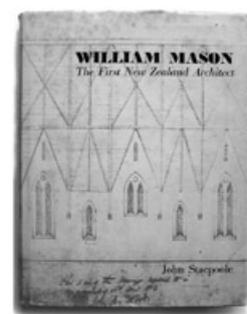


Adding to an already bumper year for Kiwi architectural publishing, the NZ Architectural Publications Trust has just released a book on three Wellington practices: Architecture+, Herriot+Melhuish, and Studio of Pacific Architecture. To celebrate, BLOCK surveys Kiwi monographs.

Out-of-Print 2: Monographs

Readers of recent issues of *Architecture New Zealand* will have followed the minor controversy surrounding Bill McKay's review of *A Southern Architecture*, the recent monograph on Ted McCoy's work. The book, published by Otago University Press, was strongly criticized by McKay for its limited commentary or analytical text. McCoy replied, defending his intentions for the book, and editor John Walsh adjudicated (a masterpiece of literary gymnastics that negotiated the back-and-forth between Mr. McKay and Mr. McCoy without slipping a consonant), while also agreeing that McCoy's book demonstrates a failing common among monographs – a paucity of independent critical comment. The argument has made the nature of architectural publishing in NZ a topical issue. It follows a noticeable swelling of the monographic ranks since the millennium, and particularly since 2004 when the NZ Architectural Publications Trust published the first of its ongoing series of monographs on local practices. Kiwi monographs fall into two broad categories: (i) the research-heavy books on historical figures, most of these to date being on colonial architects; and (ii) celebratory surveys of the work of still-practicing architects, published at the height of their commercial success and often funded, in part at least, by the architects themselves. It is this second kind that dominates the recent wave of monographic activity. What is the role of such books? In a playful yet insightful essay titled "Well, Hello Dollies", Peter Wood pondered this question with reference to five such books (*Architecture NZ*, May/June 2006). He compared them to Greatest Hits CDs and wittily argued that increased publishing on local architecture is necessarily a good thing, while also raising the questions of professional vanity and self interest, and the tendency for the publication of Greatest Hits to erase the Greatest Misses from the published record. The phrase 'vanity press' is used frequently and lightly. It trivializes the value of survey type monographs that document and celebrate the work and careers of often very good architects. Are we being too harsh on our local heroes? Many of the recent monographs on contemporary figures do include contextualizing essays. Further, all around the world monographs present a sanitized version of architects' outputs; the projects and stories presented are those that the architects are happy to have shown and told. For example, even a quick flick through Japanese magazines from the 1970s yields dozens of projects omitted from Tadao Ando's *Complete Works*. Really complete surveys are usually only produced well after an architect's death, and even then only for the most significant figures. But what accounts for the boom in local publishing since the millennium? In large part, it can be ascribed to simple macro-economics – the sustained building boom has freed up cash and provided the means to pay photographers' and printers' bills. Another factor has been the energy of some key individuals: Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, who as a prolific writer and television presenter has placed design and design history in front of a much broader audience, and John Balasoglou, whose work with the NZ Architectural Publications Trust and Balasoglou Books has significantly improved the quality and breadth of Kiwi architectural publication. There is more to come – monographs are pending on Wellington modernists, John Blair, Holmes Group and Group Architects. Even as the architecture industry slips into the economic doldrums, it seems the health of our architectural culture is on the up. *Julia Gatley & Andrew Barrie*

1 1971 John Stacpoole *William Mason: The First NZ Architect* Univ. of Auckland Press, Akld

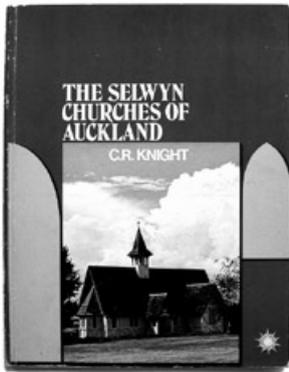


This book describes the life of William Mason, the first professionally trained architect to live and work in this country. Mason's story is extraordinary – in addition to his architectural achievements – including Government House (1856) in Auckland and St. Matthew's Church (1874) in Dunedin – he became a member of Parliament and was later the first Mayor of Dunedin. The release of this book was a groundbreaking event for NZ architecture, being one of the first serious, full-length volumes to appear on the subject. Stacpoole, an architect and architectural historian, went on to become one of our most prolific architectural authors.

