


The Journal 

City 'jewel' set to sparkle again

BUILDINGS are as important to our lives as any other element of the environment that surrounds us.

We live in them, work in them, are entertained in them and fall in love in them too. But their external appearance, like the atmosphere they help create in the streets about them, also matters greatly.

Each of us knows this, yet all over the region there are scars of dismal development, of demolition driven by dreams of cash that assured the death of an icon from the past.

Sometimes, it seems, we are as incapable of preserving elements of our history that please us as we are of ensuring they are replaced by something that is at least the equal of them.

Yesterday though came news of a fabulous creation on the verge of security after years on the brink of disaster.

The Journal Tyne Theatre is widely acclaimed for its architectural and theatrical qualities. It provides performers and audiences with an intimate, acoustically satisfying setting rarely found anywhere else in the country.

From its inception, through its building and to the present time, the theatre and this newspaper have been closely connected.

And today, after many years of being under threat, the future of this magnificent building lies in the hands of the city council, which has worked so hard to save it. It is now in a position to do precisely that.

Very soon, hopefully, all those connected to the concerted effort to secure the theatre's future – the canny developers, the council, the preservation trust – will be able to take a deserved bow.

The applause will come from the region, as much as the city, for in preserving our past these heroes of the built environment are underwriting our future as well.

Who knows, such success might even inspire others to fight for what they love as well.