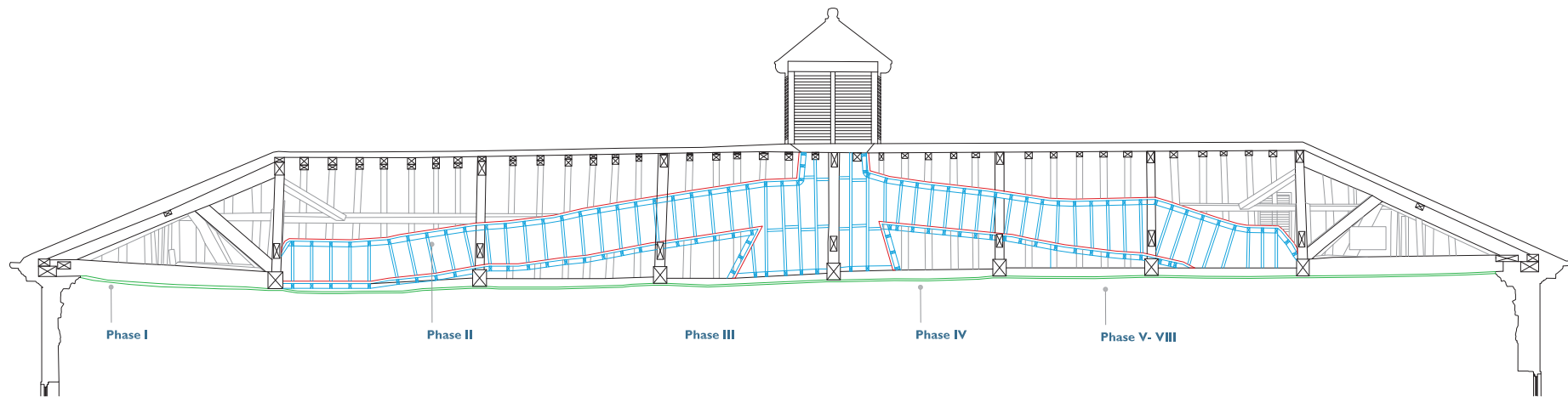


Above: The original ceiling in need of replacement due to worn out plaster not being secure.

Right: The stages of the new lath plaster ceiling.



Project: The Assembly Rooms, York



Section through ceiling construction

Phase I Existing ceiling is secured in place until the repairs can be undertaken.

Phase II Roof space cleaned and plaster removed from redundant ductwork.

Phase III Access scaffold erected.

Phase IV Existing plaster is removed.

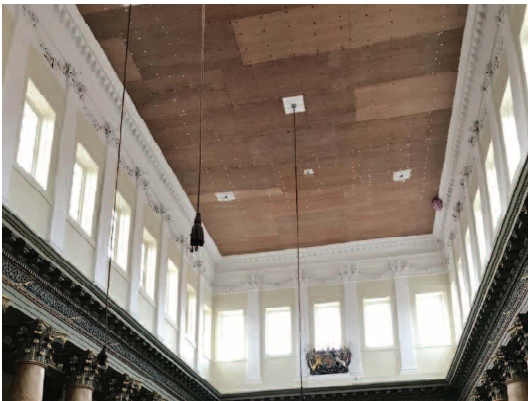
Phase V - VIII Existing ceiling removed and replaced with new lath and lime plaster ceiling.

Project: The Assembly Rooms, York

PHASE I

April

Ceiling secured



Thin plywood boards are fixed to ceiling joists to ensure the ceiling is made safe before main repair works commence. The ceiling is measured regularly using lasers across a 800 point grid to check for any movement.

PHASE II

June

Roof space cleaned & plaster to duct removed



To reduce loading to the roof structure, plaster linings to a redundant duct is removed. The framework and some laths are retained to preserve evidential value. This removes an estimated 3 tonnes of weight from the ceiling, lessening the level of structural intervention required.

PHASE III

July

Scaffold erected



A 10 metre high birdcage scaffold is required to provide safe access to the ceiling, this takes a week to install. The scaffold is designed to align with masonry support walls below floor level. Before erecting it the floor construction is assessed to check it can accommodate the required loading.

Project: The Assembly Rooms, York

PHASE IV

July
Ceiling removed



Before the ceiling could be removed the roof space has to be thoroughly cleaned, this is no easy undertaking, a 70mm blanket of dust covered the ceiling. The area above the scaffold is fully encased with plastic sheeting to prevent dust and debris reaching the other parts of the building.

PHASE V

August
Structural repairs & hardwood laths installed



Before the new ceiling can be installed it is necessary to undertake structural repairs to the roof structure. When these works are completed the laths can be installed. Finest quality hand riven oak laths are used. They are spaced a thumb width apart to ensure there is space for a good sized rivet of plaster to form above the laths.

PHASE VI

August - September
Lime plaster scratch & float coat



The first coat of plaster is called the 'scratch coat', this is the thickest layer and the most time consuming to apply. The plaster is sand and lime and rich with horse hair. It is physically pushed up between the laths and must be checked from above regularly to ensure there is a good sized rivet. The scratch coat is then left to carbonate before the 'float coat' is applied, this is made from the same plaster but with less hair and is applied to roughly half the thickness.

