

# 10. details



*The Watts-Russell memorial, Ilam with elaborately detailed estate houses beyond by George Gilbert Scott c 1855.*



19<sup>th</sup> century bay window, Winster



Small paned sash in a former industrial building, Calver



Glazed doorway at a former marble mill, Bakewell



Modern sliding door screen/seat, Parsley Hay

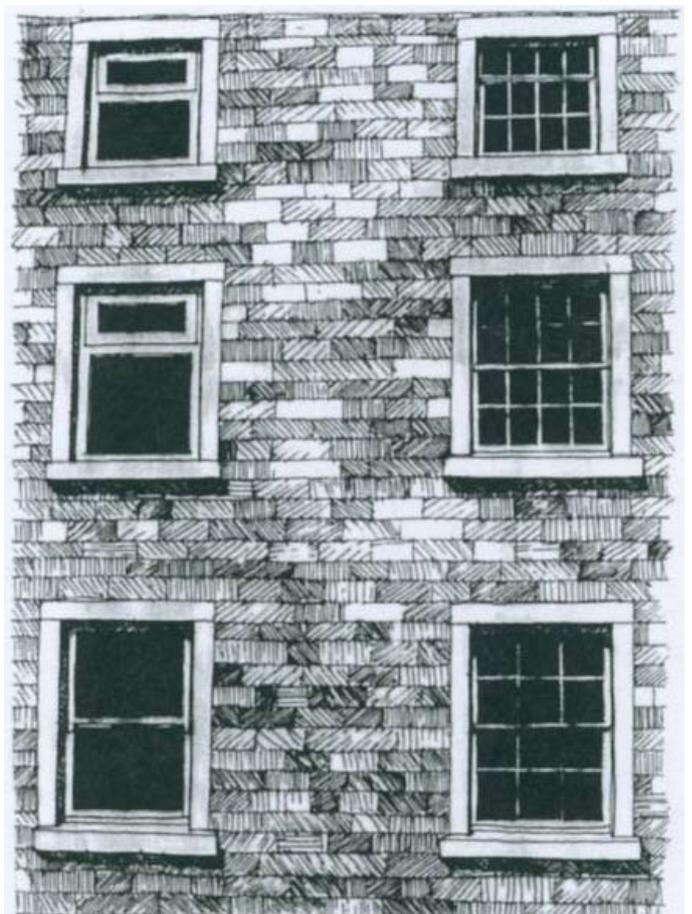
**10.1** The details of a building – its windows, doors, chimneys etc – have an importance that belies their size. Such features add interest to the building. The eye is instinctively drawn towards them as towards the features of a face. Details also give the best clues to a property’s date and history.

**10.2** In essence, details have evolved in response to climate, function and the building materials available locally. As a consequence, door and window frames are well recessed to improve weather protection. Coped gables are there to protect the edge of the roof that would otherwise be exposed to high winds. If a new building is to blend successfully, designers should be aware of why and how such detailing has evolved and whether it is appropriate today. Details do matter – if they are not right, the total effect will be spoiled.

## Windows

**10.3** Windows are among the most important features of an elevation. They are the building’s eyes, and as such deserve special care and attention.

**10.4** There are many traditional window patterns found locally. Nearly all however have a vertical emphasis to their overall shape as well as some degree of subdivision to the frame.



Altered (left) and original (right) sash windows showing importance of retaining subdivision and the appropriate method of opening



Clockwise from top right, a 17<sup>th</sup> century mullioned window, opening, 19<sup>th</sup> century sash window, an 18<sup>th</sup> century mullioned window, Winster

**10.5** The traditional materials used in window construction are timber, cast metal or lead. In sustainability terms, timber is today by far the best material to use. Upvc by contrast is inappropriate on sustainability and aesthetic grounds.

**10.6** The design of replacement or new windows needs to relate to the age and style of the property in question as well as to the local context.



Cast iron lattice windows



Leaded lights



Oak door left to weather naturally



Boarded door with paint finish



New conservation rooflights based on the size of Victorian originals

## Doors

10.7 Doors are an important feature, particularly to a front elevation. They relate the building to both the human scale and to ground level outside. Main elevations without doors look very unsatisfactory.

## Colour

10.8 This is an issue over which there are some misconceptions, particularly in relation to the use of brown stain, which was very much in fashion in recent decades but has no relevance whatsoever to traditional finishes.

10.9 Historically, external joinery was either painted, or if it was oak it was left to weather to a natural silver grey. Although white is a relatively recent addition to the colour palette, it is



Six panel doors, without and with fanlight

now the predominant finish for windows to houses. It has the obvious advantage of reflecting light into rooms but can look too stark and harsh. Farm outbuildings in contrast had doors and windows traditionally painted in reds, greens or blues.

10.10 We would generally recommend that windows to dwellings should be given an off-white or cream finish. Doors look most appropriate in deep rich colours.

10.11 The doors and windows of traditional farm outbuildings are best finished in either a traditional farm colour or a suitably

## ENHANCEMENT



Cottage in Litton: Window restoration involving returning one opening to its original height and adding windows appropriate to the age and character of the openings.



*Appropriate, recessive colour to exterior joinery, outbuildings, Parwich*

recessive, neutral tone which picks up the colour warmth of the stone. Taking a paint scrape from an existing door or window will often reveal the original colour scheme.

**10.12** For new farm buildings or industrial units, the recommendation would be to use dark recessive colours – slate blue or black – rather than brown or green.

**10.13** While gloss paint is obviously an option, microporous coating systems which are in effect opaque stains have a great many maintenance advantages. They look like a satin paint and come in a range of colours. Their opacity helps to protect the timber to a greater extent than do transparent stains which we hope will no longer have a place on Peak District buildings.

## Ornamentation

**10.14** As a general principle, the design of new buildings should avoid ornamentation or over-fussy detailing. There is however still scope for variety. There are rarely two identical cottages or houses alongside each other: What creates this interest is the details of stonework, the style of windows, or the nature of the door surrounds, not to mention the variation in eaves heights and roofs.

**10.15** More information on detail design elements such as **windows, doors, rooflights, chimneys and gutters**, is given in the *Detailed Design Guidance Note: Details*.



*Parwich, showing the plainness and simple detailing found in the National Park*