



Our Belfast

Russell, J. (Author). (2007). Our Belfast. Exhibition

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

Publication Status:

Published (in print/issue): 01/11/2007

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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our
BELFAST

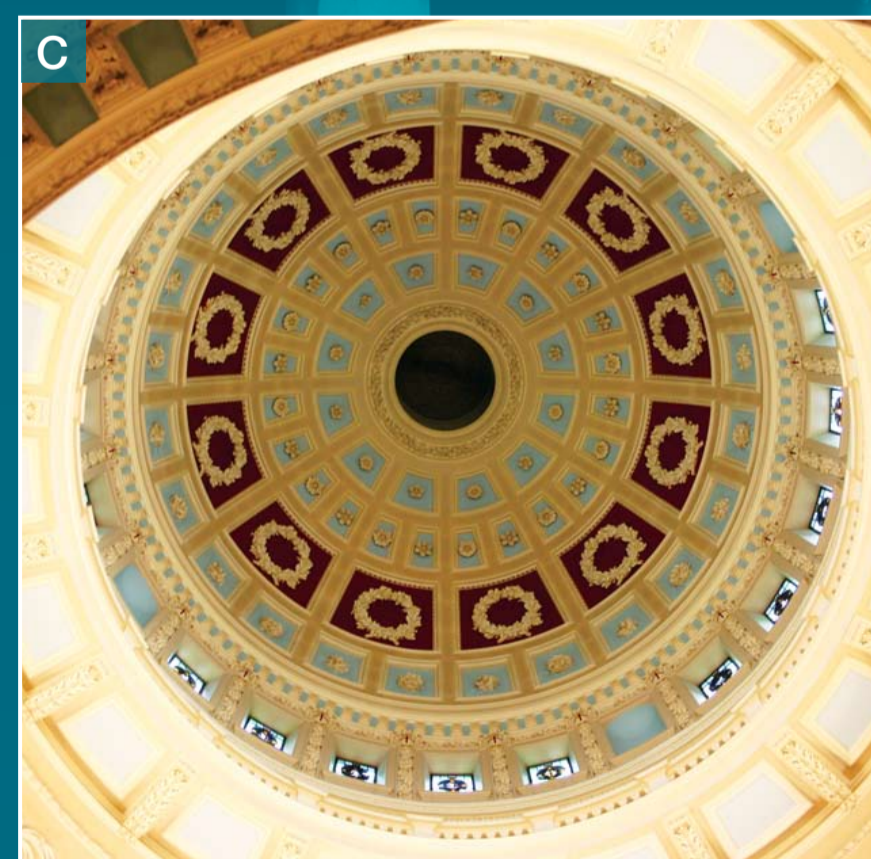
CITY HALL

Following Belfast's appointment to city status, granted by Queen Victoria in 1888, Belfast City Hall was designed by Alfred Brumwell Thomas to reflect this status and was completed in 1906 at the cost of £500,000.

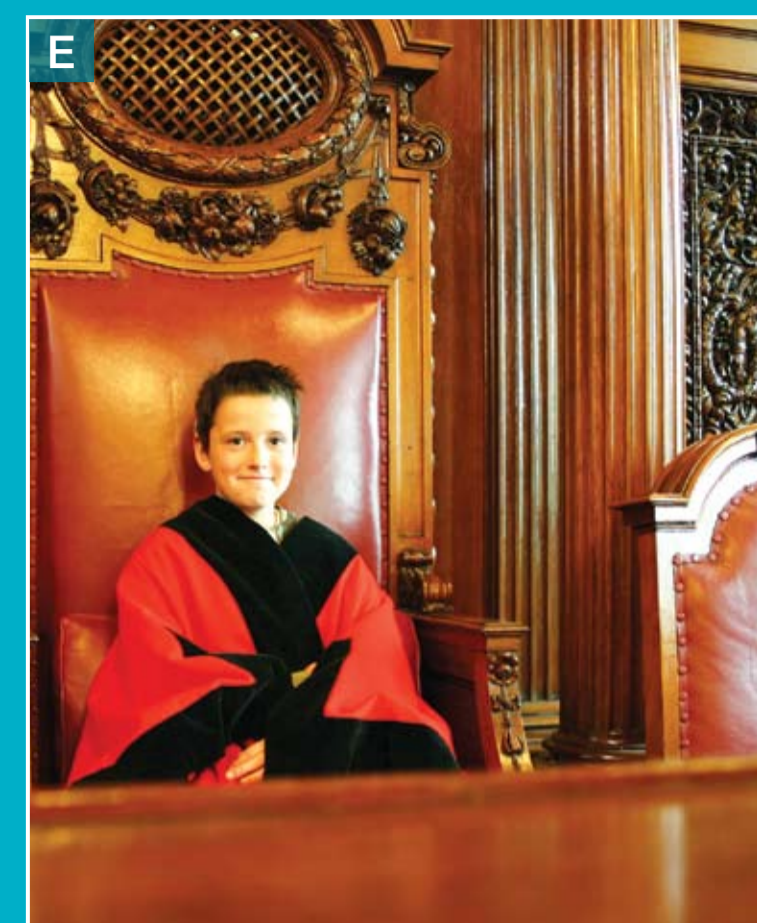
Built of Portland stone, the building is an iconic reflection of the city of Belfast today. It covers a site of one and a half acres and unbeknownst to those who haven't been inside, has a courtyard in the middle. Its most famous feature, the central dome, is recognised across the city due to its striking green copper roof.

The City Hall of Durban, South Africa is almost an exact replica of Belfast's City Hall. It was built in 1910 and designed by Stanley G Hudson, who was inspired by Brumwell Thomas' design.

Although well known as the building that sits at the entrance to Royal Avenue, many have never ventured inside to view the interior space of the City Hall. Both the entrance hall and the grand staircase are lined with four types of marble, three from Italy and one from Greece.



- A The beautiful entrance portico
- B Looking up at the fancy detail on top of the columns
- C Inside the central dome
- D Bringing Council to order
- E Councillor Owen



Rhain, age 7



Owen, age 10

The Great Hall was badly damaged during a bombing raid of the Second World War but was completely restored, including the original seven stained glass windows. At the outbreak of the war in 1939, the windows were removed in order to keep them safe. Four of the windows show the Coats of Arms of the four provinces of Ireland - Ulster, Munster, Connacht and Leinster. The others feature portraits of William III, Queen Victoria and King Edward VI.

City Hall is possibly the most famous icon of Belfast. As it has now completed its centenary celebrations, City Hall will close for some time in order for renovations and essential maintenance to be carried out to preserve the building for the years to come.

“I liked sitting in the big seat and wearing the robe... and the windows were really pretty.”

Charis, age 10