



Welcome to your newsletter

We don't often blow our own trumpet but we hope you will indulge us in this edition as we herald our triumph at two major award ceremonies.

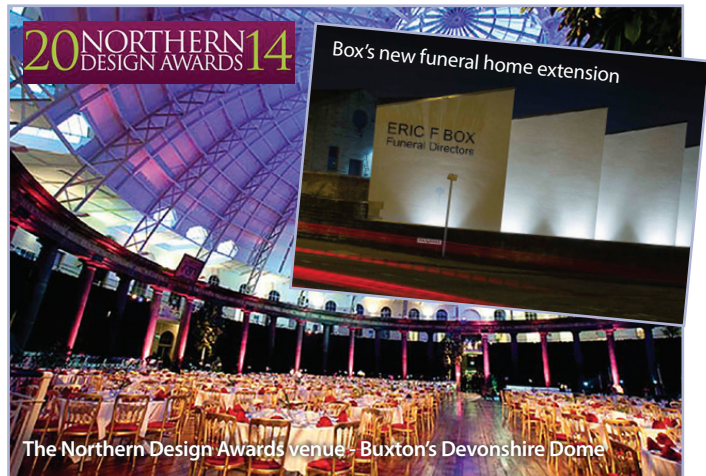
It's with great pride that we applaud our architect, Edward Park, for his sterling work on the Dewsbury funeral home extension, which has now been endorsed by the wider construction industry for its exceptional quality and unique look.

That's why we have devoted a little more space than usual to this editorial but we promise it won't happen again! However, still take the time to read the emotive story of Oskar Schindler, carefully penned by our editor Phil Hopkins who was recently at Mr Schindler's factory on the outskirts of Krakow in Poland as part of his journey to Auschwitz.

No doubt you will also learn a little more about burial ritual in our 'Burials Through Time' feature and, by the time our next edition comes out, there will be a new government in

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Top Awards For Funeral Home Design



Eric F. Box's new funeral home extension in Dewsbury has taken top honours in two of the North's leading design competitions.

The Northern Design Awards, which bring together designers, retailers and property developers in a glittering celebration of architectural style, placed architect Edward Park's extension first in its Best Commercial Build category.



And, if that weren't enough, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors also gave the design a Highly Commended placing in its RICS Pro Yorkshire Awards held at Elland Road, where 46 of Yorkshire & the Humber's best property

schemes battled it out for eight awards.

Edward Box said: "We are absolutely delighted. Everyone at Box's knew that Edward Park had come up with something a bit special, but to have his work officially recognised by two such prestigious organisations is further proof, if proof were ever needed, that Box's now has one of the best funeral homes in the North of England."

The Northern Design Awards were held in the incredible Devonshire Dome in Buxton, Derbyshire in

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The Northern Design Awards

front of the property industry's elite whilst in Leeds the RICS Awards showcased some of the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment.

Architect Edward Park, said: "You always go out on a limb to produce the best possible design you can and, in the case of Box's, there was a lot to consider. At the end of the day this is a funeral home and those sensitivities had to be factored into my thinking.

"I am delighted that the Box family were so pleased with my work and, even more so, that my initial inspiration has now been so publicly endorsed by fellow property and design professionals."

Richard Box added: "Our state-of-the-art Dewsbury funeral home first opened its doors in 1998. However, with shifting trends determining how funeral directors needed to evolve in order to meet the changing needs

of a changing society, the decision was taken to build the additional one storey extension to the front of the existing Bradford Road facility."

There is now a new large room to the front of the building giving relatives the option to hold their funeral tea – or 'wake' as the Irish call it – at Box's funeral home, rather than at a local hotel or club."

Andrew Box said that a new 'reality' had prompted his original call for the new facility.

"At one time the cortège left the family home, however, as people live longer, many find themselves spending their remaining years in a care home, often long after they have sold their own property.

"That means there isn't always a family home from which the cortège can leave, so more and more individuals request that it depart from the funeral home, hence the need for a more comprehensive facility.

"Equally we live in a more 'socially mobile' society where family members often live hundreds of miles from the deceased prompting, again, the need for greater involvement by the funeral director and, indeed, their facilities," added Andrew.

The sensitively designed extension, which was given an early green light by Kirklees planners, opened late last year and now acts as a gathering area before and after funeral ceremonies.



