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WHEN DID DENISON ARCHITECTURE GET SO MID?

I was meandering through Burke Hall (under rated porch study spot btw) the other day and found a picture of Denison's campus from the early 90s. I looked closer and was shocked to see lots of things that prove Denison architecture is growing increasingly lame. For starters, Higley used to have a SKYLIGHT. Look at that thing!

All the 4th floor of Higley has now is no bathroom and financial econ majors who keep telling me that Barstool sports betting is the "next big thing, I swear"

On top of that, Herrick used to have a covered hallway to Ebaugh! Imagine not having to go outside to never use Herrick! You can also see Olin being built, the last cool and interesting (real architecture terms) building on campus. Seriously, check it out. Weird railings, fun colors, lots of murals, wacky window shapes, a volcanology lab...



Now all we have is Hoaglin, which is a glorified cinder block from the outside. Don't forget Eisner, which feels like a random conglomeration of hallways that someone designed after a career only building hospitals and elementary schools.



In sum, Denison should return to fun architecture. Bring back the Slayter bowling alley! Bring back the Higley skylight! Tear down Slayter and make it one big Taco Bell!

It's what the people want.

HOW TO MAKE DENISON ARCHITECTURE LESS MID

Tait is right. The architecture of a building is important, especially an academic building. The boundless and insatiable quest for knowledge should not have to take place under fluorescent lighting, and in square rooms with beige walls and trim-less windows that don't open.

Who wants to make history in a room like that?! The aesthetic of our academic buildings should be a reflection of the learning taking place inside of them. The only building that I think nails this right now is Olin. I feel like I'm in a little children's science museum when I'm in there. So curious and playful. The walls have that Matilda charm. Barney Davis is also okay, but that's it. Every other building needs to dream way bigger when the day of their inevitable redesign comes.

KNAPP: needs to look like the classroom in Indiana Jones. Beautiful chestnut wood paneling, chalk boards abound, antique globes, and skeletons on display. You want a nice, cozy, toasty place to contemplate the human condition. There should be a fireplace with two leather chairs in every lounge. The outside of Knapp should stay exactly the same, just with all the chimneys coming out of the top.

DOANE: is a building that knows its worth. The stone faces chiseled into the pillars are bone chilling. I think we need to keep that but totally switch up the vibe on the inside. I'm envisioning the smell and feel of a basement that has been unchanged since 2004. Wood paneling from the 70s, mysterious carpet, 5lb weights in a stack on the floor, a treadmill that doesn't work anymore, and one computer that takes five minutes to turn on. I just feel like this is the right environment for DA majors and I cannot elaborate as to why.

HIGLEY: needs to go full Wall street. Huge screens as soon as you walk in that show what the stocks are up to. Need to prepare those econ majors for the real world! In my mind Higley serves as overflow classrooms for when the room your class was supposed to be in was already booked. Why not lean into this? I think the classrooms should be made even jankier. There should be three different entrances for the same room, and the walls should not be perfect 90 degree angles. Every classroom will have both white boards and chalkboards, you know to be prepared for whoever ends up in there. The current exterior of Higley is a little bland. It needs some of Doane's confidence. More fancy stone features over the door and surrounding the windows. Maybe a couple Buzzard gargoyles...

FELLOWS: needs A LOTTTT of help. This building is just so sad! No life. No personality. It's a total gut job with the exception of the fourth floor and the IT department. I love the glass brick moment happening there. I think it would be sacrilegious to ditch the brick, but Fellows needs to be a little more ornate. The future Fellows should take its inspiration from St. Anne's Church in Vilnius, Lithuania (photo not provided). It should also have an accessible rooftop.

BRYANT: is pretty sweet already but there is more work to be done. Bryant needs to be known as a beacon of creativity. What will that beacon be? I'm so glad you asked! The beacon will be a massive bucket of water on the top of the building that spills into the splash zone (the road between Bryant and Eisner) everyday at noon. Full Nickelodeon water park. Crazy colors and tube water slides jutting out at every angle. This design is already studio art major approved! This design will also create student jobs, as it will require a lot of maintenance to keep the water park up to code, and also to monitor the slides.

EISNER: gets on my nerves. We had the CEO of the most magical place on Earth graciously donate the building and they made the whole thing white and grey. My Eisner redesign ditches the new. I want the old back. I want Eisner to feel alive. I think the whole building should be swapped out for a recreation of a New York City block in the 1940s. The kind of environment that would inspire and foster the creation of bebop.

EBAUGH: I need to respectfully decline to comment on Ebaugh. I have never had a class in there and never will, and so I do not feel qualified to speak on the state of the building.

TALBOT: Same story as Ebaugh. Not qualified to comment!

-Claire Anderson, Built this city



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