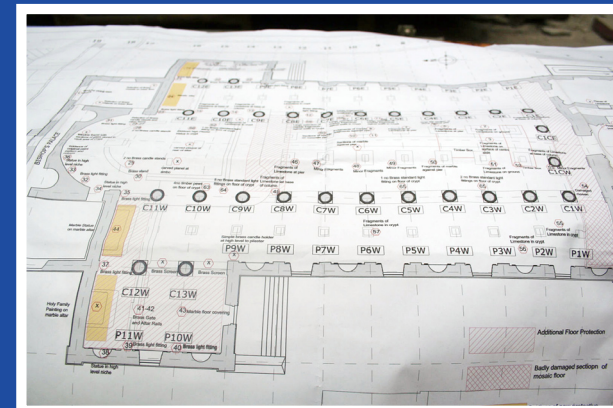


Cathedral Trial Plasterwork Progresses

St. Mel's Cathedral was known far and wide for the intricate plasterwork on its ceilings and walls. All of this beautiful work was destroyed in the fire. Over the past few months a team of master craftsmen were on site to carry out trial repairs to the detailed plasterwork. The craftsmen have been guided by drawings used during the original building of the

Cathedral. One small area of plasterwork has been replaced on a trial basis. If one person alone was to take on the job to replace the plasterwork, it could arguably take decades to finish the job. In fact Seamus Butler of the Project Committee says "there are forty man years alone in the lime plastering contract." When the contract for the lime plastering is awarded, it is expected to take close to a year for the work to be completed. It is necessary to use old traditional methods and even when the plasterwork is completed a slow drying period to allow the plaster to set could take months before any painting takes place.



The trial plasterwork was undertaken by George O'Malley Plastering. These pictures show various stages of the trial work carried out on site by the skilled plaster craftsman. The results of these trials will inform the Design Team on how the original plasterwork was executed on site and how therefore to plan for the replacement works and their details.

