

The Design of the Domain Winter Gardens

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<https://doi.org/10.34074/aslm.2023203>

Abstract

First constructed in 1916, the Winter Gardens in Auckland was William Gummer’s first public building in New Zealand. Listed as Category 1 by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1989 and beloved by Aucklanders, the gardens remain under-researched in Aotearoa New Zealand’s architectural historiography. This paper aims to comprehensively analyse the Winter Gardens, exploring their historical context, architectural design, and the unique relationship between architecture and garden.

This study sheds light on the distinctive architectural character of the Winter Gardens. The spatial organisation and layout between the indoor and outdoor spaces, the enclosure of space, and the structural system, materials and architectural elements that define this character can be understood by examining the architectural principles employed by William Gummer, learned during his time at London’s Royal Academy of Art and under the tutelage of Edwin Lutyens. This paper will also discuss the client’s motivations and the building’s construction history.

This research aims to deepen our understanding of the architectural significance of the Winter Gardens in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Keywords: Winter Gardens, William Gummer, Gummer and Ford, Auckland architecture, classical architecture, traditional architecture

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This publication may be cited as:

Moore, Cameron. “The Design of the Domain Winter Gardens.” *Asylum* 2 (2023): 289–302.

<https://doi.org/10.34074/aslm.2023203>

Published by ePress and
Unitec School of Architecture

epress@unitec.ac.nz

www.unitec.ac.nz/epress/

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Victoria Street West, Auckland 1010
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ISSN 2463-4190