

BELLMONT
FACADE ENGINEERING

ARA BUILDING SERVICES

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

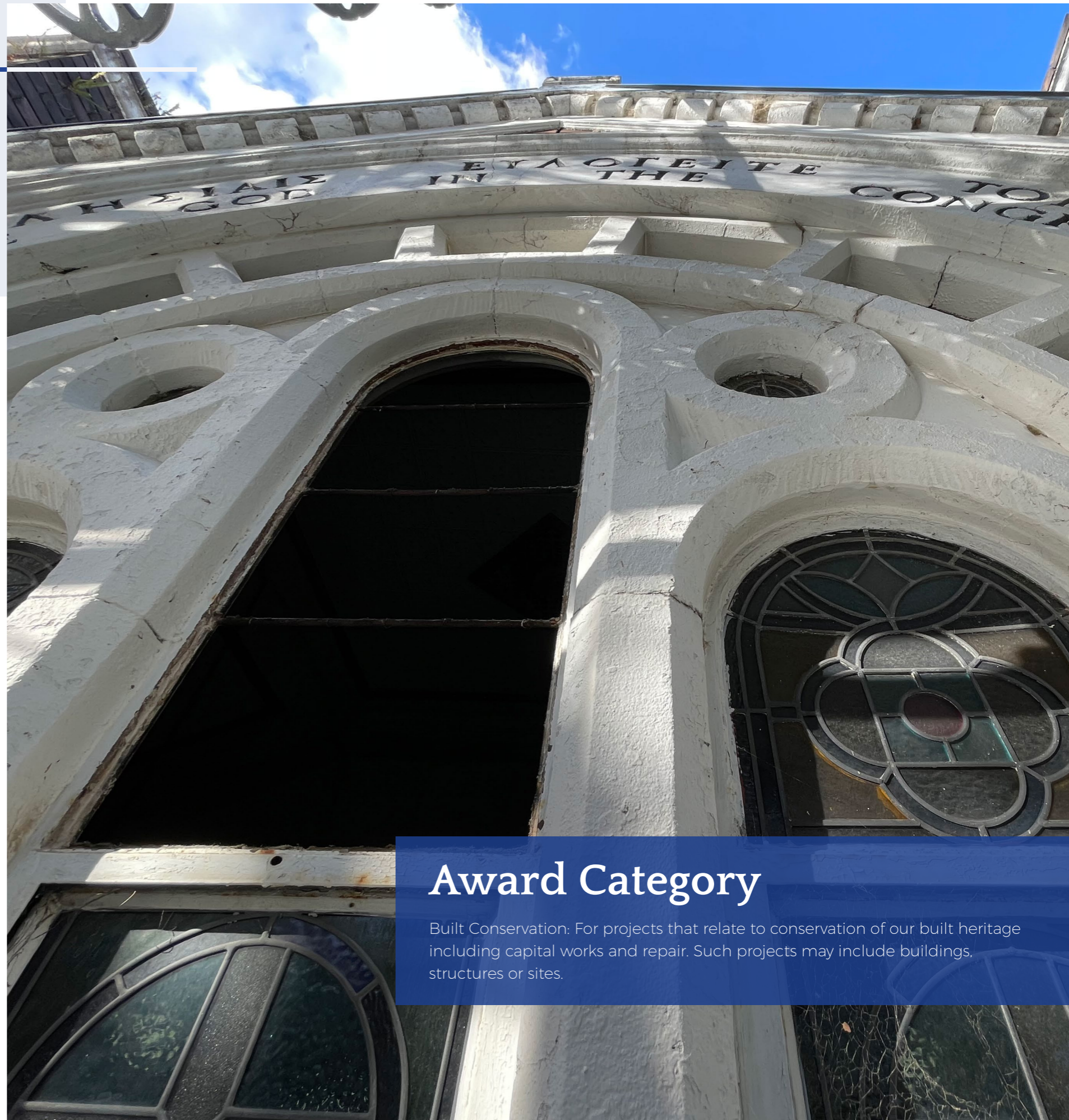
National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards Submission



2024

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Award Category

Built Conservation: For projects that relate to conservation of our built heritage including capital works and repair. Such projects may include buildings, structures or sites.



