

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Of**  
**Michael John Parrett**

Aged 55 years - An Independent Building Pathologist, Chartered Scientist and Building Surveyor with over 30 years experience of surveying buildings. I am the principle and Director of MPA Engineering & Construction Services Ltd (Formerly Damp Diagnosis Consultancy) which was established in 1999. The practise offers independent pathological examinations of buildings to identify and test for building failure, principally for the causes of building failure. MPA Engineering & Construction Services is fully accredited with Exor Management Services at Gold level.

I was employed by the London Borough of Lewisham for almost 30 years as a building surveyor and Head of Property Investigation for the Property Investigation Unit. The role and responsibilities of the team were to investigate claims of Latent Defect Liability with contractors Disrepair and Statutory nuisance in a range of occupied dwellings, brought by claimants and to act as the principle expert witness in court cases. One of only two teams in Lewisham rated as 3 star by independent inspectors.  
Lead officer in setting up the first quality assurance under BS 5750 for the repair service and survey inspections.

My work in the field of building surveying has involved comprehensive assessments and in-depth testing and chemical analysis into the causes of a wide range of building failures and involving the preparation of complex reports and specifications. I have a vast and varied experience of contract supervision from inception of minor to major building refurbishment schemes through to practical completion.

I have for the passed 25 years specialised in Pathological investigations of buildings and have been acting as an independent building pathologist and dampness consultant since 1999. I have been regularly appointed as a single joint expert in disrepair cases before various British Law courts and between both parties to litigation. I have also regularly acted for both Claimants and Defendants in matters of Disrepair and Statutory Nuisance.

During my 30 years working in Social Housing I have gained a vast experience of the management of the various processes in delivering decent and acceptable housing. Experience of housing management, Building and Project management on day to day repairs and maintenance to major planned development schemes from inception through to practical completion

Since forming my own consultancy we have undertaken major and varied work assignments for a range of clients to include:

- Brent Housing Partnership
- Richmond Housing Association
- Hackney Homes
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- London Borough of Southwark
- London Borough of Lambeth
- London Borough of Merton
- Metropolitan Housing Trust
- North Hertfordshire Homes
- South London Family Housing Association
- Testway Housing Association
- Lewisham Homes
- Phoenix Community Housing
- Zurich Insurance
- AIG Insurance
- Cunningham Lindsey Loss Adjusters
- Millennium Copthorne Hotels
- Queen's Moat House Hotels
- Various Architect and Chartered Surveying Practices

**Fellow** member of the following professional bodies:

The Association of Building Engineers –elected in 1999 (formerly IMBM)

The Institute of Materials – elected 2003

The Institute of Directors – elected 2000

The Faculty of Building – elected 2004

The Royal Society for the Arts – elected 2005

The Chartered Institute of Building – elected 2005

Qualified Site Assessor with the National Home Energy Rating Scheme (NHER) and a member of the British Hydrological Society at the Institute of Civil Engineers and the Construction History Society.

Director and member of the Executive Council for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings , Committee member of the Faculty of Building, Surrey branch and Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. I was awarded Chartered Scientist status by the British Science Council June 2004.

Visiting Lecturer in post graduate studies in Building pathology at South Bank University

A Freeman of the City of London and first recipient of the PRIDE of Lewisham award.

My pioneering work on proving the rarity of rising damp due to a failure of an existing damp proof course using the Calcium Carbide method was the outright winner of the British Building Maintenance Awards (IMBM) in 1997. A further BBMA award followed in 1999 for predicting the hygroscopic moisture contents of bricks (The 'Parrett brick index'). My professional paper 'Managing Disrepair and the misdiagnosis of rising damp using electrical moisture meters' is featured as 'key reading' in the book entitled 'A review of testing for moisture in building elements Published by the DETR and CIRIA ,2000

Featured expert in the hard hitting BBC 2 television documentary programme 'raising the roof' investigating the widespread misdiagnosis of rising damp in buildings. The programme was televised on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1999. I have also produced industry sponsored training films in collaboration with GE Sensing, Airtech and Protimeter, with world-wide distribution on the processes of investigating dampness in buildings.

A regular presenter of conference papers on Investigation of Building failures, which have included:

- The National Housing Federation – Annual maintenance convention, Warwick University
- The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) Chicago, 2005 , Florida,2006, Los Angeles 2007 and New Orleans 2008
- Chambers of Lord Gifford, QC legal seminar series at St. Bride Institute, London
- The Housing Asset Maintenance, Management and Regeneration group – West Midlands, UK
- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, London England
- The London Disrepair Forum
- Chartered Institute of Building
- Rainbow International Annual conference
- General Electric Pan European Conference, Den Haag, Netherlands

- Institute of Maintenance and Building Management Conference
- The Hung Hom University Hong Kong and The Antiquities and Monuments Department, Hong Kong Government

I am a published author with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors having co written the definitive practioners guidance entitled 'Diagnosing damp' 1<sup>st</sup> edition. RICS Books, 2003 and with Donhead publishing having written a chapter on 'performance and sustainability' in the published work on Windows, 2008. The book was long listed for the RIBA International Book awards in two categories.

wrote and presented Mike Parrett's guide to Building Pathology an in-depth filmed investigation of building failures from the drains to the roof, taken from case studies filmed all over the world including the United States, Venice ,Hong Kong, Norway, UK and Ireland.  
[www.buildingpathology.net](http://www.buildingpathology.net) written various articles in numerous other publications to include national press and periodicals

M J Parrett Csci FCIOB FBEng FRSA FFB FIMMM FIoD