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(54) Method and device for the decoration of coving

(57) A method of decorating a length of coving (10) comprises securing to the exposed surface (16) of the coving a spaced array of decorative three-dimensional embellishers (17). Each embellisher has a three-dimensional outer decorative surface and a curved inner surface. The curved inner surface includes a continuous outer peripheral portion (20) which is shaped to fit against the curved surface of the coving to provide an uninterrupted visible peripheral junction (21) between the embellisher and the surface of the coving. Each embellisher is hollow and has a mounting surface (19) within its outer peripheral surface (20) for the application of adhesive (22) to secure the embellisher to the coving.

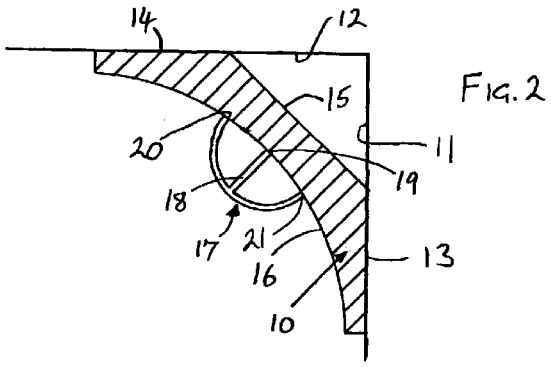

Fig. 2

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to the decoration of coving which is defined as a fillet provided at the junction between the wall and ceiling of a room. Usually, the exposed surface of the coving is concavely curved in cross-section, although the present invention may also be applicable to coving of other cross-sectional shape. In some cases the coving fillet may have been integrally formed in situ when the wall and ceiling were plastered during original building, but it is also common practice to add coving to existing rooms to cover and soften the right-angled junction between the wall and ceiling. In this case there may be used a commonly available form of coving which is preformed as extruded plaster sections covered with paper and manufactured in a variety of widths, usually ranging from 90mm to 140mm. The coving strips are normally shaped so that they may be readily fixed in position at the junction between the wall and ceiling by use of a suitable adhesive.

[0002] Although some comparatively intrically moulded forms of coving are available, they tend to be comparatively costly to produce so that most forms of coving present a plain unbroken surface at the junction between walls and ceiling. To many people the starkness of such coving is unsatisfactory from an aesthetic point of view and they may wish to embellish or decorate the coving in a stylish manner appropriate to the nature of the coving and the function of the room or area where it is situated.

[0003] The present invention provides a method of easily adding three dimensional decoration to existing coving at comparatively low cost, and allows aesthetically pleasing embellishment of coving in a wide variety of styles and effects.

[0004] Systems are known, for example as shown in British Patent Specifications Nos. 2240561, 2243848 and 2275701, where existing coving may be embellished by attaching along the whole length and width of the coving a facing moulding having a more elaborate outer surface configuration. However, such systems completely cover the existing coving with the new moulding, so that generally the added moulding tends to be more costly than the original coving which it covers. Also the decorative effect to be achieved is limited to the particular designs which are available in the covering mouldings employed.

[0005] By contrast, the present invention makes use of the existing exposed face of the coving and provides three-dimensional decorative embellishment of this using a range of smaller components. Not only is this method inherently less costly, but the smaller components may be applied to the coving in a virtually infinite number of different arrangements and configurations so that a great variety of alternative effects can be achieved using the same basic components.

[0006] According to the present invention, therefore, there is provided a method of decorating a length of coving having an outer exposed surface, the method comprising securing to the exposed surface of the coving, in spaced array, a plurality of decorative three-dimensional embellishers.

[0007] The embellishers may be secured to the coving in a regularly spaced array. For example, they may be ranged in longitudinally spaced alignment along the length of coving. The embellishers may be spaced apart in a single line along the coving, and in this case the single line of embellishers may be spaced substantially midway between the opposite longitudinal edges of the coving.

[0008] Each embellisher preferably has a decorative three-dimensional outer surface, and an inner surface at least a part of which is shaped to fit snugly against the exposed surface of the coving. For example, in the case where the outer surface of the coving is concavely curved the inner surface of each embellisher may be correspondingly convexly curved so as to mate with the surface on the coving.

