

ly to the aesthetic and cultural fabric that makes up the campus.

The stained glass skylights, coffered plaster ceilings, decorative stencil work and ornate moldings are elements that added to the initial construction cost. Without these elements, however, there would have been little sentimentality about razing the structure and beginning anew. The passion by which historic buildings are defended is typically rooted in a great appreciation for aesthetic elements rather than purely functional ones. The implication is that a new building that is merely efficient in materials used and in green building techniques utilized, only ensures the physical shell of the building remains sustainable. The challenge is to design the functional details of a building to contain aesthetic elements that not only make the space more beautiful to inhabit, but will also serve to create a passion for stewardship.

Public building projects have begun to address this phenomenon by including a "One Percent for the Arts" clause that ensures that at least one percent of the building project budget will be spent on aesthetic details. All too often, however, the money is spent on non-functional installations that add beauty, but contribute little to the actual fabric of the building.

Architectural glass provides a great opportunity to emphasize aesthetics while still providing function that remains integral to the structure of the building. Glass windows, partition walls, floors, work-surfaces and lights can all be created to be both artistic and completely functional. Including these details in new building design can help a space transcend pure utility and inspire those who occupy the space to make real connections that inspire long-term, dedicated stewardship. Recognizing this connection of why people become passionate about preservation of historic buildings can be one of the most important factors in making new buildings truly sustainable.



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