HOLDEN CONSERVATION LTD

Natural History Museum

Terracotta Walls

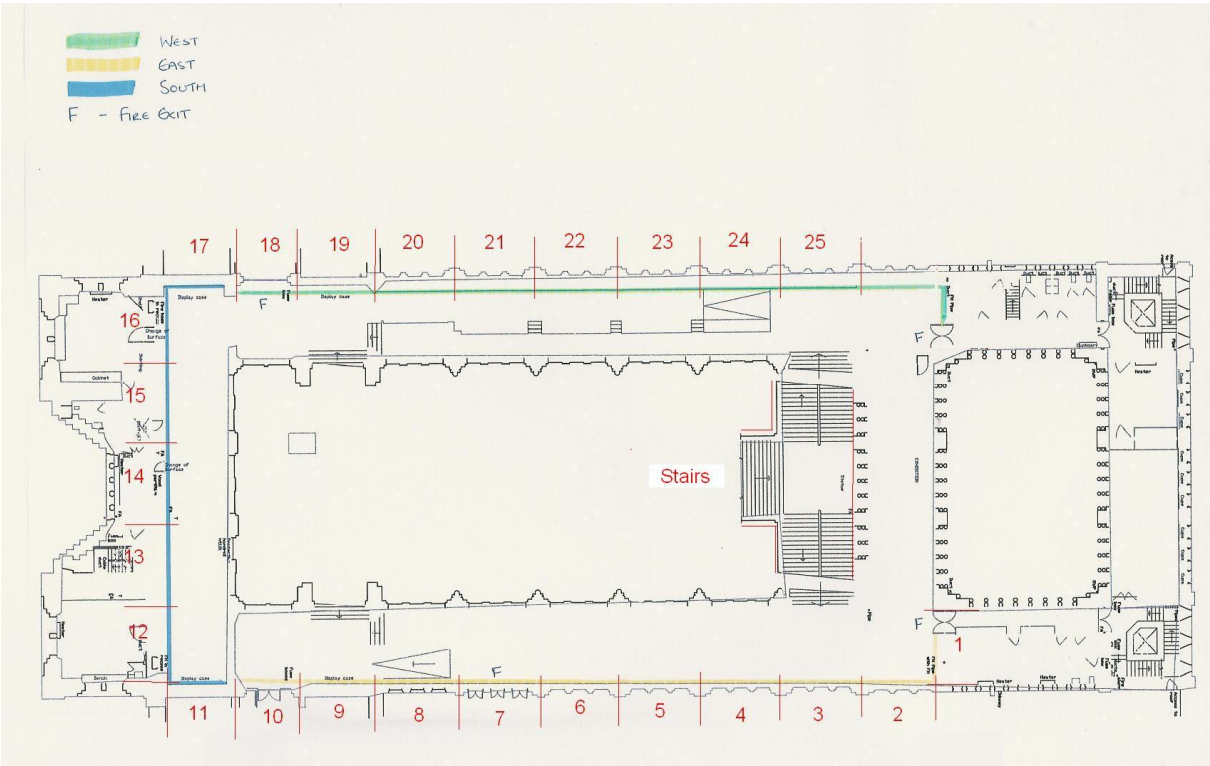
Central Hall, First Floor Balcony and Stairs

Conservation Treatment Report

by
Holden Conservation Ltd.
6 Warple Mews
Warple Way
London
W3 0RF

September 2010

Plan of Areas Treated – Bays 1-25 and Main stairs



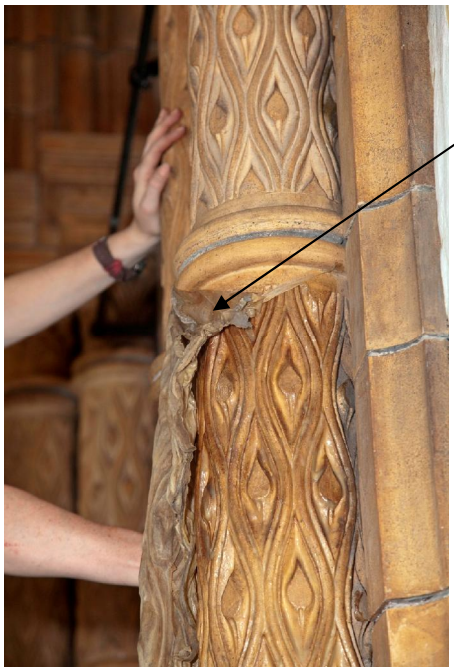
Conservation Treatment

Cleaning

All the terracotta was cleaned with a bristle brush and vacuum cleaner to remove the loose dust. This ensured the Arte Mundit, type 2 adhered well to the surface of the terracotta, allowing the poultice to work.

