

## Conservative historic building conservation Cadwraeth “geidwadol” ar adeiladau hanesyddol



▶  
**Llanerch-y-cawr**

Radnorshire/Sir Faesyfed  
(Mike Garner)

THIS PAPER CONSIDERS “conservative” historic building conservation in Wales. The illustrations are principally of farmhouses in Mid Wales originating during the mid fifteenth-century post-Glyndŵr rebuilding.

The word “conservative” in this context means the repair *in situ* of structures using mainly materials with which they were originally constructed. I trained in architecture (the art of how to make buildings) at the Oxford School of Architecture which, based in a college of technology, offered a hands-on practical training in how buildings are made and the materials with which they are formed. It is now called Oxford Brookes University and nowadays the hands on experience is of an entirely different nature, but that’s by the by. In 1970 I ended up in Radnorshire where I started to learn how to mend buildings. I have been in practice there for thirty years, am a lifelong member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Ancient Monuments Society, and a member of the Vernacular Architecture Group. I serve on the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales, representing the RIBA.

Burfa is the building on which I started to learn how to mend historic structures. It is about twenty miles from Llandrindod on the English border. It originated as a hall house built in 1487 with a two-storey solar of 1502. Upper storeys were inserted above the hall in the seventeenth century. It was supposed to have been demolished as a condition of a Ministry of Agriculture grant to build a new farmhouse but the farmer kept it for his chickens and he only agreed to sell it to me when he considered

MAE’R PAPUR HWN yn trafod cadwraeth “geidwadol” ar adeiladau hanesyddol yng Nghymru. Mae’r rhan fwyaf o’r darluniau o ffermdai yn y canolbarth o ganol y bymthegfed ganrif, yng nghyfnod ail-adeiladau ar ôl cyfnod Glyndŵr.

Mae’r gair “ceidwadol” yn y cyd-destun hwn yn golygu trwsio *in situ* strwythurau gan ddefnyddio’n bennaf yr un deunyddiau â phan godwyd y lle. Fe ges i fy hyfforddi mewn pensaernïaeth (celfyddyd codi adeiladau) yn Ysgol Bensaernïaeth Rhydychen sydd, a hithau mewn coleg technoleg, yn cynnig hyfforddiant ymarferol ar sut y codir adeiladau a pha ddeunyddiau a ddefnyddir. Erbyn hyn, gelwir y lle yn Brifysgol Brookes Rhydychen ac mae’r profiadau ymarferol o natur tra gwahanol, fel mae’n digwydd. Yn 1970 fe gefais fy hun yn Sir Faesyfed lle y dechreuais i ddysgu sut i drwsio adeiladau. Rwyf wedi bod yn ymarfer fy nghreffft yno ers deng mlynedd ar hugain, a rwy’n aelod oes o’r Gymdeithas er Amddiffyn Hen Adeiladau a’r Gymdeithas Henebion, ac yn aelod o’r Grŵp Pensaernïaeth Werinol. Rwy’n gwasanaethau ar Fwrdd Henebion Cymru, fel cynrychiolydd Sefydliad Brenhinol Penseiri Prydain.

Burfa yw’r adeilad lle y dechreuais i ddysgu sut i drwsio strwythurau hanesyddol. Mae tua ugain milltir o Landrindod ger y ffin. Fe’i codwyd yn wreiddiol fel tŷ neuadd yn 1487 gyda heulfa deulawr o 1502. Gosodwyd lloffttydd uwchben y neuadd yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd i fod i gael ei ddistrywio fel amod cael grant gan y Weinyddiaeth Amaeth i godi ffermdy newydd, ond cadwodd yr amaethwr y lle ar gyfer ei ieir, a chytuno i’w



◀ **Llanerch-y-cawr**  
before restoration/cyn yr adfer  
(Mike Garner)

it unsafe for those chickens. It was, or appeared to be, a ruin.

It had a closing order on it but it was listed. If I had had more money I would probably have waded in and “improved” it but I didn’t and, inspired by a Workers Education Association lecture in Knighton by Freddie Charles in Knighton, I approached the project more circumspectly, analysing what I had before I proceeded to carry out any work.

