



Merry Goldberg Ltd,
E: robertmerry@stoneconsultants.co.uk
www.stoneconsultants.co.uk

ROBERT MERRY – DIRECTOR

2023

The Stone Consultants – 2006 to present:

- Pre-construction: Stone selection, stone inspection, CE Marking, sample approvals, quarry visits UK and abroad.
- Tender stage: detailed design, preparation of tender documentation and specification, review of tenders and contracts.
- Construction: project management of stone package, quality control, factory visits and site visits, surveys, procurement.
- Post construction: Expert witness, snagging and rectification.

Managing Director Marble Arch Ltd – 1989 to 2006:

- Specialist fabricator and installer of Marble, Limestone and Granite to high end luxury interior and exterior market in central London.
- Bathroom interiors – shower trays, showers, bath tops, vanity tops, wall cladding and floor slabs and tiles.
- Hall floors, lift lobbies, kitchen tops, receptions, external paving, steps and fireplaces.

Memberships:

- Stone Federation of Great Britain
Committees: National Stone Industries Training Group, Technical Committee, Interiors Group.
- British Standards Institute
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Builders (MCIOB)

Insurance:

The Stone Consultants are fully insured for all site work – public liability insurance and carry Professional Indemnity insurance. Copy available on request.



Merry Goldberg Ltd,
E: robertmerry@stoneconsultants.co.uk
www.stoneconsultants.co.uk

Publications:

Natural Stone Specialist – UK Stone Industry monthly Publication

Contribution since 2010 to present day – over 100 articles on Procurement, Selection, Contracts, Project Management, British Standards for Stone.

Other Articles for: Architecture Today December 2016, Tomorrows Stone & Tile, Design Buy Build, Architect.

Training:

CPD: Stone Federation of Great Britain CPD written and presented on Interior Use of Stone 2018/19.

Courses devised and developed:

Stone Industry Professional Practice – NVQ Diploma Level 3 in Construction Contracting Operations and Site Technical Support – 1 day module on Contracting and Estimating.

Contract Management for Stone Industry Professionals: commissioned by NSITG for delivery 2019.

Expert Witness

Project	Client	Requirements	Outcome
Duke of York's	Developer	Material selected was not Identified correctly under BSEN 12440.	Investigation into stone origins and suitability for use.
HMPYO – Scotland	Contractor	Developer in dispute with Main Contractor over the finish of the external cladding and wanted independent expert advice.	Report on condition of installation, supplied materials and finished works.
City Office	Contractor	A dispute with the contractor over non-payment for offsite completed stone works.	Survey of completed materials in Italy and expert witness statement releasing funds to client.
Kitchen tops	Kitchen Supplier	Client required individual reports on 14 kitchens over 4 sites due to claim by owners.	Report for submission to court in claim against supplier.
Flooring	NHBC	Cracked flooring in ground floor of house – insurance claim by client.	Report into cracking and movement issues in Limestone flooring.
Islington Private House	Architects	Shower and bathroom floor discoloured and cracking – report required	Investigation into condition of sub floor, suitability of materials and testing regime to establish cause.
French Embassy	Contractor	Condition of external render was questioned by client	Report on condition of render and design process.
Avenue Road	Architect/client	Pool, hallways, kitchen, changing rooms	Suitability of stone used – sizes, type, quality of finish
Hornchurch	Developer	External Patio grout and bedding failure.	Examination of sub base and report.
Selfridges	Contractor	3000 sqm of floor tiles cracking at edges.	Removal of test area, survey and report into causes. -
Flooring	Winchester Crown Crt	Floor failure inspection, research and report.	Detailed response to specific court instructions, specification written for rectification works.
Flooring	Private	Material suitability for application, floor was heavily stained and finish had changed.	Investigation of laying and sealing methods used and study of petrographic evidence.
External Paving	Private client	850msq of external paving failure and questions over the quality of the workmanship.	Initial report, subsequent decision to remove all stone, engagement of structural experts to investigate sub-base, expert report on all aspects of defective works, engagement of new contractors to carry out work.



Merry Goldberg Ltd,
E: robertmerry@stoneconsultants.co.uk
www.stoneconsultants.co.uk

