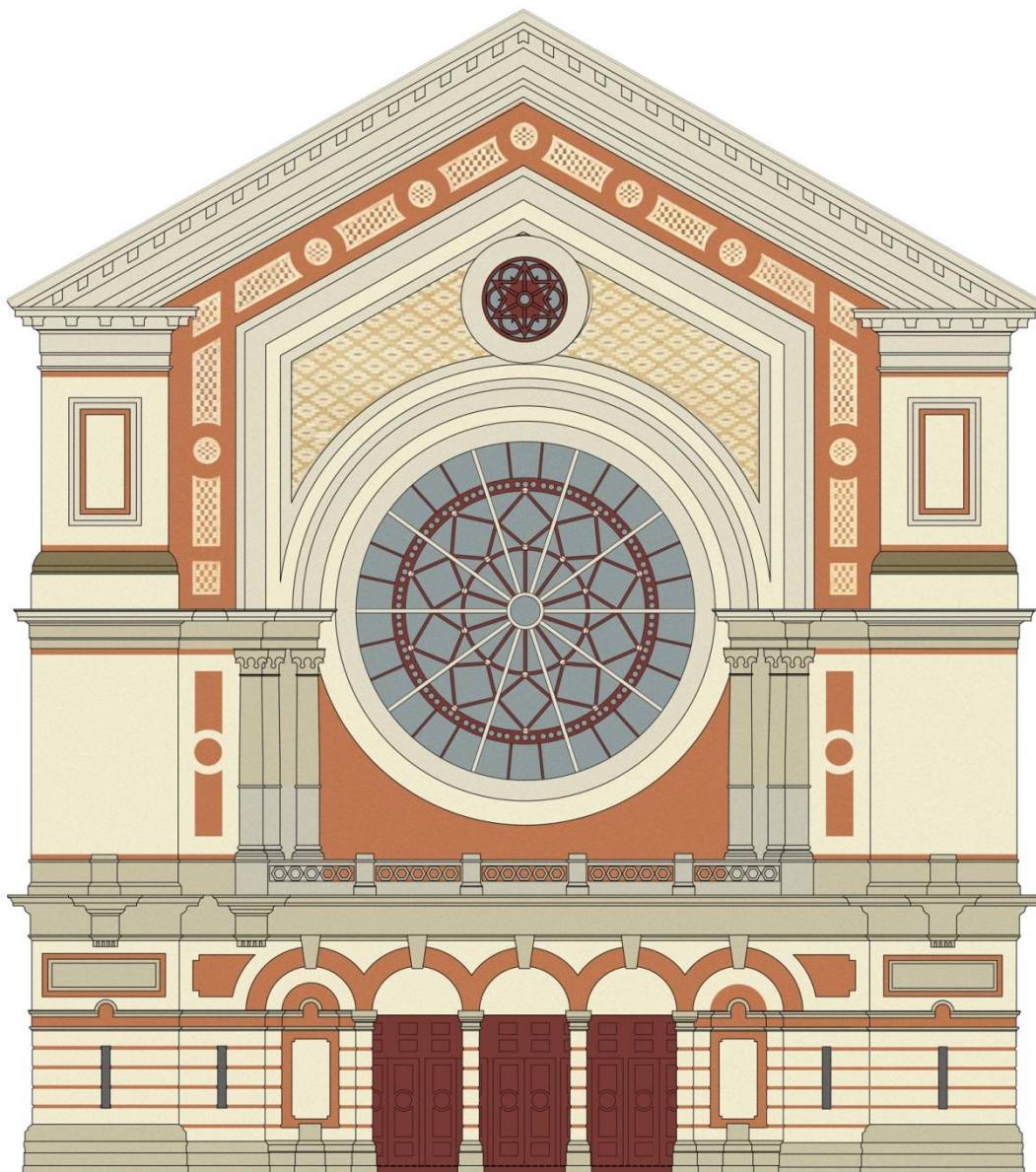


Alexandra Palace
External Redecoration Interim Report



Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
1.1	Scope of the Document.....	3
1.2	Authorship	3
2.	Great Hall Space Frames	3
3.	External Joinery – South Elevation.....	6
4.	Rose Window	8
5.	Lamps and Railings – South Terrace	9
6.	Recommendations.....	10

