



Uppat House before the fire which destroyed the roof.



Uppat House with reinstated bowed roof.



Cowane's Hospital with deteriorated limewash.



Cowane's Hospital with new limewash in its original tone.

*"A building's fabric is the primary source from which knowledge and meaning can be drawn. Materials and construction methods embodied in building fabric illustrate changes in people's ideas, tastes, skills and the relationship with their locality. Fabric also holds character and beauty; the surfaces, blemishes and undulations of old buildings speak of the passage of time and of lives lived. Wear and tear adds beautiful **patination** that new work can only acquire through the slow process of ageing."*

- Extract from the SPAB approach, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.



Grieve's House, Fountainhall, existing walls retained, jacked up and re-used in this conversion of redundant farm buildings.

PATINA IS A VITAL PART OF TIMELESS DESIGN

Everything ages, but not everything ages well. With good quality design and materials that consider future patination, buildings age gracefully, bridging the gap between old and new.

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The Art & Craft of Architecture



THE IMPORTANCE OF PATINA

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WHAT IS PATINA?

Patina often refers to the physical weathering, oxidation and ageing resulting from their exposure to environmental conditions. More broadly, patina encompasses the visible signs of age, use, and exposure to the elements that accumulates on the surface and within the fabric of buildings over time. These marks serve as a physical record of the past, giving a sense of character and continuity to the built environment - rather than being seen as damage, these changes are often valued for the sense of authenticity and connection to the past that they provide.

PATINA vs. DETERIORATION.

Deterioration is also expressed by the passing of time however, unlike patina, it negatively affects the performance of a building or material. Without intervention, it leads to the permanent loss of historic fabric that could affect the use, significance or structural integrity of a site.

*While **Patina** may add to the **significance** of a site, deterioration comes with destructive consequences.*

Worn steps at Wycoller Hall, Lancashire.



David Hume Memorial, with verdigris patination where not polished through touch.



WHY IS PATINA IMPORTANT?

Patina is far more than just a physical phenomenon; it is a vital carrier of cultural meaning and enduring narrative. Unlike mass housing or large scale developments that rely on copy-and-pasted structures and joyless materials, a building enriched by time actively communicates its journey through weathered surfaces, worn thresholds, and oxidised details. These elements give pleasure to both the eye and the hand while creating a deep sense of place and time.



Brass doorknob used as a weathervane ordinal, Hawthornden Castle.



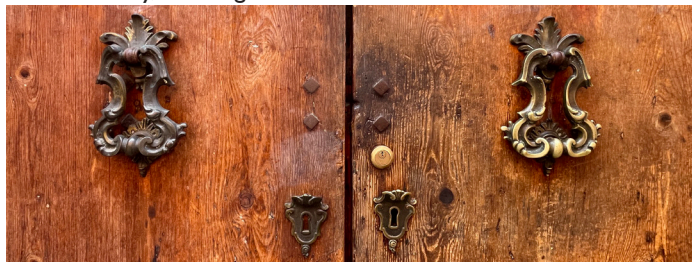
Reclaimed oak parquet flooring, unsanded and waxed, Bonnington House, Jupiter Artland.



Stone edge worn by knife sharpening, Cove Harbour.

Architecture goes beyond mere physical construction; it translates a vision into a lasting narrative that instils pride and a sense of belonging. While construction marks the opening chapter, the environment and human touch continually imprint themselves upon a building through natural wear. Ultimately, patina acts as the material evidence of a structure's biography, ensuring it connects generations and tells a story that endures.

Frequent human touch polishes bronze surfaces. Contact points wear down unevenly, revealing use.



HOW CAN IT BE CONSERVED?

Surveys carried out by suitably qualified and experienced Conservation Professionals like Benjamin Tindall Architects is the first step in differentiating between Patina and Deterioration. What to retain and protect, and what requires repair. An appreciation of the history of the material, eg. how and where stone was quarried, and workmanship techniques used, by all involved, is essential.

We translate the survey information into Conservation Statements, drawings and specifications that inform the works that are to be carried out.

HOW CAN PATINA BE USED?

By the creative design that is reflective of place and use, and good quality workmanship:

By the selection of appropriate materials that weather and accumulate character, depth and richness with age. Synthetic or low-grade materials erode unpredictably, peeling, cracking, and looking dilapidated rather than aged, diminishing the building's standing in the eyes of the community.

Hawthornden Castle Door with historic ironwork, before (left) and after (right) specialist conservation works, addressing deterioration whilst retaining patina.