Partners on this project

- Owner, Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales
- BellMont Facade engineering:
 - Heritage consultant
 - Structural consultant
 - Facade consultant
- ARA Building Services
- Ardex Australia

BellMont Facade Engineering

In 2001 BellMont Facade Engineering first opened its doors, seeking to provide a point of difference in what was effectively, a homogeneous marketplace.

With extensive experience across structural and facade engineering, we pride ourselves on offering a point of difference to the building industry, inclusive of:

- Market leading structural and specialist engineering solutions
- Structural materials and solutions services
- Waterproofing analysis, solutions design and testing
- Consulting to prominent strata managed buildings
- Technical and consulting services
- Building reports and expert services

With the capacity to provide our services up the East Coast of Australia, we work with builders, body corporate, strata managers and construction firms.

Bill Moisidis, Director of BellMont Facade Engineering, has worked closely with Heritage Architects providing design and rectification advice on many Heritage listed buildings. Bill is a licensed builder, structural and facade engineer and project manager. Bill's intricate knowledge of construction materials in both modern and heritage structures allows for early assessment and diagnosis of building problems and the preparation of efficient conservation and rectification scopes to be prepared.

BellMont Facade Engineering
www.bellmont.net

This project holds personal significance for me, as it marks the first church my father attended upon his arrival as a Greek immigrant from Epirus to the country.

Bill Moisidis - Director

Meet our team



Bill Moisidis | Director



Gregory Harellis | Engineer



Rodi Bircan | Engineer



Katelyn Furniss | Marketing Coordinator

ARA Building Services

Through reputation in business, focus on performance and years of unsurpassable experience, ARA Building continues to consolidate its position as one of the leaders in the building remediation industry. Conscious of the need for effective service in the remedial industry, ARA Building's aim is to provide clients with professional process, personal attention and long term solutions.

By working in close liaison with consultants and reputable suppliers our mission statement is "our business success is directly dependant on our client satisfaction". Our objective is to establish our business as "the best" rather than "the biggest" in the industry and this is reflected in the continual repeat business and the excellence in project delivery. ARA Building REMEDIAL & RESTORATION PAGE 4 Structural Repair Concert.

As an insurance building repairs specialist, ARA Building has been serving the insurance industry for over 40 years. Our team of licensed, qualified tradespeople have the experience and training necessary to carry out complex rectifications to commercial, strata and domestic properties for insurance claims and disaster relief. Our expertise spans the construction industry spectrum, from smaller renovations to multi-million dollar projects. Offering a comprehensive range of trades to carry out all building repairs through safe work practices and pride of workmanship, we deliver one of the most comprehensive, reliable and professional insurance building repair services in Australia

Proudly Australian owned and operated, ARA Building has grown to be a national contractor with a diversified construction portfolio. We've built our reputation on "client satisfaction" focused on the service we deliver to our clients. The partnerships and relationships that have been formed over the years have lead to the continuous growth and repeat client business. "Our business success is directly dependent on our client satisfaction" With an experienced construction team and in-house network of services, the strength of our business is our people. We employ the best in the industry and strive to better ourselves every day.

Managing director - Tony Murr

Tony Murr is the highly skilled Managing Director of ARA Building Services and has more than 30 years' experience in the building and construction industry. With 20 years in senior management roles at ARA Building Services,

Tony has extensive experience in leading his team and an exceptional knowledge base to create innovative solutions for clients and grow all aspects of the business. Tony progressed his trade career from the ground up as a building apprentice through to onsite management before moving into senior management roles.

During his trade career, Tony worked on many major developments including new wet concrete construction and large high-rises before specialising in remedial construction. Tony lives and breathes building and construction and continues to enhance his education and knowledge to remain up to date with best practice allowing him to best support his team.

Meet our team



Tony Murr | Managing Director



Dusko Dragicevic | Project Manager

Our team has worked closely with Bill Moisidis of BellMont Facade Engineering over five heritage restoration projects.

We have now developed a core team of specialist heritage tradesmen who share our passion.

