

BowkerSadler

23-033 / 90-01: Ormond Building - Method Statement for infilling openings in existing lath and plaster ceiling above the Ormond Building Council Chamber following removal of the ventilation grilles.

To satisfy Condition No.3 of Listed Building Consent Ref 138236/LO/2023.

Materials Required

- 63 x 38mm softwood timber studs
- Split or riven oak or hazel laths (approx. 36 x 5mm)
- Stainless steel fixings (nails) for the laths.
- Plaster Backing Coats (x2): Pre-batched lime putty and coarse washed sand ratio 1:3 containing a 2mm granulation down to fines, with hair or glass fibre entrained into the mix
- Finishing Coat (x1): Pre-batched lime putty and fine washed sand with a granulation of maximum 1mm, down to fines in a ratio 1:1, containing no hair.

Sequence of Work – Please read in conjunction with BSA Drawing 23-033_1004

1. Preparation - Remove existing grilles as indicated on reflected ceiling plans. Insert a softwood backing frame of 63 x 38 timber into the square aperture (fixed to existing joists) either from below or above. If the latter, remove section of duct from above and any surrounding non-original chipboard decking to facilitate.

2. Fixing the laths - Using stainless steel fixings, nail oak or hazel laths back to the softwood backing frame and to the length/width of the opening. Ensure the laths are in the same alignment and plane as the adjacent existing laths. Make sure there is a 6mm – 10mm gap between each lath to ensure the lime mix can squeeze through and hook onto the back of the laths.

3. Apply the first backing (scratch) coat - Firstly, wet the laths (in order to eliminate the problem of warped laths when wet plaster is applied) ten minutes prior to the application of the first coat to give time for any excess of water to run off – there shouldn't be any droplets of water on the laths, as this will cause the plaster to slide across the laths rather than stick to them. A 'scratch' coat of lime putty and sand is to be applied and pushed through the lath, approx. 5-15mm thick. This coat will be one part lime putty to 3 parts sand to a thickness of 10-15mm and reinforced with animal hair or glass fibre. This mixture will be pushed through the laths creating nibs acting as a mechanical key to help the mortar to adhere to the lath. Once applied, leave to prick up for a couple of hours and then 'scratch' diagonally across the lath both ways to form a diamond pattern. Leave to dry for 5-10 days in summer or 15-20 days in winter.

4. Apply the second (floating) coat - This coat will be one part lime putty to 3 parts sand to a thickness of 8-9mm, again reinforced with animal hair or glass fibre. The mortar should be ruled flat and scoured using a wooden float to consolidate the surface. After an hour, a devil float should be passed over the surface to give a key for the finish coat. The overall drying time for this coat should be less than that of the first coat.

5. Apply the finishing coat - The second coat surface is to be dampened before application of the finish coat. The finishing coat will be one part lime putty to one part fine sand, to a thickness of 2-5mm. Flatten with a steel trowel to form a seamless finish with the adjacent existing plaster.

6. Final decoration - Once dry a painted finish will be applied to match the adjacent painted finishes.