Arte Mundit, type 2 was brushed onto the terracotta to a thickness of 3mm with bristle brushes.

After 24 hours the latex film was peeled off the terracotta by hand and the excess dirt cleaned off the terracotta with the use of bristle brushes, sponges and water.



After 24 hours, the latex film of dried Arte Mundit, type 2 being peeled off the terracotta by hand.



After the removal of the latex film the excess dirt being cleaned off the terracotta with bristle brushes, sponges and water.

Repairs

It was decided that the oldest and possibly original fixings and fixing positions should be left in situ. Therefore only the more recent fixings were removed and repairs undertaken.

Bays 1 – 7

The plastic plugs that were not in use were removed by hand and the holes filled with a hydraulic lime mortar.

The fills were then re-touched with acrylic paints to match the pointing and terracotta.

Bays 9 – 19

The plastic and wood plugs that were not in use were removed with the use of a drill and the holes filled with a hydraulic lime mortar.

The fills were then re-touched with acrylic paints to match the pointing and terracotta.

Bays 20 – 24

The metal fixings that were not in use were removed with the use of a drill and the holes filled with a hydraulic lime mortar.

The fills were then re-touched with acrylic paints to match the pointing and terracotta.

Bays 12 & 15

Three old repairs that were now discoloured were re-touched with acrylic paints to match the terracotta.

Main stairs

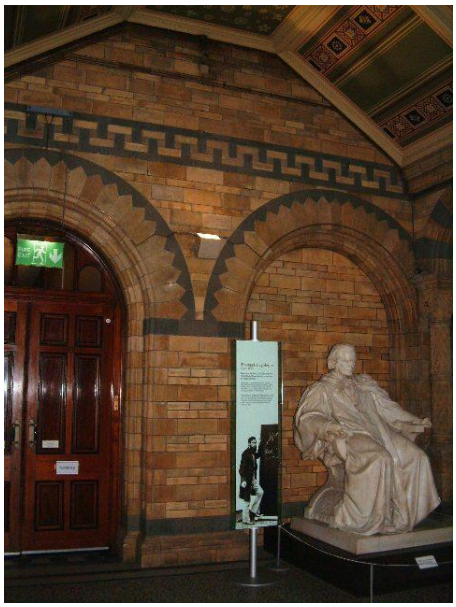
The plastic and wood plugs that were not in use were removed with the use of a drill and the holes filled with a hydraulic lime mortar.

The fills were then re-touched with acrylic paints to match the pointing and terracotta.

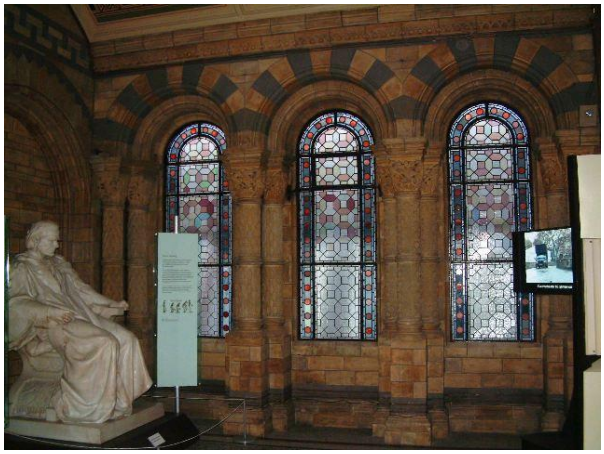
The mortar used for the repairs was:

1 part – St Astier hydraulic lime NHL 3.5
1 part – building sand
1 part - silver sand
1 part – Bath stone dust (sieved to 300µm)
¼ part – brick dust (sieved to 300µm)
¼ part – slate stone dust