The sensitivity of the decoration and the amount of early work surviving in the house, in spite of the ravages of time and weather, set me wondering whether anything I did in altering the building would be an improvement or whether our improved technology could create anything as durable. The perceived wisdom at that time was that old meant damp, cold, dreary and uncomfortable. I suspected, however, that anyone who produced anything as refined as this decoration was also likely to require a greater degree of warmth and comfort that we anticipated. I decided that, wherever I had the opportunity, I would experiment to see if simply mending old buildings would produce the comfortable building I anticipated and in this endeavour I have had some inspired clients.

The buildings I have used to illustrate this paper were all derelict at the time the work was commissioned and are located in the wettest part of the country. (That’s why we build reservoirs there). They started as quite low buildings protected by large eaves and verge overhangs. Thick stone walls allow water to pass through them without getting inside. You only have to look at the older, unimproved Radnorshire churches with which the early houses would have had similarities. They have thick walls with few windows and at most a very small west window. The problems of water penetration through the west walls only come later, when Victorian architects raised the roofs and inserted large west windows and parapets, altering the way in which the walls work.

Historically in Radnorshire, roofs were clad in thatch or sedimentary stone tiles both of which are porous. Both stone walls and wattle-and-daub-filled timber frames were painted with limewash. W.H. Howse in his book on Radnorshire, published in 1949, refers to farmhouses painted annually with limewash and decorated with

werthu i mi yn unig pan feddylodd fod y lle’n beryglus i’w ddofednod. Roedd fel adfail.

Roedd yna orchymyn cau arno ond roedd wedi ei Restr. Petai mwy o arian gen i mae’n debyg y buaswn wedi rhuthro i mewn a’i “wella” ond wnes i ddim, a than ysbrydoliaeth darlith gan Freddie Charles i Gymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr, yn Nhrefyclo, fe es i ati’n fwy pwylllog gan ddadansoddi beth oedd yno cyn mynd ati i wneud unrhyw waith ar y lle.

Fe wnaeth hydeimledd yr addurno a’r ffaith fod cymaint o’r adeiladu cynnar wedi goroesi yn y tŷ, er gwaethaf treigl amser a thywydd, i mi feddwl tybed a allai unrhyw beth wnawn i i addasu’r lle fod er gwell, neu a allai’n technoleg ddatblygedig diweddaraf greu unrhyw beth mor barhaol. Yn ôl rhagdybiaethau’r cyfnod roedd hen yn gyfystyr â lleithder, oerfel a diffyg cysur. Er hynny, roeddwn i’n amau a fyddai unrhyw un a fyddai wedi medru creu y fath addurn hefyd yn debyg o fod angen fwy o wres a chysur nag y tybien ni. Felly fe benderfynais, pryd bynnag y cawn y cyfle i arbrofi a gweld a oedd peidio â gwneud dim ond trwsio hen adeiladau yn llwyddo i greu’r adeiladau cysurus yr oeddwn i yn ei ddisgwyl, ac yn y prosiect hwn rwyf wedi cael cleientiaid ysbrydoledig.

Roedd yr holl adeiladau rwyf wedi eu defnyddio i ddarlunio’r papur hwn yn adfeilion adeg comisiynu’r gwaith, ac wedi eu lleoli yn rhan wlypaf y wlad. (Dyna pam y codir cronfeydd dŵr yno.) Ar y dechrau roedden nhw’n adeiladau gweddol isel wedi’u hamddiffyn gan fargodion mawr a throsgrogau ymylol. Mae muriau cerrig trwchus yn gadael i ddŵr dreiddio trwyddyn nhw heb fynd tu mewn. Does ond rhaid ichi edrych ar hen eglwysi Maesyfed sydd heb eu newid i weld pa fath o dai a godwyd bryd hynny. Muriau trwchus a ffenestri prin a dim ond ffenestr fach orllewinol ar y mwyaf. Dim ond yn ddiweddarach y cafwyd problemau gyda dŵr yn treiddio trwy furiau gorllewinol, pan wnaeth penseiri Oes Victoria godi’r toeau a gosod ffenestri gorllewinol mawr ac ambell rai canllaw, gan newid sut mae’r muriau’n gweithio.

