

ornateinteriors

Specialists in Traditional Lime, Heritage and Fibrous Plasterwork

Our Awards



Striving for excellence in all that we do bears testimony to the many prestigious awards we have won in recent years.

The high quality of work produced by Ornate Interiors staff has won wide recognition by the leading industry awarding bodies, which continue to uphold a long and auspicious tradition of fine craftsmanship.

Although plaster was often used by the Romans, the recorded history of the craft dates from the 12th century. Several centuries later various trades associations in the City of London had grown to be influential in improving standards. In 1501 The Worshipful Company of Plasterers was incorporated under royal charter by Henry VII. In 1877 the Company was one of the eight original bodies who conceived the founding of the City and Guilds of London Institute. It has continued to foster the training, development and accreditation of plasterers and to recognise outstanding achievement through its awards.

The Plasterers Trophy is organised by the Federation of Plasterers and Drywall Contractors with the support of the Royal Institute of British Architects and The Worshipful Company of Plasterers. Ornate Interiors were adjudged overall winners of the Plasterers Trophy Award in 2006 and have continued to feature prominently in award ceremonies.

In 2018 the contribution Ornate Interiors made to the redevelopment of Oldham Town Hall won the Construction Industry's Finishes and Interiors Sector (FIS) Gold Award for Heritage Plastering. The project was also judged to be the Project of the Year. The FIS has led the way in promoting the highest standards in project management and delivery through their Product, Process and People initiative, which requires contractors to show evidence of competence and compliance at every stage of a project. This insistence on excellence in all respects makes winning FIS awards particularly prestigious.

In 2012 The National Federation of Builders recognised the plastering expertise demonstrated in the restoration of the Plaza Super Cinema in Stockport with a Special Award for Craftsmanship.

In 2009 Ornate Interiors received a "Highly Commended" award by the judges of The Federation of Plasterers and Drywall Contractors (FPDC) in the Fibrous and GRG Heritage category for their restoration work on a Georgian private residence in Cheshire.

In the same year the display of innovative approaches to the challenging Haymarket Hub project won the Humber Salver Award for Internal Plastering at the Plasterers Awards – the highest accolade achievable in the industry.

In 2006 Ornate Interiors were honoured to win the Humber Salver Award for Fibrous and GRG work on a Private Chapel.

These awards are testimony to the superior craftsmanship Ornate Interiors staff demonstrate in every project they undertake, and to their ability to master a wide range of challenges.

2018

FIS Project of the Year 2018

for Oldham Town Hall Redevelopment

FIS Gold Winner

Heritage for Oldham Town Hall Redevelopment

2012

NFB Annual Awards 2012

Heritage Project of the Year 2011

for Stockport Plaza

(Recognition of Craftsmanship)

2009

FPDC

Winner of the Humber Salver Award

for Internal Plastering for works on Haymarket Hub,
Newcastle

High Commended

for Fibrous & GRG Heritage

for Private Residence in Cheshire

2006

FPDC Plaisterers Trophy

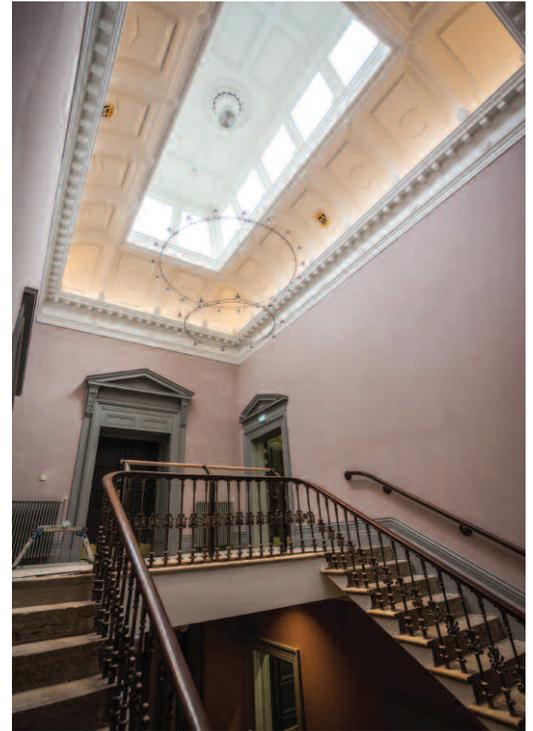
for the Private Chapel

FPDC - The Humber Salver Award

for Fibrous & GRG work on Private Chapel

2018

Construction industry Finishes and Interiors Sector Awards 2018, winners of the FIS Gold Award for Heritage Plastering for the Oldham Town Hall Redevelopment, which also gained the ultimate accolade as FIS Project of the Year.



