

THE CULTURAL CENTRE

SPIRES, DOMES AND HUNKYPUNKS



WHY WE LOVE IT

SOAP-BOXES AND LADDERS: The 'Square's' original shape was cruciform; a meeting place for workers, performers and soap-box preachers.

IT'S THE VIBE: The familiar form of heritage buildings – guardians of our city's beginnings.

STYLE GURUS

HEART & SOUL: Christchurch's Gothic Revival Anglican Cathedral, 1864 - 1904 designed by well-known Victorian English architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

MIX AND MATCH: The former chief Post Office, 1879, originally built as government departments, reflects the Gothic style with an Italianate twist...classical arched windows on the ground floor and Venetian Gothic pointed arches above.

MORE THAN MOVIES: The Regent Building of 1905 was fresh and modern in its time - the first major example of Edwardian architecture in the Square.

FASHION FORWARD: The former Municipal Chambers, 1887, was designed by Samuel Hurst Seager in the Queen Anne style. Seager was inspired by this new style which was popular in England at the time.

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

Waitaha and Ngati Mamoe established the Pauri settlement in this general area, while later Ngai Tahu used it for mahinga kai (seasonal food gathering).

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

STONE BY STONE: It took over forty years to complete the ChristChurch Cathedral.

QUIVERING CATHEDRAL: Earthquakes damaged the spire in 1881, 1888 and 1901.

HUNKYPUNKS: Two handsome gargoyles peer down from their lofty perches atop of the former Municipal Chambers, now Our City O-Tautahi.

CHALLENGES

BOOM TOWN: Between 1900 and 1911 the Government Building, Warners Hotel, and the Lyttelton Times Building were all built. What **was** going on?

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>

<http://culturalprecinct.co.nz>

PHOTOS FROM CCC HERITAGE FILES AND PRIVATE COLLECTION