[0009] Preferably the part of each embellisher which is shaped to fit against the exposed surface of the coving includes a substantially continuous outer peripheral portion which provides a substantially uninterrupted outer junction between the embellisher and the surface of the coving. This enhances the impression that the embellisher is an integral part of the coving.

[0010] Each embellisher may comprise a substantially hollow body, and the hollow body may have an opening surrounded by the inner surface of the embellisher, which opening is covered by the surface of the coving when the embellisher is secured to it.

[0011] Means for securing the embellisher to the surface of the coving may be located within said opening. For example, said means may comprise a mounting surface in the opening to which adhesive is applied to secure the embellisher to the surface of the coving. The mounting surface may comprise a bar extending across the opening from one side thereof to the other.

[0012] In any of the above arrangements the embellisher may be at least partly spherical, for example generally hemispherical. However, the outer decorative surface of the embellisher may be of any other desired shape. For example, it may be in the shape of a fleur-de-lys, diamond, lozenge, scroll, acanthus leaf, part-cube or any other decorative design.

[0013] Each embellisher may be secured to the surface of the coving by a settable adhesive, or a self-adhesive layer may be disposed between the embellisher and the outer surface of the coving. Alternatively, or additionally each embellisher may be provided with a retaining element which pierces the material of the coving to secure the embellisher to it. The retaining element may be integral with the embellisher or may comprise a separate component attached to it. In an alternative arrangement each embellisher may be secured to the coving by a separate clip element which is secured

between the embellisher and the coving.

[0014] The invention also includes within its scope decorative embellishers adapted for attachment to the coving by any of the methods referred to above.

[0015] Thus, the invention provides a decorative embellisher, for attachment to a part-cylindrically curved outer surface of a length of coving, the embellisher having a three-dimensional outer decorative surface and a part-cylindrically curved inner surface which includes a substantially continuous outer peripheral portion which is shaped to fit against the curved surface of the coving to provide a substantially uninterrupted visible peripheral junction between the embellisher and the surface of the coving.

[0016] The inner surface of the embellisher may be convexly curved, for engagement with a concavely curved coving surface. The inner surface of the embellisher may have a radius of curvature of the order of 80mm, that being a common radius of curvature of the exposed outer surface of commonly available coving.

[0017] The invention further provides a kit of parts for decorating a length of coving by any of the methods referred to above, the kit of parts comprising a plurality of decorative embellishers each having a decorative outer surface and an inner surface at least a part of which is shaped to mate with the exposed surface of a length of coving, and means for securing each embellisher to the coving.

[0018] The following is a more detailed description of embodiments of the invention, by way of example, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a length of coving fitted with one type of decorative embellishers according to the present invention,

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic cross-section through the coving of Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a rear view of one form of embellisher shown attached to the coving, which is shown in dotted lines.

[0019] Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a length of preformed coving 10 is secured along the junction between the wall 11 and the ceiling 12 of a room.

[0020] As is well known, the coving 10 comprises an extrusion of plaster wrapped in paper and comprises surfaces 13 and 14 for engagement with the wall and ceiling respectively, the surfaces 13 and 14 being connected by an angled rear surface 15.

[0021] The front surface 16 of the coving is concavely curved in section and part-cylindrical, typically having a radius of curvature of about 80mm. The coving may have a width in the range of 90-140mm. The coving is generally secured in position by applying a suitable adhesive to the surfaces 13 and 14 and pressing the coving into the right-angled junction between the wall and ceiling.

[0022] In accordance with the invention the concave outer surface of the coving is decorated by a plurality of three-dimensional decorative embellishers secured to the concave surface 16 of the coving in any desired pattern or configuration.

[0023] In the example shown in the drawings, each embellisher 17 is generally in the shape of a hollow hemisphere which may conveniently be moulded from synthetic plastics or any other suitable material. The hemispherical embellisher is generally hollow except for an internal semi-circular wall 18 extending from one side of the hemisphere to the other and providing an inwardly facing mounting surface 19.