Yn hanesyddol yn Sir Faesyfed, ceid toeau gwellt neu waddod, sydd yn fandylllog. Roedd muriau cerrig a fframaiau o fangorwaith yn cael eu gwyngalchu. Yn ei lyfr ar Sir Faesyfed, a gyhoeddwyd yn 1949, mae W.H. Howse yn cyfeirio at ffermdai a wyngelchid yn flynyddol a’u had-



▲  
**Llanerch-y-cawr** The 17th-century floor beams were strengthened and retained  
 Cryfhawyd y trawstiau 17 ganrif a'u cadw (Mike Garner)

elder. Lacking the impervious materials to keep out water, early houses were designed to manage it and prevent it building up. More often than not we find the remains of sophisticated internal drainage, and houses were built on platforms above natural ground level, keeping them dry. It was only later, in the eighteenth century, that slate roofing became commonly used in Radnorshire; by 1810 corrugated iron was also being used. The Victorians introduced the fashion of exposing oak framing which required painting with tar to seal cracks and shakes. At Burfa the timber had never been painted with tar but had evidence of limewash.

### Llanerch-y-cawr

The first building to illustrate much of what I want to say is Llanerch-y-cawr in the Elan Valley. It had been derelict for years before the Elan Valley Trust decided to take it out of farm tenancy, restore it and let it for holiday use. It was at this stage unroofed and saturated; the interior looked incapable of being salvaged. Tarpaulins had been used to protect the house, but had taken off most the slates when disturbed by wind; they had caused more harm than good. I do not, therefore, advise the use of tarpaulins, and I would advise any surveyor not to survey a building in this sort of soggy condition. The client was persuaded to erect a temporary structure over the house, and following drying out rubbish was removed and a proper survey carried out. Far more was found to be sound than originally anticipated.

One recurring problem with such buildings is the need to relieve purlins or beams that are over stressed owing to decay, original under-design, or the need to increase loadings. We frequently size new rafters to enable them to span twice the distance, thus missing out particularly poor timbers. We can half-lap new rafters at the ridge level to decrease loads on the upper parts of trusses and upper purlins and insert stainless steel fitch plates in pur-

verno gydag ysgawen. Gan eu bod heb y deunyddiau i gadw'r gwlybanaeth allan, dylunnid tai cynnar i ymdopi â hyn a'i atal rhag mynd yn ormodol. Yn amlach na pheiddio, ceir hyd i olion system draeniau mewnol soffistigedig, a chodid tai ar lwyfannau uwchben lefel y tir i'w cadw'n sych. Dim ond yn ddiweddarach, yn y ddeunawfed ganrif, y dechreuodd codi toeau llechi ddod yn gyffredin yn Sir Faesyfed; erbyn 1810 defnyddid haearn rhychog yn ogystal. Y Fictoriaid gyflwynodd y ffaswn o ddinoethi'r fframiau derw yr oedd rhaid eu peintio gyda phyg i selio'r holltau yn y pren. Doedd y pren yn Burfa erioed wedi cael ei beintio gyda phyg ond roedd olion gwyngalch.

### Llanerch-y-cawr

Yr adeilad cyntaf i ddarlunio llawer o'r hyn rwyf i am ei ddweud yw Llanerch-y-cawr yng Nghwm Elan. Roedd wedi bod yn adfail ers blynyddoedd cyn i Ymddiriedolaeth Cwm Elan ei brynu o fod yn fferm tenant, ei adfer a'i osod fel lle gwyliau. Bryd hynny doedd yna ddim to, a roedd y lle yn wlyb domen; roedd amheuaeth fawr hefyd a ellid achub y tu mewn. Roedd tarpawlin wedi ei ddefnyddio i amdiffyn y lle, ond wedi disodli'r rhan fwyaf o'r llechi wrth i'r gwyntoedd ei ysgwyd ac wedi gwneud mwy o ddrwg nag o les. Felly, dydw i ddim yn argymhell defnyddio tarpawlin, ac yn awgrymu i unrhyw syrffwr i beidio adolygu adeilad yn y fath gyflwr dyfrllyd. Perswadiwyd y cleient i godi strwythur dros dro dros y tŷ, ac wedi iddo sychu carthwyd yr ysbwriel oddi yno a gallwyd adolygu'r lle yn iawn. Darganfuwyd fod llawer mwy o'r lle yn ddiogel nag y disgwyliid.

