



## Serra Chapel, Mission San Juan Capistrano

Location: San Juan Capistrano, CA  
Client: Mission San Juan Capistrano

### *Conservation Treatments for a Historic Adobe Structure*



Built in 1782, only 6 years after the founding of Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Serra Chapel was named for Father Junipero Serra. The chapel is a one-story gabled structure constructed of adobe blocks and wood roof framing, with the adobe plastered and barrel clay tiles used as the roof covering. Above the arcade, there existed no surviving plaster and the adobe units were completely exposed. As a result, the adobe blocks experienced significant deterioration and exposed wood members contained extensive termite infestation.

ARG Conservation Services (ARG/CS) studied the existing conditions of the building fabric and outlined treatment recommendations for the chapel. Thereafter, ARG/CS was retained to provide specialized conservation treatments to the Chapel in conjunction with Mission San Juan Capistrano's on-site conservation team.

ARG/CS carried out adobe repair and conservation as recommended in the Historic Structures Report, completed by our sister company, Architectural Resources Group. Work included conservation of historic wood elements damaged by termites, adobe unit replacement, adobe plaster restoration, and repointing of brick columns.

ARG/CS continues to assist Mission San Juan Capistrano's conservation team in other conservation efforts throughout the mission complex.