

CASE STUDY

RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF THE EXTRENAL FABRICS OF ONE OF SCOTLANDS
MOST IMPORTANT CLASS A LISTED BUILDING



5 & 7 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH



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RESTORATION AND REPAIR OF A CLASS A LISTED
BUILDING FACADE

SITE ADDRESS: 5 & 7 CHARLOTTE SQUARE, EDINBURGH

CLIENT: THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT: GREY MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES



Gray, Marshall & Associates
Chartered Architects

START DATE: OCTOBER 2012 DURATION OF WORKS: 4 MONTHS

VALUE: £30,000.00



History

Charlotte Square is believed by many to represent the highpoint of the first New Town’s planning. The famous Scottish architect Robert Adam designed the town houses on each side of the square as unified blocks, creating palace-like frontages. Charlotte Square soon became one of the most prestigious addresses in the city.

During the Victorian period changing fashions meant that Charlotte Square lost much of the classical symmetry of its original design. In No. 5, the first floor windows were extended and dormers were added to the roofline.

In 1903 the Marquis of Bute bought No.5 Charlotte Square and commissioned Balfour Paul (1875-1938) to restore the building to its original Georgian glory. Lord Bute was an early pioneer of historic building conservation and had a particular enthusiasm for Adam’s work.

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Between 1949 and 1999, No. 5 served as the headquarters of the National Trust for Scotland and in 1966 ownership of Nos 5, 6, and 7 Charlotte Square passed permanently to the Trust. Since 1999 No. 5 has been home to Edinburgh World Heritage.

Introduction

As two of the most important class A listed buildings in Scotland, Restorex were delighted to have been selected by the National Trust For Scotland, to act as main Contractor, in the repair and restoration of these iconic buildings.



Objectives of the project

The project architects, working on behalf of The National Trust, developed a specialised and traditional specification and schedule of works, which had to be strictly observed and carried out to an exacting standard. The use of traditional materials, coupled with a high standard of traditional and specialist trade skills, ensured that these magnificent facades are preserved and protected, for many years to come.

Description of works

Erecting and dismantling of specially designed access scaffolding. The works consisted of:

- ◆ Repair and replacement of masonry to elevations and steps
- ◆ Repair and overhaul of all sash & casement windows
- ◆ Full redecoration of windows, cast iron rainwater and soil goods

Conclusion

The whole team at Restorex are very proud to have been selected to work on and have had played a part in helping preserve important and historic Scottish heritage. This project was carried out without difficulty to the staff at the Georgian Town-house. Special provision for Bute House meant that the 1st Minister of Scotland was able to carry out his important duties in safety and without interruption.

