

Architecture: Durham's Crown Jewel

In 1966 North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company erected a structure that would become the city's most distinctive and architecturally distinguished building of the late twentieth century. It won recognition as one of *Forbes* magazine's ten outstanding buildings of 1966 and one of *Fortune's* top ten of the decade.



North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company Building
(photo by Charles Cooper, courtesy Herald-Sun)

In 1974, after the razing of yet another Durham architectural landmark, citizens formed a historic



Union Station, built in 1904 and destroyed in 1967 for the Downtown Loop, was one of the finest examples of railway architecture in the South.
(photo by John Flowers, courtesy Frank DePasquale)

preservation society. Adaptive reuse of structures including the Kress Building (a five-and-dime store that became an office building in 1980) and the Watts and Yuille warehouses (tobacco storage warehouses that in 1981 became Brightleaf Square, a shopping and office complex) were just the beginning of repurposing Durham's acclaimed architecture.



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