Tony Murr - *Managing Director*

ARA Building Services

www.buildingservices.aragroup.com.au



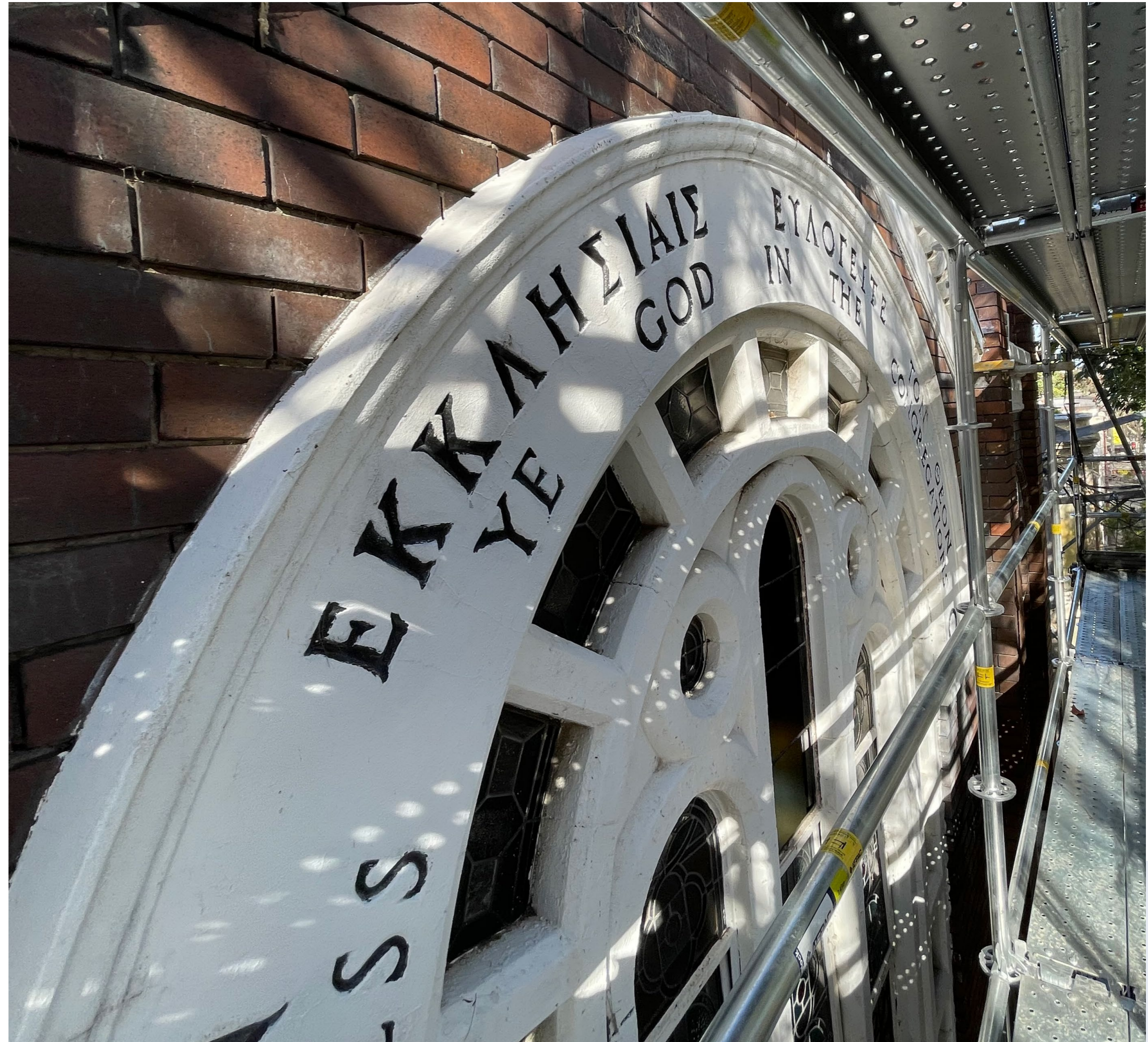
Ardex Australia

Ardex Australia are one of Australia's leading suppliers of construction materials for facade coating, waterproofing, structural repairs and resins. Ardex material product specifications were prepared and specified by Bellmont for structural and waterproofing requirements.

Ardex supplied flowable and hand placed concrete repair mortars, sheet and facade membranes, joint sealants and epoxy resins for dowelling and crack repair.

