

# Makeover restores beauty of Lady Chapel

Products - Claypaint

Project - St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

earthborn®

Almost 150 years since its completion, the Lady Chapel in Dublin's St Patrick's Cathedral is looking fresh and bright again following a cleaning and reordering project.



Seen as a pilot project for cleaning the cathedral interior, the works were funded entirely by the Board of St Patrick's Cathedral. The €600,000 contract was run collaboratively by Benjamin & Beauchamp Architects and main contractor Conservation & Restoration (Ireland) Ltd.

Founded in 1191, St Patrick's Cathedral is the National Cathedral for the Church of Ireland and includes very fine examples of Irish architectural styles, from its 13th Century arcades to its 19th Century restoration. The Lady Chapel was rebuilt during that restoration; designed by Richard Cromwell Carpenter in 1845 and completed in 1865. It features stone from Bath, Dundry and Kilkenny.

The work included cleaning the masonry and monuments, removing old masonry paint and cleaning down the lime plastered surfaces. All plastered surfaces required repainting and these included vaulted ribs as well as ceilings and walls. Benjamin & Beauchamp specified Earthborn's Claypaint for the job.

Project architect John Beauchamp says: "We needed a paint that was fully compatible with lime plaster and highly breathable in order to prevent any issues with damp. A colleague had used Claypaint on a previous church project and recommended it to me.

"I investigated further and conducted extensive trials with the co-operation of Earthborn's national distributor

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for Ireland, Stoneware Studios. I found that the density and opacity of the paint was great for covering uneven surfaces and that it will be ideal for any touch ups in the future because of its low reflective value.

"Stoneware Studios worked closely with us to create two customised shades: one is St Patrick's Blue, a shade synonymous with the Cathedral, and the other a hint of ochre to integrate with the Dundry stone columns and ceiling ribs.

"We applied a diluted base coat and two further coats to ensure maximum effect. Our painting contractor had not used Claypaint before but was very impressed with the way it covers and its finished effect. I am, too, and have already specified it on other projects."

Earthborn Claypaint is a unique clay based emulsion with a distinctive, ultra matt finish. Its advanced technology maximises the natural properties of clay to create a high performance, highly breathable paint. Being free of all harmful emissions and VOCs, it is also

very environmentally friendly and carries EU Ecolabel approval.

Earthborn Claypaint is available in 60 standard shades. Bespoke colours can be developed through the nationwide network of Earthborn stockists such as Stoneware Studios.

For further information visit:

[www.earthbornpaints.co.uk/trade](http://www.earthbornpaints.co.uk/trade)

[www.stonewarestudios.com](http://www.stonewarestudios.com)

[www.b2architects.com](http://www.b2architects.com)

[www.conservationandrestoration.ie](http://www.conservationandrestoration.ie)

**Front page** - The stonework is complemented by two customised shades of Earthborn Claypaint applied to lime plaster.

**This page (top left)** - A new LED lighting scheme enhances the Lady Chapel's stone and plaster work.

**This page (bottom left)** - Ceiling detail shows the the cathedral's own special shade of Claypaint, St Patrick's Blue.

**This page (below)** - St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

*Internal photos: courtesy Alan McGrath, Conservation & Restoration (Ireland) Ltd. External photo: courtesy John Beauchamp*



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