Issue date: 03.09.2018
Prepared by: Amy Turner
Checked by: Francis Maude

Contact information

Francis Maude
francis.maude@insall-architects.co.uk
Tel: 020 7245 9888

London Office

Donald Insall Associates
12 Devonshire Street, London, W1G 7AB
www.insall-architects.co.uk

This report and all intellectual property rights in it and arising from it are the property of or are under licence to Donald Insall Associates or the client. Neither the whole nor any part of this report, nor any drawing, plan, other document or any information contained within it may be reproduced in any form without the prior written consent of Donald Insall Associates or the client as appropriate. All material in which the intellectual property rights have been licensed to Donald Insall Associates or the client and such rights belong to third parties may not be published or reproduced at all in any form, and any request for consent to the use of such material for publication or reproduction should be made directly to the owner of the intellectual property rights therein.

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of the Document

Donald Insall Associates were briefed by Neil Coe at the Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust to prepare illustrations showing a variety of options for the redecoration of the exterior of Alexandra Palace.

The areas to be considered were:

- Change in colour of Great Hall space frames to complement the elevations/ roof-scape/ sky
- Extension of colour palettes of Bronze Greens for the external joinery, already adopted on the NE Tower (Theatre) and NW Tower (West Yard), to all remaining external elevations
- Change in colour to the Victorian timber pelmets and metal roundels of the BBC and SW Colonnades to an early scheme of red and cream
- Change in colour to the Victorian cast iron railings of the BBC and SW Colonnades to an original scheme of cream
- Change in colour to the replacement circular Rose Window joinery/ metalwork and the Palm Court balcony semi-circular window to complement elevations
- Change in colour to replica metal railings and lamp columns along the South Terrace to a complementary cream or contrasting colour to replace the blue adopted in the 1980s.

These interim proposals draw on the earlier research undertaken by Patrick Baty and dated 17th August and 30th October 2017. The research considered the colouring to the East Court, external joinery, and the transmitter mast.

1.2 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Francis Maude MA (Cantab) DipArch RIBA AABC (Director), and Amy Turner BArch(hons) MArch.

2. Great Hall Space Frames

As these space frames do not form part of the historic structure of Alexandra Palace, having been installed in the 1980s during the post-fire restoration works, no archival research has been undertaken into any previous decorative systems. The present blue colour is therefore unhistorical. We have considered a number of options:

- Light Ivory (RAL 1015): Similar to the pale stone colour found throughout the Palace in Patrick Baty's report. This was intended to appear light against the skyline; however the result is less subtle than imagined.
- Brunswick Green (RAL 6020): A bright green found in one instance in the report. This reads very heavily and brings too much attention to the late 1980s structure.
- Venetian Red (RAL 3009): A colour found throughout. This also appears very striking against the skyline and while it is preferable to the Brunswick Green, may also read too heavily.
- Dusty Grey (RAL 7037): This is a more recessive colour that provides a valuable alternative approach to the stronger colour described above.



Light Ivory (1015)



Brunswick Green (6020)



Venetian Red (3009)

