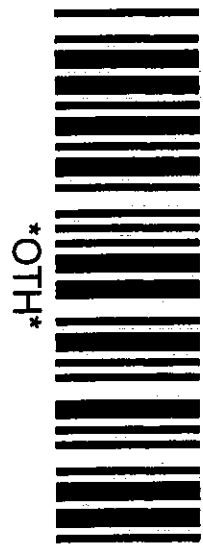


**ROYAL BOROUGH  
OF  
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA**

**DOCUMENT SEPARATOR**

**DOCUMENT TYPE:**

**OTHER**



**\*OTH\***



# RBKC District Plan Observations CONSERVATION AND DESIGN

21

Address	Appl. No.	L.B.	C.A.	N
The Armenian Church, Avenue Gardens	NIC LB/02/01148	II	✓	CS
Description	Code			
External cleaning of existing stonework.				

The principle of the cleaning & repair of the church exterior is welcomed.

Would suggest that copies of the photographs/specifications are sent to Don Binco, Technical Advisor, at 24, for LT professional view. Don has considerable technical knowledge regarding stone cleaning & may wish to attend a site meeting as a consultant.

HB 14. June. 02.

72

cc:

**Date:** 25 June 2002

I am requested to advise on the Specification for proposed masonry cleaning by Nicola Cowley of RBKC.

1. The building is of Portland stone and the masonry is generally in very good condition. The soiling on the building appears to be adherent atmospheric pollutants and dirt deposition, some staining caused by rainwater run-off, but no encrustation which contributes significantly to decay. In my view cleaning is being proposed primarily for aesthetic reasons and improvement of its condition by removal of heavy deposits which are developing in sheltered zones. Some structural work, filling and repointing of hollow, hungry and decayed joints, mainly at the higher levels, will be necessary, but this is minor and there are no stonework repairs apparent.

2. Notwithstanding the specified mason's water clean, cleaning trials should and will be undertaken in order to confirm the:-

- aesthetic desirability and practical feasibility of cleaning
- success of the stipulated cleaning system
- definition of alternative/additional combinative systems
- production of detailed specification covering building preparation and protection, materials, equipment and techniques and operatives

I would want to be present during the trial cleaning procedure.

3. I clarified the meaning of PAYE's description of *asons water wash*, which is washing. This is a well-established method of cleaning limestone surfaces though not without its pitfalls, normally associated with over-saturation. Successful washing programmes are those with sufficient versatility to put the minimum amount of water for the minimum time only where it is required, and can be achieved in different ways, including persistent wet mist, intermittent/pulse, water lances under controlled low-medium pressure (400-800psi) and steam cleaning. In association with brushing with nylon, bristle or non-ferrous brushes, washing can be highly effective. The long term effects on appearance and condition of masonry of such cleaning systems are recognised to be good.

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4. I do not expect any serious problems arising as the specified system is compatible with the material and its current condition, the cleaning contractor is reputable, competent and having great experience on historic buildings work. The cleaning trials will establish the appropriateness, efficacy, standard of clean and operative competence of the process.

5. Mortar mixes, techniques and processes will have to be further defined and approved in respect of the repointing, and again I do not expect any serious difficulties arising.

6. There are no stonework repairs, replacements, detail improvements, treatments etc proposed.

23

Nicola - can you hand to Caroline to book in after site visit.

GEORGE RALPH ARCHITECTS  
Chartered Architects

44, Hawthorne Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2HH Tel: (020) 8467 5467  
Fax: (020) 8467 5467

01 July 2002

Your Ref: DPS/DCC/LB/02/01148

Our Ref: GR/Arm Ch RB K&C

Ms N Cowley  
Planning and Conservation  
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
The Town Hall  
Hornton Street  
LONDON W8 7NX

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(52)

Dear Ms Cowley

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH of St SARKIS, IVERNA GARDENS, LONDON W8 6TP  
PROPOSED EXTERNAL CLEANING of STONWORK

Further to our telephone conversation on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and again today I confirm our arrangements for a meeting at Iverna Gardens on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2002 at 10.30 am.

