

# Rattee and Kett

## MASTERBUILDERS

Since their creation in 1848 Rattee and Kett have been associated with many of the most prestigious buildings in England. The two craftsmen, George Kett and James Rattee, who founded the firm worked closely with some of the leading architects of the Gothic revival. Their

respect for the buildings of the past and the skills which produced them helped secure Rattee and Kett an unrivalled reputation for quality. This reputation has been enhanced by nearly 150 years of experience working closely with old buildings and their problems.



*Rattee and Kett were chosen to carry out a major share of the repairs to the ceiling of the House of Lords. Careful scrutiny of one of the original carvings revealed the signature of G. Kett, the Norfolk woodcarver. After working on the Palace of Westminster Kett joined with James Rattee to found the Cambridge firm.*

## PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION

A building begins to age and its parts to deteriorate from the moment it is built. At the end of their useful lives the components will start to deteriorate rapidly and failure will result. The best defence against decay is a maintenance programme which foresees future problems and takes preventive action. Integrated with the maintenance budget, a programme of repairs and preservation will save money and prevent the dramatic failures which come from neglect.

The subtlety and variety of forms of decay demand an equally subtle and varied response. Rattee and Kett have developed a comprehensive package of conservation techniques to meet this challenge. With efficient programming and contract management Rattee and Kett offer a formidable combination of the old and new in the battle to preserve our heritage.

## STONEMASONRY

Stone, probably the most loved of all building materials, has usually been the first choice for buildings of any importance. Its natural strength and the distinctive character of each stone have endeared it to architects and laymen alike. Used with respect its lifespan is long and it ages gracefully and well.

The variety and importance of the geological structure of stone make the selection of the right block crucial. Close to a century and a

half of working with the material gives Rattee and Kett a considerable advantage.

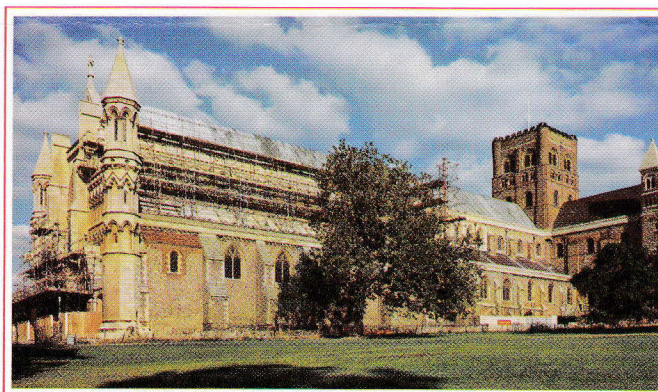
Stonemasonry has its own constructional language and design advice is given at an early stage to make the most appropriate and efficient use of the material. Once a project has been agreed the masonry unit – a combination of modern machinery and traditional craft skills – will be programmed to supply the finished stone to site for fixing.

## STAMFORD QUARRY

The re-opening of the famous Stamford Quarry has given Rattee and Kett its own source of stone. Stamford is one of the Lincolnshire limestones – a buff coloured stone available as freestone for ashlar and carving. The hardest bed – more creamy in colour and known as marble – is used for paving and decorative features.

The quarry was in continuous production from the 15th century to the 20th when it was used at Ely

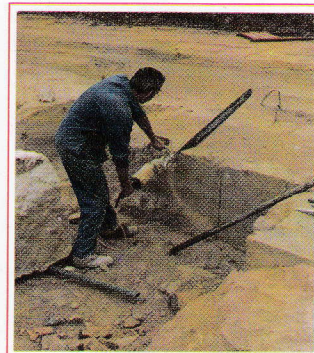
Cathedral and Trinity Hall in Cambridge. Now the stone is being used again, not only in Stamford and East Anglia, but for buildings throughout Britain. Both the freestone and the marble are available finished or in block form from Rattee and Kett in Cambridge, together with most of the English limestones. Also available is a wide range of French stone imported directly from quarries in the North, West, and East of France.



*To counter the large scale restoration demands of St Alban's Cathedral, a pragmatic and forward looking maintenance programme was adopted.*



*Traditional masonry skills are complemented by modern machinery and production methods.*



*The famous Stamford Quarry in production for freestone and marble.*