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# The old skills

For some jobs, any old tradesman simply won't do,  
**TERRY SMYTH** writes.

**Y**OU WANT to restore the old place to its former glory, but the old-fashioned skills required are beyond the expertise of most modern tradespeople.

So where do you find a shingler, slater,

count on your fingers the number of roofs in Sydney that have been traditionally shingled – St Mark's Darling Point, Hyde Park Barracks, the Mint and that's about it.



**Smooth operator** Traditional plasterer Joe Stephens (left) at work on a house. The finished result (above) speaks for itself. His firm, Traditional Rendering and Plastering, runs training courses for apprentices and tradesmen who want to specialise in heritage skills.