Ardex products used on this project

- Ardex 330 facade membrane coating to paint the facade
- BR 460 Micro concrete for concrete repairs
- Ardex BR 340 for hand placed concrete repairs
- RA 56 epoxy resin for crack repair



A brief history of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Orthodoxy arrived in Australia in the late nineteenth century when significant numbers of Greek, Lebanese and Russian immigrants made their way here from their homelands. The early migrants were attracted to Australia for a number of reasons, but particularly by the prospect of a new land and the chance to better their lives by amassing their fortunes in a developing settlement. Although the Lebanese migrants, known originally as Syrians, made a more permanent move by bringing their families and culture with them, the Greek migrants saw their Australian experience as a temporary measure to build their financial security before returning home to the Motherland and their families in Greece.

Religious institutions were also particularly important in the experiences and settlement of the new immigrants in Australia. In the very early days of the migration of Orthodox Greeks, Lebanese and Russians, there were no dedicated churches in which the migrants could worship but the celebration of major religious holidays (particularly Christmas and Easter) did continue through makeshift services being conducted by travelling priests.

In the meantime however, the Orthodox Greeks turned to the Anglican Church who opened the doors of the St James Parish Hall in Sydney to be available for regular Orthodox worship, pending the construction of a Greek Orthodox Church. These services were conducted by Archimandrite Dorotheos Bakaliaros who,

from 1895, was the first Greek Orthodox priest in Australia to administer religious services to the communities of Sydney and Melbourne. During this period, Archimandrite Dorotheos also encouraged the construction of a dedicated church for the parishioners and, in late 1897, fundraising efforts had begun. Within six months, the land had been donated by Ioannis Cominos (the brother of Athanassios), and donations of 390 pounds had been collected from the Orthodox community to go towards the building project.

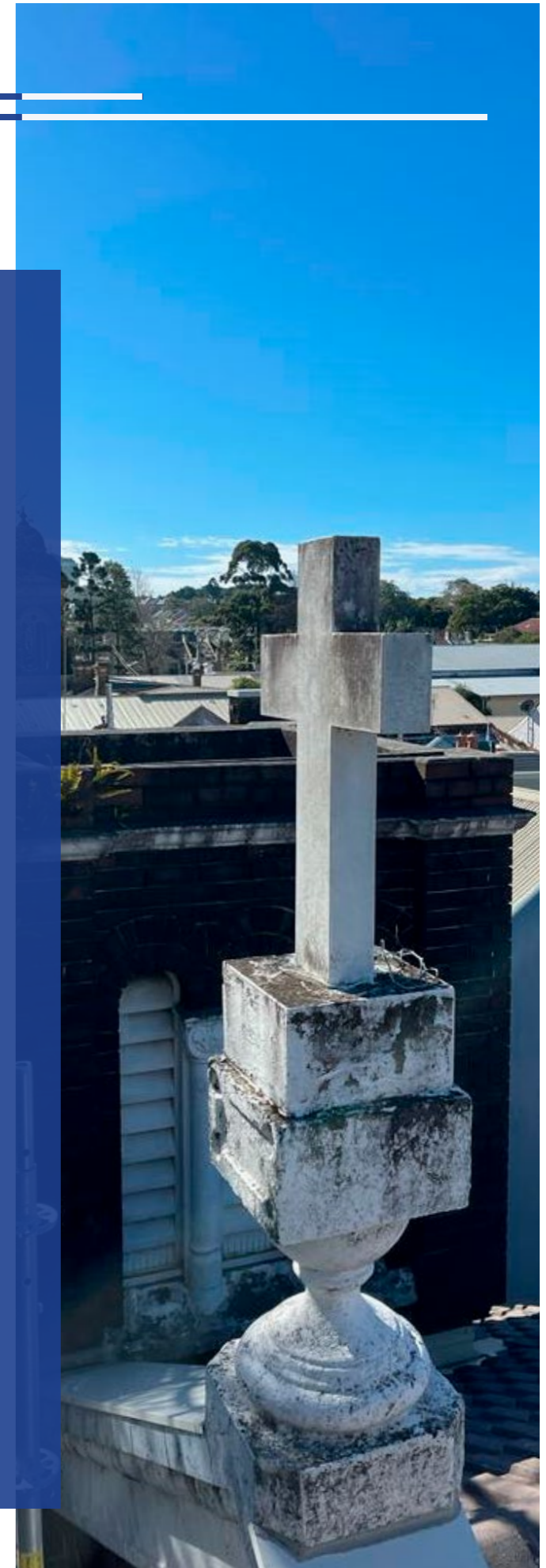
The first step in the construction of the Holy Trinity (Ayia Triada) Church, this being the first Greek Orthodox place of worship in Australia, was the laying of the foundation stones in an official ceremony on May 29th, 1898. This date is significant in the history of Orthodoxy, being the date the Byzantine Empire in Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 and it has since become the date on which all Holy Trinity churches are founded. Through this tradition, May 29th has also become the date that represents the courageous extension of Hellenism and Orthodoxy around the world.

