



Craftsmen in the
Conservation of
Historic Buildings

St. Giles House

Wimborne St. Giles, Dorset

Brickwork conservation and new build

The brickwork of this elegant Grade I listed renaissance building has been extensively repaired and repointed. Original 17th Century brickwork, and historic repairs, have been blended seamlessly with new materials. We used samples of original brickwork from St Giles House to create bespoke replacement bricks matching the colours, tones and textures of original brickwork. These were used in sympathetic repairs throughout the old building and laid in English Bond in the construction of the stunning new Loggia and apartment attached to the North Wing.



From left: The poor state of repair of brickwork. Commissioned bricks designed to match Renaissance originals in texture and colour. In situ in the new Loggia

Brickwork on the South Terrace, already damaged by the removal of 1820's render in the 1970s, had borne the brunt of weathering from the sun and rain. Where necessary perished bricks were repaired or replaced. A careful blending of coloured pointing was used to create an even appearance to the edges of the weathered brickwork, both preserving the original materials, blending in replacement bricks and creating a consistent appearance with less weathered sections of brickwork.



From left: The restored South Façade. The new build loggia and apartment. Seamless repairs and coloured pointing work on the weathered South Wing

In recognition of the extensive programme of restoration the conserved brickwork has been left exposed as an internal feature in a gallery room which houses an exhibition on the transformation of St Giles House.



St. Giles House

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Stonework conservation and repair

The classical façade of this Grade I listed building has been restored throughout. In the old building damaged stonework has been conserved and repaired. Only where necessary replacement materials have been introduced and crafted to blend with the original stonework. The new loggia and apartment continues the classical style using design elements from the original house. Here the Doric columns, edging stones and keystones have been carved from Portland stone by Ellis and Co's masons.



From left: The new loggia replicates the north door and stone is married in with specially commissioned brickwork. The South façade demonstrates replacements, and repairs to edging stonework, window seals, window dressings, and ornamental features on the roof.

Throughout each wing of the house window seals have been repaired and replaced in part or in entirety using Portland stone. For the window dressing repairs we used Chilmark, an exceptionally high quality limestone from the Chicks Grove quarry. Mortar mixes were developed and selected to blend with original stonework.



Stonework damaged through weathering and neglect has been sensitively repaired. The finished windows, right, show repairs to seals and dressings blend.

St Giles House boasts beautiful architectural features such as the balls and plinths that adorn the perimeter of the roof. These were removed for cleaning and repair, while the roof was replaced. Where necessary replacement replicas were carved and introduced alongside the originals.



Detailed stonework is also a feature within St Giles House. For example, Ellis and Co craftsmen carved detailed ornaments which furnish the restored fireplace in the beautifully plastered 'White Room'. The marble floor of the loggia which leads into the white room makes an elegant entrance.



Further case studies summarising the whole works at St Giles House, and detailing specific aspects including joinery, carpentry and plasterwork are available on the Ellis and Co website www.ellisandco.uk.com