



Method Statement for Recreation of Pews

Author:

Padraig O'Neill

Location of works:

Manchester Jewish Museum

Brief Description: To Recreate the Ladies Pews based on the historic pictures, the existing benches to the mens gallery and historic methods.

Materials : Firstly we believe the benches in the downstairs area of the synagogue to be pitch pine which is very typical of buildings of historic significance of this period. We would therefore use this for all benches and paneling then it will be stained to match the rest of the benches.

Design- Our best guide to re-create the benches as they originally were is the below picture.



The two benches are very different but we will recreate the mouldings etc using the men's benches as a guide as to fixing techniques and features.

Find diagram of the design principles that will be used to recreate the benches.



Top rounded bevel to match feature on top of existing mens pews



Front arms to match existing arms to mens benches as per historical photos

Arms fixed with timber dowels with square bevelled detail on the back.



Side detail as per historical photographs/architects details

Bevels to match existing benches



Benches recessed and screws as per downstairs benches

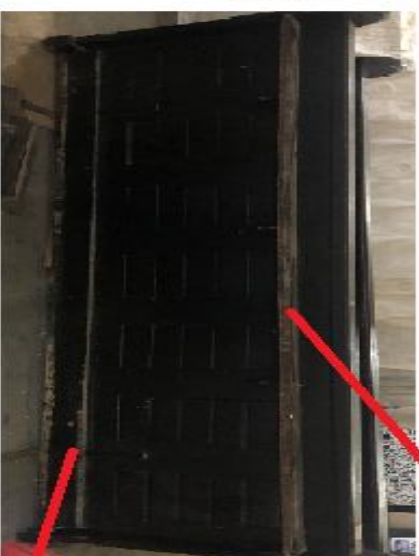


The front of the pews will be as the per the existing benches. Bevelled edge ship lap tongue and groove boarding surround by bevelled edge timbers fixed together with mortice and tennon joints glued and wedged.



Paneling below pews as per existing gents pews. Fixed with panel pins.

Back of front pew as per back of pews in the downstairs gallery. Beveled tongue and grooved paneling surrounded by bevelled edge timber. It will not have a lay board on as the historical pictures seem to show none.



Chamfered skirting detail to back of pews.

Techniques-

- All works will be undertaken by highly skilled craftspeople using traditional materials, traditional joinery and handcraft.
- The basic raw dried timber will be sized with a thicknesser and cut to length.
- Bevels and chamfers will be routed out then hand scribed in preparation for jointing.
- Mortice and tenons will be cut out then all joints glued and clamped.
- Some elements will get nailed or pinned and the bases that are fixed with a trench joint and countersunk screws will be joined together.
- Finally all the benches will be sanded, filled and decorated in order to match in with the existing pews.
- The old pews appear to have L shaped brackets fixed to them but this appears to be remedial works so we will attempt to screw the benches down directly and pellet the top of the screw.
- All works will be carried out in a sympathetic and traditional way.

