



HOUSE OF MUSES INSTALLATION SPECIAL

THE BUILD

Pictures of our work
in the workshop from
concept to completion

AFTERMATH

How the installation
draws on inspirations
from past and present

TRADITIONAL CRAFT & EXPERTISE



This summer, a striking new pavilion opened at the entrance of the Museum of London, as part of the London Festival of Architecture 2014. House of Muses, which is conceived as the pillar of an imagined lost cathedral, offers visitors a chance to share their thoughts to help shape the future of the museum.

The temporary installation was commissioned in collaboration between the Museum of London and The Architecture Foundation, who sought a design team that could create a structure for contemplation about the physical transformation of the museum. GRUPPE, a London/Zurich-based practice, were the decided winners from an international

competition which attracted over 70 entries.

Its plywood installation, rendered with our very own plasterwork and scagliola, is a pillar of this imagined lost cathedral. It deliberately reflects the past in its shape and in the craftsmanship of its surfaces, while acting as a place to consider the future.

The story behind this beautiful installation started in earnest at our workshop in Bristol.

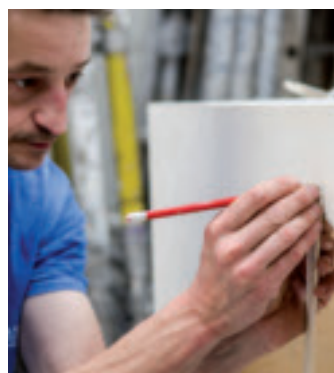
This was a real team effort where everyone was involved in producing such a fine output. The following pictures show some of the build and members of the team who were involved.

Above, top:
Master craftsman Derek Bond is seen here applying glue to a section of the framework to which the adjacent plaster cast was carefully placed and screwed.

From left to right:
Trainee Joseph Reggazzoli scoring the plaster to fit with the wood.

The cast in framework, craftsman Paul English marking out the dimensions on the plaster and then cutting out the wood with a fein to fit with the wood.

Below, right:
This photograph clearly shows a large section of the Muses installation ready for final finishing in our workshop.



Fragments of the lost past inspire musings to shape the future

The Museum of London, together with The Architecture Foundation, commissioned House of Muses, a temporary installation for the London Festival of Architecture 2014. House of Muses was designed by architectural practice GRUPPE and manufactured by our very own skilled workshops in Bristol and Crediton.

The inspiration behind the piece was one particular historical fragment – the tower of St Alban. This church in nearby Wood Street was badly damaged during the Second World War, with only its tower surviving the post-war clearance. Rather than the more modest church of which it was actually a part, GRUPPE imagined the tower as a remnant of a monumental cathedral stretching as far as the entrance to the museum today. The installation is a pillar of this imagined lost cathedral. It deliberately reflects the past in its shape and in the craftsmanship of its surfaces, while acting as a place to consider the future.



Hayles & Howe at the House of Muses

Visitors are encouraged to use the installation to look into the future and contribute their thoughts on both the Muses and the museums transformation.



We were honoured to be involved in the House of Muses exhibition at the Museum of London in which we were commissioned to provide plasterwork and scagliola production for the entrance feature.

The images here show the finished installation at the Museum of London. The exhibition runs from 6th June until Sunday 21st September 2014. The installation is at the entrance of the museum and encourages users to engage with the piece by writing notes, walking in and out of it and even sitting on it.

As the Muses installation is outside and could possibly be affected by environmental elements we had to ensure the structure was physically sound, safe and durable. To do this we had to choose our materials very carefully.



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There's no question that the finished result brings value to Hayles & Howe's already impressive work. Despite being a quick turnaround, Production Manager Niall Harris was delighted with the output. 'The time was really short so it was challenging'.

He also singled out architects GRUPPE for praise during the project. 'They were very helpful and kind, it was a pleasure to work with them'.



SCAGLIOLA PLINTHS ADD CLASSICAL FINISH AND BEAUTY

The scagliola used for the seating areas was No: 22 Antique Carrara, from our standard range of scagliolas. The Crediton team enjoyed working on this challenging project.

Although the house of Muses draws heavily on classical forms for inspiration, it is a very contemporary piece. Mark Burston, our Scagliola Production Manager said, 'All in all it was a great project with a more modern outlook'.

Photographs from the top, left to right:

Richard Houlston in our Crediton workshop polishing the scagliola; a finished plinth section; preparation for manufacture; a layout test and inspection process.





This was arguably quite a different project for our team to take on and it clearly excited everyone in the workshop to be involved with something so prestigious and completely artisan.

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Scagliola and plastering by

Installation design and construction by

Commissioned by

HAYLES & HOWE

GRUPPE