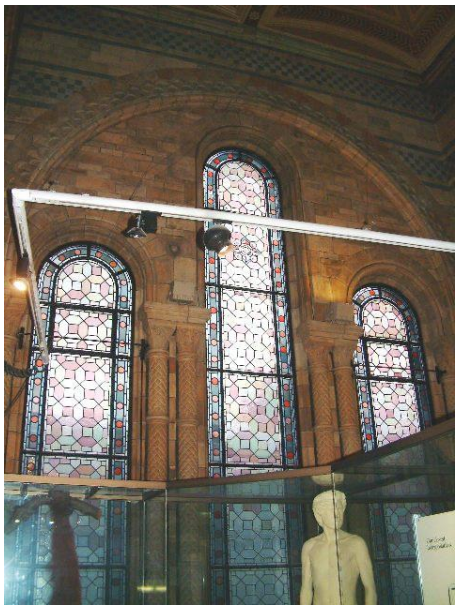
Bays 1 – 25 and Main Stairs after conservation treatment



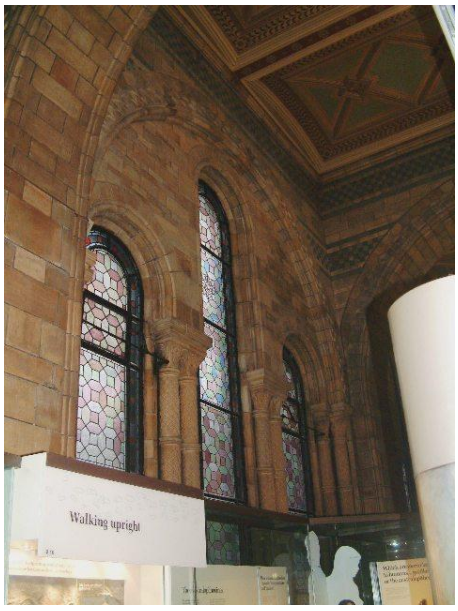
Bay 1



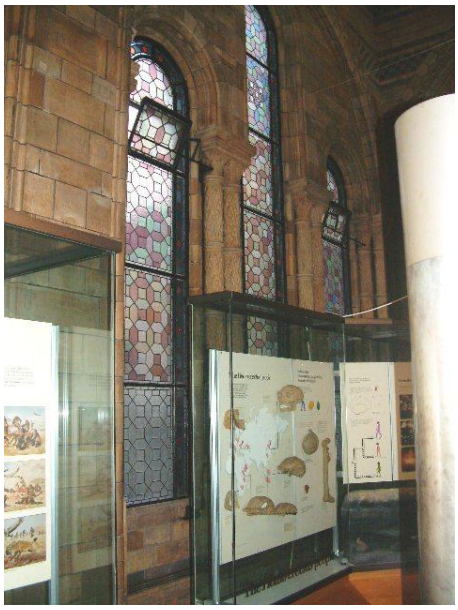
Bay 2



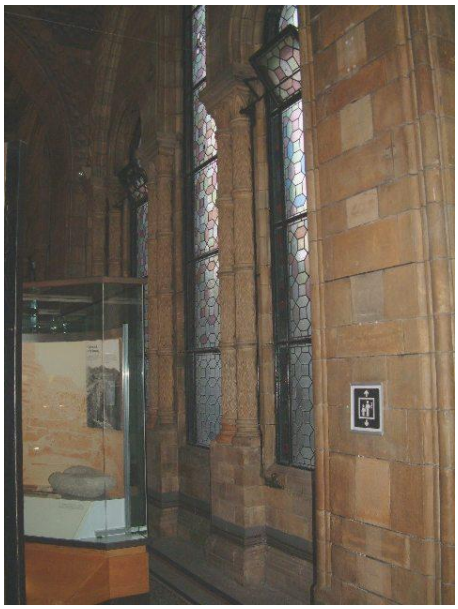
Bay 3



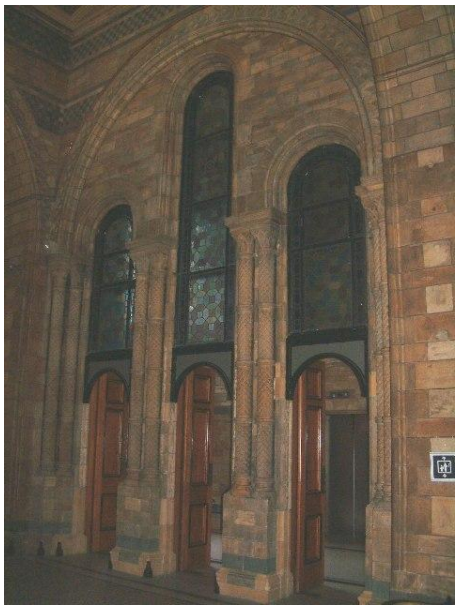
