



The Lead Sheet Association

## Award winning leadwork to provide another century of assurance for London Oratory

Having been installed at the time of the building's construction, only after some 117 years was a major refurbishment of the leadwork on the London Oratory necessary. The rolled lead sheet was finally showing signs of fixing fatigue and crystallisation, with minor signs of underside corrosion, and so the decision was made for renewal of the leadwork, which was undertaken by Martin (UK) Roofing Systems.

This was a complex job, which included the use of extensive scaffolding and ensuring each section was renewed to the same specification as that it was replacing. Using Code 6 on the ribs and Code 7 on the main body of the dome, approximately 57 tonnes of British Standard Rolled Lead Sheet was installed, supplied by Associated Lead Mills. Although ventilation was successfully incorporated into the structure at the time of original installation, as indicated by the absence of underside corrosion for over a hundred years, additional high level ventilation was introduced within the ornate head of the lantern.

The quality of leadwork on this high-profile and prestigious building was recognised as it was the winner of the Murdoch Awards 2013, beating some fierce competition. Organised by the Lead Contractors Association, the Murdoch Awards are considered the ultimate accolade for leadwork, and David Martin, Managing Director of Martin (UK) Roofing Systems, acknowledged the impressive craftsmanship displayed by his on-site team, commenting, "It has been a privilege to work on such a prestigious project that will be around for hundreds of years to come. I am very proud of the way my team rose to the occasion and delighted to see their efforts rewarded by the Murdoch Award judges".

With the assurance of having had British Standard Rolled Lead Sheet fitted by award winning leadworkers, the London Oratory can be confident that the leadwork will last at least another 100 years before requiring further attention and so will leave the building in good shape for future generations.

For more information about using Rolled Lead Sheet to BS EN 12588 visit the LSA website at [www.leadsheet.co.uk](http://www.leadsheet.co.uk)



The London Oratory, a distinctive London landmark, is a neo-classical Roman Catholic church and a Grade II listed building, located on Brompton Road in the South Kensington district of central London. Constructed in the late nineteenth century, it boasts some fabulous examples of Italian architecture designed by Herbert Gribble, with perhaps the most striking feature externally being the large Baroque dome. The leadwork on the dome originally installed in 1895 performed excellently for well in excess of a hundred years, with only minimal maintenance being required in the meantime, and this was yet another fantastic example of the longevity and quality of rolled lead sheet.

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