



James Louis Salmond was the son William Salmond who in 1875 was appointed as the first professor of Theology at Otago University. In 1861 he had married Jane Paxton Young in Edinburgh and they raised four sons and six daughters.

William and Jane's second son James Louis Salmond left his mark on Dunedin. After leaving Otago Boys' High School, where he did not shine scholastically, his father decided he should use his practical ability by working in Guthrie and Larnach's timber factory, and then for a contractor, W. Milne.

Louis studied in the evenings at the School of Art, and after three years of strenuous work he was accepted into the office of R. A. Lawson to become an architect. When Lawson left for Australia in 1890 after the debacle over the Seacliff Hospital building, Louis opened his own practice office in 1892, and on 21 March 1894 married Margaret Elder Adams.

He was soon winning notable private commissions such as 'Moata' in High Street for Leslie Harris of Bing Harris & Co, and 'Kawarau' in Highgate for A.C. McGeorge. His public buildings included Burns Hall, the Bristol Piano Company building for Mr Theomin, the Otago Daily Times building in Lower High Street [demolished], Queens Building in Princes Street, and many churches, including St. Stephens and the Roslyn Presbyterian Church.

When R.A.Lawson returned in 1900 they resumed their partnership until Lawson died in 1902. During this period they designed Watson Shennan's house 'Threave', and 'Hilltop on High Street' both in High Street. Later Salmond was joined by Newton Vanes. In 1909 Salmond won a competition to design the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva for the Union Steam Ship Co. Salmond's own home at 311 Stuart Street was designed and built in 1906 long before Stuart Street was extended to Highgate.

He had wide public interests, including being a founding member of the Dunedin Association of Architects and of the NZ Institute of Architects, of whom he was president in 1918-20, and made an honorary life member in 1942.

He died in Dunedin on 12 March 1950 and is buried in the Andersons Bay Cemetery.

Two of his children followed him into art and architecture – Kathleen Lucy Salmond became one of Dunedin's most popular artists, and Arthur Louis Salmond studied architecture in Auckland and became a partner with his father.