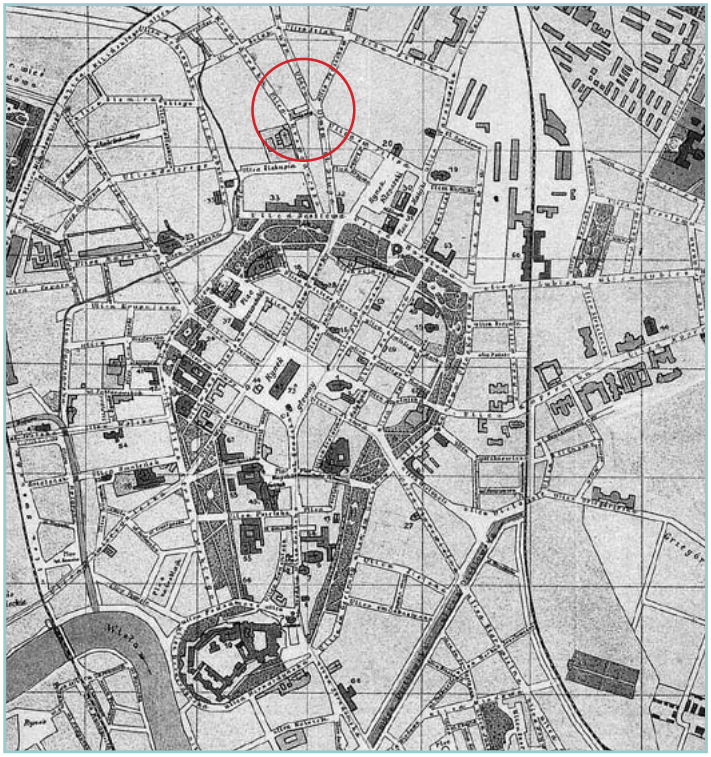
rocare ROMAN CEMENT



Roman Cements for Architectural Restoration to New High Standards





Apartment house, 1874–1886, by Ludwik Beym, re-built in 1889 by Stefan Ertel, plac Słowiański 5, Krakow, Poland.

Two-wing apartment house occupying a corner location in the centre of the town. The façade designed in style of historicism with richly decorated window framings and sgraffito. An unusual variety of materials was used: the flat renders both plain and rusticated were executed in lime mortars coated with a thin layer of Roman cement finish mortar, run elements and most cast elements were executed in Roman cement mortars but gypsum mortars were used to produce casts rich in fine details like cartouches and grotesque masks as well as framings of the small attic windows.

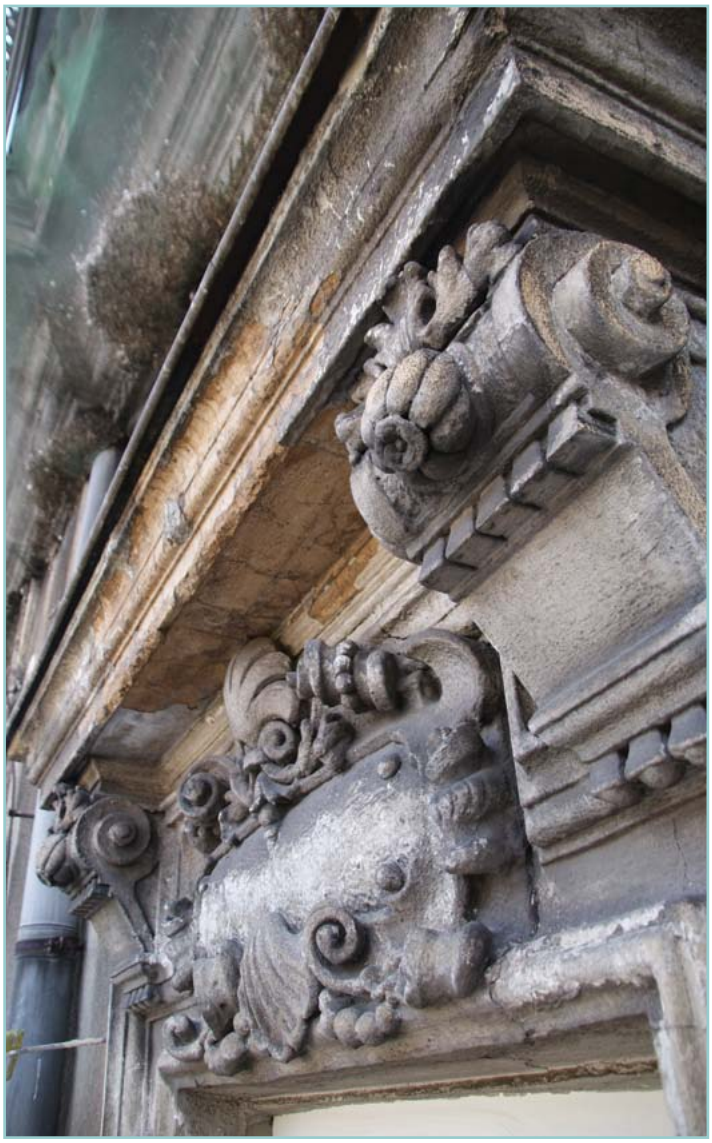
Restoration in brief

- restoration of the façade started in 2009, financed through a grant from the Citizen's Committee of the Renovation of Krakow Monuments SKOZK
- salt-laden, deteriorated renders of the ground floor were removed and the repaired masonry was rendered using salt-accumulating 'restoration' plasters
- the renders of the two upper floors were cleaned and repaired, then the entire rendered surface was coated with a thin finish layer from Remmers Baustofftechnik GmbH, Germany
- the stucco decorations both of Roman cement and gypsum mortars as well as the sgrafitto decorations were fully conserved and the missing parts reconstructed
- to re-integrate aesthetically the entire restored surface, a translucent coating of high-durability masonry silicone paint also from Remmers Baustofftechnik GmbH was laid.

Roman cement stuccoes.



The rusticated lime renders of the ground floor covered with a thin layer of Roman cement fine-grained finish mortars.



The window framing made of Roman cement elements, run and cast, encloses in the upper part an ornamental cartouche made of gypsum.

The façade before restoration.



The renders were adversely affected and aesthetically degraded by the accumulation of paint layers and a darkened sprayed cement coating.



Ineffective system of protecting the stuccoes against rain water has led to chronic dampness which caused physical damage.



With the exception of several large cracks, this large Roman cement cast proved very durable in adverse conditions of the outdoor exposure.



The sgraffito decoration in the upper part of the façade.



The sgraffito decoration – a fragment.

Restoration works.



Laying thin Roman cement finish layer (2–3 mm) from Remmers Baustofftechnik GmbH, Germany to re-integrate aesthetically the surfaces of the renders.



Reconstructing the missing fragment of the sgraffito.

The façade after restoration.





A unique element of the conservation strategy was to leave some cleaned and repaired Roman cement elements uncoated – not even with a Roman cement wash – and show their authentic, aged surface. The excellent aesthetic result obtained should encourage the conservation community to shift their attention to a possibility of conserving rather than restoring the historic Roman cement stuccoes.



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