

NORWICH SCULPTURE TRAILS

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1 City Hall and City Centre



Homage to Sir Thomas Browne by the French sculptors Anne and Patrick Poirier.



The entrance to City Hall on St Peter's Street by C.H.James and S.R.Pierce **1** of 1938 is flanked by two Assyrian-inspired bronze lions by Alfred Hardiman dated 1936. Hardiman also designed three stone figures at the back of the Council Chamber to reflect the Council's responsibilities: *Recreation* on the left; *Wisdom* in the centre and *Education* on the right.

James Woodford's 1938 bronze doors for City Hall show Norwich's manual trades – from bottling wine on the top left to artificial silk weaving at bottom right, with the City's history in the centre. At the same time Woodford designed the bronze bases for the flagpoles on the memorial gardens opposite. These are about to be redesigned with the 1927 memorial, by Sir Edwin Lutyens, turned to face City Hall, and a new sculpture of *Leaves* by Paul de Monchaux towards the market.



The main, East, window of the Guildhall of 1535 **2** is set in decorative flushwork and flanked by putti holding coats of arms, including those of the City. The Victorians added the Bassingham doorway from London Street, the angel doorway towards the market, the clock tower and drinking fountain.

George Skipper designed St Giles House **3** in 1906, for the Norwich and London Accident Assurance, with striking urns on the sky line. For the offices of the Norfolk Daily Standard at No. 7 St Giles Street he included terracotta roundels of William Caxton (c. 1422 - c. 1491), the first English printer and Daniel Defoe (1660-1731), a novelist and distinguished journalist.

Skipper designed Jarrolds department store on the corner of Exchange and London Streets in 1903-05, a skilful treatment of the new type of department store with large, carefully framed windows, and the names of the authors published by Jarrolds in cartouches above



The shop now incorporates the facade of Skipper's 1896 office at no. 7 London Street **4**. The reliefs show his firm's trades and clients inspecting a site and cartouche, similar to that chosen for the exuberant doorway of the London and Provincial Bank of 1907 at no. 30 London Street (now Gap).

Norfolk House, 1951 **5** in Exchange Street, stands on the site of Saxon crypts, which inspired the combination of the coats of arms of the Saxon kingdom with St George's. The shields turn into waves for the wherry designed by Fletcher Watson.



Gybson's Fountain **6** in the Anchor Quay development off Westwick Street was a gift from the brewer Andrew Gybson in 1578 to celebrate his son Robert's entry into the City's Freemen the previous year. The Anchor to the side is the 1868 trade mark of Bullards Brewery from the base of their chimney.

The Lanes **7** mark a traditional shopping and manufacturing area to the north of City Hall, including part of Pottergate, Lobster, Goat and Swan Lanes. Oliver Creed designed the polyurethane bollards with bronze tops, madder coloured since madder was used in the local dyeing industry.

The entrance to Skipper's 1899 Royal Arcade from Back of the Inns and Castle Street **8** is a stunning art nouveau façade with stained glass window. Working with the London based ceramicist W.J. Neatby Skipper added tiles throughout the fashionable shopping centre, with peacocks strutting in the foliage.



In Henry Pegram's 1905 bronze on Hay Hill **9** Sir Thomas Browne (born in Norwich in 1605) contemplates a broken urn – the subject of one of his books *Urn Burial*. The setting was greatly improved in 2005-2007 with *Homage to Sir Thomas Browne* by the French sculptors Anne and Patrick Poirier. The marble brain and eye were among the scientific topics explored by Sir Thomas, who had lived near Hay Hill and was buried in St Peter Mancroft.



The terracotta windows of Skipper's *Prêt a Manger* **10** of 1902, opposite Sir Thomas Browne, served to advertise the exotic products sold by the original ground-floor shop, a grocer's. Two years earlier Skipper had designed offices for the accountant Charles Larkins (now Nationwide) on Red Lion Street, then being redeveloped and widened. Skipper's richly decorated façade is topped by a figure brooding over his accounts.

