

RISING DAMP: CAUSES AND TREATMENT



Donald Scott

The Pratt Foundation/ISS Institute Overseas Fellowship

Fellowship supported by The Pratt Foundation



ISS Institute

Suite 101
685 Burke Road
Camberwell Vic
AUSTRALIA 3124

Telephone

03 9882 0055

Facsimile

03 9882 9866

Email

issi.ceo@pacific.net.au

Web

www.issinstitute.org.au

Published by International Specialised Skills Institute, Melbourne.

ISS Institute
101/685 Burke Road
Camberwell 3124
AUSTRALIA

July 2009

Also extract published on www.issinstitute.org.au

© Copyright ISS Institute 2009

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

Whilst this report has been accepted by ISS Institute, ISS Institute cannot provide expert peer review of the report, and except as may be required by law no responsibility can be accepted by ISS Institute for the content of the report, or omissions, typographical, print or photographic errors, or inaccuracies that may occur after publication or otherwise. ISS Institute do not accept responsibility for the consequences of any action taken or omitted to be taken by any person as a consequence of anything contained in, or omitted from, this report.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Fellowship was to study at first hand the processes undertaken to accurately diagnose the causes, control and treatment of rising damp, particularly in heritage buildings.

A key component of the study was to investigate the English model of training professionals, artisans and tradespeople involved in conserving and repairing heritage buildings, and investigate strategies for communication between tradespeople and architects, heritage consultants and engineers, in a holistic approach.

In Australia, rising damp and salt attack are well understood by heritage organisations such as Heritage Victoria and the National Trust of Australia, together with conservation architects and heritage advisors. It is recognised that there are skill deficiencies and therein, a major shortage of skilled artisans and tradespeople with the knowledge to properly diagnose, treat and control the problem.

The Fellowship program in England included training courses, site visits and meetings, which were significant in providing information and inspiration.

There is widespread consensus among heritage professionals including architects, heritage consultants, surveyors and conservation officers for the need to adopt a 'back to basics' holistic approach to damp diagnosis rather than sales-led 'solutions'.

The overseas program was purposefully designed to explore the identified skills and knowledge deficiencies and obtain the information necessary to return to Australia equipped with the knowledge and ideas to enable the Fellow to advise, instruct, promote and improve the accurate diagnosis of the cause of rising damp and carry out appropriate treatment.

The information and knowledge obtained will be shared through workshops, conferences, education programs and publications.