



Restoration

CAHERSIVEEN, CO. KERRY, IRELAND

DANIEL O'CONNELL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Restoration – Phase 1

September 3, 2009

Phase 1 – Restoring the Exterior of the Church

After much examination, consideration and evaluation, the restoration of the Church exterior commenced in early 2008. With an estimated timetable of fifteen months, Phase I of the restoration involved extensive structural work, focusing on five core areas.

- Walls
- Roof
- Roof Plumbing
- Windows
- External Doors

Given the magnitude of the project and the level of expertise required, we retained *Eamon Hedderman Architects* to conduct the conservation, restoration and preservation work; a company renowned for its ecclesiastical work and conservation of historic buildings.

Funding the Restoration work

The restoration of our Church is an unprecedented undertaking for our Parish and securing the funds to complete all the necessary work is providing us with an extraordinary yet special opportunity. It is estimated the total restoration and preservation project will cost €6 million over a five-year period. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of parishioners in raising more than €3 million over the past few years. This, combined with bridging finance through the Kerry Parochial Trust, has enabled us to commence Phase I. To accomplish the extensive restoration and to preserve this wonderful edifice for future generations, we need our faithful parishioners, the local business community, national friends and the worldwide network to help with this historic initiative.

Preliminary Works

Health and safety for the 15-20 workers on site obviously required the whole building to be scaffolded. This expensive task itself took months, as access was needed to every part of the building. It is remarkable to think on how the original builders in the late 1800's were able to build such a fine building with the best (and often heaviest) of materials.

Already Achieved

The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church of the Holy Cross is a magnificent 19th Century building and is listed and protected under the Heritage Council of Ireland. All of the restoration work undertaken has been within approved conservation practices and permissions. The Phase One works, under the management of L&M Keating commenced in January 2008 and were completed per contract in April 2009.

The exterior restoration included:

- Refitting the magnificent roof
Installing a new roof plumbing system incorporating 35 tons of lead
Restoration of over 100 windows
Re-pointing and cleaning granite stone
Restoration of railings and new landscaping

Walls

The original pointing on the walls between the granite blocks was allowing water to seep into the building, resulting in the disfiguring interior staining and the repointing and refilling was one of the most important and time-consuming task of the restoration. The new pointing materials for the walls is lime-based rather than cement-based as it allows for the natural slight movement that comes with age and time, and it also allows a degree of breathability. The outside railings were removed and taken off site for sandblasting and “dipping”, then treated with a heavy-duty paint to prevent weather corrosion.

Roof Work

The main timber on the roof was thankfully in perfect order, but the roof needed to be reslated because of water entering due to damaged slate, and because the valleys needed to be re-leaded. The slate was carefully removed with salvage and reuse in mind

After removing the slates, any damaged timber was replaced, and the roof was then felted and latted for re-slating. Reslating was under the supervision of Denis Daly Construction.

While every effort was made in salvaging, only approx 55% of the existing slate was actually salvageable. Reclaimed slate was sourced which was perfectly in keeping with the original Blue Bangor slate that was salvaged and reused. It's a surprise to many that Valentia slate wasn't originally used, given the proximity of the quarry, but it is thought that the weight of the roof with Valentia slate would have been impossible especially with the added challenge of the curved roof over the Sanctuary. There are approx 20,000 slates on O'Connell Memorial Church!

Roof Plumbing

This was the responsibility of **Robert Copeland & Sons** and their specialisation involved the detailed cialis-canada-pharma.com restoration of the entire lead network, which facilitates the efficient draining of the rainwater from the roof. A full 35 tons of lead were needed to provide effective lead work in the valleys and joints. This had to be carefully and perfectly shaped and welded to give full protection from the unrelenting Atlantic weather. Where the roof meets the walls there is a parapet (a passage way for walking safely in the gulleys). To do the lead work effectively, the lead [cialis vs levitra](#) comes from under the slate, into the gully and up the parapet wall. Every parapet stone had to be replaced after the lead has been put in place.

Doors and Stained Glass Windows

The doors were repaired and restored following years of weather damage. All the stained glass windows had their leading replaced and the storm-glazing outside the windows was also replaced. This involved over 100 windows in total and the work was carried out by **Emerald Windows**.

Total Expenditure to date – €4.85 million (Phase One)



If you are inspired to donate, please [click here](#)