



BUSINESS SERIES 5

Architects and architecture

The Otago gold rush of 1861, followed by the period of business growth in the 1870s and 1880s, saw the establishment of many significant buildings in Dunedin. The decline of this, the largest city in New Zealand in the 1880s, has enabled many of these buildings to be retained and they now form the largest and most significant collection of Victorian buildings in the country. The architecture of southern New Zealand is well documented with a wide range of building plans and architectural records preserved in the Hocken Collections.

The largest individual archive of architectural plans in the Collections is the one lodged by Dalziel Architects, but it reflects the work of a number of Dunedin architects who were involved in the earlier partnerships. Dalziel Architects had its origins in 1927 when Eric Miller went into partnership with James H. White as Miller & White. Miller had practised on his own from the early 1920s and White had previously been in partnership with L.D. Coombs. A year later, the firm absorbed the business of Edmund Anscombe, whose main customer was the University of Otago. Anscombe had won the design competition for the School of Mines building. He was also the architect for the Otago Girls High School building, the YMCA building and several churches. He had gone into partnership with Leslie Coombs in 1913 and H. McDowell Smith the following year. Anscombe designed the buildings for the New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition held at Logan Park in 1925–26, but felt he didn't receive the credit he was due for the role he played in the Exhibition and left Dunedin in 1929 to practise in Wellington. The Hocken Collections hold an extensive New Zealand and South Seas Exhibition archive under **ARC-0049**, as well as a file of papers relating to the Exhibition from W.H. Naylor, who was on the Works Committee. These include a number of building specifications and other material relating to the Exhibition and are filed under **MS-3326**.

Following Eric Miller's premature death at the age of 52 in 1948, Jim White took in Ian Gilman Dunn in 1949, the practice then being known as Miller White & Dunn. Jim White retired in 1957, being replaced in the firm by his son Geoffrey. Rodney Dalziel joined Miller White & Dunn in 1968, and when Ian Dunn retired the partnership became Miller White & Dalziel. Geoff White, seriously injured in a motor accident, retired in 1992. The partnership was then dissolved, with Rodney Dalziel carrying on as Dalziel Architects from 1994. After retiring in 1997 he spent a considerable time sorting and cataloguing the material before presenting all the available records of the firm and its predecessors from 1927 to the Hocken Collections.



Eric Miller, architect. Renovation for John Glau, 316 George Street, 1929. MS 2931/76

The archive (**ARC-0520**) comprises 110 boxes, 649 plan folders and 22 sundry items and occupies 21.59 lineal metres. It provides a comprehensive collection in excess of 10,000 plans of many significant buildings and private

residences in Dunedin, mostly dating from 1927, but it does include a number of Edmund Anscombe plans dating back to the early part of the century. The buildings include the Regent Theatre, N.Z. Railway Road Services bus station, St John Ambulance, Arthur Barnett, Otago Museum Willi Fels wing, Cargill House and John Wickliffe House, as well as a number of University of Otago buildings, Presbyterian churches, and sports clubrooms. The partnership undertook commissions as far a-field as Wanganui and Christchurch as well as throughout Otago. The list of clients for residential homes reads like a 'Who's Who' of Dunedin society. There are over 2300 plans of specific structures as well as accounting records, newspaper cuttings, photographs and papers relating to business associations and town planning.

Some additional records of the above-mentioned architects are held by the Hocken. There are a number of papers relating to Eric Miller, including personal papers, newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs. Miller was a keen mountaineer and the papers include documentation of his climbing expeditions and of his role as the first Chairman of the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club. These papers are archived under **ARC-0452**, while scripts for radio talks given by Miller in 1938, 1940 and 1945 are housed under **MS-2493/016**. Also recorded separately are Edmund Anscombe's blueprint of the Otago School of Mines (**MS-2973**) and a proposed residence and surgery for dental surgeon T. Fogg (**AG-900**). There is a small file of material on Leslie Douglas Coombs (**Misc-MS-1877**) which provides some biographical details, family notes and includes photographs of some of the houses he designed.