As promised, I attach two copies of my drawing No 99406 showing the proposed crossover arrangement which was rejected by the Council last year, together with two copies of a new drawing No 99409 showing an alternative proposal for vehicular access along the western boundary I would welcome advice from you and the Highways Department on this alternative.

Yours sincerely

George Ralph, Architect

Enclosures: Drawings numbered 99406 and 99409

Waiting on:  
- Parking  
- Drainage investigation  
- Hilary discussed with Don Bianco, tree not impacting on building.

PK  
**COPY OF PLANS  
TO INFORMATION  
OFFICE PLEASE**

FOR INFORMATION  
TO INFORMATION  
COPY OF PLANS

# Agenda for 15/7/02

frank  
25  
✓ 547

GEORGE RALPH ARCHITECTS 44, Hawthorne Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2HH Tel: (020) 8467 5467  
Chartered Architects Fax: (020) 8467 5467

3 July 2002

BY POST AND FAX TO 020 7361 3463

Your Ref: DPS/DCC/LB/02/01148  
Our Ref: GR/Arm Ch RB K&C

Ms N Cowley  
Planning and Conservation  
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
The Town Hall  
Hornton Street  
LONDON W8 7NX

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Dear Ms Cowley

## THE ARMENIAN CHURCH of St SARKIS, IVERNA GARDENS, LONDON W8 6TP PROPOSED EXTERNAL CLEANING of STONWORK

As promised in our meeting with Hillary Bell at the church this morning I list below the agenda points for discussion in the site meeting you are arranging with English Heritage, Highway, Planning, Conservation Officer and the Arboriculture Officer:-

1. Listed Building Application (15 May 2002) for the cleaning of the external stonework.
2. The effects of the tree leaning towards the northeast corner of the church – staining, structural damage, roots on drainage, blocked outlet high up on church.
3. Rejected application for a pavement crossover adjacent to the vicarage – drawing No 99406.
4. Proposed alternative crossover access to southwest corner – drawing No 99409.
5. Replacement of existing hard landscape to eliminate steps and irregular paving slabs.

I mentioned that we have a provisional six week programme for the stone work cleaning to start at the end of this month for completion by the end of August 2002, while the nursery school children are on holidays. However, I cannot issue instructions to the stone specialists because the Chief Planner's letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2002 reminds me that it is unlawful to begin without written planning permission. It would be most helpful if you could advise me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

George Ralph, Architect

Cc G S Kurkjian OBE  
B P Gulbenkian

Enclosures: Drawings numbered 99406 and 99409

26

**RBKC**  
**CONSERVATION & DESIGN**

**GRADE II LISTED BUILDINGS**  
**FORMAL OBSERVATIONS**

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**Address:** The Armenian Church, Iverna Gardens, London, W8.

**Description:** External cleaning of existing stone church.

**Application No:** LB/02/01148.

**DC Case Officer:** NC.

**Drawing Nos:** 99409.

**CD Case Officer:** HSB.

Un-numbered coloured photographs  
showing the church.

---

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

**Grant/Refuse:** GRANT.

**Formal Observations:**

The building is constructed of Portland stone, and is in a good state of repair. The works proposed are stone-cleaning combined with minor repairs to masonry at high level.

The works are essentially classified as repairs, but will require close supervision of the water-cleaning programme, to ensure that the appearance of the building is not harmed by over-saturation of the porous stone surface. The scope of works are part of a regular maintenance programme, which is welcomed.

It is considered that the works proposed will not be detrimental to the special architectural and historic character of the building and are therefore acceptable.

**Conditions:**

C205. C206. Cleaning trials to be carried out in situ, and inspected for approval.

All works to be carried out in accordance with Specification, dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2002, by  
PAYE Stonework & Restoration Ltd.

