

What an irony is this discussion about Memorial Hall. Send any one of the protagonists to Europe and they will come back euphoric about their 'architectural adventure'. Yet the few rare moments of beauty we have here in Canada such as the now condemned building, they cannot see. Cutting off your nose to spite your face. The real tragedy of the Memorial Library is not preserving a structurally compromised edifice at extraordinary cost, it is that we are not, and are incapable of, replacing it with a thing of equivalent or greater beauty. The beggaring of our sensibilities is the real and true tragedy. Even the dark ages produced more beauty than we seem to be able to conceive of today. The proposed new fine arts building does not deserve the title, while it is apparently soberly functional, it is neither fine nor artful. Form follows function? Hah! The geniuses of the Bauhaus were steeped in Europe and shamelessly influenced by the aesthetic. What we have here is very expensive mediocrity. Shame.

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