From the early years of the twentieth century, the Orthodox Greeks in Australia had been under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Church of Greece, an autocephalous branch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

In an effort to reclaim its authority over the Australian Orthodox branches, the Ecumenical Patriarchate established the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Australia and New Zealand in 1924 and appointed Dr Christoforos Kritis as the Metropolitan.

This action caused an intense dispute between the Greek Community of Sydney and the new religious authority, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Australia and New Zealand, thus dividing the community into those in support and those opposing the Metropolitan.

With the departure of Metropolita Kritis in 1928 and the subsequent term of Metropolita Timotheos Evagelinides from 1932 to 1947, significant efforts were made to reconcile the opposing factions. However, there was considerable hesitation from the Holy Trinity Church in that, by reconciling with St Sophia Cathedral, the Holy Trinity Church would, along with conceding some administrative dominance, take on joint responsibility for the significant financial debt St Sophia Cathedral had acquired during its construction. At the time, St Sophia Cathedral was 4800 pounds in debt and the trustees at the Holy Trinity Church were concerned that that amount would bankrupt the church. However, after a prolonged period of co-existence, the two churches were finally reconciled into the one Community, the Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney and NSW, in April 1945.





A summary of the
works undertaken

Specifications outlining repairs undertaken

- Masonry Arch Repairs
- Concrete Repairs
- Column Repairs
- Steel Beam and Archway Panel Repairs
- Rooftop Membrane to Bell Towers
- Coating Works
- Window Restoration

Masonry Arch Repairs

The arch on the North side gateway had failed, causing significant cracking. The brick work was demolished by hand and each brick was cleaned individual and reused. The rear of the wall was rendered and painted.

Allowing the fabric to deteriorate further will result in a greater loss of fabric and necessitate a larger repair.



Concrete Repairs

We repaired the spalled concrete mullions between the arch windows of the main entrance glazing and also within the bell towers. The structural integrity of the columns was re-established.





Column Repairs

A main concrete column at ground level of the church had to be removed and replaced due to compromised structural integrity caused by corrosion of the reinforcing steel.

The new column includes the base, shaft, Corinthian capital, and capping piece which have been restored.

Similarly, the Corinthian capital and capping piece of the third concrete column from the left-hand side on the front elevation of the building was to be restored.



Corroded Structural Beam

The entablature band that runs along the top of the archways has a structural beam hidden behind it. Unfortunately, the steel flange members of this beam have corroded, causing movement and separations in the brickwork surrounding the entablature band, as well as in the triple archway above it.

This beam refers to the section between the bell towers (excluding the bell towers themselves), which needs to be removed and replaced with a new one. After replacing the corroded beam, we were able to restore the structural integrity of the church facade and prevent any further movement or separation in the brickwork over the triple archway.

“After replacing the corroded beam, we were able to restore the structural integrity of the church facade and prevent any further movement or separation in the brickwork over the triple archway.”