**Signed:** ..... *H. Lambell* .....

**Date:** ..... *8 July 02* .....

**Approved:** ..... *David J. M. Den M.* .....

**Date:** ..... *8/07/02* .....



(27)



ARMENIAN CHURCH 8. APRIL 2003

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The Armenian Church of  
St Sarkis  
Ivorna Gardens  
London  
W8 6TP

George Ralph Architect  
44 Hawthorne Road  
Bickley  
BROMLEY  
Kent  
BR1 2HH

Tel: (020) 8467 5467



28



TREE TRIMMED.

Pibros 25 JULY 2003



The Armenian Church of  
St Sarkis  
Iverna Gardens  
London  
W8 6TP 25 JULY 03.

PLYWOOD PROTECTION TO ORIGINAL PORTLAND STONE PAVING & STEPS.  
SCAFFOLDING BY STONEWEST TO COMMENCE

George Ralph Architect  
44 Hawthorne Road  
Bickley  
BROMLEY  
Kent BR1 2HH  
Tel: (020) 8467 5467

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30

29



Sketch of Mewès by Davis

celebrities having no less a pull in high society than they have today.

The styles the partnership had created in hotels had an influence everywhere. In Germany, the Kaiser took an interest in all naval matters and Mewès, a patriotic Frenchman and a Jew, was, to the chagrin of the German establishment, commissioned to add hotel luxury to German liners. Mewès was responsible for the *Imperator*, the *Vaterland*, the *Bismarck* and the *Admiral Tirpitz*. These would be seized by the allies after the war, and would become, respec-

**'Both Davis and Mewès shared the belief that a logical and practical plan on axial lines was the essential quality which distinguished a successful building'**

tively, the *Berengaria*, the *Leviathan*, the *Majestic*, and the *Empress of Australia*.

Mewès's commitments in Germany meant that he could not meet the demands of British ship-builders, who were naturally not unaware of what was happening to liners, to design their luxury ships. Davis, however, could. His first was *Cunard's Aquitania*, which was launched in 1914.

The general arrangements for the ship had been

established, too late for Davis to implement Mewès's idea (subsequently achieved elsewhere) that the ship's four uptakes, the central chimneys rising from furnace to funnel, should be divided and directed to the ship's side.

However, it was not too late for some innovation. The dining room was elegant, spacious and, unusually, painted rather than panelled. It was H-shaped to fit between the funnel casings and Davis included a small, mock-Tudor grill house to accommodate all the first-class passengers.

Earlier, Davis had been commissioned in 1905 to build an office for the *Morning Post* on a triangular site at the corner of Wellington Street in The Aldwych. Ann Thomas recalls asking her father when he took her to the Ritz when she was going up to Oxford to read English, which was his favourite commission, expecting him to cite the Royal Automobile Club. To her surprise, he said his favourites were the *Aquitania* and the *Morning Post* building – now the luxury hotel No. 1, Aldwych – though he said that the club had been his best plan – both he and Mewès sharing the belief that a logical and practical plan on axial lines was the essential quality which distinguished a successful building, the decorative treatment being of secondary importance. Anyone pausing today in the rotunda to look around, would approve their conviction.

In 1914, Mewès, never a strong man, died following an unsuccessful operation. It was a severe blow for Davis. Their association, Ann Thomas says, had been extraordinarily close. Both had studied at the *Ecole des Beaux Arts* and been tutored by the legendary Professor Jean-Louis Pascal. Both had



Ann Thomas in the Terrace Room next to her father's drawing of the clubhouse



Ann Thomas with husband David

been prize-winners during their courses, though Davis, as a non-French national was not allowed to graduate. They had, says Ann Davis, a most uncommon rapport, and shared a strong sense of humour.

During the war, Davis served as a captain in the British Army in France but suffered a breakdown for which he was treated at the hospital Craiglockhart, made famous in Pat Barker's *Regeneration* trilogy. Among his fellow patients were Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon.

After the war, Davis continued his career in England, buildings banks, factories, office buildings, shops, the Armenian church in London and, of course, working on ships – one of them the 534, better known as the *Queen Mary*, which was launched in 1936.