One of the more distinguished Dunedin architects of the 19th century was Robert Arthur Lawson. Born in Scotland in 1833, he went out to Victoria, Australia, at the age of 21. It was in Melbourne in 1861 that he won a competition for the design of First Church of Otago. He subsequently established himself primarily as a church architect in Dunedin, and he also designed Larnach Castle, the Dunedin City Council's Municipal Chambers and the Otago Boys High School, as well as a host of other buildings. The Hocken Collections hold a small number of his drawings and plans under **ARC-0412** while there is a folder of plans for the Dunedin Congregational Church in Gt. King Street held in **Misc-MS-1208-2**. Kelly Aitken wrote *The History of Lawrence Warden's Court and former Post Office* which was designed by Lawson and a copy is held by the Hocken in **Misc-MS-2023**. In 1991 the Hocken Library

held an exhibition on R.A. Lawson and his works. Entitled *from the 'Athens of the North' to the 'Edinburgh of the South': the architecture of Robert Arthur Lawson* it was curated by Jonathon Mane-Wheoki, lecturer in art history at the University of Canterbury who undertook the presentation on behalf of the Otago District Committee of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. His material provides useful historical facts and information on the various buildings designed by Lawson, as well as a catalogue of the exhibition exhibits.

The University Central Library holds a copy of a thesis entitled *Robert Arthur Lawson, Architect 1833–1902* submitted for a Master of Arts degree by W.J. Prior in 1990. The 105-page dissertation, with 45 illustrations, contains a reasonably comprehensive account of Lawson's life. It has a good bibliography. Unfortunately Lawson's Dunedin career, covering 1862–1888 was tarnished when a Royal Commission of Inquiry censured him for design faults in the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum building. He left Dunedin and worked in Melbourne from 1889–1900.

Filed under **MS-1161** are 21 boxes of architectural plans and papers from Owen Ernest MacFie, who graduated as an architect in 1912 and practised in Dunedin with a former class-mate as Macfie & Hood – the principal being Francis Graham Hood. He later worked with A.J. Park & Son, Patent Agents, as the company's Dunedin representative from 1921–33. The archive comprises nearly 600 plans of various buildings and private residences, including entries for various architectural competitions, the business files of Macfie & Hood, involvements with various local bodies in Otago and professional associations such as the Otago Branch of the N.Z. Institute of Architects and personal papers. Another architect associated with Owen Macfie was C. Gardner Dunning. Dunning and his father, William Henry Dunning, came to Dunedin in 1908 to supervise the construction of the N.Z. Express Company building (now Consultancy House). He worked from the same office as the builder, C.F. McDonald. On the death of his father in 1933, C. Gardner Dunning shared his business interests with Owen Macfie during the 1950s before the latter's death in 1960. Dunning died two years later. The modest archive (**MS-2928**) contains five sets of plans of Dunedin homes and buildings, as well as William Dunning's competition design for the Dunedin Town Hall.

The Hocken also holds, under **99-219**, two sketchbooks and a few plans and photographs of

a number of houses designed by Basil Bramston Hooper. Born in India in 1876 Hooper came to New Zealand in 1885 and trained as an architect under J.L. Salmond from 1896–1900. He then travelled to England where he was admitted as an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architecture in 1904. When he returned at the end of that year he was the first young architect in Dunedin with the initials ARIBA after his name. He practised under his own name until 1923 when he moved to Auckland; retired in 1949 and died in 1960. A modest holding of some plans and photographs by Basil Hooper is held under **ARC-0268**.



Basil Hooper, architect. Morris photograph. MS-2023/11

Jim Coster was an apprentice architect who hurt his back and never completed his apprenticeship. The 29 plans he has lodged in the Hocken Collections (**MS-2095**) comprise some of his own plans as well as those of other architects and engineers including Fraser & Galbraith, J.R.G. Hanlon, Mandeno & Fraser and Mason & Wales. Drawings relating to the Southern Wing of St. Dominic's Priory by F.W. Petre for Mason & Wales are held under **81-158**.

The Hocken also has some plans from Dunedin architect, Ian Robert McCallum (**ARC-0532**), who commenced practice as an architect in 1946 and subsequently teamed up with Angus Black as McCallum & Black from 1950. Ian's son Hugh joined the partnership in 1967. Angus Black retired in 1975 and McCallum Snr in 1977. Hugh McCallum subsequently went into partnership with Ken Warburton.