2

1972

C.R. Knight
Selwyn Churches of Auckland
Reed, Wellington

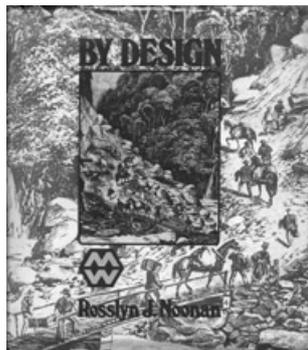


Although he served as President of the NZIA, Professor C.R. Knight is best known in NZ's architectural history as the figure against which architecture students at the University of Auckland rebelled in the years after WWII, a period of ferment that produced the Architectural Group. The conservatism Knight's critics complained of is confirmed in his choice of hundred-year-old subject matter for his book. Knight died before the book was published, but it is a very useful guide to Selwyn's churches, well illustrated and full of the intriguing stories of the buildings.

3

1975

Rosslyn J. Noonan
By Design
MoW, Wellington



This book, subtitled *A Brief History of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Works, 1870-1970*, is a history of the Department/Ministry rather than a history of its works. It was conceptualized as a centennial history, but then took another five years to complete. It is chronologically structured and emphasizes the key role of politicians like Julius Vogel and Bob Semple in the realization of public architecture and engineering. The chapter on 1950 to 1970 is perhaps of most interest to architects today, with the MoW having produced many fine public buildings under Government architects such as Gordon Wilson and Fergus Sheppard.

4

1979

Terence E.R. Hodgson
Charles Tilleard Natusch: A Folio of Houses
Eastgate, Wellington

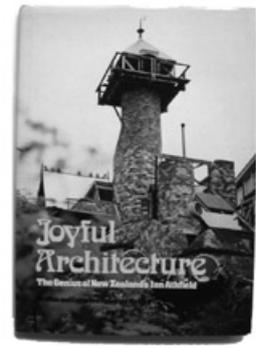


This hard-to-find book is a handcrafted limited edition – only 400 copies were produced – with textured paper, stitched binding, a paper dust jacket, and tipped in black-and-white photos. It includes a brief biography of C. T. Natusch, who was known for his large Edwardian country houses, built from Hawkes Bay through to Rangitikei and Wanganui. Many of them are the homesteads for large farms, although the most accessible of them today is the highly recommended Wanganui B&B, Bushy Park (1906) (the hosts also provide dinner). His three sons became architects, as did his grandson, the Hawkes Bay modernist Guy Natusch.

5

1980

Gerald Melling
Joyful Architecture
Caveman Press, Dunedin

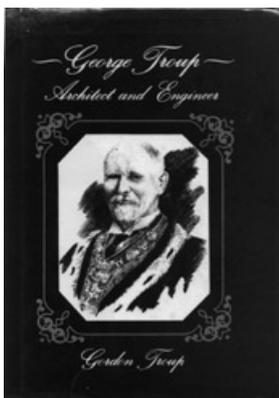


Cracking open this masterpiece of 70s publishing, you can almost smell the fondue; it's edge-to-edge recycled bricks, circular windows, and shaggy beards. Subtitled *The Genius of New Zealand's Ian Athfield*, the book was put together not long after Ath won a high-profile international housing competition in Manila, but by the time the book hit the shelves Athfield was moving beyond his astonishing early houses and housing projects to work more in the commercial and civic realms. The book was put together by Gerald Melling, then a young architect with literary cred as a journalist, poet, and novelist who was later to serve as editor of *NZ Architect* magazine.

6

1982

Gordon Troup
George Troup: Architect & Engineer
Dunmore, Palmerston North

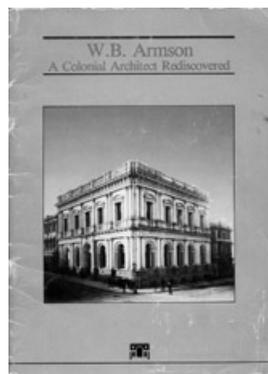


More a biography than a monograph, this book was written by George's son Gordon. Troup senior was Chief Architect for the Railways Department, and is best known for the Edwardian Baroque Dunedin Railway Station (1904-06) and the proto-modern Railway House Factory at Frankton Junction in Hamilton (1921-22). Like the architect William Mason before him and Michael Fowler after him, Troup was also a mayor – serving as city father in Wellington from 1927 to 1931. Troup also eventually joined the select group of NZ architects to receive a Knighthood.

7

1983

I. Lochhead & J. Mane
W.B. Arnson: A Colonial Architect Re-discovered
McDougall Art Gallery, Chch

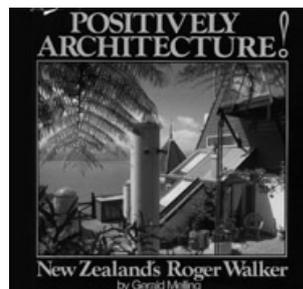


This exhibition catalogue included a series of essays on Christchurch-based William Arnson, active in the second half of the 19th century. He worked in classical and Gothic languages, being known particularly for his classical bank designs. This slim volume is one of a number of exhibition catalogues produced by Ian Lochhead on important South Island architects. Others include *Peter Beaven – Architect: Buildings and Projects* (Univ. of Cant., 1995), *Arts and Crafts Churches of Canterbury* (Univ. of Cant., 1996), and *B.W. Mountfort & the Gothic Revival in Canterbury* (McDougall Art Gallery, 1998).