He was renowned for his attention to detail, doing all the usual lime and wash studies and fine-scale models, which were frequently exhibited at the Royal Academy, where Davis was delighted to become a Royal Academician. His habit was to re-study the models, altering his contours and remodelling parts. He erected full-scale plaster models of important features in the contractor's yard. His continuing success was attributed to his deep study of all aspects of a building.

The family lived in a house he had converted from a condemned pub in John Street, Mayfair, now Chesterfield Hill. For a time they lived in Littlestone-on-Sea near Romney Marshes but had to leave, at a day's notice when, in the last war, the Germans arrived on the French coast. This hasty evacuation, Ann recalls, meant losing many valuable mementoes.

Arthur Davis died in 1951, aged 73. Ann remembers him as a humble man with an unfailing sense of humour – he deprecatingly attributed Mewès's choosing of him as a student to the fact that, as a Briton, he was not, as French students were, liable

**'The clubhouse flourishes, of course, as a memorial, and daughter Ann and husband David work tenaciously to ensure the preservation of other works'**

to conscription. He was much mourned by his profession, to the development of which he had contributed immensely, following the tradition he had witnessed at the *Ecole des Beaux Arts*. The clubhouse flourishes, of course, as a memorial, and daughter Ann and husband David work tenaciously to ensure the preservation of other works.

DWH



When Charles Mewès, already an established international architect, met Arthur Joseph Davis, the latter was a student at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Mewès, a former graduate, needed assistance with his submissions for the Paris Exhibition of 1900 and naturally turned to his former school. Davis, still in his teens, but already with a mature skill in draughtsmanship, proved to be right for the job. What began as a 'maître-dog'sbody' association rapidly became possibly the closest architectural liaisons of the early 20th century. The Pall Mall clubhouse was one of its by-products



Arthur Davis



Charles Mewès

# The men who made the clubhouse...

'About thirty years,' Ann Thomas, daughter of Arthur Davis, replies when asked how long she has been researching the Mewès-Davis partnership. She and husband David, a graduate of the Harvard Business School and former international account executive, who live in Boston, spend several months a year in England, working as a team, digging out information and seeking support for the preservation of some of her father's buildings in London.

The University of Buckingham department of art history now provides a home for most of the available records and Professor Oonagh Kennedy is planning a book on Mewès and Davis's work between

Westminster bank in Threadneedle Street and the Cunard building on Merseyside, which still stand, and would develop a more English style than his mentor. It was the style he would use when working at Woodcote Park in the 1930s.

At the time when the Pall Mall clubhouse was built, however, the partnership's dominant influence was French, which provided a contrast to the Italianate style of the Reform Club and the Grecian grandeur of The Athenaeum. The principal French influence was Ange-Jacques Gabriel's Hôtel Crillon including, appropriately, the Automobile Club de France, overlooking the Place de la Concorde and Mewès and Davis also drew inspiration from the Place Vendôme. 'A polished essay in the late French Renaissance style,' one commentator remarked on the completion of the clubhouse in 1911.

For Mewès and Davis it was another milestone in their extraordinary progress from 1900 until the outbreak of war in 1914. The year 1900 had proved a particular triumph for Mewès, even though he was already well established in Europe. The world could see his Palais de Congrès at the Paris Exhibition, for which he was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, and a hotel he had designed opened in the Place Vendôme in 1898. It was to add a word to many languages and revolutionise hotel building

throughout the world. That hotel was the Ritz. Mewès had been commissioned by César Ritz himself, with Escoffier completing a formidable trio of thinkers on what future hotels should be.

In England, between 1903 and 1906, Mewès and Davis re-modelled Luton Hoo which earned them further country house commissions but it was almost certainly the Ritz which led to Mewès being invited to take charge of the interior planning of the new Carlton Hotel in Pall Mall\*, built from the designs of the English architect Henry Florence but still unfinished.