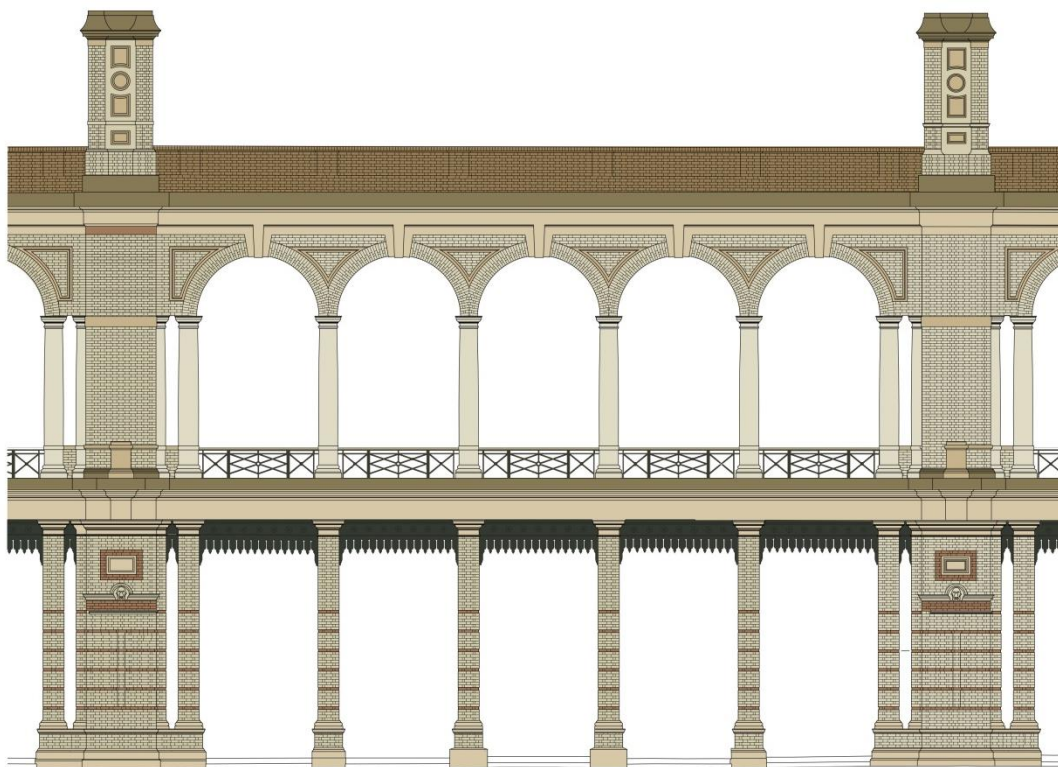


Dusty Grey (7037)

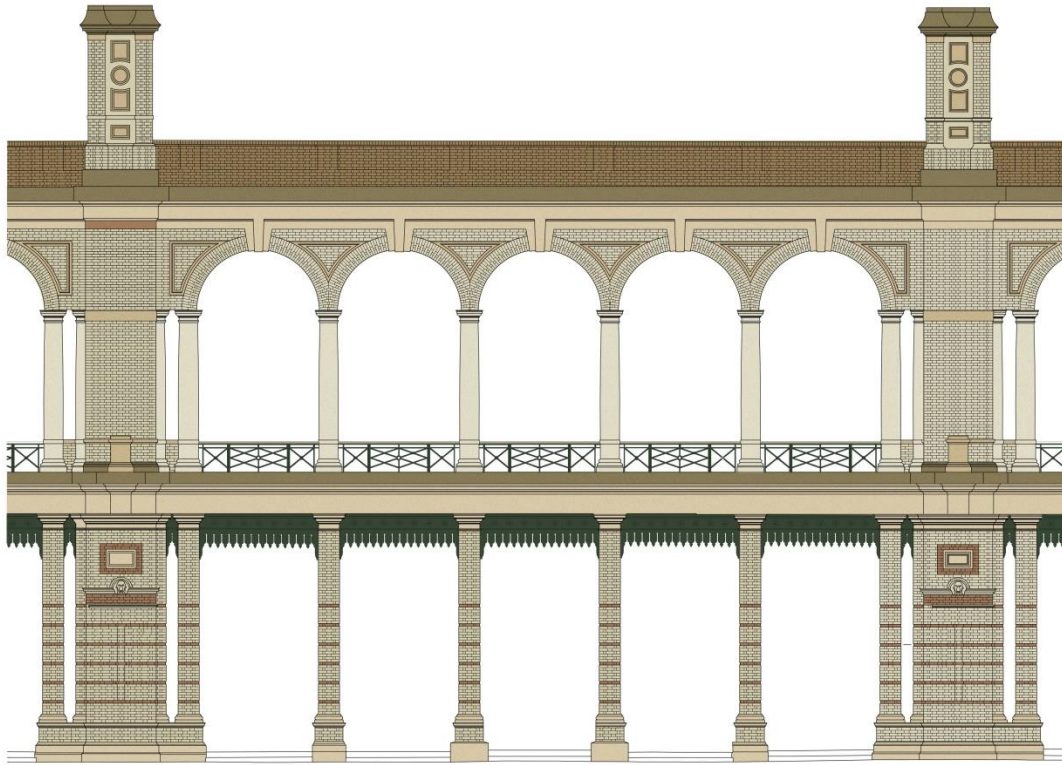
3. External Joinery – South Elevation

The 2012 repair works included the redecoration of the pelmets in a shade of green, which was in part inspired by the existing green paint visible in many locations around Alexandra Palace. This paint is now very worn and further analysis has suggested an alternative colour scheme in Pale Stone (1013) and Venetian Red (3009). There is no clear indication as to which parts were picked out in Venetian Red, except the bosses on the pelmets which are known to have been. For the balustrade, we have highlighted the secondary structural elements in red.

