

The Royal Society Building of Victoria, dedicated to promoting the advancement of Science and Technology for over 150 years, now restored with Ability's ultra durable 'the Paint'.

Melbourne's unique Royal Society Building.

An historic building situated in a small triangular 'island' surrounded by three main traffic thoroughfares consisting of: Exhibition, La Trobe and Victoria Streets, The Royal Society Building now celebrates it's 150th year of promoting the advancement of Science and Technology.

Architectural origins.

The Royal Society was founded in 1854. The present two storey brick building was erected in several stages boasting a long and fascinating history. The original Meeting Hall, which is still considered to this day the 'home' for the work of the Society, was completed in 1859. This was added to in 1867-69 and 1880.

It was built in the Victorian Period in the Academic Classical Style and this purpose-built edifice has been in constant use since it's inception. In 1953-4 substantial additions were made to the South side using original façade treatment. The architect was Joseph Reed, the most influential Victorian Era architect in Victoria, designer of many prominent buildings in Melbourne, including the Exhibition Buildings, the State Library of Victoria and the Melbourne Town Hall amongst many others. He also established Reed & Barnes (now known as Bates Smart), Australia's oldest architectural firm.



Corner view of The Royal Society Building after renovations.

Historical aspects

The Royal Society has a long and proud history of outstanding contributions to Science, Technology and Discovery, playing an important role in the growth of scientific endeavour and the dissemination of knowledge. Notable milestones in it's history include: the Burke and Wills Expedition of 1860, where the explorers set out from The Society's Hall and where they were also laid in state. The establishment of Australia's first Antarctic exploration committee; the setting aside of Wilson's Promontory as a National Parkland along with many other notable contributions.

For final restoration work - why Ability products?

Dr Robb Stanley, the Executive Officer for The Royal Society, recalls how Ability's **the Paint** was selected for the external refurbishment of the Heritage listed building. Ability's **the Paint** was originally specified by their architect, as it was considered highly suitable for historical masonry surfaces as **the Paint** reflected the look of the textured surface of the original limewashed buildings, allowing the surfaces to 'breathe' (ie: permitting any moisture to come and go).

Although the brick and rendered building was painted with a limestone colour until the 1950's, the original colour remains unknown as it was stripped off completely with no residue being found, so a new colour selection was made based on a Heritage Victoria approved colour scheme and as Ability's **the Paint** is available in virtually any colour, this was one of the many reasons why **the Paint** was the Selection Committee's first choice, along with it's 20 year guarantee*(*conditions apply), it's outstanding durability, all weather and UV resistance and no colour fading characteristics.

Dr Stanley recounts that: "what impressed us (the Selection Committee) most was the colour selection and the mineral finish of **the Paint** which sets like concrete and is harder than the sand component and is obviously extremely durable. The Ability team have also been very helpful in guiding us through the process along with directing us to accredited applicators."



Application of 'the Paint' to the West wall of The Royal Society Building.



Ability's 'the Paint' applied to the original prepared wall.