Davis, at 22 already a partner, was despatched to London, his native city, from which his father, a merchant, had moved the family to Brussels in the eighties. He and Mewès revised the plans and the hotel, with its Central Palm Court, caused a mild sensation in social circles. The hotel's success

\*The London Encyclopedia records that the Carlton opened in 1899 and closed in 1939. It was bombed during the war and remained empty until demolition in 1957-58. New Zealand House now occupies the site.

emboldened its directors to purchase one of the finest sites in the West End, overlooking Green Park. Mewès and Davis were invited to build the Ritz in Piccadilly. It would be the first building in the country to be built with a steel frame.

By the time the Royal Automobile Club announced

'By the time the Royal Automobile Club announced its intention (not, unsurprisingly, uncontested) to build a club of unparalleled magnificence on the site of the old War Office in Pall Mall, Mewès and Davis were well established on the social scene'

its intention (not, unsurprisingly, uncontested) to build a club of unparalleled magnificence on the site of the old War Office in Pall Mall, Mewès and Davis were well established on the social scene. There has been speculation that the club chairman, Prince Francis of Teck, was responsible for choosing Mewès and Davis but, Ann Thomas thinks the choice, given their prominence in society and their achievements in London, would have been a natural one.

'Both Mewès and Davis made a huge architectural contribution in England. Both eschewed the fashionable art nouveau in England'

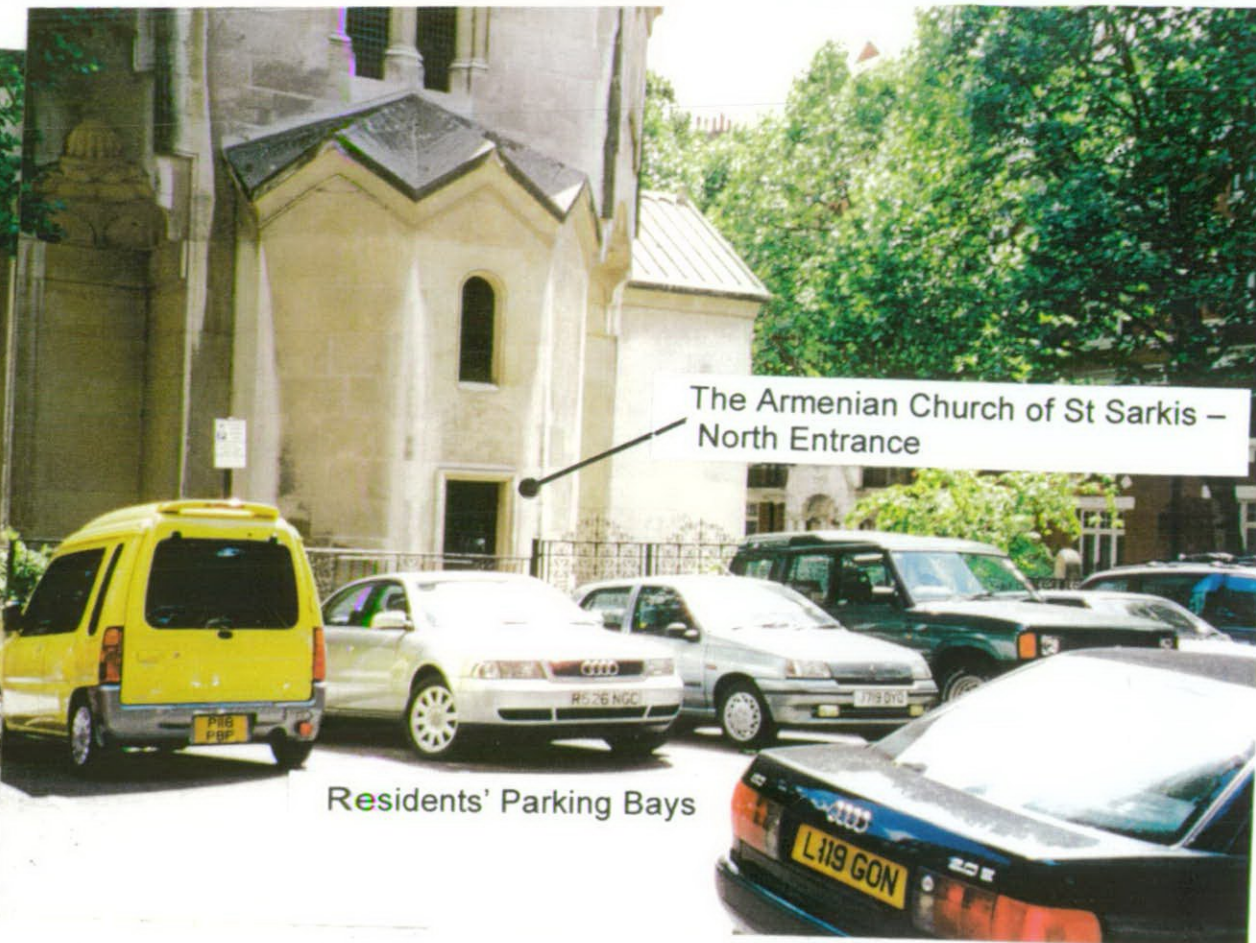
1900-1914. In conjunction with the Wallace Collection, the university offers a Master's Degree in British Decorative Arts and Historic Interiors.