Among individual papers that include architectural plans and architectural records, **Misc-MS-0963** is an 80-page manuscript (1984) by Dunedin photographer and historian Hardwicke Knight on *Residences of the Cargill family in Dunedin* and a Supplement (also 1984) which corrects and expands the earlier information. Under **Misc-MS-1870** Professor John Barsby lodged a history of the Bank of New Zealand building, Princess Street, Dunedin which was built 1879–1883. The Hocken also holds the plans of Guthrie and Larnach's timber factory in Bond Street under **Misc-MS-1919**. Peter Entwisle's article *Saving the Romantic City – Charles Kettle's Plan for Old Dunedin – Identifying and Preserving its Values* is held in **Misc-MS-1930**. Copies of a series of articles on North East Valley history over 1849–2005 include architectural references; they were written by J.G. (Gary) Blackman and are filed under **MS-2704**.

The architecture of Dunedin's stately home *Olveston* was the study of a thesis for an MA degree in Arts by Mary Helen Berry in 2009. The work provides a detailed analysis of the skills of Sir Ernest George and upholds the views of other experts that *Olveston* is correctly sited, and maintains that its position protects the room contents from strong sunlight, and prevents dinner guests from looking into the setting sun. The 459-page thesis is well illustrated. The Boyd family papers (**MS-2779**) contain the architectural plans and blueprints of the Garvan Homestead at Lovell's Flat, South Otago.

A folder of plans and specifications for the Otago Provincial Government's offices in Queenstown by architect Frederick William Burwell is held in **Misc-MS-0132**. Burwell's name crops up again under **Misc-MS-1911** in a report for the Invercargill City Council prepared in 2004 by Dr. Aaron Fox. The illustrated report provides details of architects in Southland as well as a comprehensive summary of the heritage buildings and structures in Bluff. Burwell was born in Scotland in 1846, trained overseas, and initially worked in Queenstown before setting up practice in Invercargill in 1874. Over the following twelve years he designed a number of important buildings in Invercargill, including St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, the early Invercargill hospital complex, Bank of New Zealand, White Swan hotel and a building for Briscoes. The Fox report covers a number of buildings designed by Burwell for Bluff clients. He moved to Melbourne in 1886 and died there in 1915.

G.M. Smyth has lodged with the Hocken Collections a large number of architectural plans

of buildings in the Oamaru area, many from the partnership of Forrester & Steenson. The architectural practice was established by Thomas Forrester and John Lemon in 1872 and John, the only son of Thomas Forrester, took over the business in 1890, following the death of John Lemon in May 1890. He continued on his own until 1921 when he went into partnership with Ivan Steenson as Forrester & Steenson. Forrester retired in 1931 and Ivan Steenson carried on the firm with his son, Harry who was in practice until 1993. Filed under **AG-310** and **83-039** the several hundred plans provide a comprehensive coverage of many buildings and private residences in the Oamaru area including the Oamaru Town Hall, Waitaki Boys High School, Waitaki Girls High School, Union Bank of Australia, Bank of New South Wales, and the Oamaru Gas Department. The Hocken also holds a copy of Conal McCarthy's history *Forrester & Lemon of Oamaru, Architects*. Published by the North Otago branch of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 2002 to mark the 130th anniversary of the founding of Forrester & Lemon, and well illustrated, the book provides an excellent record of the work of this Oamaru partnership.

