

A Closer Look at Historical Architecture

“Our architecture reflects us, as truly as a mirror,
even if we consider it apart from us.”

Louis Sullivan

What do buildings tell us about the people who built them? While one may find clues about a building’s purpose, such as a sign indicating “Hardware,” or “Chapel,” a closer look at the design, whether artistic or purely utilitarian, can reveal something about the life and values of the builder.

The structures where we live and work represent our personalities, cultures, and our traditions: what we consider most important. As one of many interacting factors, architecture is involved in shaping behavior and who we are over a lifetime.

I invite you to reflect on these fragile links to the past and think about what each represents. Can you think of a building that has been a source of inspiration? Choose one example from the exhibit and try to imagine if it were not there.

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