

CASE STUDY: Private Chapel

Sector: Ecclesiastical

Main Contractor: William Anelay

Architect: Craig Hamilton Architects

Services

- Manufacture and installation of architect designed plaster mouldings
- Lime plastering
- Lime Rendering

Award-winning architect Craig Hamilton designed this private chapel as a place of worship for up to 30 people, sited in the grounds of a private lodge. Although this was a new-build project, the vision included a wide range of architect-designed decorative and ornate features, made using traditional lime-based materials and techniques. The large-scale project involved many complex operations that required in-depth technical knowledge and extreme precision. It took six months to complete.

Most of the casting was carried out at the Ormate Interiors workshop and then transported to be fitted jig-saw-like on site. First a large number of curved panels were made to form the base of the coffers for the nave and vestibule. Ribs were manufactured to go across the width and breadth of the ceiling to create a series of coffers. Joints and mitres were prepared on site. Two different-sized lunettes were made, each curved to the face and sides running between the wall columns at a radius with the ceiling coffers. Beam moulds were made for the apse and the vestibule end of the ceiling. Over 60 rosettes were modelled in clay, poured in silicone rubber, cast in plaster and then fitted. The vestibule rosettes were made in 11 separate sections and bedded in individually.

The apse was formed in three 2.4 metre sections. Models for the ribs were run on the apse mould and cast off into five moulds of diminishing sizes. Four types of complementary rosettes were installed into each coffer on the apse. A flute mould was installed on the top band of the apse. An anthemion model was carved in timber, poured in rubber and cast in plaster plates before being installed in the top of the apse.



Plastering between each of the columns was carried out using a natural hydraulic lime plaster applied in three coats. The external lime harling was also applied in three coats, the final coat being mixed with pebble aggregate to give a rough finish.

The project won the coveted Plaisterers Trophy in 2006. The judges commented:

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