

## STOWE HOUSE, MARBLE SALOON – Plaster Restoration

### Challenge

To clean and repair this Grand State Room; with its elliptical domed ceiling attributed to Georges-Francois Blondel with detailing thought to be by Vincenzo Valdre. It was constructed between 1779 and 1788. All works were part of a £6 million phase spanning 2004-2005 within a 12 year/£40 million restoration.

### Results

The completed ceiling is now restored to its former glory. The roof is now watertight and all of the magnificent detailing within, is safe.

Client: The Stowe House Preservation Trust

Architects: Purcell, Miller & Tritton

Main contractors: Linford-Bridgman

### Solution

Beneath the coffering, runs a classical frieze in high relief, it depicts a procession (made up of over 280 human figures and 14 animal figures) and it is thought to be inspired by Pheidias' frieze from the Parthenon. Prior to any repair, all plasterwork required cleaning. This was completed using two differing methods. The first; was a superficial dry clean to remove all thick dust deposits. The second and more thorough method was conducted using a steam cleaner. Thankfully we were able to resource a photographic record taken in 1870 which had predated any damage. All remodelling was carried out by hand.



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