“The finished project exudes the highest quality of workmanship, quality and ingenuity. It is simply stunning.”

Specialist contractor: Ornate Interiors
Main contractor: Morgan Sindall plc
Architect: BDP (Architects) Manchester

“The finished project exudes the highest quality of workmanship, quality and ingenuity. It is simply stunning.” With those words Judges Tony Pierl and Clive Perry summed up their reasons for selecting the redevelopment of Oldham Town Hall as the Construction Industry’s Finishes and Interiors Sector Project of the Year 2018. The merits of 50 shortlisted projects across 12 categories were carefully considered before the final decision was announced to 460 leading figures from the Construction Industry who had gathered at The Dorchester Hotel, London, for the presentations.

Lynn Robinson, RICS Regional Director, remarked: “This highly -esteemed accolade is awarded to the project on the shortlist which demonstrates outstanding best practice, exemplary commitment to sustainability and significant benefit to its local communities.”

The inspirational three-year project, undertaken for Oldham Council by main contractors Morgan Sindall and BDP (Architects) Manchester, transformed a 175-year-old Grade II listed building that had been placed on the ‘at risk’ register into a civic centre complex comprising a fully-restored Town Hall, seven cinema screens for the Odeon’s new home in Oldham, family restaurants and links to new retail outlets. The eventual cost of the project was in the region of £37 million.

Ornate Interiors were commissioned to apply their unparalleled expertise in the restoration of heritage buildings to a wide range of technical problems in over twenty rooms and in the sweeping staircase areas. Contracts Manager Jim Dodd commented: “I knew that using the combined skills we have within our team we could create a lasting legacy for the people of Oldham to enjoy for many generations to come.”

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Pictured left to right: Richard Hanney, The Master of The Worshipful Company of Plasterers, Ronnie Clifford, Managing Director, Ornate Interiors, Sue Clifford, Business Development, Ornate Interiors, Jim Dodd, Contracts Manager, Ornate Interiors, Miles Jupp, Comedian.

The chief challenge was the reproduction and installation of fibrous plaster corbels for the courtroom, which had been chosen for one of the new cinema spaces. The existing corbels were solid casts which could not be installed onto the new acoustic-rated ceiling and were too heavy to be installed only onto the walls. New fibrous plaster corbels were therefore made, together with pre-manufactured back plates to enable the corbels to be fixed onto the walls and not the ceiling.

Elsewhere lime plastering was applied to masonry walls and lath and lime plaster to ceilings. Many existing in-situ mouldings were beyond repair so mouldings had to be cast to replicate the originals. Features dealt with included cornices, ornamental fluted corbels, beam casings, Ionic column capitals, ceiling roses and roundels. Lighting trough cornices were created for the staircase. In the Egyptian Room loose sections of the ceiling were removed and reinstated in lime plaster. Damaged sections of cornice were removed and matching replacements were manufactured in fibrous plaster and reinstated.

Oldham Council Leader, Councillor Jean Stretton, was delighted:

“There isn’t a cinema like this in the country. At the same time the setting is amazing.

The fact that so many of the original features of the building have been either restored or retained is very impressive.”

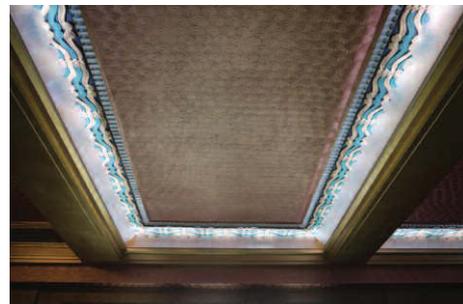
2012

The National Federation of Builders Annual Awards 2012, Special Award for Craftsmanship as contender for the Heritage Project of the Year 2011, for The Stockport Plaza Cinema.