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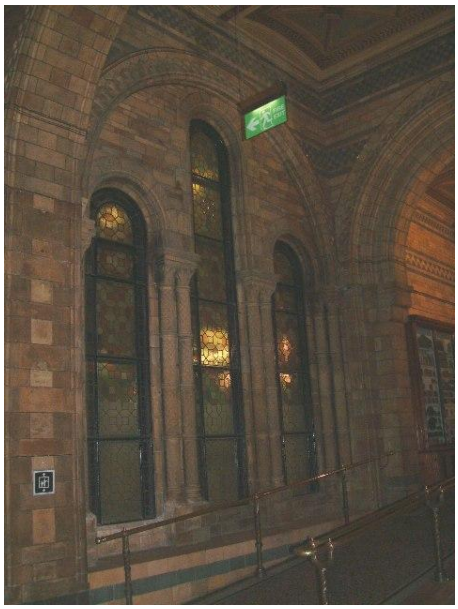
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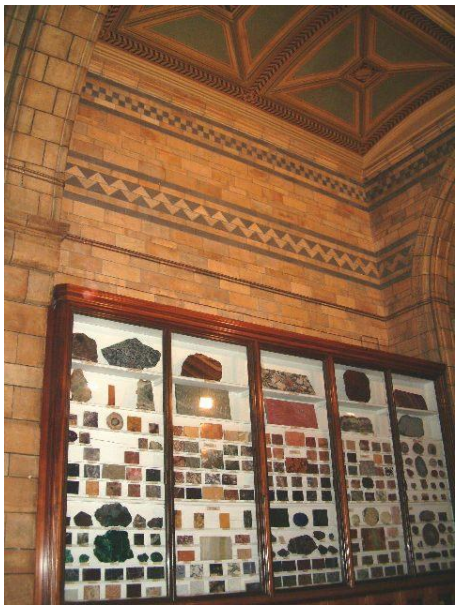
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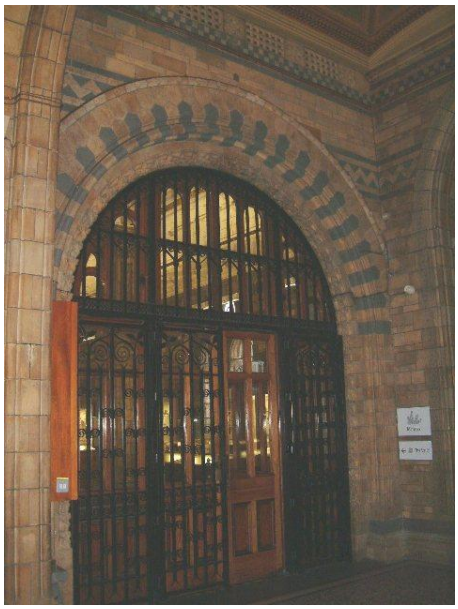
Bay 7