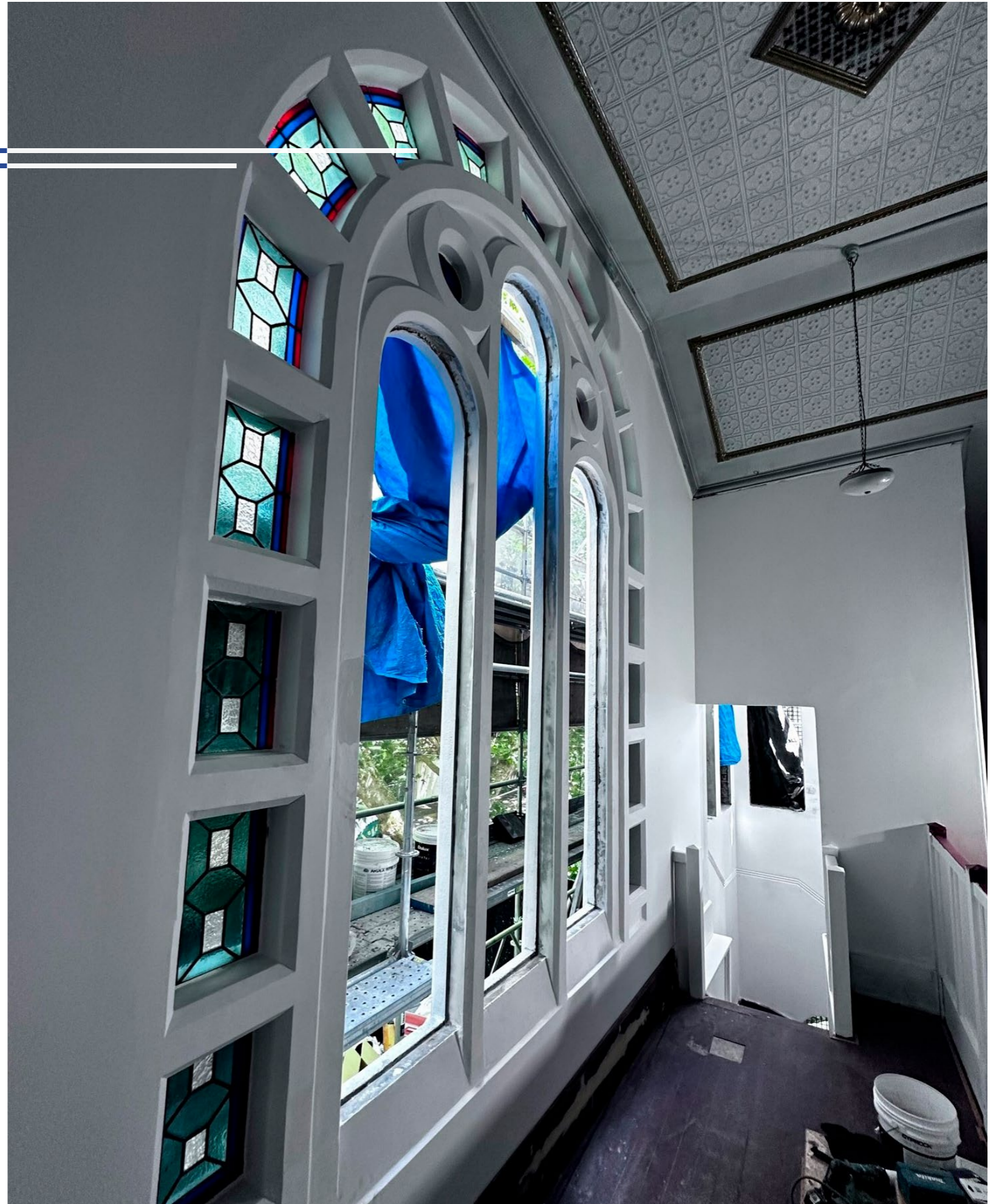
