



PUBLIC TRUST BUILDING

Does The City Want It ?

The main Public Trust Building and the three adjoining buildings are scheduled for demolition and replacement by a multi-storey tower block.

The Public Trust Office gives the following reasons for including their main building for demolition:

1. It is a high earthquake risk and adequate strengthening would involve considerable expense.
2. It provides an unsatisfactory working environment for Public Trust staff.
3. It is inflexible and is not suitable for modern office equipment and layout.
4. It does not project a suitable image of an efficient business organisation.
5. It is considered old and unattractive.
6. It under-utilizes an extremely valuable corner site.

The Architectural Centre does not share this enthusiasm for demolition.

The Public Trust Building is unique, with its rich ornamental facade making an important contribution to Wellingtons cityscape. The values of society for which it was built have changed, with todays social values producing buildings with completely different qualities.

Older buildings convey a necessary spirit of permanence and stability to cities. By continued demolition we give no acknowledgement to our citys past and we destroy its identity and its soul.

Older buildings provide contrasting visual interest and prevent the present day disasters of which the Terrace development is an example.

Despite its earthquake risk the main Public Trust Building should not be demolished.

The Architectural Centre is anxious to survey opinion amongst Wellington Architects with this enclosed questionnaire. The results will be published in "Off-Centre". A prompt reply would be appreciated.

B.R. HOPE
President
Wellington Architectural Centre.