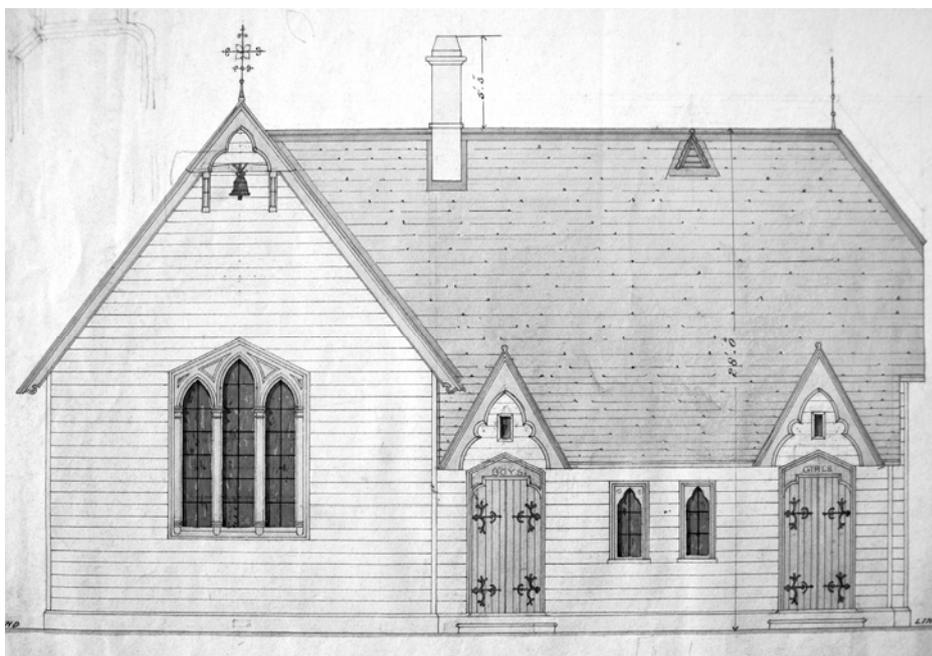
An important set of plans from 1997 (**MS-1896**) covers the transition of the present Hocken building, from the Otago Dairy Producers Cold Storage Company, to its conversion to house the Hocken Collections.

The archives of builders W.H. Naylor Ltd (later Naylor, Love) (**AG-712**), and of William McLellan Ltd (**MS-068** and **01-097**), contain many plans of Dunedin buildings and houses, with some drawn by Dunedin architects: Salmond & Burt and Fraser Oakley Pinfold. The Methodist

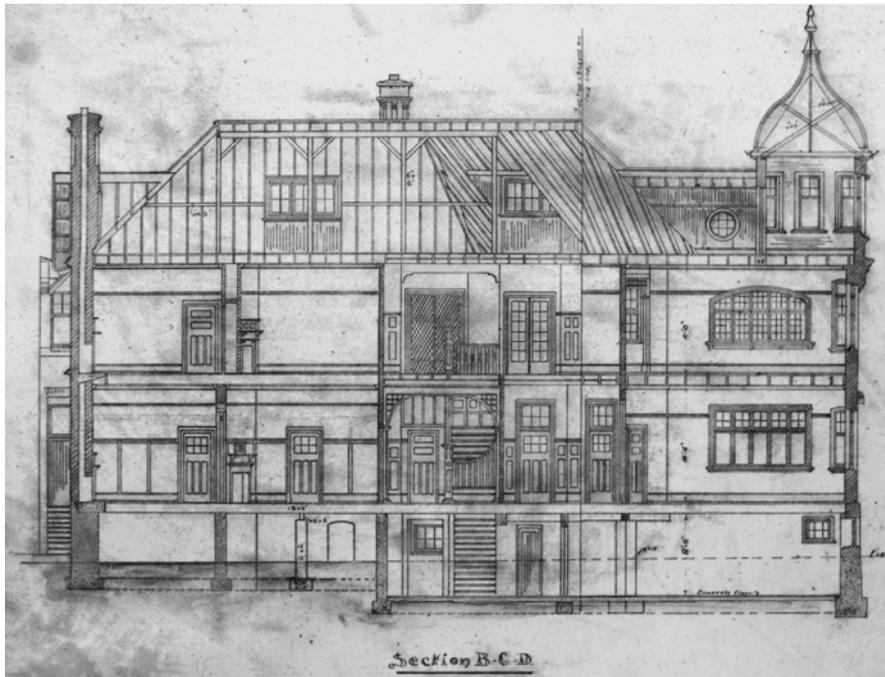
Church archives of Otago and Southland (**ARC-0048**) have plans of many churches, and the Otago Education Board records (**ARC-0005**) contain plans of schools and teacher's residences. There are more building plans within many other Hocken archives. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust records (**ARC-0548**) contain many reports on historic buildings over the period 1964–1984.