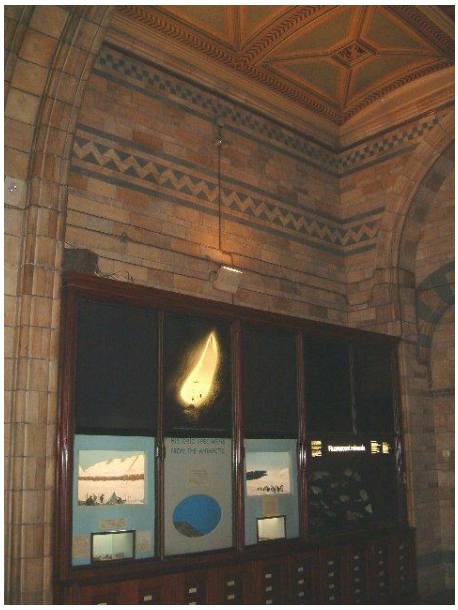
Bay 8



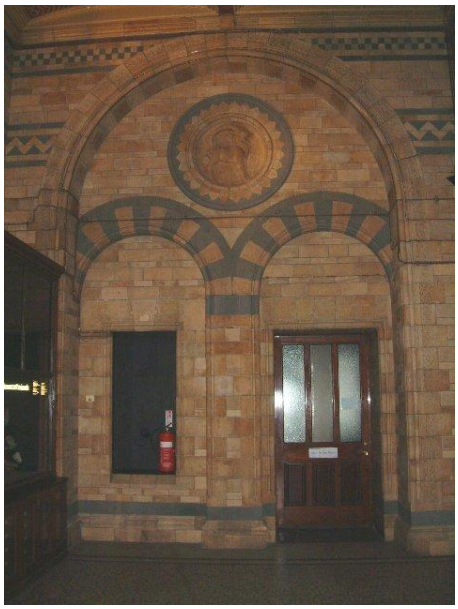
Bay 9



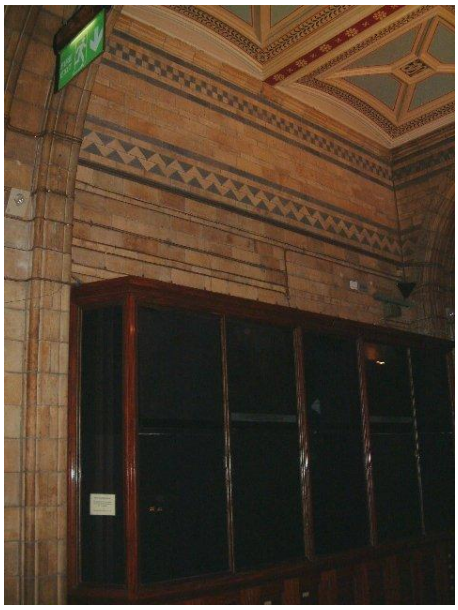
Bay 10



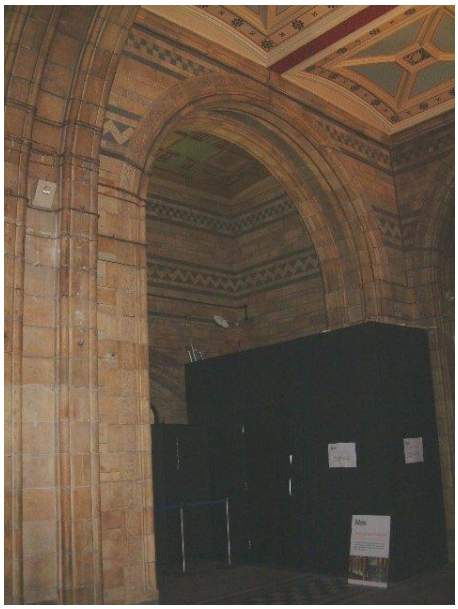
Bay 11



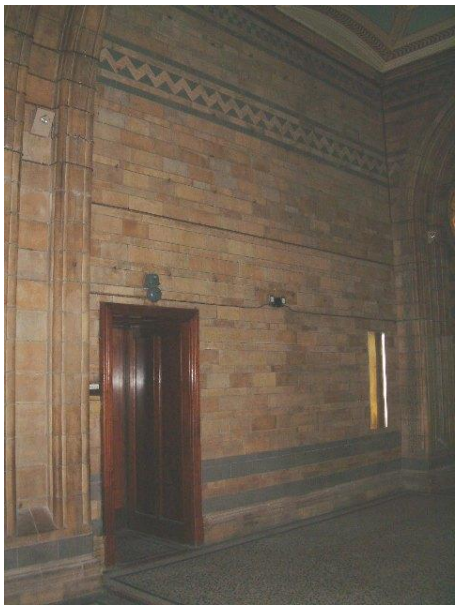
Bay 12



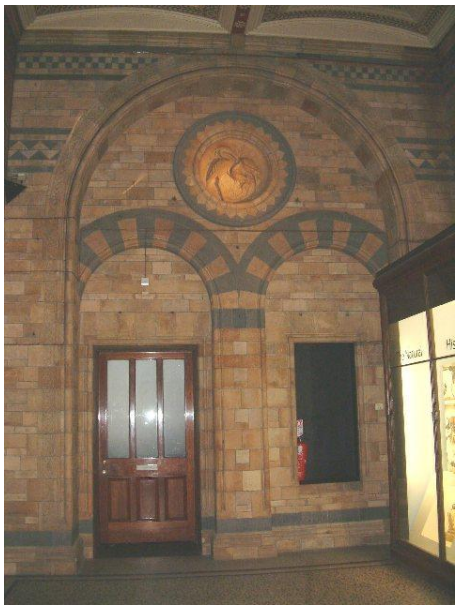
Bay 13