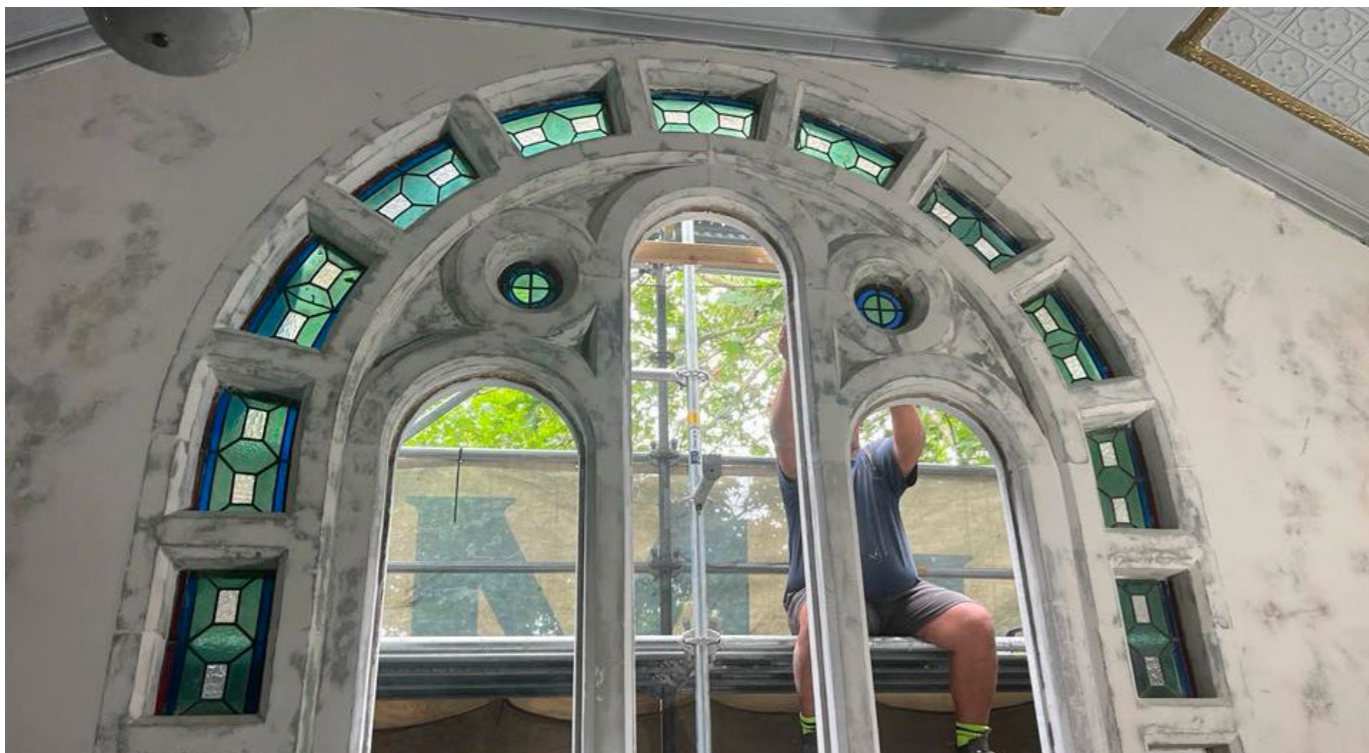
Rooftop Membrane to Bell Towers