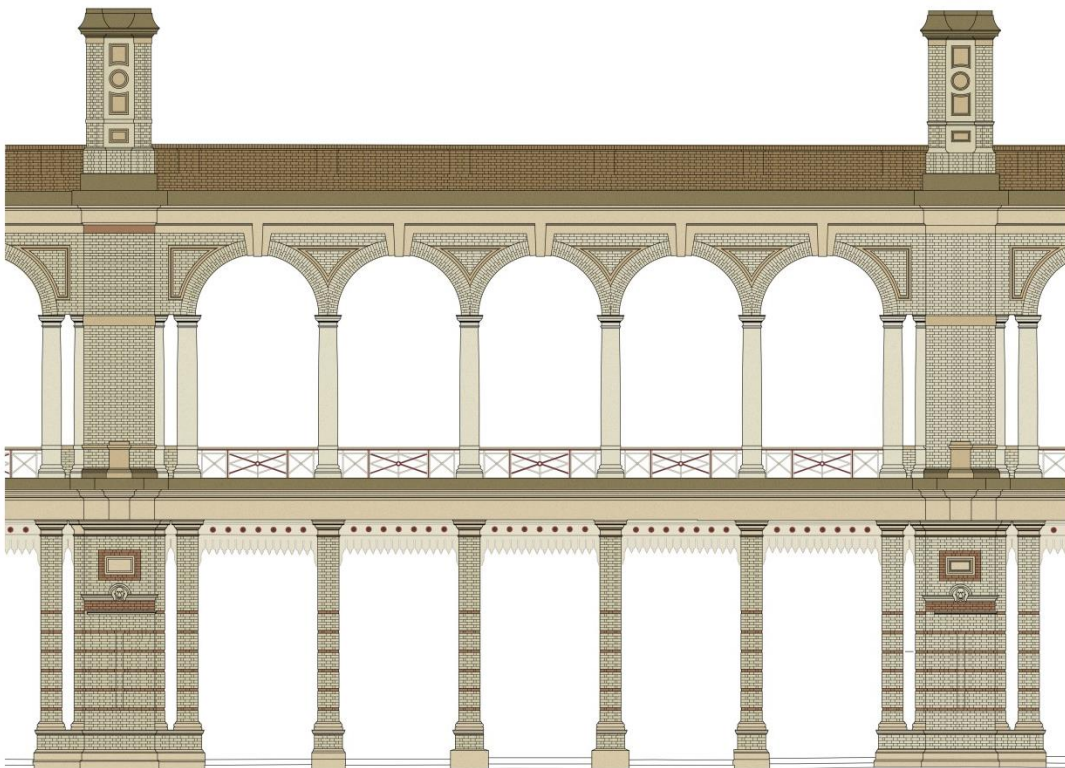
- Bronze Green: This appears to us to be excessively dark. However, it does permit the visual separation between the masonry columns forming the lower tier of the arcade and the pelmets.
- Brunswick Green: This is perhaps closest to the green historic decorative scheme.
- Pale Stone and Venetian Red: These colours work very well with the polychromatic brickwork and bring a new level of detail to the overall structure through the contrasting use of red and stone colour. We consider that this is the most successful of the proposals.



Bronze Green (6008)



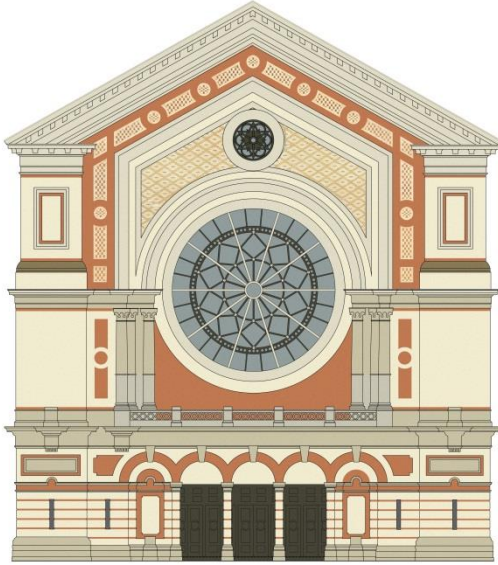
Brunswick Green (6020)