Project: The Assembly Rooms, York

PHASE VII

August - September
Finishing coat applied



The float coat must be well looked after to ensure it cures well. After 3 weeks it is possible to apply the final 'finishing coat' this is a thinly applied skim of fine sand and lime plaster. The setting process is referred to as carbonation. Lime plasters set due to chemical reaction with carbon dioxide in the air. A period of at least 2 weeks is left to allow the carbonation process to be well underway.

PHASE VIII

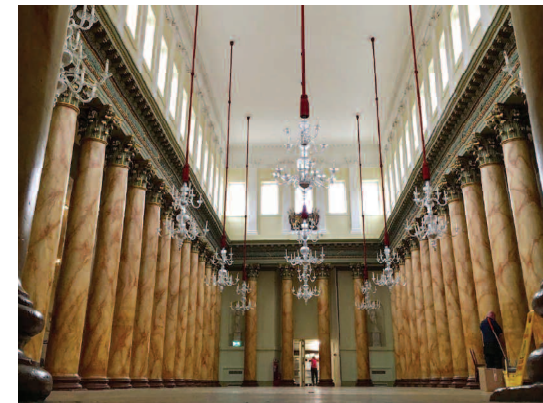
September
Ceiling decorated



Lime plasters are 'breathable', they allow the passage of air and vapor through their fabric, this quality makes them the only appropriate option for historic buildings. Once the plaster is set to the appropriate level the ceiling roses are refitted. A mineral paint can then be applied, this is a three coat system. The paint forms a bond with the plaster and allows it to continue to breath.

Completion

October
Scaffold removed & chandeliers re-hung



Once the scaffold is removed the chandeliers are re-hung. The IINO. Murano glass chandeliers were sent away for specialist restoration, they are re-hung on chains and safety wires and new tassels are fitted.

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Checking the timber work.

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



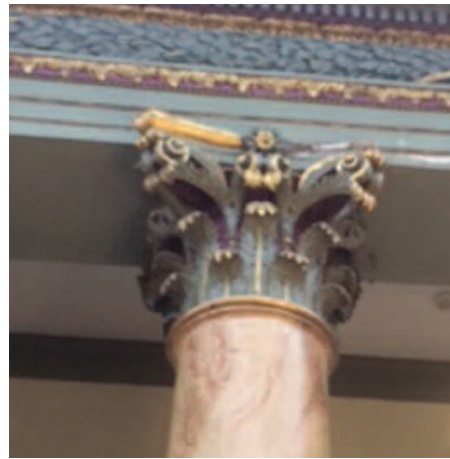
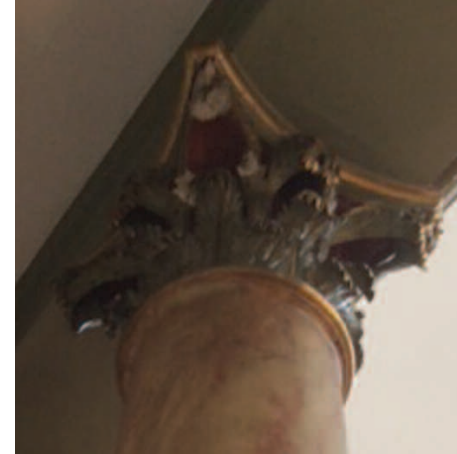
Starting the lath work.



Joe and Steve plastering.

10 week project

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



The damaged Corinthian Capitals prior to repair.

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Birdcage scaffolding was erected to allow us full access to carry out the repairs.

ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Guy Bowyer, Architect for York Conservation Trust, checking the restoration works.

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



The restored Corinthian Capitals.

**18 of the 56
Corinthian Capitals
were repaired**

ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**



Project: The Assembly Rooms, York



“Ornate Interiors share our core values of providing exceptional levels of personal customer service and a high standard of craftsmanship.

Their product knowledge and ability to proactively problem solve was instrumental to the successful completion of the historical project both on time and within budget.

Their skilled and committed team worked with us in a professional and timely manner, producing quality work throughout.

I have no hesitancy in recommending Ornate Interiors and look forward to working with them again in the near future.”

Mark Cregan

Operations Director

SIMPSON (York) Ltd.

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**

Our thanks go to our skilled team who worked very hard on delivering a high standard for this project

Ronnie Clifford - Contracts Manager
Lisa Hesson - Administrative Assistant
Liz Walton - Project Finance Management

On Site:

Iain Clifford
Steve Waterhouse
Jason Rider
Neil Williams
Joe Dodds
Steve Glynn
Luke Dodds
Lewis Patterson
Jake Clifford - Apprentice

ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Project: **The Assembly Rooms, York**

ornateinteriors
Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork



Acorn Works
534 Broad Lane
Stanningley
Pudsey
West Yorkshire
LS28 6PA
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0) 113 236 0864
Email: sales@ornateinteriors.co.uk
Web: www.ornateinteriors.co.uk