

Using the Mape-Antique and Silexcolor ranges, Mapei ensured protection and decoration to the walls of an art atelier in Budapest.

Colour and Protection FOR THE NOUVEAU ATELIER

Amongst all the tourist attractions the city of Budapest has to offer, there is one that is not so well known but certainly worth mentioning. In Kelenhegyi út, not far from the city's most famous spa facility, there is a workshop-house designed back in 1903 by the Hungarian architect and painter Gyula Kosztlányi Kann. The building hosts an art gallery and a number of art studios.

Its architectural design is inspired by the art nouveau style and it has a yellow, white and light blue façade made of square stones.

Over recent times the construction has shown clear signs of decay due to passing time and, in particular, to a build up of rain water flowing down from a nearby hill called Gellért.

Rising damp and residue water have been discovered in the basement. They damaged the ground-floor level and weakened the north-west side of the structure.

End of the Decay

Renovation operations were set under way in 2000 including the construction of a complete drainage system.

Work began by reconstructing the north-west section, the part in a worst condition. Here the wall, already badly damaged by rain water, actually collapsed during excavation work designed for inspecting the state of disrepair and old waterproofing system.

The renovation project also involved restoring the original colour of the façade. The architectural firm commissioned to carry out the project, in close conjunction with a Mapei technician and a superintendent from the local authorities in charge of old monuments, carefully selected the most sui-



table materials (and their colours) for the works, eventually opting for high-quality products guaranteed to be effective and efficient, such as the MAPE-ANTIQUÉ and SILEXCOLOR ranges.

An Integrated System for Protecting and Colouring

Mapei products were chosen because the Company can provide a specific system (MAPE-ANTIQUÉ) including mortars and renders for repairing masonry and stone buildings damaged by widespread rising damp.

This system offers advantages in terms of both application and final results, and it perfectly matches with special masonry coating lines that Mapei provides (in this case the SILEXCOLOR range was chosen).

The work on the façade of Kosztolányi Kann art gallery began in May 2003.

Before carrying out the work, the substrate was carefully prepared by removing all the old plaster and washing the structure using a high-pressure water cleaner.

MAPE-ANTIQUÉ RINZAFFO* light-coloured, salt-resistant, cement-free pre-packed mortar was then applied. This is used (in a thickness of 5 mm) before applying the dehumidifying mortars for repairing old stone, tuff and brick buildings damaged by the presence of excessive amounts of chlorides. Thanks to its distinctive traits, MAPE-ANTIQUÉ RINZAFFO* prevents soluble salts such as, for example, chlorides, from moving into the render, in this instance made from MAPE-ANTIQUÉ MC*. Otherwise, the soluble salts might lead to anaesthetic patches on the surface of the render.

MAPE-ANTIQUÉ RINZAFFO* is also particularly useful for improving the adhesive properties of micro-porous mortars. A dehumidifying layer of MAPE-ANTIQUÉ MC*, a pre-packed dehumidifying mortar for repairing damp walls made of stone, brick and tuff, was then applied.



After completing the cycle of MAPE-ANTIQUÉ products, the original colours (light blue, yellow and white) were then restored to all the outside walls using products from the SILEXCOLOR range. These are silicate-based products for wall coatings guaranteeing high adhesion to the substrate, high transpirability, excellent resistance to chemical agents (i.e. acid rain, mold etc.) and a nice look of the final surface. Most notably, it was opted to use SILEXCOLOR PAINT*, a product available in 34 colours and particularly suitable for porous vertical surfaces to which a protective but steam-permeable film is to be applied once it has dried. Before applying SILEXCOLOR PAINT*, the walls were treated with a modified potassium silicate-based primer in water dispersion, SILEXCOLOR PRIMER*, capable of helping the subsequent finishing coat to adhere more effectively.

Thanks to the use of Mapei systems for dehumidifying, protecting and decorating stone buildings, Gyula Kosztolányi Kann's Atelier can once again delight, with its brightly coloured walls, both tourists and people from Budapest walking around Kelenhegyi út. 

This article was taken from "Mapei Krónika", issue n° 8, the in-house magazine edited by Mapei Kft, which we would like to thank.

***Mapei Products:** the products referred to in this article belong to the "Coating Systems" range. The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" DVD or at the web site: www.mapei.com.



Mape-Antique FC: cement-free, light coloured, fine mortar for finishing dehumidifying mortars applied on stone, brick and tuff masonry.

Mape-Antique MC: pre-packed, cement-free, light-coloured dehumidifying mortar for the restoration of damp stone, brick and tuff masonry.

Mape-Antique Rinzafo: light-coloured salt-resistant, cement-free, pre-packed mortar to be used before applying Mape-Antique MC, Mape-Antique CC and Mape-Antique LC dehumidifying mortars on stone, tuff and brick substrates.

Silexcolor Paint: silicate-based, vapour-permeable protective and decorative paint system for cement- or lime-based renders for interiors and exteriors.

Silexcolor Primer: modified potassium silicate-based primer in water solution.

TECHNICAL DATA

Atelier House, Budapest (Hungary)

Work: renovation of the façades

Year: 2003

Customer: Budapest City Council

Project: Profil Kft., Gödöllo (Hungary); Nagy Bálint & Tsai Építésziroda, Budapest

Contractor: Excluzív Bau Kft, Budapest

Work Management: Miklós Vince, Excluzív Bau Kft

Mapei Co-ordinator: László Szabó, Mapei Kft (Hungary)

Photo 1.

The building, which dates back to the early 20th century, had a badly damaged façade and walls, due mainly to rising damp.

Photo 2.

During renovation works, Mape-Antique MC dehumidifying mortar was applied on the surface.

Photos 3 and 4.

The façade was given a colourful touch using Silexcolor Paint.

Photo 5.

The façade was brought back to its original colours.

