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Rachael Craven

Belfast has had a long and varied history and its development through the centuries is immediately apparent in the hugely varied architecture and landscapes that you discover on a visit to the city. Ancient monuments from the Bronze Age can be found on the outskirts of Belfast and are in stark contrast to the intricate eighteenth and nineteenth century architecture that marks Belfast's standing as one of the major urban centres in the UK and Ireland at the time. These once again contrast with the heavy industries that made Belfast famous – the linen mills and world-famous Harland & Wolff Shipyard where the *Titanic* was built, being only two of many worth noting. Today the period of social unrest in the city has now been consigned to history as it enjoys a twenty-first century renaissance. The development of the Laganside area with new concert halls, entertainment complexes and hotels sees the raising of many new architectural landmarks that stand alongside the beautiful old Belfast architecture to provide one of the most interesting visual backdrops of any urban centre in the UK or Ireland today. All this and more is captured in this superb collection of stunning images evoking the character, heritage and contemporary excitement of Northern Ireland's capital city.



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Born in East Sussex in 1974, Rachael Craven has lived in Northern Ireland for twenty years since her family moved there in 1989. A keen interest in art was channelled towards photography shortly after this move, with the famous rugged North Coast of Ireland providing a wide and varied canvas on which to tune her skills. Rachael has been living in Belfast for the last ten years and in 2006 decided to take her amateur passion to another level and has been working as a freelance photographer ever since. Her work has been featured in a variety of national and international publications to date and her product photography has been featured in many brochures and web sites. Rachael has always had a particular passion for landscape photography and *Portrait of Belfast* provides an opportunity to show the multi-dimensional nature of one of the most vibrant cities in the British Isles today.

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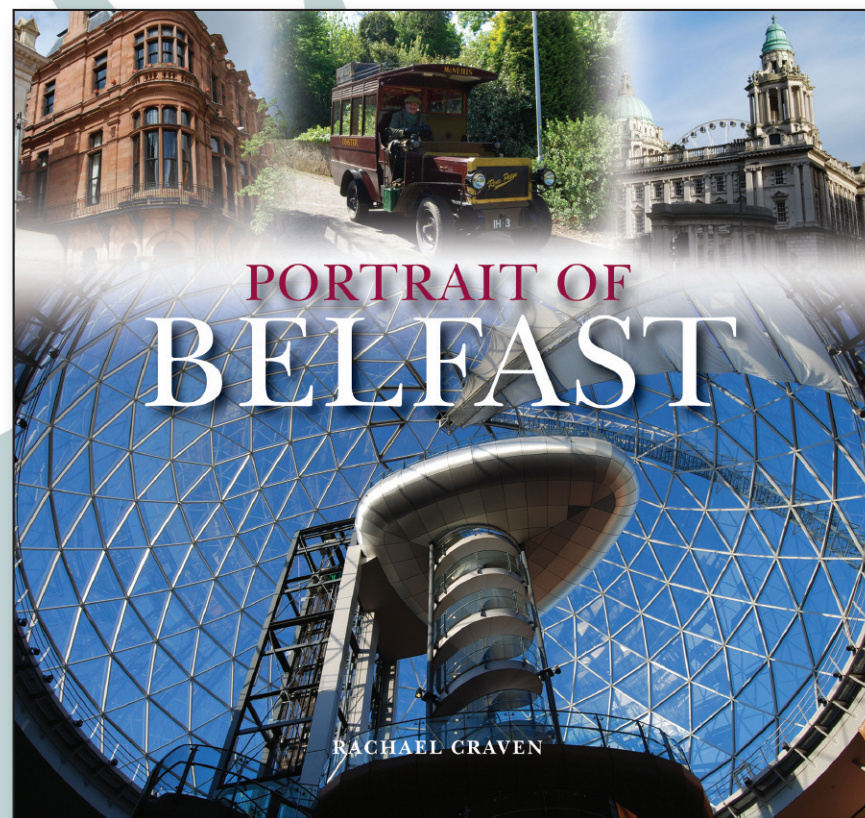
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*The Palm House at Botanic Gardens.*



*C.S. Lewis – born in Belfast, this statue was erected in 1998 to celebrate the centenary of his birth.*



*Signpost in Botanic Gardens.*

*Right: Queen's University Belfast – one of Belfast's most impressive buildings. Queen's University opened for business in 1849 and was designed and built by Sir Charles Lanyon. The University today has over 24000 students.*



*The Belfast Eye.*



*City in a bowl – from the North Down hills on one side to the view of Cave Hill in the distance with the city sprawling in between.*



*Looking down to the lough – from the grounds of Belfast Castle on Cave Hill.*

*Example of a double-page spread.*