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MICHAEL FISHER
WOODCARVING SERVICES

MOULDMAKING GILDING TURNING



BRIEF HISTORY AND CV

BRIEF HISTORY

A carver of over twenty years experience, Michael Fisher established his workshop in 1985, hand carving specialist components for local reproduction furniture companies. The business expanded steadily, moving into the fields of architectural and ecclesiastical woodcarving, quickly gaining a reputation for producing work to a very high standard. Michael's services have been sought by architects and joinery manufacturers working for the most discerning clients. As early as 1989 he was entrusted with much of the carved work to No. 10 Downing Street during its refurbishment of that year. Other prestigious work soon followed, including the refurbishment of the Foreign Office buildings at Whitehall, and the restoration of Uppark House, a National Trust stately home that was gutted almost beyond reinstatement by fire.

Michael now works with other carvers to satisfy a growing clientele, covering all aspects of carved ornamentation. The largest contract to date has been the carving to the entire East End Screen of St. George's Hall, the great banqueting hall at Windsor Castle, which was ravaged by fire in 1997. Anyone who has seen this work at close hand would be amazed to learn that all our carving was completed in just a three month period.

The Workshop's clientele includes many companies, the Church, architects, interior designers, cabinetmakers and private individuals nationwide and internationally. Commissions range from individual commissions or small one off pieces to medium scale production runs and large contracts as outlined above. A complete design service to complement the carved work is also available. Other services performed include traditional gilding, woodturning and mould making.

CURRICULUM VITAE IN BRIEF

Presented here are highlights of the work we have undertaken over the years. Details are given in the following pages:

- ◆ NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, 1989 REFURBISHMENT
- ◆ WINDSOR CASTLE, ST. GEORGE'S HALL RESTORATION
- ◆ VENETO VILLA DEVELOPMENT, REGENTS PARK
- ◆ FOREIGN OFFICE REFURBISHMENT
- ◆ CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
- ◆ UPPARK HOUSE PHASE 1, NATIONAL TRUST
- ◆ UPPARK HOUSE PHASE 2, NATIONAL TRUST
- ◆ BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL
- ◆ BRIGHTON DOME REDEVELOPMENT

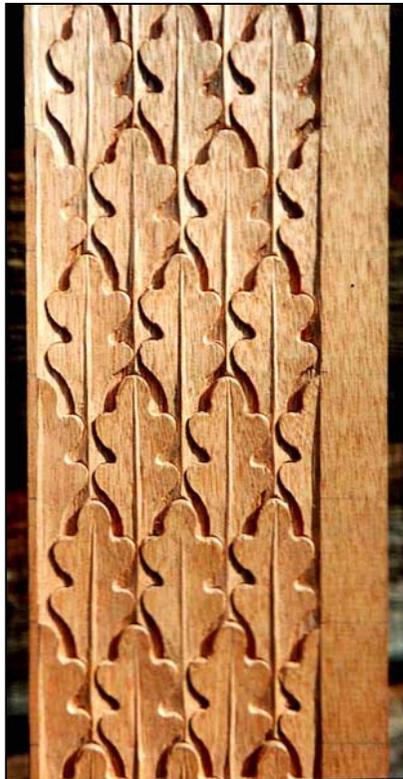
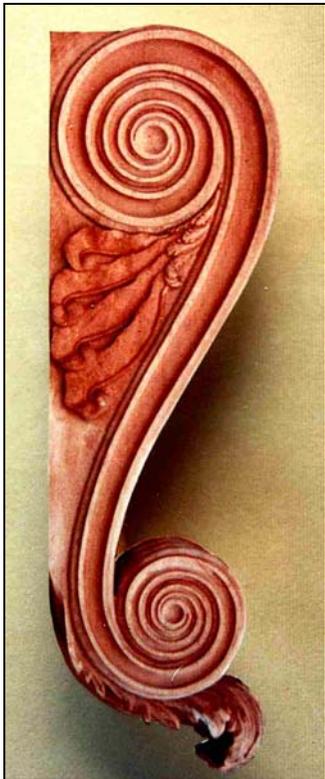
At the end there is a gallery of some of our other works.

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, 1989 REFURBISHMENT

1989 VALUE £5400

This refurbishment was designed by the architect Quinlan Terry, in the Classical style for which he is renowned.

The carved works undertaken by us include the console brackets and oak leaf diaper shown here, along with moulding embellishments and other carved elements for fireplaces, overmantles and architraves. All were carved strictly in the Classical style, carefully following the beautifully laid out plans.



WINDSOR CASTLE, ST. GEORGE'S HALL RESTORATION

1998 VALUE £37000

As part of the army of professional craftsmen mobilised in the restoration of Windsor castle's Great Hall our task was one of the most arduous undertaken. In just three months we produced all the carved panels for the entire East End Screen. This screen consists entirely of heavy Gothic tracery carving, and spans the whole of the east end of the hall.

