

## Majestyk



City Square, LS1

### **Why is it important?**

The Majestyk is a Grade II building built in 1921 by Pascal J Steinlet. Steinlet was an established cinema architect who continued to practise until the 1930s. The original proprietors were Leeds Picture Playhouses Ltd. The cinema opened June 1922 and closed July 1969. The architect used the difficult site well and employed a wide, fan-shaped auditorium with the main entrance at the screen end; the seating capacity was 1,200 in the balcony and 1,600 below, making this one of the 'super-cinemas' built just before and after the First World War. It was contemporary with the Piccadilly Picture Theatre in Manchester and the Regent, Brighton.

### **Building Description**

It is built of 'Marmo' terracotta made by the Leeds Fireclay Company of Burmantofts with a steeply-pitched slate roof with bull's-eye dormer windows and ridge railing. It is a corner site with curved entrance facade and the building is 2 storeys with basement and attics. The classical 'Beaux Arts' style with decorative motifs include: surface finish in imitation of banded rustication, keyed round-arched windows, Greek key pattern framing recessed panels on returns with blocking course with raised date 1921 at ends flank triple bull's-eye windows and vase balustrade. There are moulded terracotta swags above windows and elaborate panels depicting musical instruments, 1st floor, and centre. Internally most of the very fine internal structure and decoration survives including original flooring, handrails, and balustrades; glazed double doors open into the former circle seating; ribbed and panelled dome with Classical frieze of repeated groups of horse riders and chariots (based on the Parthenon).

### **Current State**

The building is very becoming more degraded the longer it sits empty, with vegetations growing from the elevations. There is evidence of cracking to the walls with redundant fixings from previous signs. A number of the windows are damaged, which I assume will be letting rainwater into the building. Something needs to be planned for this heritage building in a prime location.

### **Current Owner**

The buildings are currently owned by Luminar Leisure.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/majestyk/>