

**CAREER
PATHS**

Architecture

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Express Publishing

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DeGrasse Museum Presents

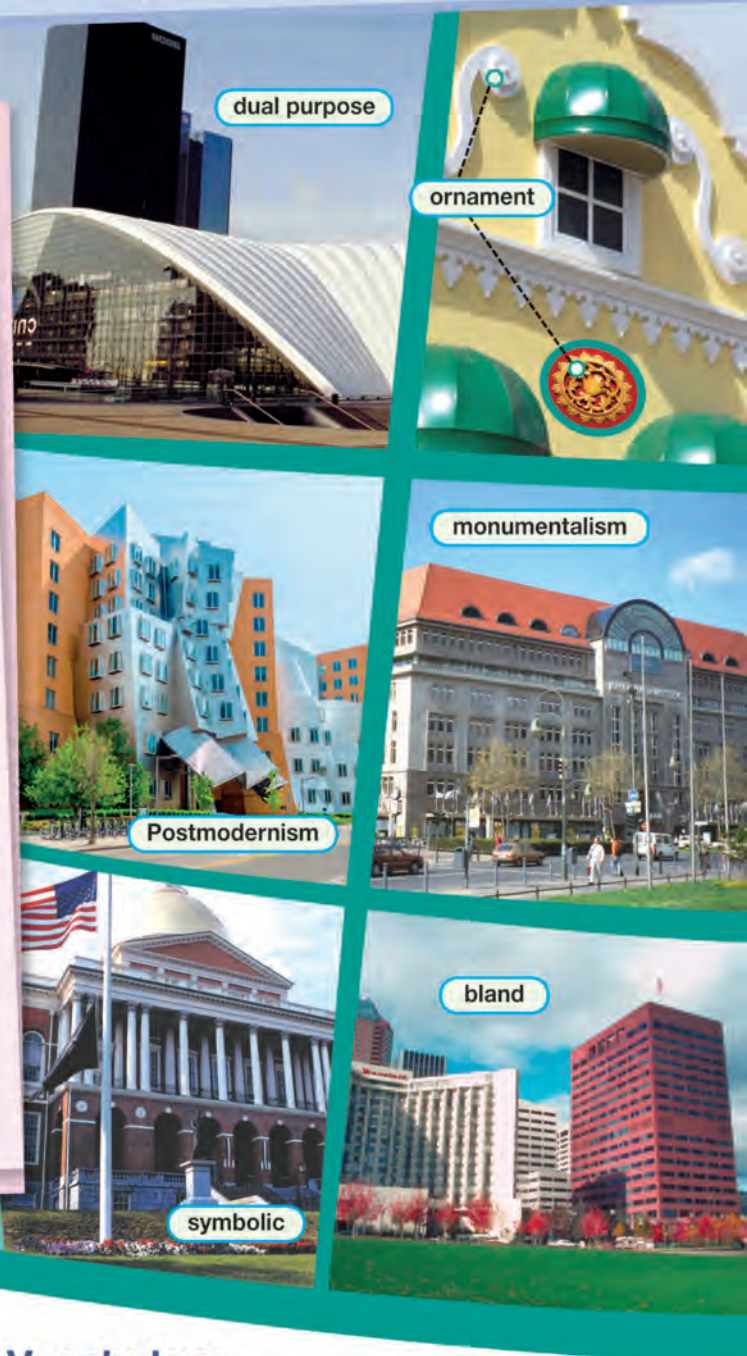
Postmodern Images: Reintroducing Beauty into Architecture

The DeGrasse Museum invites you to explore **Postmodernism** at a new exhibit. See 25 physical models and more than 100 photographs of notable Postmodern buildings.

This fascinating architectural style is a direct **countermovement** to early twentieth-century Modernism. While Modernism featured stark, **bland** designs, Postmodernism embraces color and **ornaments**. Its followers believe that architecture should be **dual purpose**, having both function and visual appeal. This **reactionary** attitude revived ideas from styles before Modernism.

Unexpected images and bold shapes **characterize** Postmodern architecture. **Monumentalism** is also apparent in the featured model of the Fadner Building. The building's **primary** design is based on Modernism, and from the ground to the fifteenth floor, it features simple lines and boxes. However, the top is a dramatic example of **double coding**. Neoclassical columns support a grand, asymmetrical structure that overhangs the street.

Don't miss two lectures by architectural historian Greta Moss. On Saturday, she will discuss the reasons for popular architecture's departure from Modernism. She will also address arguments from late twentieth-century Modernists. During her Sunday lecture, Moss will talk about the art and philosophy of Postmodernism. Learn about the importance of **symbolic** elements in Postmodern construction. This session will focus on the use of **icons** in several famous Postmodern buildings. Visit www.degrassemuseum.com for details and tickets.



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is the difference between Modern and Postmodern architectural features?
- 2 What is the artistic philosophy behind Postmodernism?

Reading

2 Read the brochure. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ___ According to the brochure, foundations of Postmodernism came before Modernism.
- 2 ___ The exhibit's featured model is a blend of different architectural styles.
- 3 ___ One of the lectures will focus on similarities between Modern and Postmodern symbolism.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 ___ icon | 4 ___ characterize |
| 2 ___ bland | 5 ___ dual purpose |
| 3 ___ primary | 6 ___ Postmodernism |

- A an image that is associated with a particular idea
 B an architectural movement featuring functional and decorative elements
 C considered plain or uninteresting
 D most basic or important
 E to be a fundamental feature or quality of something
 F serving multiple functions

- 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase from the word bank.

WORD BANK

monumentalism symbolic
double coding ornament
countermovement reactionary

- In a(n) _____, one set of ideas directly opposes another set of ideas.
- The carving of a sword is _____ of the people's resistance to the government.
- The fireplace is not real; it's just a(n) _____.
- The blend of classical features with contemporary features is an example of _____.
- "Advocates for Function" is a(n) _____ group of Modernists.
- _____ usually features very large buildings with bold façades.

- 5 Listen and read the brochure again. What is the Postmodern view of functionalism?

Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between a museum guide and a visitor. Choose the correct answers.

- What is the conversation mainly about?
 - how to interpret Postmodern icons
 - notable Postmodern architects in the region
 - the differences between Postmodernism and previous styles
 - when Postmodernism became popular
- According to the woman, what is a feature of the Fadner Building?
 - It is not functional.
 - It displays monumentalism.
 - It is very bland.
 - It features symbolism.

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Guide: Before we start the tour, does anyone have any questions?

Visitor: Are we going to 1 _____ of the Grasswood Center?

Guide: No. The Grasswood Center is actually not 2 _____.

Visitor: Really? It's so simple. I was 3 _____ be part of the exhibit.

Guide: I think you're confusing Postmodernism 4 _____.

Visitor: But the primary purpose of Postmodern buildings is to be functional. Isn't that why they're 5 _____?

Guide: Actually, it's the 6 _____. Strict functionalism is a feature of Modernism.

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

I was sure it would ...

Actually, it's the other ...

Let's look at ...

Student A: You are a museum guide. Talk to Student B about:

- a Postmodern exhibit
- the features of Postmodernism
- architectural styles of local buildings

Student B: You are a museum visitor. Talk to Student A about architectural styles of local buildings.

Writing

- 9 Use the reading passage and conversation to complete a feedback form about your museum tour. Include: the exhibit you visited, the information that the tour guide covered, and the most interesting fact you learned on the tour.