In 1901 Skipper won the competition for the new premises for the Norwich Union Life Offices in Surrey Street **11**. Above the main door a winged hourglass, for the flight of time, is combined with a handshake for Amity and the snake biting its tail



for eternity. This was the emblem of the Amicable Society, founded in 1706, acquired by the Norwich Union in 1864, under the direction of Sir Samuel Bignold (1815-1875), shown by L. Chavalliaud as mayor. Bishop Talbot (1659-1730), in the other niche. was the key investor in the Amicable. Inside there are two relief panels in the entrance by A. Stanley Young and the central canopy in the Marble Hall, with its fashionable fairy, designed to disperse the warm air heating, was by Skipper's collaborator H.C. Fehr.

Other sculpture nearby: Surrey Street outside Norwich Union's Sentinel house, *Gaea* by Colin Miller 1990; Chapelfield Gardens, *Kemp's Men* by Mark Goldsworthy, 2000; Assembly House Gardens, *Putto* by James Woodford, ca. 1938 installed in 1954; Chapelfield Shopping Centre, *Spire* by Rob Olins, 2005; St Stephen's Church, *Gates and Railings* by Wolfgang and Heron, 2005

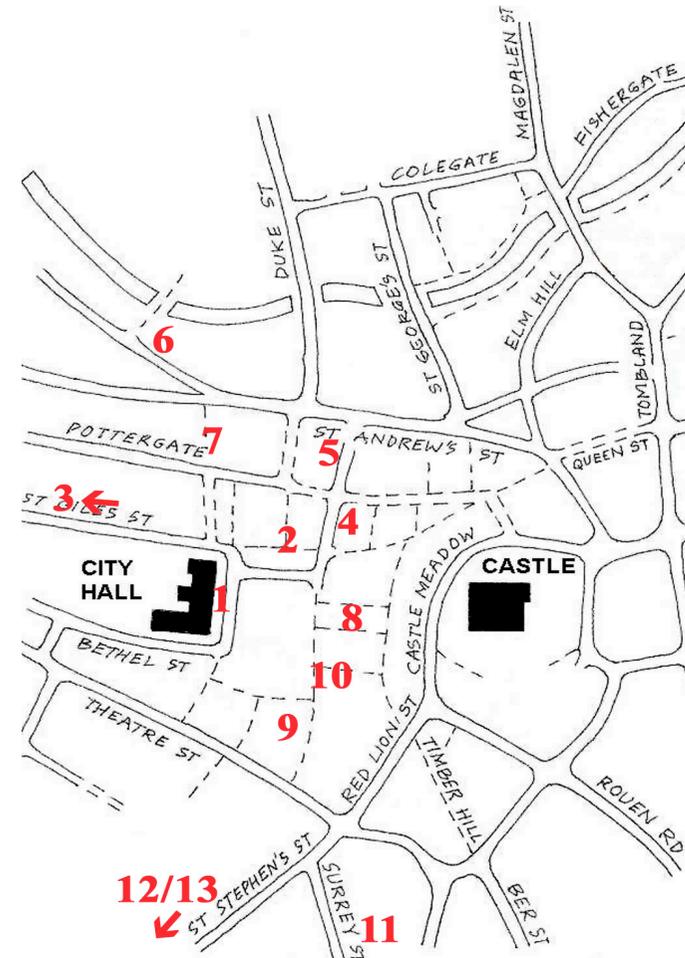
Further out: The large mural of *St Stephen's Gates* **12** by J. Moray-Smith of 1937 on the Coachmakers Arms, showing the main gateway from London, demolished in 1793.

Charity **13** by Sir Joseph Boehm, off Newmarket Road in front of the pond on the development by Charles Church. The statue comes from a drinking fountain for horses and their drivers coming into Norwich, bequeathed by Sir John Boileau, and installed in 1876. The fountain was demolished in 1965.



University of East Anglia off the Earlham Road. Norman Foster's Sainsbury Centre houses the collection of Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury with outstanding sculpture from all over the world, and outside displays three bronzes by Henry Moore, the doyen of British sculptors.

Other work on campus includes: *Extrapolation of Leaves of Books*, by Liliame Lijn, 1962, behind the Library; *For Bristol* by John Hoskin, 1968, outside the Music Centre; *Proximity* by Ian Tyson, 2006 in front of Sir Denis Lasdun's Ziggurats.



For further information on the City's historic buildings consult www.heritagecity.org

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