Un broblem sy'n digwydd yn aml gyda'r fath adeiladau yw'r angen i ryddhau tulathau a thrawstiau sydd dan ormod o straen oherwydd dadfeiliad, dylunio gwreiddiol diffygiol, neu er mwyn cynyddu'r pwysau arnyh nhw. Yn aml rydyn ni'n mesur trawstiau newydd er mwyn iddyn nhw bontio dwywaith yr hyd, ac felly yn methu nodi trawstiau pren sy'n wael iawn. Gallwn lled-lapio trawstiau newydd ar lefel y grib er mwyn lleihau'r pwysau ar ran uchaf y cyplau a'r tulathau uchaf a mewnosod lletemau dur yn y tulathau i gynyddu eu gallu i ddal pwysau. Yn yr un ffordd fe ellir cryfhau y trawstiau llawr. Mae hyn yn ein galluogi i gynnal ar y mwyaf o ddeunydd hanesyddol.

Yn Llanerch-y-cawr roedd yna broblem benodol gyda'r simnai ganolog a osodwyd yng nghanol y neuadd agored yn yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd y nenffyrdd o'r bymthegfed ganrif yn pwysu ar y simnai ond pan osodwyd y llawr cyntaf yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg fe gyfosodwyd lle tân carreg ychwanegol yn sownd wrth y prif simnai. Wrth i draed y nenffyrdd a thrawstiau diweddarach ddadfeilio fe ddechreuodd yr holl adeiladwaith hollti'r simnai. Ein strategaeth ni oedd rhifo'r cerrig yn ofalus a datgymalu'r lle tân, cryfhau'r trawst ail ganrif ar bymtheg i allu cynnal pwysau'r lle tân, trwsio traed y nenffyrdd fel nad oedd y pwysau'n llwyr ar y gwaith carreg diweddarach, ac ail adeiladu'r lle tân. Gan

lins to increase load-bearing capacity. We also strengthen floor beams this way. This enables us to maintain the maximum amount of historic material.

At Llanerch-y-cawr there was a specific problem with the central chimney inserted into the open hall in the sixteenth century. The fifteenth-century cruck truss originally abutted the stack but when the seventeenth-century first floor was inserted an additional stone fireplace was tacked on the face of the main stack. With the decay in the feet of the cruck and in the later beam the whole assembly was cracking the stack. Our strategy was to carefully number the stones and dismantle the attached fireplace, strengthen the seventeenth-century beam to take the load of the fireplace, carry out repairs to the cruck feet so that load was no longer taken on the later stonework, and reconstruct the fireplace. As re-roofing was required, we were able to achieve good roof insulation using a warm roof structure, but the remainder of the building was repaired as originally built. Walls were bag-pointed and limewashed in their original colours. No damp-proof course was inserted into the walls; stone slab floors were not taken up but simply repaired; and ground levels were cleared of generations of debris to their original levels. The original stone drain parallel to the back gable wall was located, cleaned out and extended. No damp proof membrane was included underneath the floors. Windows were repaired to their original detail. The end result is a remarkably dry, friendly and comfortable house.

### Tŷ Mawr

Llanerch-y-cawr is probably typical of the projects we carry out. The restoration of Tŷ Mawr near Castell Caereinion, however, is not so typical. It is a hybrid. Here the requirement was to repair a scheduled Ancient Monument, provide it with a protective cover, and interpret it. As always the project began with a tin shed. Inside this one there was a forest of scaffold poles supporting the central section of a rare 1460 aisled hall house, the aisles and long external walls having disappeared. I took the view that as one would not dream of dismantling a stone-built standing monument and putting it back up neither should this timber monument be dismantled, it was to be repaired in situ. Compression members were repaired using traditional timber detailing but members in tension were strengthened with stainless steel to avoid increasing loss of the very timber which was the ancient monument. The purpose of the roof and flank walls is to stabilise the surviving ancient monument and protect it, so the roof structure was only attached to the old structure at the arcade plate where an additional plate was planted on the side. This gave the frame stability against racking. The long walls were also mainly independent of the old frame. The whole new structure complied fully with current Building Regulations. In detailing the exterior timber