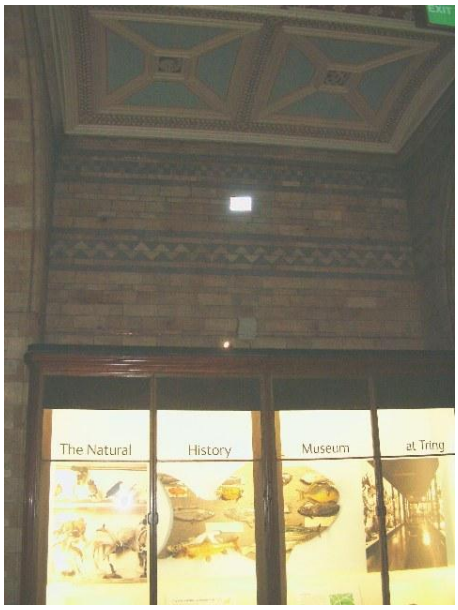
Bay 14



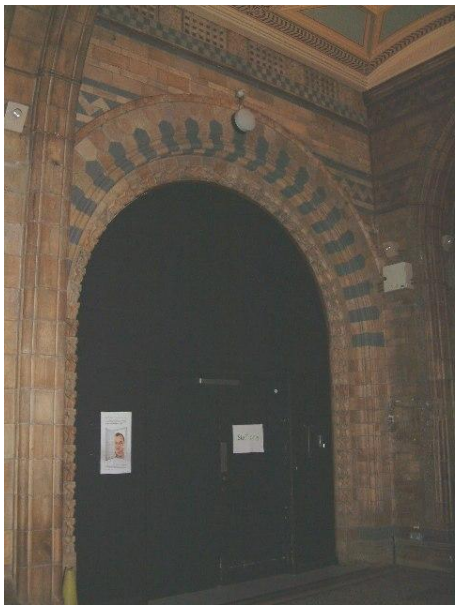
Bay 15



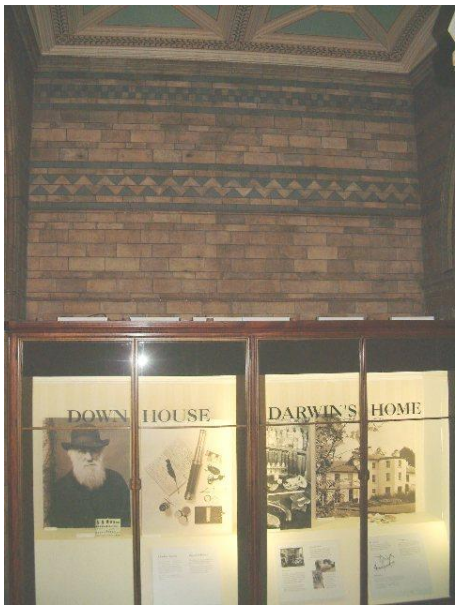
Bay 16



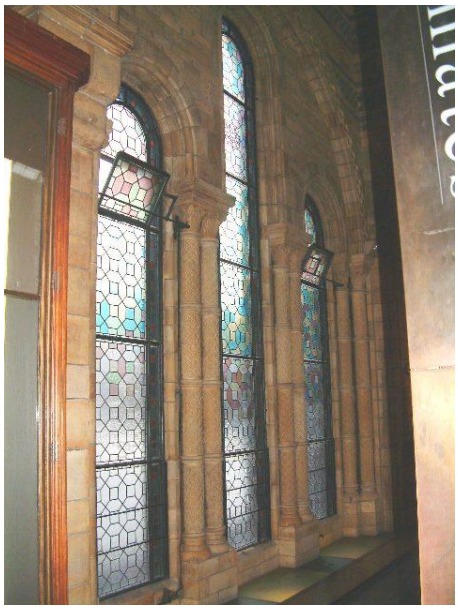
Bay 17



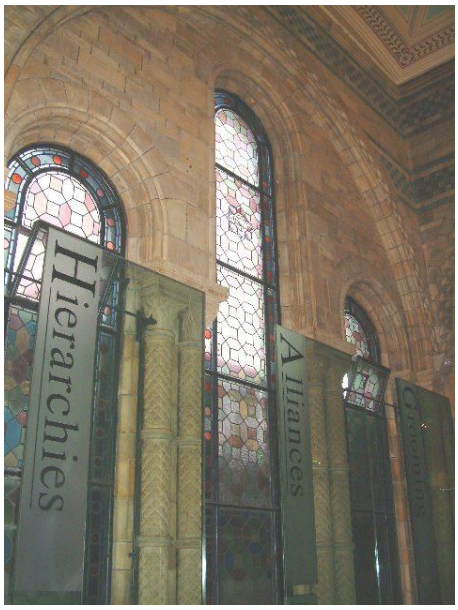
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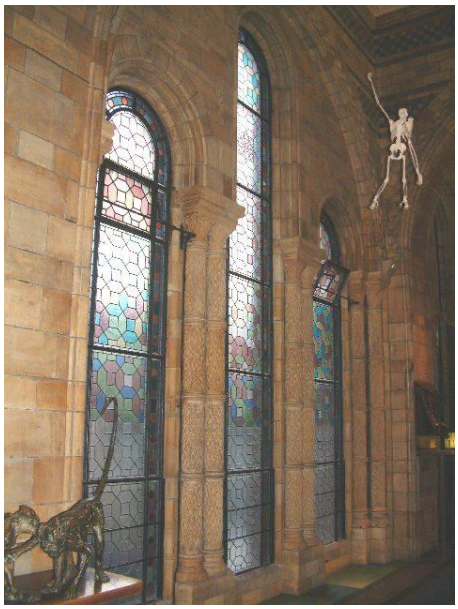
