

WHAT A BEAUTY NEW REGENT STREET



WHY WE LOVE IT

QUIRKY CLASSIC: This Spanish Mission style street was constructed in 1931 when New Zealand was in the grip of the Depression. A street of 40 speciality shops was not only unusual for Christchurch, but unique to the whole of New Zealand.

STYLE GURUS

Designed by local architect H. Francis Willis; also known for designing the Repertory Theatre in Kilmore Street, the Edmonds Clock tower and telephone cabinet in Oxford Terrace and the streamlined Art Deco dwelling, Santa Barbara, in Victoria Street.

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

This site was previously occupied by the Colosseum Building, a large hall built in 1888, used for public gatherings from political speeches to circuses and even roller skating.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

Many people still remember the Coffee Pot as one of Christchurch's most popular places to eat out during the 1950s.

CHALLENGES

New Regent Street was changed to a pedestrian mall in 1994 and while most of the shops are now leased some stalwarts remain. Petersens Ltd Jewellers have been based in New Regent Street since 1939.

The format of a group of speciality shops can be seen as a forerunner to the shopping malls of today. Will shopping malls be seen as design classics in years to come?

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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