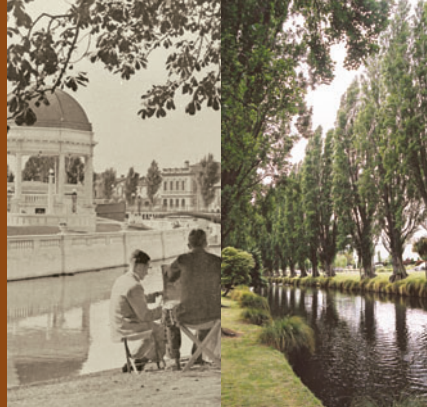


# A RENAISSANCE BEAUTY... & OTHER GIFTS



## WHY WE LOVE IT

**SURE TO RISE:** Thomas Edmonds, founder of Christchurch's Edmonds Factory and Gardens funded or donated many buildings to the city of Christchurch

**CAMBRIDGE TCE:** the Band rotunda, The Theosophical Society Building

**OXFORD TCE:** Clock Tower & Telephone Cabinet

**POPULAR POPLARS:** This area became known as Poplar Crescent, after the suburb of Poplar in London where Thomas Edmonds was born, and for the poplar trees lining the river bank.

**GARDEN CITY:** Edmonds' gifts helped the Christchurch Beautifying Association's plan for the Avon River, including his gift of the circular seat, lighting along the river, the curved balustrade wall along the bank, steps down to the landing at the river's edge, and seats for the reserve.

## STYLE GURUS

Victor Robert Hean's design of the octagonally-shaped Edmond's Band rotunda with tall columns and copper dome in the Italian Renaissance style opened on 11 November 1929.

Francis Willis designed the Edmond's Telephone Cabinet with volcanic rock and Mount Somers limestone facings in 1929, and the Edmonds Clock Tower.

## WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

In the first days of Pakeha settlement in the mid 1800s small ferries provided transportation on the Avon River as far as the present Barbadoes Street bridge.

## WONDERFUL & WEIRD

**A SWING IN THEIR STEP:** The Edmonds Band Rotunda was one of eight rotundas in the city by 1945.

## CHALLENGES

Can your mobile phone do this? At Edmonds Telephone Cabinet you could make a telephone call and post a letter all while enjoying a drink from the acanthus leaf drinking fountain.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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

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