The upper balcony rail shown here is pierced through and carved to a different design on each side.



VENETO VILLA DEVELOPMENT, REGENTS PARK

1995 VALUE £1700

The Veneto Villa is one of a set of exclusive architectural developments in Regents Park, London, for the Church Estate Commissioners. Inspired by John Nash, the plan was to create a collection of new Villas, each one adhering strictly to the form of a specific Classical/traditional architectural style.

The Veneto Villa was built in the Palladian manner, drawing influence from the architecture of that region of Italy, displaying crisp Classical Roman ornamentation in a light and open setting.

The shell shown here was carved by us as the central motif to a Classical architectural pediment forming the crest to the overmantle in the Drawing room. The ionic capitals are from a fireplace.

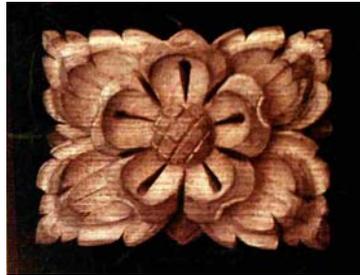


FOREIGN OFFICE REFURBISHMENT

1992 VALUE £6000

Our work here included the restoration of the crest shown here, forming the top of a very large picture frame. It measures 8 ft across, and arrived in about fifty pieces. By carefully arranging the existing bits, we were able to repair the breaks, and reproduce the missing parts.

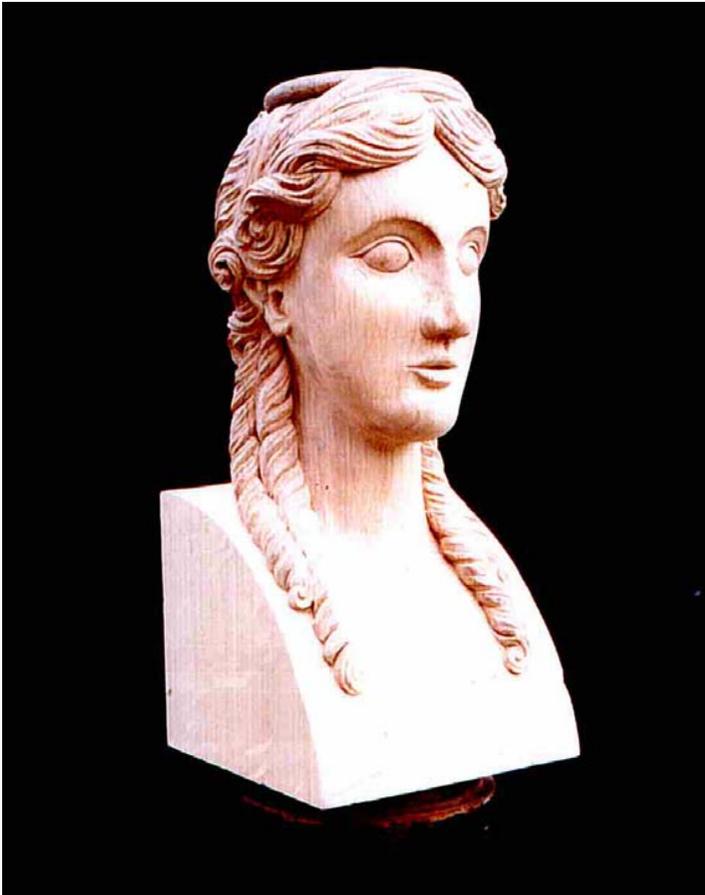
Other work for this refurbishment included several brackets of differing design, some ornate panelling, and a massive architrave for an arched door, in the form of a double rope twist.



CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

1997 VALUE £7300

This was the production of six Romanesque Classical heads carved in English Oak shown here, and four carved console brackets. I was particularly pleased with the detail to the hair.