Bathrooms	Contractor	Inspection of 12 no. stone bathrooms and report on quality of the material – requested by the main contractor.	Main Contractor, Client and Architect satisfied the material was within acceptable tolerances.
Bathrooms	Private Client	Report on suspected cracks in materials and investigate reasons.	Natural fissures or inter crystalline boundaries identified as causing fractures to the face.
External Cladding	Contractor	Understanding of tolerances allowed for brickwork and stonework as client condemned works	CE Marking absent from supplier and tolerances of stone not declared.
Kitchen	John Lewis	Supplied and installed kitchen – client dissatisfied with finished product.	Kitchen surface changed to meet the required standard.
External Masonry	Private Client	Selection of material dispute. Material was Carboniferous and showed signs of black marks.	Selected alternative material, arranged site visit and installed a selection procedure to give the client what they wanted.
Work surfaces	Hippodrome Leicester Sq	Heavily stained stone bar tops required investigation into the causes, including specification.	Client overlaid the existing tops with new stone.
External Paving	Regents Park	Client required a report on the existing for submission to the council planning department that outlined the heritage aspects of replacement over restoration.	The report was submitted and planning was successful and new steps were installed.
Reception 3000msq, lift lobby x 38 no. 6000msq.	Multi-national client.	Origins of the Italian stone, selection procedure, contract documentation and expert report for Tribunal.	Tribunal hearing Singapore June 2019, London January 2022.
National Gallery	Stone Company	Stone staining	Report into contractor damage to stone.
Kitchen	Private Client	Supplied and installed kitchen – client dissatisfied with workmanship.	Worksurfaces changed.
Internal stonework	Main contractor	Dry lay inspection of entrance hall cladding and flooring.	Successful completion of the project to the client's expectations.
Dublin – Reception and landings.	International Architect	Inspection of travertine floor showing high levels of wear.	Contract provided warranty on installation and quality of stone.

Merry Goldberg Ltd,

E: robertmerry@stoneconsultants.co.uk

www.stoneconsultants.co.uk

Specification Writing

Project	Client	Requirements	Outcomes
Copthall Avenue – Credit Suisse	Cotton Thompson Cole	Required a schedule of works relating to current BS Standards	Identifying repairs, scheduling and writing specification for cleaning and repairing external façade to BS Standards.
Culross Street, Mayfair – 7 bathrooms, 8 flights of stairs, 5 lift lobbies, entrance hall.	Developer	Private residential refurbishment – the developer identified the stone package as critical to the success of the project and wanted to have certainty on cost and quality . Value of stone works £250K	Specification for installation, search and select , recommendation for draughtsman and specialist installation teams. Budgeting and Project Management.
Grosvenor Sq	Contractor	Required a schedule of works relating to current BS Standards including selection of 160msq of new stone flooring, previously condemned.	Underfloor heated stone floor completed to the correct standard and with a better quality of material.
Surrey – 400msq external paving	Client	Following initial Stone Consultants report into the failure of the flooring the client requested a full compliant specification for removal and relaying the stones.	Replacement works are in the planning stage.
Windsor – 360msq of external paving	Private	Client had purchased Portland stone pavers and wanted to have them fitted externally, against industry advice.	Specification for installation, consulting with bedding experts, project management of works to completion.

Completed Project Management

Project	Client	Requirements	Outcomes
Portland House – Limerick – private residence	Architect	Client required a tender for the works and if successful someone to manage the project. Value of stone works £575K	Tendered project successfully. Project Managed works on-site including all surveying, valuations and working with the project team.
Kenwood House – Private residence	Stone Company	Winning the contract added additional stress to resources. Required professional management to the run the contract. Value of stone works £700K.	Successful and profitable, completion within the contract programme.
Arragon Mooar – Isle Of Man	Stone Company	Management of large internal stone work package: Value: £500K.	Project Management including submission of successful £70k claim for additional costs – agreed.



Merry Goldberg Ltd,
E: robertmerry@stoneconsultants.co.uk
www.stoneconsultants.co.uk

Lancaster Gate	Fireplace Supplier	95 bespoke fireplaces – supply and install Value £780K. Client needed a professional approach to managing this prestigious project.	Project Management. Final account agreed in advance of completion, zero snagging achieved.
One Hyde Park	Knight Harwood, Candy and Candy.	Project Management of internal stone package £900K +. 6 months pre-start work, 9 months on site	Completion of project to exacting standard.
Palace Green, Kensington W8	Stone Company	Project Management of internal stone package £1.2m +. Including stone selection with designer and frequent visits to quarries and factories in Italy.	Completion September 2014
Hildenborough Kent	Private Client	Contract Administrator 500K external terrace building project	850 msq of external terracing, steps and balustrading, 1300 sq mtres of external plaster and re-decoration works.
Cowley Street W1	Main Contractor	Select 1 st Calacatta stone in Italy, survey, order, quality control, manage installation	4 floors of book matched floors, bathrooms and cladding to pool.
Fitzroy Place	Stone Contractor and main contractor	Quality Manager – 300 luxury bathrooms in prestigious new build block.	Client required the introduction of a QM system to avoid any rectification works.
Centre Point	Stone Contractor	Contracts Manager – conversion of iconic office building to luxury apartments	QM system and contract management of all stone works.
Virginia Water	Stone Contractor	Project Management of internal stone package £1m +.	Completion of works to programme
Harrods	Stone Contractor	Contract Management of internal stone package £3m +.	Completion of works to programme
Harrods	Stone Contractor	Contract Management of internal stone package £570k +.	Completion of works to programme
Harrods	Stone Contractor	Contract Management of internal stone package £370k +.	Completion of works to programme
Carlton Hotel	Stone Contractor	Contract Management of internal stone package £1.4m +.	Completion of works to programme