



Above: Delaminating render. Below: Safety hoarding also catches repair process water



Restored facade area matches existing facade

PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGIES

PROJECTS

Team restores failing exposed aggregate render

The problem: An investigation found that the existing exposed aggregate render, reinforced by a thin mesh, was delaminating from the concrete elements of the structure. The failed area was directly over the main entry to the Council of Sydney's building in Kent Street, as well as being a busy pedestrian thoroughfare from Town Hall Station and St Andrews School.

The constraints: Very busy entry and pedestrian thoroughfare, with many school children using the area. The area could not be closed off. Noise restrictions were in force throughout the day. There was no site storage or parking.

The solution: Following submission of plans to the facility manager and a permit application, a B Class hoarding was erected and totally closed off to seal the area above. A fixed, enclosed scaffold was erected off the hoarding and around the structure. Removal of render and drilling into the building was carried out after hours and on weekends.

The methodology: The initial work involved producing a trial sample to ensure the new render would match the old in texture and colour. New stainless steel mesh was mechanically fixed to the concrete and an initial skim coat was troweled on using a pre-bagged polymer-based render. To this layer a second build coat was added before the final aggregate-filled render was applied. This was then exposed to match the existing surface. Also a planter box at the top of the structure was totally renovated using a torch-on membrane.

The result: The repaired facade area is now once again secure and blends in with the adjoining building elements.

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