fod angen ail-doi, roedden ni'n gallu cael inswleiddio to effeithlon gan ddefnyddio strwythur to cynnes, ond cafodd gweddill y lle ei drwsio yn ôl y patrwm gwreiddiol. Bag-bwyntiwyd a gwyngalchwyd y lle yn eu lliwiau gwreiddiol. Ni osodwyd cwrs lleithder; ni chodwyd y lloriau cerrig dim ond eu trwsio; a charthwyd ymaith pob ysbwriel a malurion oedd wedi casglu dros y cenedlaethau ar y lloriau a'u hadfer i'w lefel gwreiddiol. Cafwyd hyd i'r garthffos gyfochrog i'r mur talcen, ei glanhau a'i hestyn. Ni osodwyd pilen anhydraidd dan y lloriau. Trwsiodwyd y ffenestri yn ôl eu manylion gwreiddiol. Ar canlyniad yw tŷ hynod o ddiddos, cyfeillgar a chysurus.

### Tŷ Mawr

Mae'n debyg fod Llanerch-y-cawr yn eithaf nodweddiadol o'n gwaith ni. Ond nid yw adferiad Tŷ Mawr ger Castell Caereinion yn nodweddiadol. Mae'n gymysgedd. Y comisiwn y tro hwn oedd i adfer Heneb Restredig, darparu gorchudd amddiffynnol, a'i ddehongli.

Fel ym mhob achos, dechreuodd y prosiect mewn cwt sinc. Tu mewn i hon roedd yna fforest o bolion sgaffaldiau yn cynnal adran ganolog adeilad prin o dŷ neuadd ystlysog o 1460, er fod yr ystlysau a'r muriau allanol hir wedi hen ddiplannu. Fe benderfynais i, er mwyn peidio meddwl am ddatgymalu cofadail carreg oedd yn dal ar ei draed a'i ailgodi, na ddylid ystyried datgymalu y gofadail bren hon, ond, yn hytrach, ei thrwsio yn y fan a'r lle. Fe aed ati i drwsio'r darnau cywasgol yn fanwl gyda deunydd pren traddodiadol, ond roedd rhaid cryfhau'r darnau mewn tyndra gyda dur dilychwin er mwyn peidio cael gwared ar ormod o'r pren, sef hanfod y gofadail. Pwrpas y to a'r muriau ochr yw sefydlogi ac amddiffyn gweddill y gofadail hanesyddol. Felly, ni chysylltwyd y to gyda'r hen strwythur ar y plât arcêd lle'r oedd yna blât ychwanegol wedi'i gosod ar yr ochr. Roedd hyn yn rhoi sefydlogrwydd i'r adeilad yn erbyn dirdyniant. Roedd y muriau hir bron yn annibynnol o'r hen ffrâm. Ar strwythur newydd

**Tŷ Mawr** before restoration  
ar ôl y gwaith adferol  
(Mike Garner)





◀  
**Tŷ Mawr**  
 after conservation  
 ar ôl y gwaith adferol

frame and infill panels, all the problems of shrinkage, shakes and draughts came into play. I decided to follow historical evidence and limewash the whole exterior, timber frame and panels to seal the gaps. This has since been carried out during maintenance and has proved a successful strategy.

Even after a good many years doing this sort of work unexpected constructions present themselves. A different project was a thatched Carmarthenshire farmhouse, probably seventeenth-century in date, and covered by plastic clad scaffolding. The structure has scarfed crucks supporting purlins and the thatched roof. The walls were thought to be made of clay (*clom* in the local vernacular) and clad later in stone, but when we started re-roofing we found that the lower walls had been originally constructed in stone and the upper sixty centimetres or so were of clay, for a specific purpose which related to the roof construction. There was no wall plate and no evidence of any fixings to the purlins, neither pegs or twine. The rafters were cleft oak staves, spanning between each purlin with hazel woven between them to which the thatch was fixed. The bottom staves were driven into the wet mud on top of the wall to hold them tightly fixed. The soffit was then lime plastered and this was the original construction. When our carpenters came to site they were alarmed to have to lay down their hammers and chisels and take up bill hooks and basket weaving. We learnt how it was done by doing it. It became apparent why no fixings were required; when the roof is woven together it is like an upturned coracle and very tight. The thick plaster underneath gives excellent fire resistance and the thatch offers very good thermal insulation.