Supplementary to the many building and house plans held by the Hocken are a set of architectural landscape plans recording landscaping concepts for established buildings and parks. They were drawn by Robert D. Boocock over the period 1972–1989 and are filed in archive **99-219**. There are also four boxes of records of the Landscape Association of New Zealand (**AG-914**) which was established as the New Zealand Association of Landscape Designers in 1968. The Association changed its name in 1974 to the Landscape Association of New Zealand and wound up in 1978.

The S.E. Kershaw papers comprise photographs, newspaper cuttings and reports from during the period Kershaw was Architectural Building Supervisor with the Ministry of Works in Dunedin until his retirement in 1971. They include comprehensive reports on the Seacliff Hospital and the Cherry Farm Mental Hospital, but the files have not been collated and most of the photographs are not identified. There are also notebooks and brochures on building materials and MOW inspection guidelines. The file, recorded under **93-065**, also contains a report of a Dunedin Office Accommodation survey in 1965 and Kershaw's examination papers dated 1931. The Hocken Collections also hold the archive



W.B. Armson, architect.
East Taieri School, 1862.
AG-294-42/03/04



*Edmund Anscombe, architect.
Thomas Fogg residence and
professional rooms, corner
George and Park Streets, 1909.
Section drawing. AG-900*

of the Vintage Homes Association (**MS-1299**). It was established in Dunedin in 1977 as an informal Association of house owners who owned older homes, and were in the process of restoring their houses in a manner sympathetic to the original style. The activities of the Association were centred on visits to interesting houses and buildings, courses advising on restoration, talks on social history and antiques, and supporting the conservation of important architecture. There was good support by the members in the first few years, but by 2000 interest was waning and the original enthusiasts had faded away. It was decided to wind-up in mid 2001. The archive includes the minute books, correspondence, newsletters, and lists of the members.

Between 1958 and 1961 Dunedin and Mosgiel held several 'Parades of Homes'. The first in Erskine Place, off Isadore Road, Corstorphine, opened on 25 January 1958 with 19 new homes. Held in conjunction with Festival Week the object of the parade was to stimulate interest in house building and ownership, to provide an opportunity for builders and manufacturers to show their wares, and to demonstrate the latest developments in house construction. The houses were in the low or medium price range with prices ranging from £2,650 to £3,100. The Hocken Collections hold a good archive of the first Parade of Homes under **MS-2820**. Mosgiel held Parades in 1959 and 1961 with Dunedin having a second Parade in the intervening year. The Official Guides from 1958–1961 with plans of all the houses are held by the Hocken.

The history of the New Zealand Institute of

Architects, Otago and Southland Branch, is contained in ten boxes under **88-074**. The organization had its origins as the Dunedin Institute of Civil Engineers and Architects on 17 October 1876, but it was no longer active by 1880. The present body first met on 4 September 1900, and R.A. Lawson, F.W. Petre, and N.Y.A. Wales, who were all involved with the 1876 Institute, were office-bearers of the new Institute. The archive comprises minute books, correspondence and industry circulars, as well as many circulars, correspondence and annual reports from the national body of the Institute in Wellington. Other papers include details of conferences held, membership lists, trade circulars and the like over the period 1900–1989. This archive is complemented by the book *Southern Architects – A history of the Southern Branch, New Zealand Institute of Architects* by retired Dunedin architect and Life Member of the Friends of the Hocken Collections, Norman Ledgerwood, which was published in 2009. Apart from photographic material in the aforementioned archives, the Hocken Collections Reader Access files (under Architecture or the actual buildings) contain many sample prints of original photographs of Dunedin and Otago buildings. Amongst the paintings held by the Hocken are a set of historic Dunedin buildings by George O'Brien and a selection of archways, doorways and building segments from D.E. Hutton.

The following list includes additional publications on architects and architecture held by the Hocken Collections, many relating to the architecture of southern New Zealand.