Venetian Red (3009) and Pale Stone (1013)

4. Rose Window

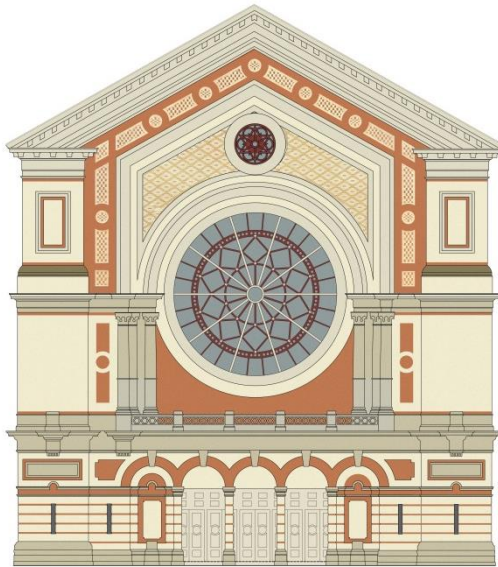
The choice of colours here are essentially the same as for the South Terrace. The principle question, given a preference for pale stone and red, is the colour for the Main Entrance doors, for which we show two options. Red is likely to be more durable and require less frequent redecoration.



Bronze Green (6008)



Brunswick Green (6020)



Venetian Red (3009) and Pale Stone (1013) – Pale Stone Doors



Venetian Red (3009) and Pale Stone (1013) – Red Doors

5. Lamps and Railings – South Terrace

As these elements are not a part of the original Alexandra Palace, there is greater latitude in choosing new colours. Nevertheless the colour chosen should form part of the overall scheme and should not therefore be considered in isolation. We also recognise the maintenance advantages of a limited palette of colours. Some of the possible options are illustrated and described below.

- Brunswick Green: Perhaps a second to black as the most familiar colour for street lamps, and by default the associated railings. Whilst this would present quite an attractive solution when viewed against the sky or foliage, we think that there are other possibilities that avoid what could otherwise be an overwhelming amount of green to the building and its surrounds when viewed as a whole with the elevation behind.
- Pale Stone: The colour looks weak in this context and will soon appear dirty.
- Pale Stone with Venetian Red highlights: This of course matches the building behind well and if the pale stone and red option is chosen for the South Elevation, then a fully harmonious design solution will have been achieved.
- Venetian Red: Painting the lamp standards and railings entirely in red would be a brave solution, but one with much historic precedent to support it. Examples include The Palace of Westminster (newly restored Sovereign's Entrance); the Natural History Museum; the Albert Memorial; the Royal Academy; and St Pancras Station. All but the last of these are projects on which we have been working over the past five years, and all have been the consequence of detailed paint analysis. However, something less bold may be preferred.



Brunswick Green (6020)



Pale Stone (1013)



Venetian Red (3009) and Pale Stone (1013)



Venetian Red (3009)

6. Recommendations

Based on the examples shown, we consider that:

- An additional illustration should be prepared to show the combination of pale stone and red to the south colonnade with the green windows behind (this combination would exist in any full restoration of the buildings behind the South Terrace).
- 1980s roof trusses: the grey provides a conservative choice, the red a bolder one.
- Rose window: both the historic research and the visuals show that the pale stone and venetian red would be an attractive combination and we consider that the main doors should also be in red.
- Lamps and railings: Whilst it would be a bold choice, we prefer the red colour and advise that another drawing should be prepared showing these elements against the building behind. This might be combined with the drawing proposed in the first bullet point.

The general decoration for windows has already been trialed in Mid and Deep Bronze with Pale Stone cills around the East entrance as part of the regeneration project, and this combination is expected to be used around the North elevation and West elevation. Depending upon future proposals for the area currently occupied by the marquee behind the South West Terrace, as well as following the restoration of the South East Terrace where the BBC studios are located, the window joinery here may also use this colour combination in the long term.