yn ei gyfanrwydd yn cydymffurfio yn llawn gyda'r Rheolau Adeiladu cyfamserol. Wrth fanylu ar y ffrâm bren allanol a'r paneli mewnlennad, roedd rhaid ystyried problemau crebachu, dirgrynu a chilwyntoedd. Penderfynais ddilyn y dystiolaeth hanesyddol a gwyngalchu'r tu allan i gyd, y ffrâm bren a'r paneli, er mwyn selio'r bylchau. Mae hyn wedi'i wneud erbyn hyn fel rhan o gynnal a chadw, ac mae wedi bod yn strategaeth lwyddiannus.

Hyd yn oed ar ôl blynyddoedd lawer o wneud gwaith fel hyn mae yna adeiladau o fath gwahanol yn dod i'r fei. Prosiect go wahanol oedd ffermdy to gwellt yn Sir Gaerfyrddin, o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg mae'n debyg, ac yn frith o sgaffaldiau wedi'u gorchuddio gyda phlastig. Mae yna gyplau wedi'u sgarffio yn cynnal tulathau a tho gwellt. Tybid fod y muriau o glai (neu *glom* fel y dwedid yn lleol) gyda haen ddiweddarach o gerrig, a phan ddechreuon ni ail-doi'r lle cafwyd fod y muriau isaf wedi'u codi'n wreiddiol o garreg a thua'r chwedeg centimetr uchaf o glai, yn benodol ar gyfer rhyw bwrpas ynglŷn â chodi'r to. Doedd yna ddim plât wal na thystiolaeth o unrhyw ffitiadau yn y tulathau, na phegiau na chortyn. Pelydr derw hollt oedd y trawstiau, yn pontio rhwng pob tulath gyda phren cyll wedi'i weu rhyngddynt nhw, ac i hyn yr oedd y to gwellt wedi ei glymu. Roedd y pelydr isaf wedi eu gwthio i'r mwd gwlyb ar ben y mur i'w cadw'n dynn yn eu lle. Wedyn, roedd y bondo wedi'i blastro gyda chalch, a hwn oedd yr adeilad cyntaf. Pan ddaeth ein seiri ni i'r safle fe'u brawychwyd nhw o orfod gosod eu morthwylion a'u cynion o'r neilltu, a chymryd at y bilwg a gwehyddu basged. Fe ddysgon ni sut i'w wneud wrth fynd yn ein blaenau. A daeth hi'n amlwg nad oedd angen unrhyw ffitiad: pan fo'r to wedi'i blethu at ei gilydd mae fel cwrwgl a'i ben i lawr ac yn hollol dynn. Mae'r plastr trwchus oddi tano yn amddiffyniad rhagorol rhag tân a'r



### Radnorshire

My last example is perhaps the most extreme – a house that had begun to be “improved” with all the necessary statutory approvals in place but which became abandoned through lack of funds.

Regrettably, it has been the case in Radnorshire that people attracted to derelict buildings and their low capital costs sometimes lack the resources to match-fund a proper restoration. The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales had recorded this south Radnorshire structure in the 1960s. There was a gap of about ten years between the building being unroofed and repairs to the masonry being started in blockwork and brickwork and it being sold to my client. The client is happy for me to use the illustrations but does not want me to identify the house. My brief from him was quite specific: to use the Royal Commission’s records to repair the house to its original appearance and not to use any modern materials – no damp-proof courses, no damp-proof membrane, no underfelt in the roof. He had no intention of installing a general electrical installation or central heating and did not require insulation because he didn’t feel the cold. Many of the missing internal features, such as bits of the staircase, were discovered re-used in the garden or buried under the straw in the barn.

Systematic research (another work for looking around carefully!) revealed all we needed to know about the physical appearance of the exterior and interior of the building. The following illustrations indicate a sequence:

- the building as found.
- the building as reconstructed, and
- the building as the Royal Commission’s photographic record.

My client has at considerable expense created a building which probably qualifies for a closing order!

I fully realise that the examples I have used would not be typical of most people’s experience and that these buildings avoid some of the issues of compliance with legislation owing to their historic status. Nonetheless, I hope I have demonstrated that it is possible to produce comfortable, dry and, indeed, colourful, houses by following the methods with which they were built.