Publications

- Dove, Alan: *Chief Post Office* (1937)
- Evans, Olwyn M.: *Art Deco of the Dunedin Railway Station (N.Z. Road Services Bus Station)* (1998)
- Galer, Lois: *Houses and Homes* (1981)
- Galer, Lois: *More Houses and Homes* (1981)
- Gales, Lois: *Bricks and Mortar* (1982)
- Galer, Lois: *Further Houses and Homes* (1984)
- Galer, Lois: *Historic Buildings of Otago and Southland – a register of classified buildings* (1989)
- Galer, Lois: *Houses of Dunedin* (1995)
- Griffin, R.H.: *Victorian Bank Architecture in New Zealand* (2002)
- Griffiths, G.J. & McCoy E.J.: *Otago Boys High School and its historic neighbourhood* (1983)
- Hamilton, Judith: *Early Churches in and around Dunedin* (2008)
- Knight, Hardwicke & Coutts, Peter: *Matanaka – Otago's first farm* (1975)
- Knight, Hardwicke & Wales, Niel: *Buildings of Dunedin – An Illustrated Architectural Guide to New Zealand's Victorian City* (1988)
- Knight, Hardwicke: *Church Building in Otago* (1993)
- Lemon, Daphne & Bascand, Audrey: *Taieri Buildings* (1970)
- Lemon, Daphne & Bascand, Audrey: *More Taieri Buildings* (1972)
- Ledgerwood, N.W.: *Heart of a City – The Story of Dunedin's Octagon* (2008)
- McCoy, E.J. & Blackman, J.G.: *Victorian City of New Zealand – Photographs of the earlier buildings at Dunedin* (1968)
- McCoy, E.J.: *A Southern Architecture – The work of Ted McCoy* (2007)
- Mee, Peter R.: *St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin* (1986)
- Porter, F.: *Historic Buildings in New Zealand: South Island* (1983)
- Salmond, A.L.: *First Church of Otago, and how it got there* (1983)
- Salmond, Jeremy: *Old New Zealand Houses 1800–1840* (1986)
- Shaw, Peter: *The Fletcher House, Broad Bay, Otago Peninsula* (1992)
- Shaw, Peter: *Whitestone Oamaru – a Victorian architectural heritage* (1995)
- Shaw, Peter: *A History of New Zealand Architecture* (1997)
- Smith, S.J.: *R.A. Lawson & F.W. Petre, their church architecture* (1956)
- Stacpoole, J.: *Colonial Architecture in New Zealand* (1976)
- Wales, Niel: *Buildings of Dunedin – an illustrated architectural guide to New Zealand's Victorian city* (1988)

Wood, David: *New Zealand Houses for Town and Country* (1998)

Gwilt, Joseph: *An Encyclopaedia of Architecture, Historical, Theoretical and Practical* (185) **MS-3183/010**

Pugin, Augustus: *Specimens of Gothic Architecture selected from Various Ancient Edifices in England* (1821) **MS-3183/005**

Journals

There is an extensive resource of architectural journals. Some of the significant holdings are listed below, but there are many other journals on the periphery of the architectural field and anyone interested in housing, modern living, landscaping and the like should peruse the full catalogue.

- Architecture New Zealand* 1973–1974, 1977, 1987–1997, 2009
- Home & Building* 1937–1984, 1989–1999
- Houses New Zealand – the residential architecture magazine* 2008–2009
- Landscape Architecture New Zealand* 2009
- Landscape New Zealand* 1996–1999, 2003–2008
- New Zealand Architect* 1977–1987
- Commercial Design Trends* – various issues Vols 20 [2004] to Vols 24 [2008]
- New Zealand Architecture & Design Trends* – various issues Vols 16 [2000] to Vols 19 [2003]
- New Zealand Design Trends – various issues* Vols 12 [1996] to Vols 15 [1999]
- New Zealand New Home Trends* – various issues Vols 5 [1989] to Vols 25 [2009]
- New Zealand Institute of Architects Journal* – various issues 1912, 1916–1917, 1922–1972, 1973–1974, 1977

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This Bulletin on architects and architecture does not record every item in the Collections but is designed to give an indication of the coverage and range of material available. Researchers should also consult references to Dunedin Urban Architecture, City Planning (pages 69–70), Oamaru Urban (page 39) and Invercargill Urban (page 169) in *Books and Pamphlets on Southern New Zealand* by George Griffiths (2006).

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