“The knowledge and experience of management and site personnel, the ability to programme resources and organise the ordering and delivery of materials and components and the pride in the standard of workmanship resulted in a successful contract and a finished output of an exceptionally high standard”

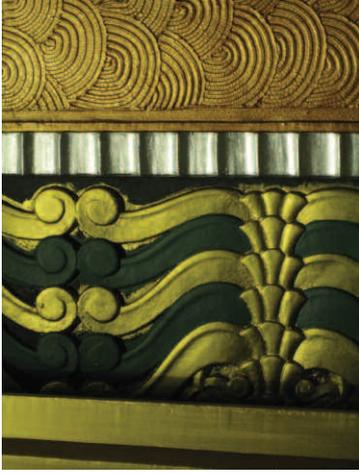
David Watkins of Brock Carmichael Architects



The original Stockport Plaza Cinema, a Grade II listed Art Deco building, commissioned by the Reid, Snape and Ward cinema circuit and designed by William Thornley of Wigan, is generally acknowledged to have been the most sophisticated building in Stockport.

The Stockport Plaza Trust, a volunteer-run charity formed specifically to preserve and operate the Plaza for the benefit of local and national audiences, coordinated the fund-raising needed to carry out the extensive restoration works needed to rectify damage and unsympathetic modifications. Ornate Interiors were chosen to undertake the specialist lime and plasterwork elements of this prestigious £3.2 million project.

Ornate Interiors worked closely with Brock Carmichael Architects at all stages of the project, from the initial inspection through the production process.



“I would have no hesitation in recommending Ornate Interiors for similar conservation and restoration projects incorporating plain and decorative lime plasterwork and fibrous plaster.”

Specialist contractor: Ornate Interiors
Main contractor: GF Holdings
Architect: Brock Carmichael



Centre: Sue and Ronnie Clifford proudly accepting the award.

Much of the original detail was found to have been preserved behind suspended ceilings and wall linings fitted in the 1960s, but elsewhere significant areas of decorative and fibrous plaster detail had been lost or badly damaged. The plasterwork on the existing ceilings was in a poor state, having been patched at various stages in the building's history. Changes to the arrangement of the entrance foyers and the configuration on the auditorium had also led to major loss of original components.

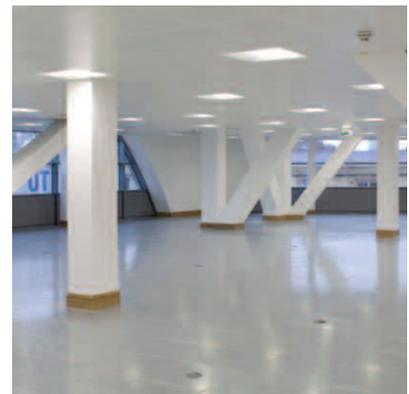
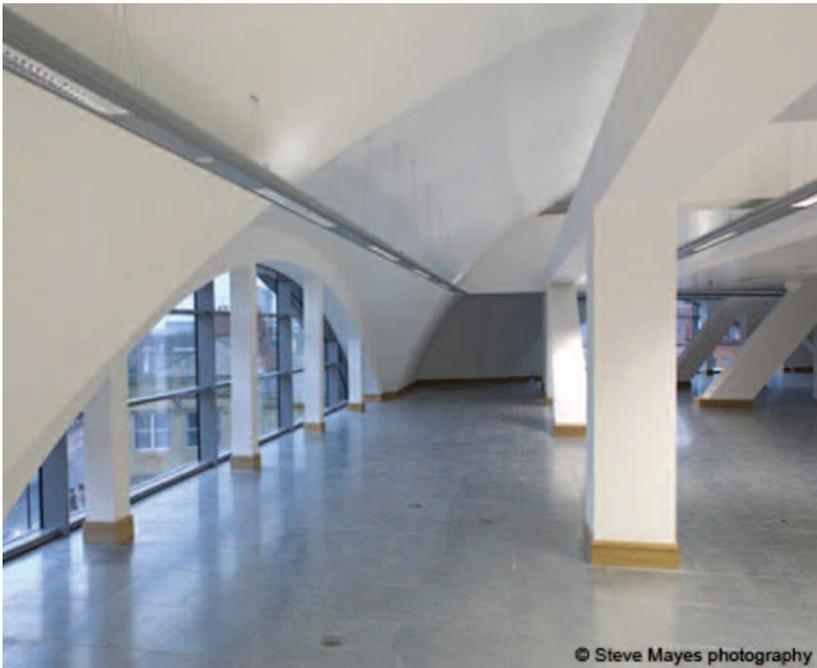
Fortunately Ornate Interiors were able to refer to excellent photographic images taken at the 1932 opening, which helped them ensure the accuracy and authenticity of reproductions and the overall restoration. Sample-analysis showed the existing plaster was a lime and gypsum solution that originated in Belgium.

