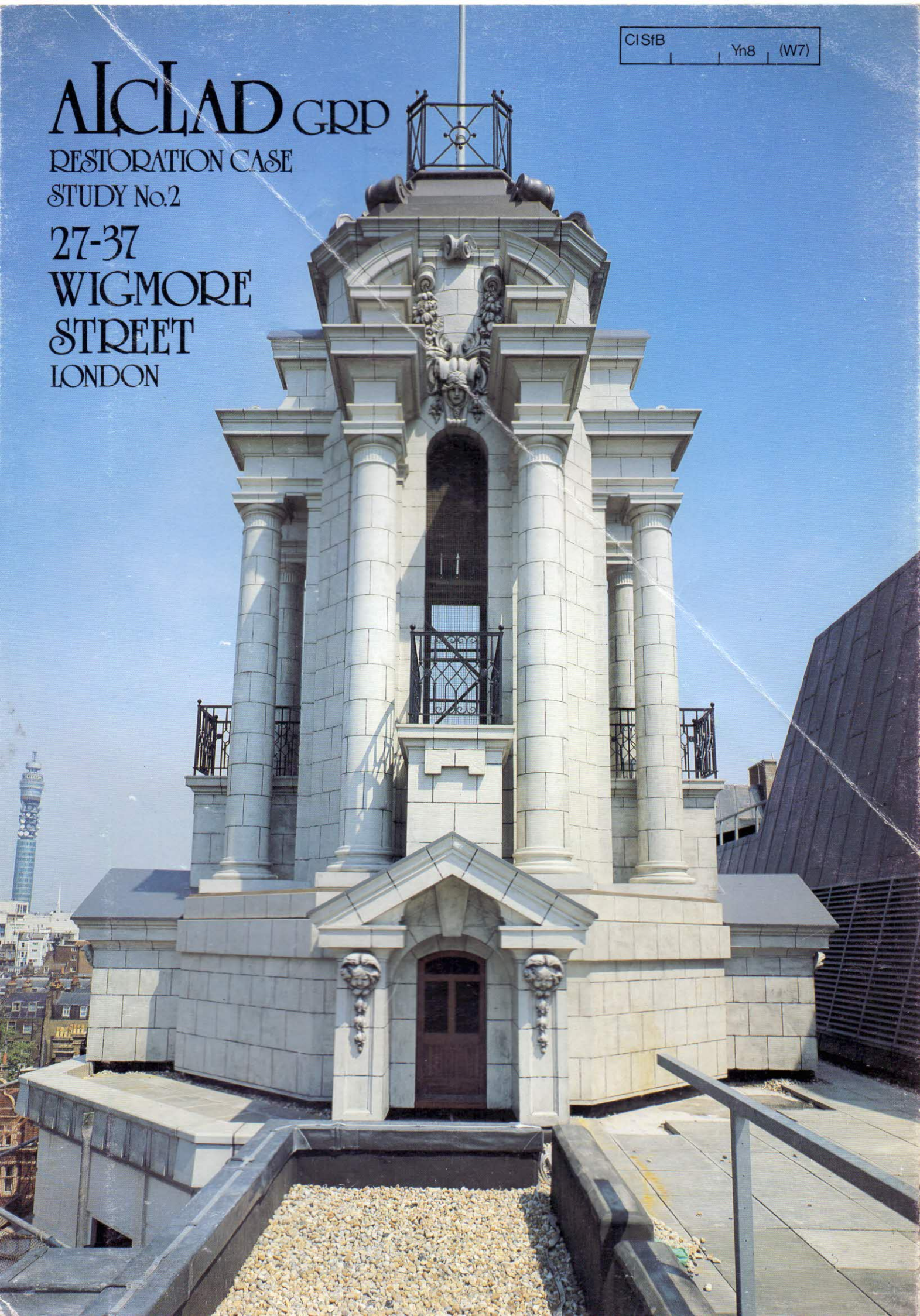


ALCLAD GRP

RESTORATION CASE

STUDY No.2

27-37
WIGMORE
STREET
LONDON



A thorough survey was carried out by Alan Butcher Associates Limited prior to the dismantling of the entire glazed terra cotta cupola and associated decorative shield and statues. Photographic records together with detailed drawings of the existing cupola were produced and some of the highly enriched features removed from site for additional reference during reproduction in Alclad GRP.

Our design proposals were submitted and approved by the District Surveyor, architects, and main contractors.

The shape of the cupola — whilst highly decorative and extremely large — lent itself to being produced in four basic sections, each of the four faces of the cupola being a repeat of one another. All remaining developments of the design for reproduction were based on this principle.

The supporting reinforced concrete (R.C.) structure was designed and built by Alan Butcher Associates Limited as part of the design package. This R.C. tower was built with apertures to receive fixings contained within the Alclad glass-fibre units.

The survey additionally entailed dimensioning each joint and spacing of the individual pieces of the terra cotta that make up the whole of the cupola as well as recording the surface textures and colour of the terra cotta. Lead and copper dressings also had to be reproduced and the existing wrought iron ballustrades removed and repainted for re-use on the new Alclad GRP cupola. This had to be, in every respect, identical to the original which had become unstable and therefore restricted the refurbishment and change of use of this building — the famous original Debenham and Freebody store and the old landmark of Hamleys Toy Shop.

