

# Heritage preservation and restoration

To successfully convert historic buildings for modern usage, there needs to be a balance between old and new

We've seen a shift in perception towards heritage assets, particularly Victorian remnants of the industrial revolution, once seen as a barrier to urban regeneration. Built heritage is now viewed as an important part of the cultural and historic landscape adding distinctiveness

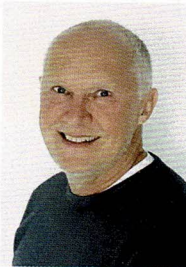
to an area and once restored, an attractive proposition to businesses, tourists and the community. Historic restoration is a fundamental factor in reinforcing identity and understanding an area's culture and character. Communities should be involved throughout as they are central to shaping the collective historical landscape, telling the story of a place.

Heritage activity is positively linked with wellbeing and combined with the growing need for housing and a requirement for sustainable developments, heritage restoration offers a multifaceted solution.

Recent developments show that restoring and integrating heritage stock as part of wider regeneration can produce successful mixed-use areas attracting a variety of businesses, bolstering the local economy.

An example, the restoration of Grade II\* listed London Road Fire Station where Quadriga are Principal Contractor. After its closure in 1986, the building fell into disrepair before acquisition by Allied London in 2015. Sensitive restoration works are now underway to transform the building into a multiuse complex, meeting modern needs while preserving original fabric and features. It is an iconic and integral piece of Manchester's history and as such, it is vital to ensure a legacy to represent the past and foster future heritage appreciation.

Historic buildings need to remain occupied to avoid structural deterioration



which can cause irreparable damage. To ensure continued occupation and conservation of a building, the heritage significance must be understood and embraced early in a project. This understanding is vital in guaranteeing the conservation of original features and appropriate

restoration. Working to the principle of minimum intervention, the aim is to strike a balance between sustaining the building for modern use and the need for conservation.

The challenges of heritage restoration are different from those of new developments and we are constantly working towards sustainable and practical solutions.

Comprehensive surveys identify defects, enabling a full understanding of the state of the building structure and fabric. By understanding the building's history, all parties involved in a restoration project can predict and mitigate risks.

The heritage industry is facing a skills shortage; although the UK has world-class craftsmen, it's an ageing workforce and little awareness of heritage trades exists amongst younger generations. As a lead employer for developing heritage apprenticeship standards, Quadriga are part of a trailblazer group working with training providers to promote interest in specialist conservation.

Quadriga have been restoring historic buildings for over 27 years and are involved in heritage projects at an early stage, offering consultancy services including survey and specification advice to building owners and managers.

Despite the challenges of restoring and developing heritage assets, the benefits are myriad and imperative in retaining the history of a local area.

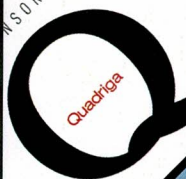
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