

A revolt against reason

**Re: Burn, Baby, Burn, Jonah
Goldberg, Feb. 28.**

Your readers may find it surprising that I read this book excerpt with my mind on the new trend in architecture, of which our local example is the renovation of the Royal Ontario Museum by Daniel Libeskind. While reading statements such as, "For Heidegger and Nietzsche alike, good and evil were childish notions. What matters is will and choice. Self-assertion was the highest value," I thought of the current tendency of architects such as Libeskind and Frank Gehry to abandon structural logic and economy, and to indulge in whim and fancy. In architecture, too, there are rights and wrongs, and something isn't right just because an architect is able to make it stand up without collapsing. Just because one can do something in architecture doesn't mean one should.

Here is another statement from the excerpt: "Deconstruction, existentialism, postmodernism, Pragmatism, relativism: all of these ideas had the same purpose — to erode the iron chains of tradition, dissolve the concrete foundations of truth..." "Deconstructivism" and "postmodernism" are recent styles of architecture from which emerges the current architectural fashion (which I call Mannerism) which questions the very logical foundations of our architectural heritage, and attempts to introduce forms and techniques that are illogical and therefore incomprehensible and wildly expensive. The style is a "revolt against reason."

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