



Importance of the use of original natural stone in restoration of historical buildings and the value of Global Heritage Stone Resource Designation.

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Historical buildings in Europe and around the world are inevitably starting to show the damage that natural processes and anthropogenic actions, over time, have inflicted on them. Deterioration is shown in the aesthetic features of buildings but also in the main structural members of constructions. Results of unwise actions have been widely observed in the restoration of some buildings even in parts of UNESCO World Heritage cities and sites (e.g. Salamanca, Cáceres, Bath, Oxford, and Turin). Important natural stones have been identified in these, as well as other, places which are likely to be nominated as Global Heritage Stone Resources to promote their proper use in construction, maintenance and/or restoration. This work illuminates some problems associated with bad practices and emphasises the need to use, as far as possible, appropriate original natural stone in restoration to avoid further consequences. Knowledge and promotion of the Global Heritage Stone concept should help in drawing attention to these issues.