The bell towers' rooftop areas on either side of the front elevation had to be waterproofed again as the membrane had failed, causing leaks into the roof.



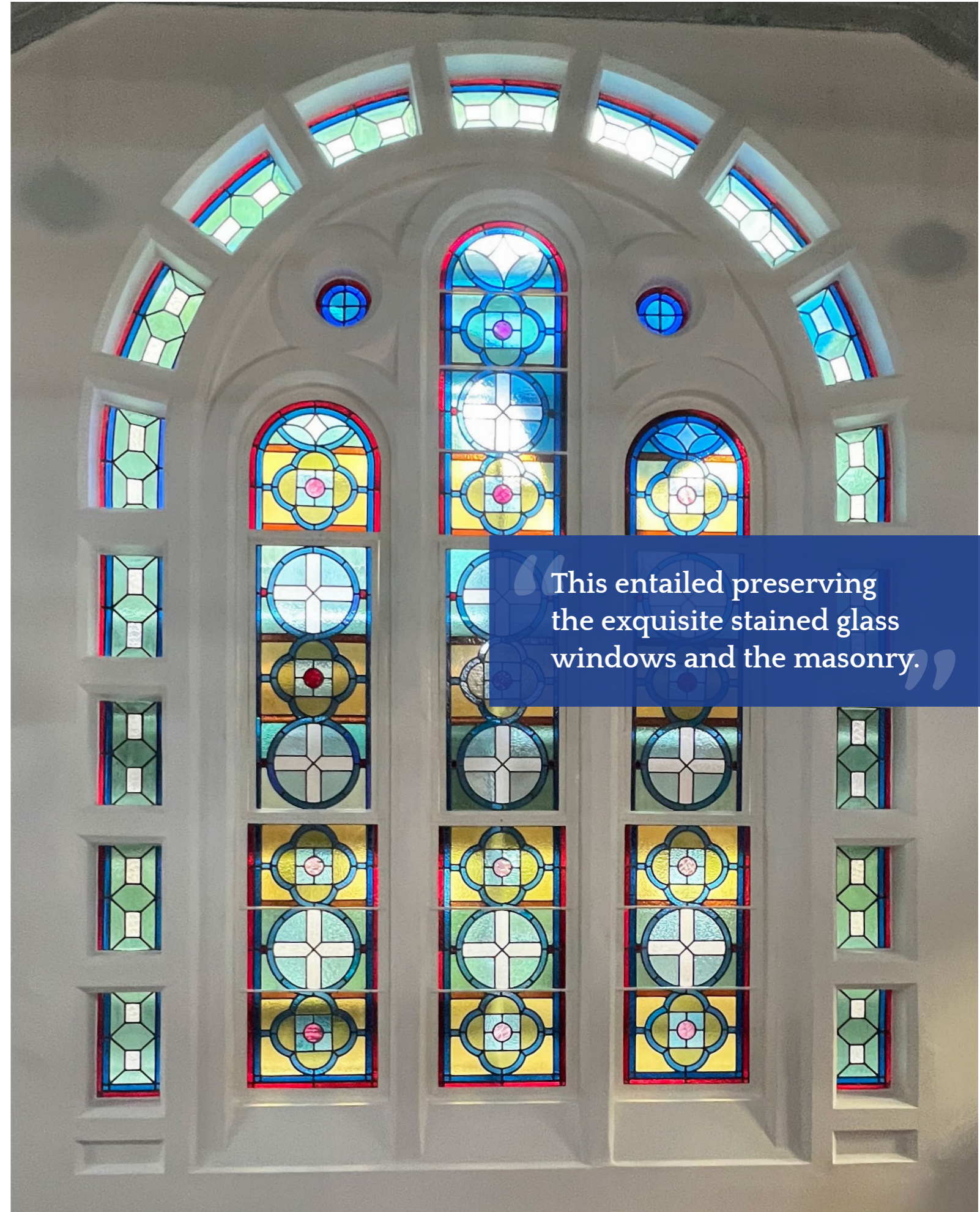
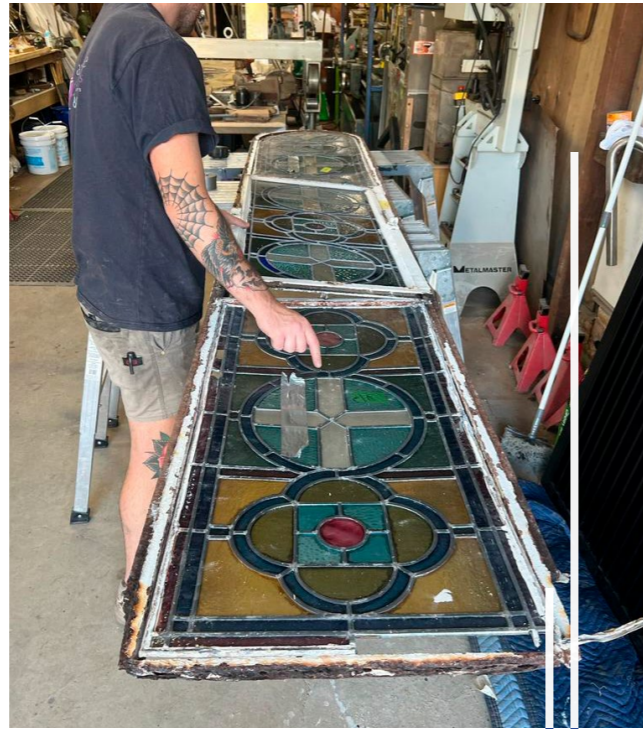
Coating Works

Application of a multi-stage protective coating system to restore the structural integrity of steel window frames, arches, and columns.



Window Restoration

During the restoration process, it was necessary to extract the windows while making every effort to repurpose the original building materials. This entailed preserving the exquisite stained glass windows and the masonry. The steel frames were extensively compromised and required restoration



This entailed preserving the exquisite stained glass windows and the masonry.



For more information please contact

Bill Moisis
Director - BellMont Facade Engineering

P: (02) 9518 0775

M: 0405 430 897

E: bmoisis@bellmont.net

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