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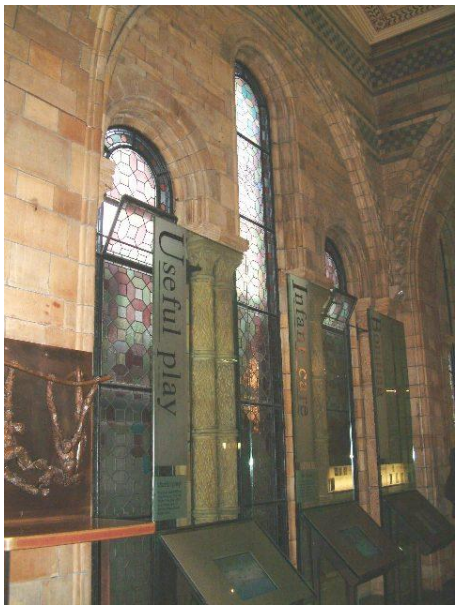
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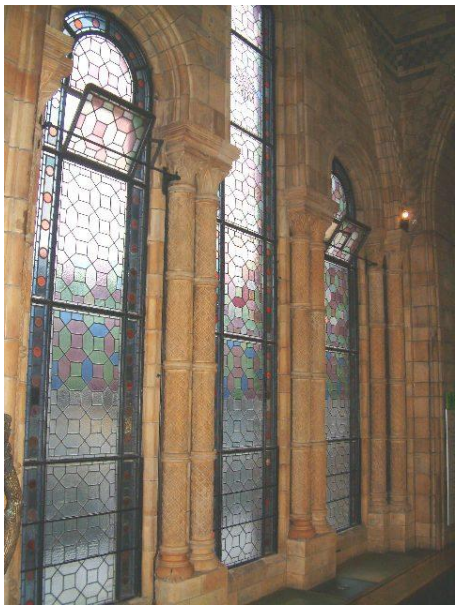
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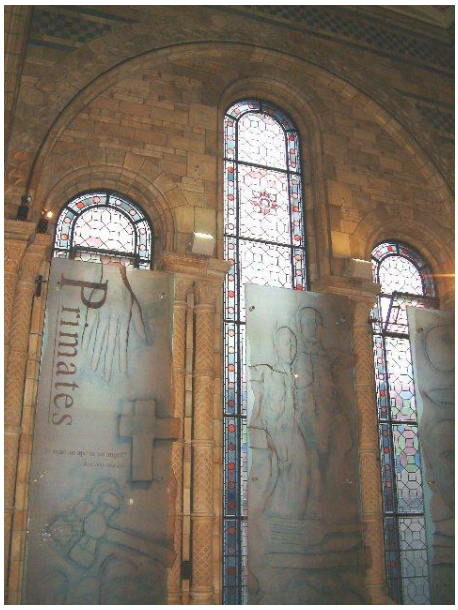
