A Walking Tour

1945-1975
University of Utah Architecture

Modernism on Campus

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A New Era for University Architecture

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architectural diversity.

The first was a desire for a coherent collection of buildings that would
be viewed from the road as a whole, and would be set in the context of
the surrounding landscape. The second was a desire to create a
building that would be easily identified as the university's
new main entrance. The third was a desire for a building that
would be an icon of the university's new division.
If the new library was to be the university's academic center, then the student union would be the university's community center. This fact was recognized by the students themselves, immediately following the close of World War II, they lobbied for a new building to replace the original union constructed in 1927, even voting to raise their own fees to help finance its design and construction.

Designed by Fred Markham and dedicated in 1957, the massive structure (its 350,000 square feet enclosed nearly 1.8 million cubic feet) was situated on a southeast corner of campus extending to the north and west, while creating a connection to the area of campus expanding to the south. It was the largest of its kind in the state of Utah. The design was based on the idea that the greatest intellectual activity was carried on through the cooler months of the year, and that the building should accommodate both learning and research. Working from this premise, the building's architectural ideas for the university were developed, including an extension on the northeast corner, a second addition on the west, and a third on the south. In 1967, the Union Building was expanded with an extension to the east, and a new wing added to the north.

Markham's original concept for the student union included a plaza to the southwest, out of which emerged a tall wall. The idea, however, was not necessarily Markham's. "We are hoping," a university planning document of the time had stated, "that someday, a university planning document of the entire city, such as a campus plan, will be a symbol of higher education.

Unlike so many other public buildings on campus, whose design called for crowding, the Irwin Student Union (IUSU) was a relatively spacious building. Actually, IUSU was, in effect, three separate buildings: three east, west, and center wings, constructed in relatively short order from 1954 to 1958. The north and south wings were constructed by the same contractor, the first two phases, and the west wing was constructed by a common north/south structure. The building's design was based on the idea that the greatest intellectual activity was carried on through the cooler months of the year, and that the building should accommodate both learning and research. Working from this premise, the building's architectural ideas for the university were developed, including an extension on the northeast corner, a second addition on the west, and a third on the south. In 1967, the Union Building was expanded with an extension to the east, and a new wing added to the north.

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By the time that the west wing was constructed in 1969, ideas about its design had changed. Discussions revolved around whether it should be "symmetrical," with the library, or "asymmetrical," with the library and union. The library, however, was eventually constructed in the center of the campus, and the union was constructed on the north/south axis.

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Behavioral Sciences Building

Art & Architecture Center

During the 1960s, high-rise buildings were becoming fashionable on college campuses across the country. Even more fashionable were one-story, single-story, low-rise buildings. The new style in educational architecture, developed in the late 1950s to 1960s for small colleges, was characterized by open space, light-filled classrooms, and abundant natural light. The Art & Architecture Center, completed in 1971, was considered a landmark in the development of the modern concept of educational architecture.

The Art & Architecture Center housed the Institute of Architecture and Planning, the Department of Art and the Department of Architecture. The center was a significant addition to the campus, providing a modern and functional space for the arts and architecture programs.

The building was designed to reflect the modernist aesthetic of the time, with large windows and open spaces. The materials used were modern and durable, including concrete and glass. The building was also designed to be energy-efficient, with insulation and double-pane windows to reduce heating and cooling costs.

The Art & Architecture Center was not only a functional building, but also a symbol of progress and innovation. It was a testament to the changing landscape of college campuses and the role that architecture plays in shaping the environment in which learning occurs.
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The Chemistry Building's concept was the result of a natural process that was visually distinct from other one, serving instead to integrate them. The design was inspired by a combination of factors, including the importance of the Chemistry Building's position as a central educational facility. The decision to use a circular shape was to emphasize the building's prominence in the landscape.

The circular shape also provided a sense of enclosure and protection, which was important in ensuring the building's success as an educational resource. The open design allowed for flexibility in adaptability, which was crucial in meeting the needs of an evolving science curriculum.

The Chemistry Building's design incorporated a number of features, including the use of a large atrium to provide a central meeting space. This space was intended to serve as a common area for students and faculty, promoting collaboration and communication.

The building's exterior was designed to be visually appealing, with a combination of materials and colors that were intended to attract attention and foster a sense of enthusiasm for science.

In conclusion, the design of the Chemistry Building was a thoughtful reflection of the needs of the students and faculty who would use it. The building was designed to be both functional and aesthetically pleasing, providing a space that was both educational and engaging.
Pioneer Memorial Theater

College of Law
the street was closed of the resulting open area naturally transformed into another unique aspect of the Physics building is the breezeway that incorporating some sort of bridge to allow traffic to pass through the site. The street under the breezeway was actually a street (1400 East) so the building had to pass under the building. A line on the building’s design, the area around and under the breezeway, however, is not used in the final design.

The circular lecture hall, in particular, presents something of a shock. The circular lecture hall, in order to minimize the crowded feeling between the lecture block and Physics building. The Physics building is the existing Physics building. What was needed in the new package was an entirely new building. The existing Physics building, however, was designed to be enclosed. The solution was to build a new building on the original site and second option, an efficient, one-story building, was designed. Much of the new building was designed to the new building block between the lecture block and Physics building.

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coated glass, even noticeable window features. The materials represented the latest in building technology, aluminum frames, and glassulucent ideas of early "high-tech" design. Its architectural style was done by Jack of Trades.

The first floor was completed first, followed by the second floor. The building was dedicated to the memory of the late president, Dr. John Hay. Designed for the installation of the University's research laboratories, the building was an example of modern architectural design. The building was a single-story structure with a flat roof and large windows. The exterior was painted white, and the design was simple and functional.

The building's intended purpose was to house the university's research laboratories. This was a significant change for the university, which had been focusing on undergraduate education. The new building would allow for the expansion of the university's research capabilities and provide a home for the university's research faculty and students.

The building was dedicated on the occasion of the university's centennial celebration. The dedication ceremony was attended by many dignitaries, including the governor of the state and members of the university's board of trustees. The dedication speech was given by the university's president, Dr. John Hay, who emphasized the importance of research in the development of the university.

The building was completed in 1974, and it was the first building to be constructed on the new campus. It was a significant step forward for the university, and it set the tone for the future of the university's research capabilities.