Both Mewès and Davis made a huge architectural contribution in England. Both eschewed the fashionable art nouveau ('modern style' in England). Mewès, the senior partner, broadly favoured 18th Century French architecture, though Davis would move, much later, to an Italian style with his National





The application dated the 8th November 2000 proposed that Bay No 9 (BMW) be moved one metre to the left. Resident's Bay No 8 would be relocated at vicarage gable, giving vehicular access to pavement and church grounds (funerals, weddings, servicing, and wheelchairs).



The Armenian Church of St Sarkis - North Entrance

Residents' Parking Bays



Iverna Gardens, W8

North Entrance to Church (planning permission granted for level wheelchair access into church)



Entrance gates restricted by on-street parking

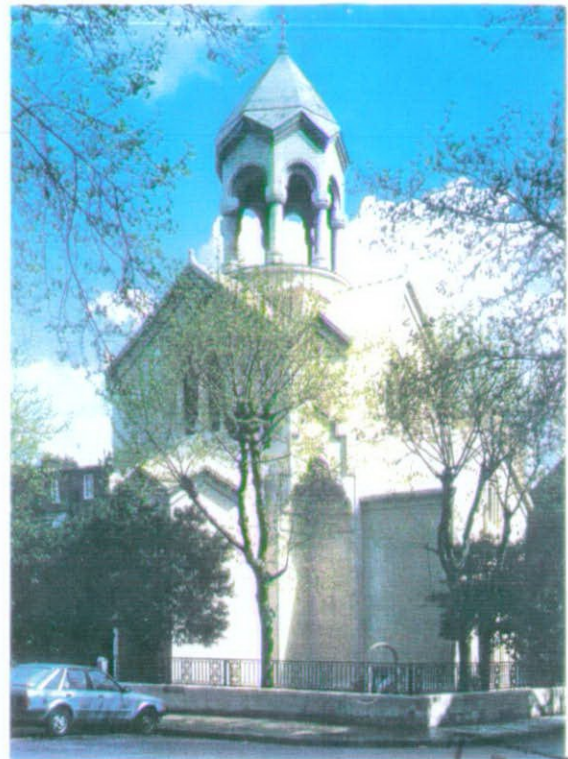
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DELEGATED APPROVAL  
15 JUL 2002

George Ralph Architect  
44 Hawthorne Road  
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BR1 2HH JULY 2001  
Tel: (020) 8467 5467

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**DELEGATED APPROVAL**  
15 JUL 2002  
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44 Hawthorne Road  
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BROMLEY  
Kent  
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TREE REMOVED  
2001.



ALGAE ON PORTLAND SHALE

B021148

The Armenian Church of  
St Sarkis  
Ivema Gardens  
London  
W8 6TP

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