

EXPLORE THE EXCHANGE DISTRICT!

Exchange is another word for buying and selling products, which is known as trade. Winnipeg is in the middle of Canada and of North America. At first, being in the middle, far from other places, Winnipeg was isolated. With the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881, the city became a central gateway, or opening, for trade to the rest of what’s now Western Canada. The trade of grains such as wheat brought money and growth. More and more people, products, businesses, and banks transformed Winnipeg from a tiny town into a big city. As the city grew, trade shifted from the Forks to what is now the Exchange District National Historic Site.. The area became a centre for making, storing, and hauling products. Many incredible buildings were constructed for the new businesses coming to the city. This building boom ended as growth slowed down before the First World War.

The Cube

The OMS Stage, known as the Cube, was built in 2010 in Old Market Square. The Square is a public space at the heart of the Exchange District. Festivals like the Jazz Festival and Fringe Festival bring big crowds here for music, theatre, and more. The architects, 5468796 architecture, wanted to design a stage that would be attractive as a piece of art year-round, not only while serving as a stage. The metal screens are made up of 18,000 metal pieces tied together by cables.

Gault Building (Artspace)

100 Arthur Street

The Gault Building, now called the Artspace building, was built by the Gault Company. The company sold dry goods, like cloth, and the building was designed as a place to show off and sell these products. The building has big windows and a strong structure to support floors full of goods. The structure is a heavy timber frame with a heavy stone base. The Gault Company was so successful that in 1903, just two years after the building opened, two floors were added to the top. An extra building was also added at that time and is connected by a dray-way. A dray-way is a tunnel between two buildings used as a covered loading area for horse-drawn carts called drays.

Union Bank Tower

504 Main Street

The Union Bank Tower is not the tallest building in the area, but it was the first to use new technology for constructing skyscrapers. The building has a steel frame which is stronger and more flexible than the wood frames of earlier buildings in the neighbourhood. The frame is like the bones of a building. Even though the building was constructed using new technology, the decorations on it make it look more traditional.

City Hall

510 Main Street

City Hall is a place where elected leaders gather to make decisions and choices about schools, buses, firefighters, water, buildings, and more. The Winnipeg City Hall building was constructed in 1964, replacing an earlier City Hall that was torn down. This building was designed by architects Green Blankstein Russell. There is Tyndall Limestone on the outside of the building. Tyndall Limestone is found just north of Winnipeg and is over 450 million years old! If you look closely, you may be able to find fossils from ancient creatures and plants hiding in the stone.

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre

174 Market Avenue

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (RMTTC) was designed by the architecture firm Waisman Ross Blankstein Coop Gillmor Hanna. The theatre opened in 1970. The building is a good example of the brutalist style of architecture. The word brutalism comes from the French phrase *béton brut*, which means raw concrete. The design of RMTTC includes a large amount of concrete. The building is now a National Historic Site and is recognised as one of Canada’s landmark buildings!

Millennium Centre

389 Main Street

The Millennium Centre was constructed in 1910 for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Many of the banks constructed during this time look like ancient temples. Banks used this style—which is called the neoclassical style—to show customers that they were strong, powerful, and trustworthy just like ancient temples. If you look around, you can see several other buildings that have neoclassical elements. There were so many banks in this area that it became known as Banker’s Row.

Steinkopf Gardens

In between the Centennial Concert Hall and the Manitoba Museum is a public space called the Steinkopf Gardens. It was originally designed in the late 1960s by landscape architect Dennis Wilkinson. Landscape architects design places to be safe and accessible—meaning everyone can use the spaces—by providing areas to walk, sit, play, exercise, and explore. When the garden was built, it had a large pool with 16 fountains! In 2011 the landscape architecture firm HTFC Planning + Design, redesigned the space to add a ramp and Tyndall limestone seating, making it accessible to everyone.

The Winnipeg Architecture Foundation is a non-profit, registered charitable organisation dedicated to advancing the awareness and appreciation of Winnipeg’s built environment through public education.

For more information about Winnipeg buildings, landscapes, and architects, please visit winnipegarchitecture.ca.

Produced with support from the Exchange District Biz.

MAP & COVER ILLUSTRATIONS: Kaj Hasselriis

 exchangedistrict.org

 [@Ex_District_Wpg](https://twitter.com/Ex_District_Wpg)

DESIGN: Burdocks