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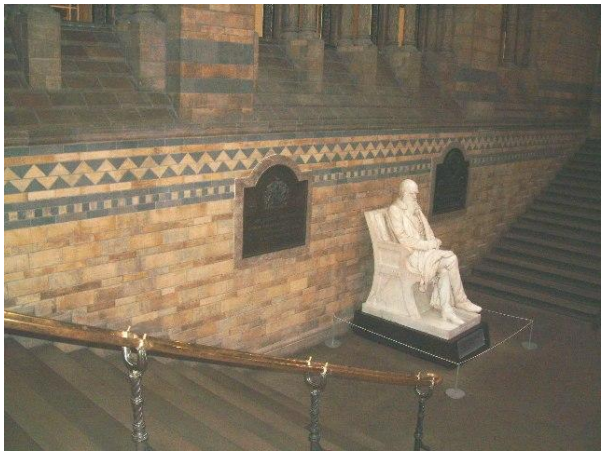
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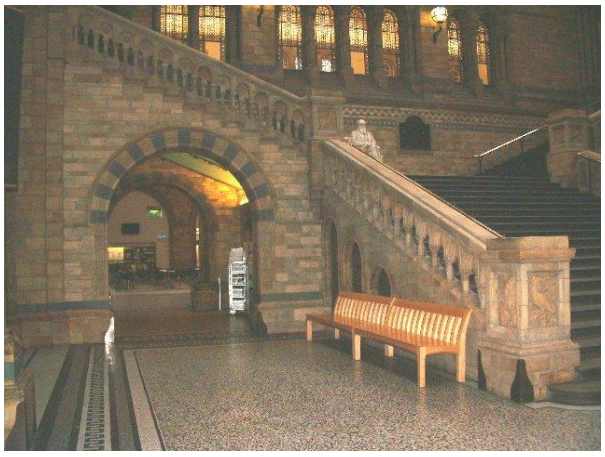
Bay 24



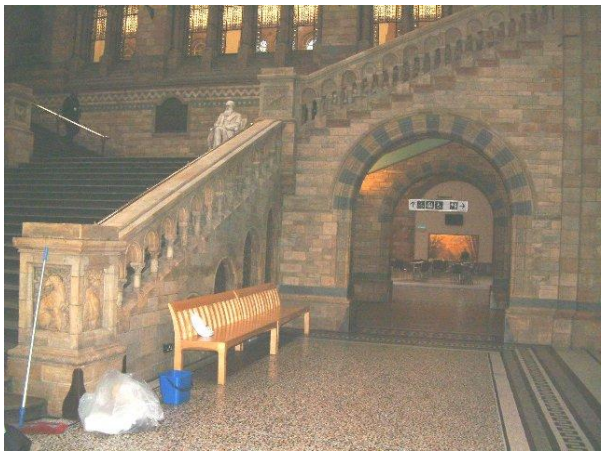
Bay 25



Main Stairs



Main Stairs



Main Stairs