

A future for the past



Recent years have seen Europe wake up to the heartbreaking deterioration of priceless buildings and monuments, with a renewed commitment to historic preservation using the best modern materials and processes that deliver results while respecting the environment. We are now used to seeing our cathedrals, castles and other historical or cultural monuments swathed in protective cloth and scaffolding for cleaning and restoration.

What goes on behind the curtains? It's not just a matter of cleaning off soot and grime and other legacies of the urban environment. The process is prolonged by the crucial step of sealing the masonry after the surface is cleaned.

Buildings pose a dilemma to those who want to restore them to their original beauty and preserve them for future generations. Like humans, buildings need to breathe so that moisture entering the masonry from the ground can be expelled. At the same time, buildings need to be resistant to direct attack by elements such as rain, wind and air pollutants.

Solvent-based masonry coatings remain a preferred solution for this delicate balancing act. Compared with water-based and mineral paint coatings, solvent products have demonstrated to have stronger binding properties with the façade because they penetrate more deeply, and form a stronger and much less externally porous film more quickly over a wider range of climatic conditions. Solvent based products can be seen as the coating equivalent of Gore-Tex® - the unique standard for durable, waterproof, breathable and windproof leisure, sports and work clothing.

In simplest terms, the aesthetic quality of our centuries-old European heritage of castles, churches and monuments, as well as modern architectural wonders, are safeguarded by the use of high quality solvent-based coatings.



Related Links

- World Heritage
<http://whc.unesco.org>
- Council of Europe – European Heritage
http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Heritage/

Key benefits

Essential solvent coating qualities for masonry facades:

- Excellent adhesion
- Resistance to external water and chemicals
- Strength and durability over time
- All-weather application
- Breathability of surface-matter (e.g. Wall)

Word from the field



"Extreme climatic variations and pollutants generated by the large urban environment had seriously damaged the facades of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. The specialised solvent-based coatings that were applied in the restoration process will ensure that the palace is protected by a strong protective layer that is not only waterproof and resistant but also self-cleaning."

Mr. A. Revel (Head of Unit, Chimie-Pathologie des Matériaux, - Centre Expérimental de recherches et d'études du Batiment et des Travaux Publics- CEBTP) commenting on the completion of the Winter Palace restoration.



"Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. They are our touchstones, our points of reference, our identity."

World Heritage Centre.