

Dunedin architecture



Digging deeper...

The University of Otago's School of Mines building, designed in 1908 by Edmund Ancombe, was the first of the University's buildings to have electricity installed. Earlier buildings had all been gas lit. Today the building houses the Department of Computer Sciences.



Top of the class

Ted McCoy has been awarded the Gold Medal for lifetime achievement in architecture from the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2004 for services to architecture.

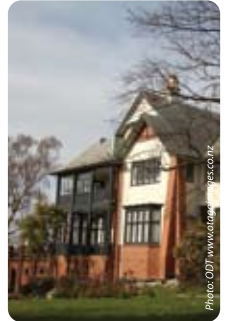
Among the architects who have designed the spaces in which we live, work and conduct business, four of the most celebrated and fondly described are R A Lawson, Edward Ancombe, Basil Hooper and Ted McCoy. Together, they have set the tone for much of Dunedin's commercial, public and domestic cityscape, and between them they span the time from the goldrush to the 21st century.

R A (Robert Arthur) Lawson (1833-1902) set up practice in Dunedin in 1862, after winning the competition to design First Church. He went on to work on William Larnach's 'Castle' and tomb, the Dunedin Municipal Chambers, Otago Boys' High School and the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum.

Edward Ancombe (1874-1948) won the design competition for the School of Mines building at the University of Otago in 1908 and thereafter held the position of architect to the University Council until he left Dunedin. He was the official architect for the 1925-1926 New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition before moving to Wellington in 1929.

Basil Bramston Hooper (1876-1960) worked primarily in the Arts and Crafts style. In 1908 he built a house for MP James Allan on Castle Street that is now a student flat near the Gardens Tavern, but a number of grander commissions followed. He designed the 1909 addition to what is now the Blue Sky restaurant on George Street, and continued working in Otago until 1923 when the family moved to Auckland.

Ted McCoy (born 1925) is a well-known New Zealand modernist architect with roots firmly in the Otago area. One of the easiest examples of his work to see is the central atrium of the Otago Museum. We love it! The buildings he designed during his 50 year career include the 1966 Blackman house in Maori Hill, University College, and the Richardson Building at the University.



This Heriot Row house was designed by Basil Hooper for George Ritchie



Gateway to Threave at 376 High Street, designed by R A Lawson for Watson Shennan