Ornate Interiors recreated a mix as close as possible to the original, opting to use two coats of haired lime plaster applied onto traditional hardwood lath, with a top coat of 50% Knauf and 50% lime plaster, finished with the "Artex-style" pattern of the original design.

The surviving plasterwork was painstakingly cleaned to allow squeezes to be taken and subsequent repairs to be implemented. Samples of various decorative finishes were created and then reproduced and applied in-situ, and various fibrous plaster mouldings and components were also made.

2009

The Federation of Plastering and Drywall Contractors Plasterers' Awards 2009: The Humber Salver Award for internal plastering.



“A spectacular job that not many companies would dare to take on.”

The judges for this award recognised the extreme technical difficulties that Ornatе Interiors coped with during the course of the project. The Haymarket Hub, situated in the heart of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is a £22 million metro station development with retail outlets and Grade A office space over four floors.

The Haymarket Hub is marked by a distinctive zinc-covered roof. Each side of the building incorporates a giant glazed arch. Consequently the curved internal environment posed many challenges. Work was further complicated because the Metro station beneath – which is used by approximately 6 million passengers a year – remained fully operational during the project, which meant a constant stream of pedestrians moving to and fro.

Ornatе Interiors were appointed to carry out internal plasterwork on the third and fourth floors. The craftsmen opted to use the innovative Knauf projection method, in which the plaster is applied by machine. This approach is much quicker than hand-applied plastering, the obvious benefit to the developers being that time on site is reduced, enabling following trades to come in earlier than otherwise would have been possible.

The first stage was to erect a complex construction of steel suspension, insulation and curved galvanised sheets. Plaster was then sprayed on to the required thickness. After application the plaster was left to harden, then smoothed with a curved spatula and finished with a sponge. Finally the face of the plaster was trowelled to an even curved matt finish ready for the final paintwork. The smoothness of the plaster is outstanding and completed a project which displayed true craftsmanship throughout.

Specialist contractor: Ornatе Interiors
Main contractor: Tolent
Architect: Reid Tubb Brown



Centre and right: Sue Clifford and Gordan Brown accepting the award trophies.

The judges described this as “a spectacular job that not many companies would dare take on: a large dome, over 18 metres across and over two floors with lunette windows. The contractor concluded that the way to get the true curves was to use spray plaster on expanded metal lath. With a team of six plasterers this represents the true test of the craft with perfect radii and no bumps or visible joins. The setting out is more than impressive, with surfaces constantly curving in two directions.”

At these awards Ornate Interiors also received a Highly Commended in the Fibrous and GRG Heritage plastering category, for a private residence in Cheshire.

The judges considered this project to be “an excellent piece of restoration and reproduction, copying and extending existing cornices and column details into areas of new build,” and featuring “harmonised and meticulously crisp elliptical lantern linings in a coffered ceiling, with no expense spared.”



The Plasterers Trophy Award 2006

“Overall winners of the Plasterers Trophy Award 2006”
and winner of the Humber Salver Award for Fibrous
and GRG over £50,000.



The Plasterers Awards Trophy



Specialist contractor: Ornate Interiors
Main contractor: William Anelay
Architect: Craig Hamilton

“We were quite unprepared for the
breathtaking interior which opened up
when we entered the building”.