[0024] The rear surface of the embellisher 17, as defined by the peripheral edge 20 thereof, is part-cylindrically and convexly curved and is of the same radius of curvature as the outer surface 16 of the coving so as to mate snugly with that surface as shown in Figure 2. The peripheral surface 20 forming the rear surface of the embellisher is substantially continuous so as to form an uninterrupted closed junction between the outer hemispherical surface of the embellisher and the surface of the coving, as indicated at 21 in Figure 2. This gives the impression that the embellisher is an integral part of the coving, as is the case with traditional plaster moulded cornices.

[0025] In order to secure each embellisher to the coving, a layer of a suitable adhesive, as indicated at 22 in Figure 3, is applied to the rear surface 19 of the crossbar 18 and the rear surface of the embellisher is then pressed into the required position on the coving. As may be seen from Figure 3, any excess adhesive 22 is squeezed into the hollow interior of the embellisher and is not extruded past the peripheral edge 20 so as to be visible on the surface of the coving.

[0026] Since the embellishers are significantly smaller in size than the width of the coving, any number or arrangement of embellishers may be secured to the coving according to the decorative visual effect required. A simple arrangement is shown in Figure 1 where the embellishers are arranged in a single line along the length of the coving midway between the opposite side edges thereof, the embellishers being equally spaced apart. This gives a particularly pleasing effect, but it will be appreciated that other more elaborate arrangements are possible, depending on the environment in which the coving is situated and the preferences of the user.

[0027] The hemispherical embellisher shown in the drawings is by way of example only and the exposed surface of the embellisher may be of any other desired three-dimensional decorative shape. For example, as previously mentioned, the outer surface of the embellisher might be in the form of a fleur-de-lys, diamond, lozenge, scroll, acanthus leaf or part-cube or any other shape. Embellishers of different shapes may be com-

bined on the same length of coving.

[0028] Although the concavely curved form of coving shown in the drawings is the most commonly available type, the invention may also be applied to coving of other cross-sectional shape, including coving where the exposed outer surface is generally flat or partly or wholly convexly curved. In each case, however, it is preferred that the inner surface of each embellisher is shaped so as to mate snugly with the surface of the coving.

[0029] Although the use of adhesive is a simple and effective way of securing the embellishers to the coving, the invention does not exclude other securing methods. For example, each embellisher may be formed with an integrally moulded retaining element which pierces the plaster of the coving as the embellisher is applied to its outer surface and acts to retain the embellisher on the surface of the coving. For example, the element on the embellisher may be barbed or otherwise shaped to assist in its retention in the coving. Instead of being integrally formed with the embellisher, the retaining element may be a separate element which passes through an aperture in the embellisher before piercing the material of the coving.

[0030] Alteratively, the embellisher may be adhered to the coving by a double-sided self-adhesive layer of material which is applied to the inner surface of the embellisher. The material may be in the form of a foam pad so as to accommodate any irregularities between the mating surfaces of the embellisher and coving and to accommodate slight mis-match between their curvatures.

[0031] In another alternative securing method a separately formed clip is first attached to the coving in a desired position, for example is secured to the coving by an adhesive or by a retaining pin, and an embellisher is then subsequently attached to the clip, the clip and the embellisher being formed with inter-engaging formations whereby the embellisher may snap into engagement with the clip and be retained thereby on the coving.

[0032] It will be appreciated that a major advantage of the present invention is that the decorative embellishers may be applied to coving after it has been installed, and may thus even be applied to older-style coving formed in situ from plaster when the room was originally plastered.

Claims

1. A method of decorating a length of coving (10) having an outer exposed surface (16), the method being characterised by securing to the exposed surface (16) of the coving, in spaced array, a plurality of decorative three-dimensional embellishers (17).

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the embellishers (17) are secured to the coving (10) in a regularly spaced array.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the embellishers (17) are spaced apart along the coving (10) in a single line substantially midway between the opposite longitudinal edges of the coving.

4. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each embellisher (17) has a decorative three-dimensional outer surface, and an inner surface (20) at least a part of which is shaped to fit snugly against the exposed surface (16) of the coving.

5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the outer surface (16) of the coving is concavely curved and the inner surface (20) of each embellisher is correspondingly convexly curved so as to mate with the surface on the coving.

6. A method according to Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the part of each embellisher (17) which is shaped to fit against the exposed surface (16) of the coving includes a substantially continuous outer peripheral portion (20) which provides a substantially uninterrupted outer junction (21) between the embellisher and the surface of the coving.

7. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each embellisher (17) comprises a substantially hollow body having an opening surrounded by the inner surface (20) of the embellisher, which opening is covered by the surface (16) of the coving when the embellisher is secured to it.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein there is provided in the opening of each embellisher (17) a mounting surface (19) to which adhesive is applied to secure the embellisher to the surface of the coving.

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the mounting surface comprises a bar (18) extending across the opening from one side thereof to the other.

10. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein each embellisher (17) is secured to the surface of the coving by a settable adhesive, a self-adhesive layer, a retaining element which pierces the material of the coving, or a separate clip element which is secured between the embellisher and the coving.

11. A decorative embellisher, for attachment to a part-cylindrically curved outer surface of a length of coving, the embellisher (17) having a three-dimen-

sional outer decorative surface and a part-cylindrically curved inner surface, characterised in that the inner surface of the embellisher includes a substantially continuous outer peripheral portion (20) which is shaped to fit against the curved surface (16) of the coving to provide a substantially uninterrupted visible peripheral junction between the embellisher and the surface of the coving.

12. An embellisher according to Claim 11, wherein the inner surface (20) of the embellisher is convexly curved, for engagement with a concavely curved coving surface.

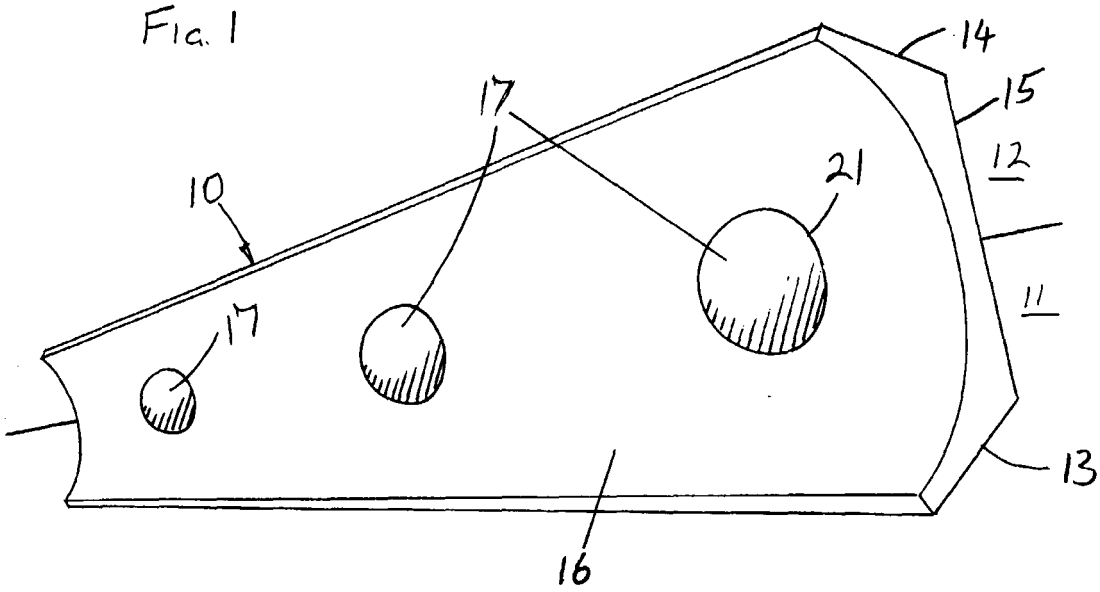
13. An embellisher according to Claim 12, wherein the inner surface (20) of the embellisher (17) has a radius of curvature of the order of 80mm.

