

Roofing

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INTRODUCTION AND DESIGN HISTORY

The purpose of this set of technical notes is to help those involved in works to the houses of Bedford Park to understand the features that give them their special character and architectural value. The overall conservation intent of these guidance notes is to assist sensitive analysis and decision, not to prescribe a single solution. There is often a case for more than one design detail to be appropriate in each circumstance.

At first sight, the design and construction of Bedford Park houses appears to follow a consistent pattern. This is misleading, and the subtleties of each situation need to be appreciated if the architectural integrity of the houses is not to be eroded by incorrect repair, replacement or new construction using inappropriate materials and details. There were original differences even between houses of the same type. That said, the design and construction of the houses in the Bedford Park conservation area as a whole consists of a restricted range of materials, forms and details against which the appropriateness of repair, replacement or new construction can be evaluated.

Some appreciation of how the houses were designed and built over a period of several years will be helpful in understanding the variation in detail. With few exceptions, the architects involved in the development of Bedford Park were not engaged to supervise the construction of the houses. The architects – Norman Shaw et al – determined overall design intentions and nature of details but as there were a number of builders involved over a period of years, the implementation of designs, and (to a large extent) the detailed constructional decisions were left in the hands of the building contractors. Consequently, when replacing lost features or constructing new ones, care must be

taken to research details from an appropriate example.

The repair and alteration of historic buildings is a delicate and skilled business, at all scales. The selection of details and methods, and their correct specification, needs considered judgement. Each case presents its own issues, problems and challenges, and therefore generalisations are dangerous. Skilled craftsmen should be employed and professional advice sought before committing to action that may permanently affect the appearance and fabric of the historic building.

The following notes will give some pointers to the main issues to be considered, the most commonly successful techniques, appropriate detailing and sourcing of materials. It is recommended that the appropriateness of details proposed should be discussed with the local authority Conservation Officer and ideally one of the local expert architects prior to finalising an application for listed building consent or planning permission, and prior to placing orders for any work.

Pitched roofs and tile hanging

The predominant roofing material in Bedford Park is the plain clay tile, which is also used as a wall cladding. The tiles originally used for roofing were a machine made 8"x6" clay tile of red colour, generally consistent in colour, without variegation, and with a smooth surface. Original examples and older replacements have weathered and dirtied to a dark and slightly mottled colour.

Plain Clay Tiles for roofing

The essential aspects of the basic tile are colour and camber. The tiles to be used should be red, of a close match to the colour of the originals. Most importantly they should be '*single cambered*'