THE ONLY LAKE IN SCOTLAND

THE Lake of Menteith Hotel itself dates from around 1854. Throughout its rich history it has changed hands many times and been refurbished in many different styles. In May 2005 the hotel was again newly acquired and over the years that followed, was entirely refurbished and decorated in a Bostonian New England style. The hotel is situated on the very edge of the lake, in a stunningly peaceful and picturesque location. The Lake of Menteith is the only natural water body in Scotland described as a lake, and not as a loch.

Today the Lake of Menteith Hotel is well known for its fine dining and high end hospitality winning a number of recent awards.

For such a prestigious property, Borthwick Decorators, specialist painters and decorators since 1959, were the logical choice to breathe a new lease of life to the full exterior.

Borthwick Decorators, proud members of the Scottish Decorators Federation, and headed by Managing Director David Borthwick, used a seven man crew for phase one of this two phase project. Phase one to renovate the front, and then rear of the property in phase two later next year.

The property frontage consisted of 20+ timber framed period sash and case or standard windows, with an adjoining timber conservatory all in need of attention and all showing varying degrees of wood rot.

As can be seen from the photographs, the extent of the rot was rather deep and extensive in certain areas, particularly noticeable is the conservatory door to the front panel and joints and also some of the bottom corners. After the major areas of rot were routed out, the use of Timbabuild EHB60 filler was required due largely to its mouldable properties, and the fact that the stiff consistency of the resin lends itself well to in-situ repairs in horizontal and vertical areas.

Additionally, the corner work at two edges of the conservatory windows were treated firstly with Timbabuild EWS Primer, which seals the wood to prevent further rot, and aids the adhesion of the repair, then it was moulded back to shape with the use of plastic shuttering.

David restores the hotel door back to it's former glory

Of particular note here is the first-floor sash window sill, which has suffered badly from decay. Rather than replace, and saving the hotel thousands of pounds, Brian shaped and spliced sections of timber into the void using a combination of Timbabuild ERC10 rapid curing, as the adhesive and finished off with EHB60 to mould and finish the shaping perfectly.

After the Timbabuild FINISH was applied where required, it was sanded down perfectly using a combination of hand sanding with light grit paper and power sanding on slow speed.

David Borthwick said "I found all Timbabuild products to be easy to use and do exactly what they are supposed to do. I was particularly impressed with ERC10 which cured within 15 minutes of application and allowed me to rebuild a badly rotten window sill with the use of timber strips quickly and easily. I also liked how EHB60 and Timbabuild Finish rubbed down easily by hand and by machine".

Once all the preparation was complete, it was on to priming the masonry walls. Borthwick Decorators used the Owatrol E-B stir in bonding/stabilising primer which was added to the first coat of masonry paint. This was used because it saves time by eliminating the need for a separate coat of stabilising primer and is ideal for flaky, powdery, chalky and porous surfaces and maximises adhesion between the first and second coats. David said, "The cost and time savings are great in comparison to the labour costs and time involved with doing it by the traditional method".

The masonry walls were painted with Dulux Trade Weathershield Smooth Masonry paint in Gardenia, the ingoes, bands and window sills were painted in Bluebell and the windows and entrance canopy were painted with "White" Dulux Trade Ultimate Opaque.

Thank you to David Borthwick and his crew for such kind hospitality. Thank you to the Lake of Menteith hotel for permission to film and take photographs.

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