Exterior and interior of the extension to the front of the existing Bradford Road facility

Iconic Funerals: Oskar Schindler (1908-1974)



He was one of life's unlikely heroes, the man who saved hundreds of Jewish lives in World War II.

But Oskar Schindler was no soldier, more an ordinary man, originally a member of the Nazi Party who spied for Germany, a businessman always looking for an angle, and a husband who strayed and drank to excess.

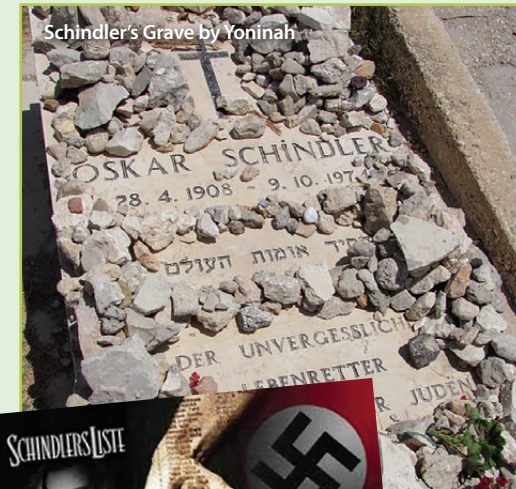


The horrors of Auschwitz

However his legacy is great. More than 7,000 people are alive today who are directly descended from the more than 1,000 Jews whom Schindler saved from near-certain death in Nazi concentration camps. He employed these prisoners in his factories, risking his life by telling lies and bribing German military officers.

By the end of the war, Schindler had spent his entire fortune on bribes and black-market purchases of supplies for his workers. Virtually destitute, he did not prosper in postwar Germany and was reduced to receiving assistance from Jewish organizations.

Schindler emigrated to Argentina in 1949 subsequently returning to Germany where he was declared bankrupt in 1963.



Schindler's Grave by Yoninah

Schindler's List - the 1993 film

He died on 9 October 1974 and is buried in Jerusalem on Mount Zion, the only member of the Nazi Party to be honoured in this way. In 1963 Schindler was named Righteous Among the Nations, an award bestowed by the State of Israel on non-Jews who took an active role to rescue Jews during the Holocaust.

But the people he saved, the so-called Schindlerjuden, or "Schindler Jews," did not forget. They paid for his body to be buried in Jerusalem as he had wanted, because "My children are here."

Even today, the Schindlerjuden do not forget. Survivor Halina Silber described how she was assigned to work in one of Schindler's factories when she was 12 years old and separated from her family.

"Schindler, with his kindness, gave us help ... and most important, he gave us our dignity," she said. "For us, he was an angel sent by God to save us."



Burials Through Time...MIRILA

Mirila are unusual stone monuments, the origins of which are linked to post-mortem rituals. So far only a few sites with mirila have been discovered, however, it is believed that more have yet to be found. Currently the best known ones are located on the coastal slopes of Velebit (the largest mountain range in Croatia), from where they spread towards the south east.



Once an individual had died and the rituals carried out at the home of the deceased had ended, the body was taken to the church cemetery. However, during this journey, people stopped at a special ritual place at which a ceremony was performed in order to separate the body from

the soul, thus setting the spirit to rest. Such a place was known as a 'resting site' which, as the name implies, was both a place for travellers to rest as well as somewhere that established the border between the world of the dead and the living.

Mirila, meaning "measurements" in local dialect, are said to have been made by locals between the 17th and 20th century and, when a body was placed on the ground, it was usually marked with two stones. One was placed against the head and the other in front of the feet. Soon after people put some flat stones between them whilst on the head stone a low relief was carved.

People believed that the soul of deceased people stayed there and the cemetery only kept the body remains, hence why people later brought flowers and prayed there. In 2007 Croatian Ministry of Culture protected mirila as part of cultural heritage.

Key source:
www.traditionscustoms.com

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power and, hopefully, a little sun in the sky!

Enjoy the read and we welcome your comments be they in writing, verbally or by email. You can always drop Phil a line on philh@theh2.co.uk, or even go onto the Eric F. Box website (www.efbox.co.uk) and make your thoughts known to us there.

In the event of a death at any time of the day or night, contact us at:

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