◀ South Radnorshire  
De Maesyfed 1968

to gwellt yn inswleiddiad thermol gwych.

### Sir Faesyfed

Fy enghraifft olaf yw’r un mwyaf eithafol – tŷ oedd wedi dechrau cael ei “wella” gyda phob caniatâd statudol angenrheidiol wedi eu sicrhau, ond y bu raid rhoi’r gorau i’r gwaith oherwydd diffyg cyllid.

Gwaetha’r modd, mae’n ddigon cyffredin yn Sir Faesyfed i bobl gael eu denu at hen adfeilion gyda’u prisiau isel ond heb ddigon o arian i dalu’r gost gyfatebol ar gyfer adferiad go iawn. Roedd Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru wedi cofnodi’r adeilad hwn yn ne Maesyfed yn y 1960au. Fe fu yna fwch o tua deng mlynedd rhwng yr adeg pan dynnwyd y to a dechrau trwsio’r gwaith carreg mewn blocwaith a bricwaith, a’r adeg pan werthwyd y lle i fy nghleient. Mae’r cleient yn fodlon imi ddangos y darluniau ond ddim am imi enwi’r lle. Roedd y briff ges i ganddo yn bendant iawn: i ddefnyddio cofnodion y Comisiwn Brenhinol i adfer y lle i’w olwg gwreiddiol, a pheidio defnyddio unrhyw ddeunydd modern – dim cyrsiau lleithder, dim pilen anhydraidd, dim isffelt yn y to. Doedd yna ddim bwriad i osod trydan trwy’r lle na gwres canolog, a doedd dim angen inswleiddio gan nad oedd y cleient yn teimlo’r oerfel. Darganfuwyd nifer o’r nodweddion mewnol coll, megis darnau o’r grisiau, a’u hail-ddefnyddio yn yr ardd neu eu claddu dan y gwellt yn y sguor.

Fe wnaeth ymchwil drylwyr (term arall am edrych yn ofalus o gwmpas y lle) ddatgelu popeth yr oedd angen inni wybod am olwg tu allan a thu mewn i’r adeilad.

Mae’r darluniau canlynol yn dangos cyfres:

- yr adeilad fel y cafwyd hyd iddo
- yr adeilad wedi’i adfer a’r
- adeilad fel yr oedd yng nghofnodion y Comisiwn Brenhinol.

Mae fy nghleient wedi gwario llawer iawn i greu adeilad sydd, mae’n debyg, yn agored i dderbyn gorchymyn cau.

Rwy’n llwyr sylweddoli nad yw’r enghreifftiau gyflwynais i yn nodweddiadol o brofiad y rhelyw, a bod y prosiectau hyn heb godi ambell broblem yngly^n â chydymffurfio gyda deddfwriaeth oherwydd eu statws hanesyddol. Er hynny, rwy’n gobethio imi ddangos ei

South Radnorshire  
 De Maesyfed  
 1999/today  
 1999/heddiw



It is ironic that the original builders' came from the wool trade -- we consider ourselves good at sustainable construction if we put lamb's wool insulation in the loft. In those days things were far more sophisticated. Each individual had his own woollen insulation which could be taken off or added too to suit his personal requirements, avoiding the need to heat large amounts of empty space, a habit from which many of our problems in dealing with such buildings derive.☺☺

bod hi'n bosib i gynhyrchu tai cysurus, sych ac, yn wir, lliwgar, trwy ddilyn y dulliau ddefnyddiwyd wrth godi'r tai yn wreiddiol. Mae'n eironig mai o fyd y diwydiant gwlan y doi'r adeiladwyr gwreiddiol – rydyn ni'n meddwl ein bod yn creu adeiladau cynaladwy os osodwn ni inswleiddiad gwlan defaid yn y llofft. Yn y dyddiau hynny roedd pethau'n llawer mwy soffistigedig. Roedd gan bob unigolyn ei inswleiddiad gwlan ei hun y gellid ei ddiosg neu ategu ato yn ol ei ofynion personol, gan osgoi'r angen i dwymo peth wmbredd o ofod gwag; arfer sydd wedi arwain at lawer o'n problemau ni wrth ymwneud â'r fath adeiladau.☺☺