

## Banqueting House, Whitehall

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Period: 4 weeks, January 2016

Type of work: Removal of asbestos contaminated waste from roof floor void and ceiling decorations, Phase 1 Refurbishment Programme

Grade II Listed Building



### Description of Project

The controlled removal and safe disposal of asbestos containing insulation debris to the roof space at the rear of the Banqueting Hall and above and upon the unique, priceless and historically important Peter Paul Ruben's painting. Forest Environmental's works ran in conjunction with other specialist contractors' works; part of the Phase 1 Refurbishment Works at the building.

### Project Team

Client: Historic Royal Palaces

Project Manager: Gardiner & Theobald

30 specialist contractors



### Challenges and Opportunities

Forest Environmental removed asbestos from the ceiling void above the Rubens painting and also from around the ceiling and painting itself.

This project presented notable difficulties

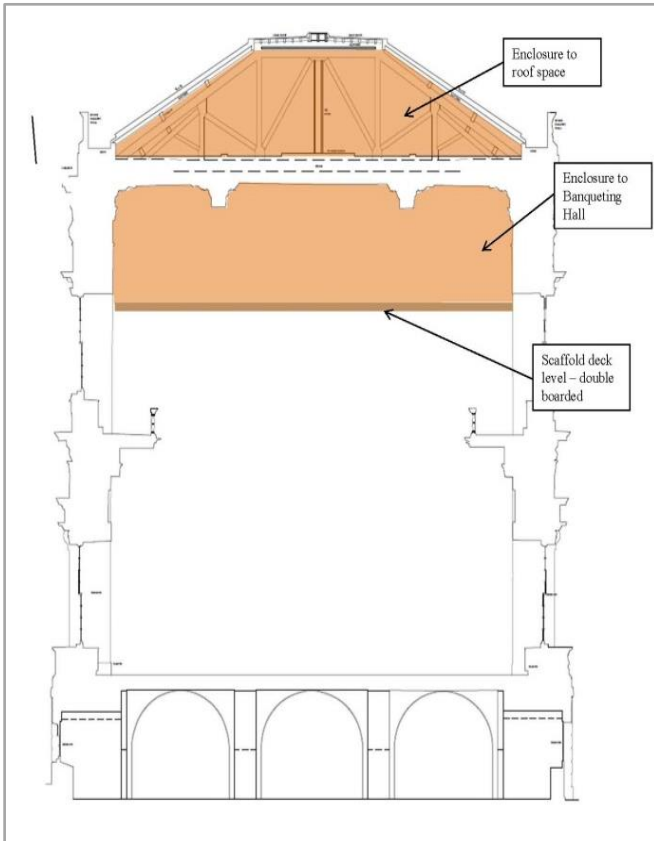
- (1) Safe access and working at height using fall arrest systems whilst surrounded by historically important structures and materials
- (2) The provision of enclosures in such a way as to make no fixings to surrounding structural materials such as stone, timber and plaster work
- (3) The inspection of all collected debris prior to disposal to ensure that nothing of importance was accidentally discarded
- (4) The removal & replacement of floor boarding in strict accordance with HRP requirements.

We removed asbestos contaminated waste from the Roof Space floor void and around the ceiling decorations to this Grade II listed building. This was a particularly complex project that required sensitive planning as attached to the ceiling is a priceless Ruben's painting.

The works were planned around the protection of the painting and involved an enclosure built up to the ceiling. When working in the roof space, our operatives were attached to lines, and all equipment was attached to lines or lanyards. Our operatives were watched by HRP staff on CCTV to ensure the integrity of the painting.

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## Phase 1 Refurbishment Programme

Completed January 2016



### Access Scaffolding

The access scaffolding inside Banqueting Hall indicates the height of the hall and the scale of the project. Specialist scaffolders took three weeks to erect the scaffolding.



### Fall Arrest Systems in Loft Area

An internal view of the loft area above the painted ceiling showing the floor boarding that was removed and replaced in an agreed and specific manner in line with HRP requirements.

### Specific Insurance

For this project, Forest Environmental arranged specific insurance with our brokers.



### Historic Royal Palaces

"The complex, and daunting, task of creating an enclosure around the paintings was carefully and painstakingly approached by Forest...HRP is very appreciative of the care and enthusiasm the Forest team displayed when undertaking this unusual contract.

The scaffold was huge and time was limited. Forest's work had to be co-ordinated with the other window works in the same space. There was much weekend working and long hours on site, yet the Forest team calmly worked on and delivered the work on time and to budget so the re-opening date for the public was met."

Josephine E Thwaites, MVO MRICS,  
Programme Sponsor, 2016

### For All Enquiries

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