8

1985

Gerald Melling
Positively Architecture!
Square One Press, Dunedin



Melling's second celebratory Wellington monograph is another great read, complete with baby photo and Roger Walker's first building – 'Fort Nyte' ('no girls allowed') – a wooden play hut produced when he was a boy. It articulates the young architect's interest in Japanese Metabolism, which helps in understanding his early work: cylindrical cores, circular windows and cellular spaces meet the timber and corrugated iron, pitched roofs and finials of the Kiwi cottage tradition. These pages also record Walker's now demolished Wellington Club in the capital and Centrepoint complex in Masterton. Until recently, and much to our surprise, Parsons were still selling new copies of this book.

9

1989

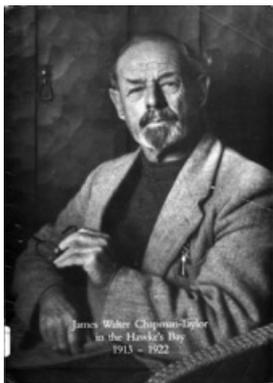
Warren & Mahoney Architects:
1958-1989
W&M Architects, Chch



According to the preface, this self-published book started life as a promotional pamphlet that grew into a book. The book was produced at the high point of W&M's post-modern arc, and includes much that was omitted from the recent New Territory monograph and in that sense gives a more even coverage of the firm's historical output. The text is purely descriptive, but the book's moody black-and-white photos present both high-modern and post-modern works in an equally beautiful light. A must have. W&M fans should also seek out the 2005 volume, *New Territory: Warren & Mahoney: 50 years of New Zealand Architecture*. (Balasoglou Books, Auckland) and, of course, *BLOCK Itinerary No. 15, Warren & Mahoney in Christchurch 1*.

10

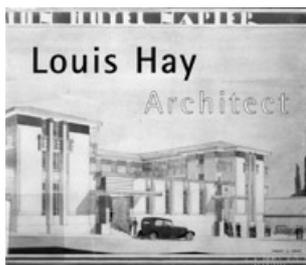
1991
Judy Siers
*James Walter Chapman-Taylor
in the Hawke's Bay 1913-1922*
Hawke's Bay Cult. Trust, Napier



This slim (24 pp.) volume demonstrates very literally that the Arts & Crafts architect and builder J. W. Chapman-Taylor was a serious research interest for Siers many years before the completion of her massive, Montana Book Award-winning tome, *The Life and Times of James Walter Chapman-Taylor* (Wellington: Millwood, 2007). It comprises biographical information as well as text, drawings and photos of the Wellington-based Chapman-Taylor's eleven Hawke's Bay buildings, of which Whare-Ra is the most intriguing, with its basement temple and vault for the Order of the Golden Dawn.

11

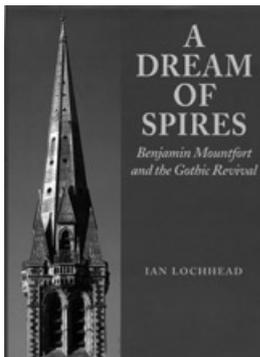
1999
Peter Shaw
Louis Hay Architect
Hawke's Bay Cult. Trust, Napier



Hawke's Bay architect Louis Hay had a particular enthusiasm for American architecture, and was heavily influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, with a lineage extending back through Louis Sullivan to the important Romanesque Revival architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. Hay's best-known buildings are Waiohika Homestead in Gisborne (1920-26) and the National Tobacco Company Building (now Rothmans) in Napier (1931-33). His work represents a key moment on NZ architecture's slow and uncertain journey towards modernism. The HBCT also published Robin Craw's *Keith Murray in Context* (1996) and Paul Waite's *In The Beaux-Arts Tradition: William Gummer Architect* (2005).

12

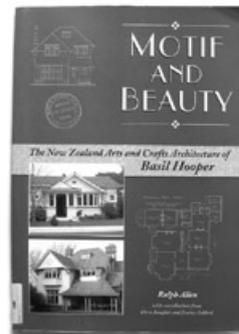
1999
Ian Lochhead
A Dream of Spires: Benjamin Mountfort & the Gothic Revival
Canterbury Univ. Press, Chch



A substantial and scholarly work, and the culmination of many years of research on one of New Zealand's leading Gothic Revival architects. It contextualizes Mountfort's work with reference to Pugin, Ruskin, Butterfield and Scott and demonstrates the breadth of Mountfort's oeuvre with detailed discussions of both key and lesser known projects including the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, the Canterbury Museum and many churches, houses and commercial buildings. Illustrated with original drawings and period photographs. Essential reading for anyone with an interest in the 19th century.

