

BREATHING LIFE INTO BUILDINGS



ANCIENT TIMES

'Archaeologists who have excavated locations such as Herculaneum and Pompeii have found designs that are exactly the same as ones we still make today,' comments David Lewis, managing director of luxury plaster specialist Hodkin and Jones. 'Plasterwork has a very, very long history going back thousands of years.'

Likewise, Hodkin and Jones is part of an age-old tradition. In 2008 it celebrates 140 years of trading since its launch when Herbert Hodkin introduced his line of decorative mouldings to the UK in 1868 and the company is still proud to offer the same high level of quality today.

'The one aspect that is incorporated into the business from start to finish is quality,' says David Lewis. 'We have never lowered our standards, or substituted quality for cost, but I would argue that we are the best.'

Though Hodkin and Jones began manufacturing ornate architectural mouldings in fibrous plaster such as cornices, columns, door surround and arches it has evolved to encompass modern designs. Its current range also includes glass-reinforced products such as bay windows, door surrounds, dormers and chimneys, which are aimed at the construction industry. It undertakes superior design and installation projects in Fibrous Plaster and Glass Reinforced Gypsum in hotels, public buildings, retail outlets and residential properties.

Its list of customers includes many high status clients dealing mostly through architects or their interior designers. As customer anonymity is of the very highest concern Hodkin & Jones regularly undertakes confidentiality agreements with clients.

Plasterwork is one of the earliest artistic crafts used in connection with buildings

David adds 'Our bespoke service offers clients a unique opportunity of acquiring one-off creations, and guarantees that only they will ever own their commissioned design. From wall plaques to coats of arms, we will capture your imagination in our creations.'

A HIGHLY SKILLED CRAFT

One of the public projects undertaken by Hodkin & Jones was the prestigious Welsh Opera House in Cardiff which led to the company being awarded the Plaisterers Trophy, an award only given to companies producing work of the highest standard and judged by members of the Federation of Master Plasterers. Winning this award brings enormous pride to the company, endorsing the high level of workmanship the company demands from its craftsman. The company has also completed restoration projects on several prestigious stately homes, theatres and listed buildings putting Hodkin & Jones at the top-end of this niche market both in terms of size and quality.

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

As a heritage brand, Hodkin & Jones prides itself on the timelessness of its work. It provides customers with a traditional, period style but at the same time produces modern state of the art designs like spiral staircase soffits for modern offices and fascia for shopping centres. 'Our designs become part of the history of the building and will remain so for as long as the building is still intact,' says David. 'People are influenced by fashion from time to time but just like a high-quality Rolls-Royce we produce something that will always be ageless.'

Images: Interiors and detailed plaster work by Hodkin & Jones

