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Tackling rising damp: Wilhelm Mohorn, the firm's founder, with Volker Kubillus, head of the UK operation based in East Grinstead



Helping history by ending rising damp

by **Observer reporter**

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A PIONEERING firm in East Grinstead has introduced a new eco-friendly system to this country which it claims can successfully dry out old and historical buildings.

Based in Saint Hill Road, Aquapol's work began in 1985 and has chiefly involved properties across mainland Europe.

It says its system involves no chemicals, drilling, maintenance, batteries or electricity.

Some of the more illustrious buildings with rising damp problems tackled by the firm are the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest, Hungary, The Joseph Haydn Museum in Eisenstadt, Austria and the Greek Oriental Church in Vienna.

Volker Kubillus, managing director of Aquapol UK, told the Observer: "There are many beautiful and important old buildings here in the UK, loved the world over.

"One of our purposes is to play our part in preserving them so they can be enjoyed by many generations to come."

He explained that rising damp occurs where a damp-proof course is broken or missing and so water molecules creep up the capillary system within the brick and stone work of the building causing plaster to become damp and stained, and often

to crack and come loose.

Aquapol, he said, reverses the polarity of the water molecules and so causes them to flow downwards, leading, over a period of months or years, to gradual dehydration.

The method is the brainchild of Austrian engineer Wilhelm Mohorn, who received the highest Austrian award for successful research and invention, the Kaplan Medal, in 1995.

Mr Kubillus said the technology is based on "long-lost discoveries" made by the Serbian scientific pioneer, Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) about the properties of water and naturally occurring energy fields within the earth and air.