Ornate Interiors Limited – a member of the FPDC- was awarded the highly coveted Plasterers Trophy for the stunning work created on a private chapel in the north of Britain.

The FPDC Plasterers' Trophy Awards is one of the oldest industry awards, rewarding craftsmanship and the highest standards of skill and excellence in the art of plastering and drywall design and installation.

Designed by award winning architect Craig Hamilton, whose practice specialises in progressive classical designs and insists on utilising traditional materials wherever possible. The work to the chapel included casting, building and slotting together giant sections of the curved ceiling and took just under 10 months to complete.

Ronnie Clifford, MD of Ornate Interiors, explained “This was an extraordinarily demanding job that involved a high degree of precision and knowledge.”

Achieving a finish that was deemed by the FPDC judges to be “apparent perfection” the Ornate team completed a complex and

intricate project with staggering professionalism, superb planning and extraordinary skill.

It will come as no surprise therefore, that the project took not only the FPDC prize for fibrous GRG over £50,000 but was also awarded the Plasterers Trophy 2006.

Ornate Interiors is the first to admit that the work was challenging. “We had to be extremely precise in every measurement as all the different parts of the work had to interlock”. The team, which also included one second year apprentice, was meticulous, achieving a finish the judges thought was exemplary. “With this kind of construction there would ordinarily be joints or cracking visible, but there were none,” the judges enthused.

The complexity of the project meant that working closely with both the architect and the contractor was essential. Ceiling roses from the architect's designs were first modelled in clay, then poured in rubber to create a mould and finally cast and fitted. More than 60 of them adorn the lavish chapel ceiling. The rosettes for the vestibule of the chapel were made in 11 separate sections and bedded in individually.



“The entire ceiling fitted together perfectly, like a giant jigsaw with no evidence of movement or of jointing. A truly remarkable achievement”.



Back row left to right: Nicholas Carr, master of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers; Ronnie Clifford, managing director, Ornate Interiors; David Grint, president, FPDC and managing director Grint Drylining (Freethorpe); Sue Clifford, business development manager, Ornate Interiors; Steve Waterhouse, project manager, Ornate Interiors, Gordon Brown, contracts manager, Ornate Interiors. **Front row left to right:** Ian Clifford, director, Ornate Interiors; Shaun Chamberlain, shop foreman, Ornate Interiors; Neil Williams, site foreman, Ornate Interiors.

“The commitment of everyone in this company made the job very special. The end result can only be described as stunning”.

Expertise, and above all lots of patience, was required for the complicated creation of the apse. This was manufactured in three giant 2.4 metre sections. Models for the ribs were created in the workshop and then cast off to make five moulds of diminishing sizes. The team had to then create the apse ceiling rosettes, in four different sizes, as well as a decorative flute mould that was installed to the top of the apse. “Everything we made for this project was made from scratch in our workshop, there were no standard moulds. It was a definite one off requiring a phenomenal amount of thinking and setting out from day one. The overall effect is stunning”.

The external lime harling was applied using natural hydraulic lime mixed one part lime to two part sand for the scratch coat and one to 2.5 parts for the second coat. For the final coat, the harling/wet dash consisted of a mixture of one part lime to two parts sand and was mixed with pebble aggregate to the architects’ preferred finish.

The judges reiterated the work was “a credit to all involved in the construction, Ornate Interiors has excelled in workmanship. The team have helped to create a staggering piece of work of high quality, which will continue to amaze for generations and have shown techniques to lie in their hearts”.

Ornate Interiors applaud architects such as Craig Hamilton who provide the opportunity to demonstrate such ability and techniques whilst continuing to impart these essential skills through the company’s successful apprenticeship scheme.

The Plaisterers Trophy is organised by the FPDC with the support of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

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Contact us for more information:

We are conveniently located 5 miles from the city centre of Leeds with access to all the major road, motorway, rail and airport routes.
A customer car park is located on the Leeds and Bradford Road entrance.

Ornate Interiors Ltd.
Acorn Works
534 Broad Lane
Stanningley
Pudsey
West Yorkshire LS28 6PA
United Kingdom

Tel: 0113 236 0864

Fax: 0113 236 3706

Email: sales@ornateinteriors.co.uk

www.ornateinteriors.co.uk