13

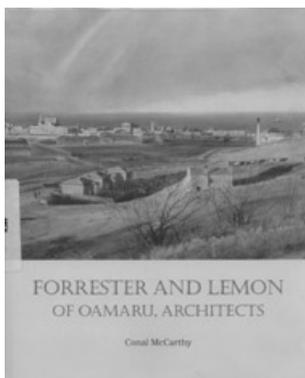
2002
Ralph Allen
Motif and Beauty
Harp Tree Press, Dunedin



Having trained in London, Basil Hooper spent his early years in Dunedin producing beautiful Arts and Crafts houses. He shifted to Auckland in 1923, where perhaps his best-known building is the 'Pembroke' flats on Symonds Street. Hooper's practice suffered a series of financial setbacks in the 1920s and 30s, and by the time his practice had recovered after the depression, the heyday of Arts and Crafts had passed. The book includes extensive information (although only a few plans) on Hooper's key works, as well as complete lists of his output. A quick web search showed five Hooper-designed houses currently on the market in Dunedin, so if you like what you see in the book...

15

2002
Conal McCarthy
*Forrester and Lemon:
Oamaru, Architects*
NZHPT Nth. Otago Br., Oamaru



In the 1880s, the port town of Oamaru was as large as Los Angeles. Forrester and Lemon were responsible for the majority of Oamaru's beautiful limestone buildings, produced during a period of rapid economic growth in the 1870s and 1880s. Thereafter the town slipped into a slumber, and fortunately for F&L fans the lack of any later economic booms meant the city's 19th century architectural heritage has been left largely unmolested. Those keen on this subject matter should look out for Peter Shaw's *Whitestone Oamaru: A Victorian Architectural Heritage* (Nelson: Craig Potton Publishing, 1995).

15

2004
A. Sarnitz & E. B. Ottlinger
*Ernst Plischke: Modern
Architecture for the New World*
Prestel, Munich and London



Thorough in its coverage and extensively illustrated with original drawings and both period and new photographs, this quality volume demonstrates that international interest in NZ material is possible – when the material demonstrates international connections and/or profile. The NZ components of this book on the well-known Austrian modernist draw heavily from previous scholarship by local writers, particularly Linda Tyler, who completed an MA on Plischke in 1986. A transcript of Linda's 1984 interview is a valuable inclusion.

Also:

Voices of Silence:
Futuna Chapel (1987)
Russell Walden
Victoria Univ. Press, Wgtn
This NZIA National Award-winning book is the most substantial thing available on the almost universally admired work of John Scott.

Athfield Architects & Aasen Athfield + Co 1968-1993 ('93)
World Architecture Review Agency, Shenzhen
Actually a whole of issue of a magazine rather than a book. Hard to find.

Architect of the Angels : the Churches of Frederick de Jersey Clere (2002)
Susan Maclean
Steele Roberts, Wellington

Noel Lane Architect: Recent NZ Projects (2003)
James Ross (ed.)
Vision Warriors, Auckland
The book was also published as a signed and numbered limited edition in a cardboard slipcase.

Campus Confessions: Architecture and the Central Institute of Technology (2004)
Andrew Leach
Balasoglou Books, Auckland

James Bennie: Wellington Architect 1873-1945 (2005)
Tony Froud
S.P.

Still in Print:

Architectus: Bowes Clifford Thomson (2004)
Amanda Hyde de Krester, ed.
NZ Arch. Pub. Trust, Akld

William Beatson: A Colonial Architect (2005)
Ian Bowman
Balasoglou Books, Auckland

Pete Bossley Architects ('05)
Stephen Stratford, ed.
NZ Arch. Pub. Trust, Akld

JASMAX (2007)
Stephen Stratford, ed.
NZ Arch. Pub. Trust, Akld

Stephenson & Turner (2006)
John Balasoglou, ed.
Balasoglou Books, Auckland

Colonial Architect: The Career of Edward Bartley, 1839-1919 (2006)
M.W. Bartley
First Edition, Wellington

An Excellent Recruit: Frederick Thatcher (2007)
Margaret Alington
Polygraphia, Auckland
Thatcher fans should also check out Alington's *Frederick Thatcher and St Paul's: An Ecclesiological Study* (Wellington: NZHPT/ Govt. Printer, 1965)

A Southern Architecture: The Work of Ted McCoy (2008)
Ted McCoy
Otago Univ. Press, Dunedin