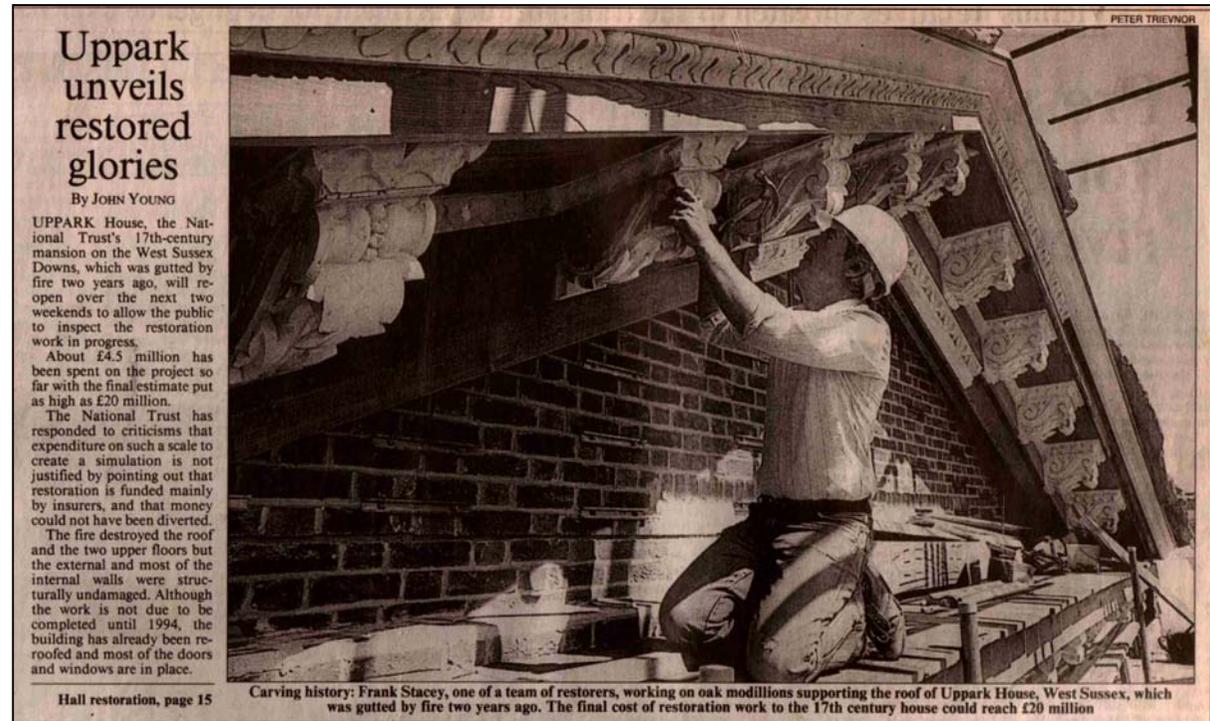
UPPARK HOUSE PHASE 1, NATIONAL TRUST

1990 VALUE £10200

1992 saw the almost total destruction by fire of the National Trust stately home, Uppark House in Sussex.

After much deliberation with insurers, the Trust took on the immense task of complete authentic restoration of the building. This is probably the greatest undertaking by the nation's craftsmen in recent history.

Amongst the army of skilled tradesmen, our tasks were the replacement of woodcarvings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. This included the carving of over 100 modillion brackets in the first phase, for the restoration of the roof.



Uppark unveils restored glories

By JOHN YOUNG

UPPARK House, the National Trust's 17th-century mansion on the West Sussex Downs, which was gutted by fire two years ago, will re-open over the next two weekends to allow the public to inspect the restoration work in progress.

About £4.5 million has been spent on the project so far with the final estimate put as high as £20 million.

The National Trust has responded to criticisms that expenditure on such a scale to create a simulation is not justified by pointing out that restoration is funded mainly by insurers, and that money could not have been diverted.

The fire destroyed the roof and the two upper floors but the external and most of the internal walls were structurally undamaged. Although the work is not due to be completed until 1994, the building has already been re-roofed and most of the doors and windows are in place.

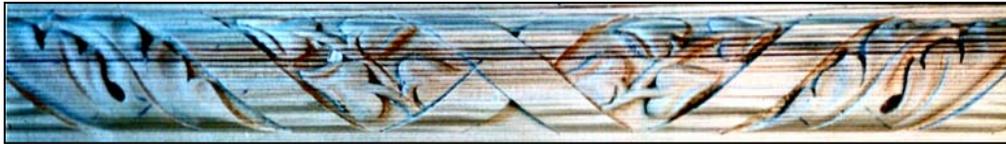
Hall restoration, page 15

Carving history: Frank Stacey, one of a team of restorers, working on oak modillions supporting the roof of Uppark House, West Sussex, which was gutted by fire two years ago. The final cost of restoration work to the 17th century house could reach £20 million

UPPARK HOUSE PHASE 2, NATIONAL TRUST

1992 VALUE £9000

In the second phase which followed, we carved several hundreds of feet of very fine embellished mouldings, adhering very strictly to salvaged samples of the many differing architraves, skirting and dado rails which were destroyed in the fire.



BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL

1996 VALUE £6400

This was another authentic development in the Classical style by Quinlan Terry.

Our work here consisted of the carving of four altar candlesticks in limewood, 44” high, and the 7” Easter candlestick to the same design shown here, and twelve 6” flower stands.



BRIGHTON DOME REDEVELOPMENT

2001 VALUE £4500

This work was to supply a quantity of unusual fleur-de-lys moulding in Oak, matching original for a screen being restored in the redevelopment. A very nice design, but unfortunately, no picture.

GALLERY OF OTHER WORKS



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