Asheville Architecture Trail

Asheville is a family-friendly way to experience Asheville! It’s a fun, interactive and educational introduction to the history and culture of our city. Strolling our trails and wandering downtown, you’ll hear stories and magical public art treasures while you learn about the history and culture of Asheville’s intriguing past. With 30 stations along the Urban Trail and a casual two-hour time travel experience, each trail artwork, contact the City of Asheville:

For inquiries about contributing artists
AshevilleArtExperience@gmail.com

For information on additional trail maps
AshevilleArchitectureTrail.com

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First Baptist Church
North Carolina architect Douglas Ellington based the church’s sanctuary on the Duomo di Firenze in Florence, Italy. With its layered colored tiles, terra cotta moldings, Art Deco detailing and pink marble walls, First Baptist was completed in 1927.

Buncombe County Courthouse
The Neo-Classical courthouse was designed by the Washington, DC, firm of Frank Milburn. A sweeping marble staircase, coffered ceiling and mosaic tile floor adorn the lobby. When completed in 1928, the 17-story building was the tallest local government building in North Carolina.

The City Building
Douglas Ellington’s Art Deco masterpiece, the 1928 City Building features a zigzag roof covered with red tiles splitting into layers of green and gold feather motifs. Interiors feature murals by New York artist Clifford Addams depicting stories of Native Americans and early European settlers in the region.

The Jackson Building
In 1924, the Jackson Building became North Carolina’s tallest skyscraper. It rises 13 stories on a 27 x 60 foot lot, standing in the original site of the monument shop operated by Thomas Wolfe’s father. Developer L.B. Jackson commissioned the structure and architect Ronald Greene designed the building in Neo-Gothic style.

The Westall Building
Completed in 1929, the Westall Building was designed by Ronald Greene for prominent builder William H. Westall. The narrow Spanish Romanesque eight-story office tower shares an elevator with the Jackson Building.

Pack Memorial Library
Edward Tilton designed more than a hundred libraries, including Pack Memorial Library (1926), a Neo-Classical gem. Lumberman George W. Pack, the city’s foremost civic benefactor, donated the site, now part of the art museum.

The Kress Building
Built in 1922, this building embodies Samuel Kres’s vision of his stores as works of public art. Architect E.J.T. Hoffman designed the building with elaborate terra cotta ornamentation.

The S&W Cafeteria
Considered Douglas Ellington’s most refined Art Deco project, the S&W Cafeteria is adorned by great arched windows and terra cotta panels topped by a parapet of tiles, green and blue. The building was completed in 1928.

The Bon Marche Building
E.W. Grove built the Bon Marche Building in 1923 for prominent Jewish businessman Solomon Lipinsky. The store was named for Le Bon Marche, one of the world’s first department stores in Paris. When Bon Marche relocated in 1927, Ivy’s Department Store took up residence. After restoration work in 1989, the building became The Haywood Park Hotel. The original architect W.L. Stoddart also designed the Battery Park and Vanderbilt Hotels.

The Flat Iron Building
Named for its triangular wedge shape (just like its taller cousin in Manhattan), the eight-story Flat Iron Building was designed by Albert Worh, who faced the structure with Beaux Arts detailing.

The Miles Building
Herbert Delahaye Miles created this unique and ornate example of Italianate architecture in 1925. Once a men’s club, the building is now office and retail space.

The Public Service Building
With entrances on both Wall Street and Patton Avenue, the Public Service Building, designed by Beasham & LeGrand in 1929, features Romanesque and Moroccan terra cotta design.

The Grove Arcade
The Grove Arcade, commissioned by E.W. Grove and designed by Charles Parker in 1929, covers an entire city block. This Neo-Gothic indoor shopping arcade features grottoes, Venetian Gothic arches, spiraling staircases and a glass ceiling. The Arcade closed prior to World War II and later became headquarters for the National Climatic Data Center. From 1985 to 2002, a broad coalition of organizers and funders restored the building with its shops, restaurants and 43 apartments.

The Battery Park Hotel
Today’s building replaced the original Battery Park Hotel owned by railroad mogul Frank Cox. The original ornate Victorian hotel, designed by William Stoddart, rose nearly 80 feet above the current structure, now an apartment house for senior citizens.