14. An embellisher according to any of Claims 11 to 13, comprising a substantially hollow body having an opening surrounded by said substantially continuous outer peripheral portion (20) of the inner surface of the embellisher.

15. An embellisher according to Claim 14, wherein there is provided in the opening of the embellisher (17) a mounting bar (18) extending across the opening from one side thereof to the other.

16. A kit of parts for use in decorating a length of coving by the method of any of Claims 1 to 10, the kit of parts comprising a plurality of decorative embellishers (17) each having a decorative outer surface and an inner surface (20) at least a part of which is shaped to mate with the exposed surface of a length of coving, and means (22) for securing each embellisher to the coving.

Fig. 1



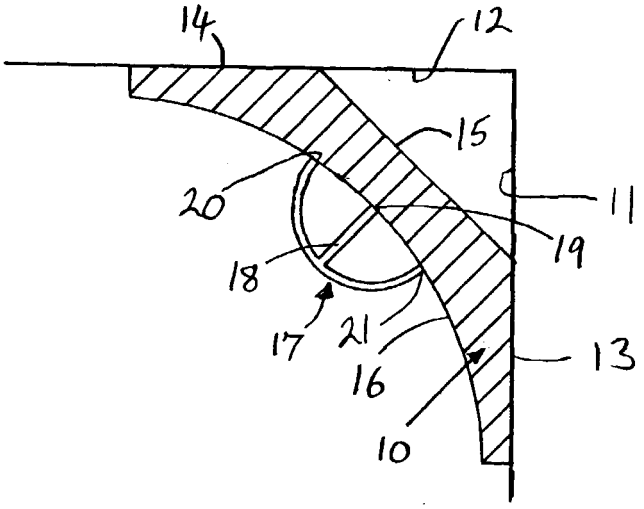
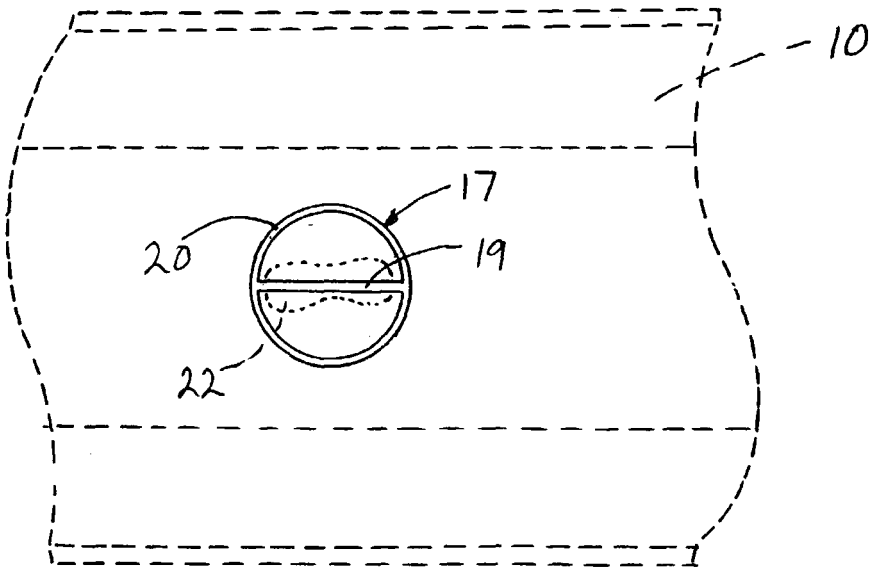


Fig. 2

Fig. 3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 8232

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GB 2 291 898 A (HARRISON KENNETH ;HARRISON RUTH MARY (GB)) 7 February 1996 * page 1, line 22 - page 2, line 30; figures 1-8 *	1,2,4,10	E04F19/04
A		11,16	
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A	US 3 778 945 A (MEDOW R) 18 December 1973 * column 2, line 32 - line 67 * * column 3, line 49 - column 4, line 49; figures 1,5,9 *	1,7,16	
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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
E04F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	4 March 1999	Ayiter, J

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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04-03-1999

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