

# Facade Restoration at the Main State Archives in Weimar/Thüringen



Nearly 1,350 m<sup>2</sup> of an originally richly ornamented facade at the main state archives of Thüringen have to be restored by April 1999. The building site suffered from lack of space as around the building the fire brigade entrance has to be kept free day and night.

One of the "main actors" the PFT G 4 is placed at a strategic well thought position on the scaffold in order to supply all the installation sites.

The Main state archives in Weimar/Thüringen were built in 1885. It was the first building for archiving purposes in Germany that has been classified as a historical monument due to its architectural importance. Ornaments of limestone gypsum, cement stucco and plaster decorated the facade. After nearly 30 years the first renovations had to be done around 1914. During 1945 the building was considerably damaged by bombs and was almost forgotten during the latter years.

Due to shortages, the renovation and repair works were simplified which resulted in the original rich forms have being lost. The material used was limestone cement and also a dispersion painting in 1975 could not durably improve the situation.



## 1999 now Weimar is for one year European Capital of Culture.

This is reason enough to give back the original beauty to the state archives as a monument.

The contract for the restoration of the facade has been awarded to the local stucco company Rietschel Stuck, an enterprise with 30 employees. Klaus Rietschel has multiple qualifications as brick-layer, architect and specialist engineer for

preservation of historical monuments. Accordingly he specialised his enterprise for restoration, redevelopment and acoustic building. Since 1993 a mixing pump PFT G4 has been part of the "equipment" and serves for the very different plasters.

For the use at the state archive it was important to handle many very fine and small surfaces efficiently. Approximately 70 % of the gypsum lime plaster surfaces had to be renewed and



approximately 80 % of the stucco elements.

A well planned operation enabled Klaus Rietschel to programme an economic working process with the use of the PFT G4 at least for the first coating. Nevertheless they could only work with bags as there was no space available for the installation of a silo. In total approximately 1,350 m<sup>2</sup> of stucco and plaster had to be produced.