

CULTURAL CLASSICS



WHY WE LOVE IT

EARLY BUILDINGS AND SPECIAL PLACES:

This central city area of natural and architectural beauty – 19th and early 20th century buildings, majestic trees and extensive gardens - provides a striking backdrop for a vibrant arts, cultural and heritage scene.

LASHINGS OF GOTHIC REVIVAL: Medieval inspired stone arches, steeply pitched gabled roofs and spires thread through the precinct.

STYLE GURUS

A FEW OF THE CLASSICS:

Designed by outstanding architect B W Mountfort, **Canterbury Museum's** first phase of development opened in 1870.

Modelled on the Grammar Schools of England, **Christ's College** complex includes buildings designed by the city's leading architects over a 140 year period.

The Arts Centre at various times has been home to the Canterbury College, later Canterbury University, and the buildings of the former Christchurch Boys and Christchurch Girls' High Schools. Gothic inspired, the complex boasts work by several generations of the city's most noted architects.

The Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu was designed by the Buchan Group and opened in 2003. How does it compare to its neighbours? Could it be a future heritage building?

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

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

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

TRAM: C19th - Horse drawn...then steam... **C20th** – electric trams... **1954** - the last of the green and cream trams... **1995** - back they trundle to the precinct.

CHALLENGES

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST: Over 150 years ago, the city's visionary founders planned a unique cultural heart for the province of Canterbury. Education, art, science, government, religion, history and recreation all in an area of less than one square kilometre.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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

<http://culturalprecinct.co.nz>