



Things you might want...

- I want my building to be beautiful
- I want form to follow function
- I want my building to be stable, useful and desirable
- I want my building to be modern/oldfashioned
- I want my building to contribute to a fair society
- I want my building to contribute to a sustainable environment



vigilant

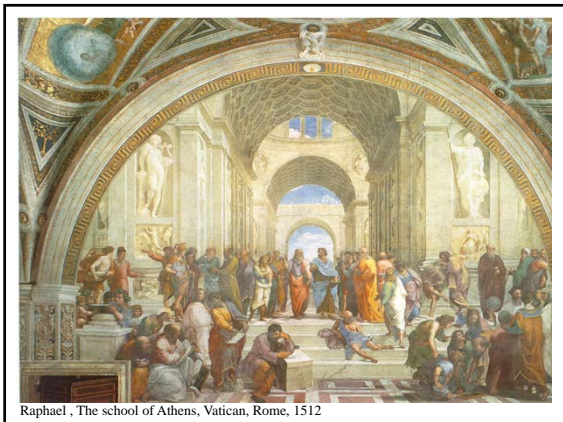


Columbia (America cup 1899 & 1901)

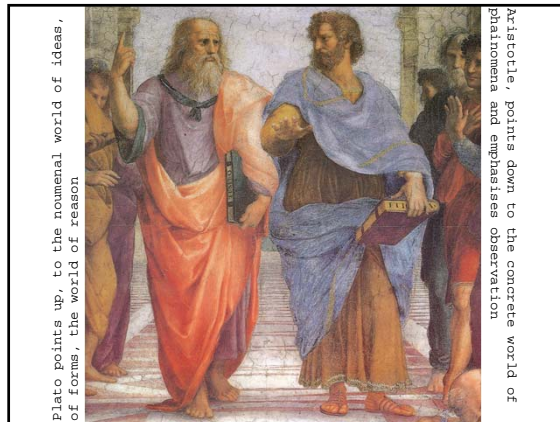


Louis H Sullivan in 1901: Kindergarten Chats & The autobiography of an Idea





Raphael, The school of Athens, Vatican, Rome, 1512



Plato points up, to the noumenal world of ideas, of forms, the world of reason

Aristotle, points down to the concrete world of phenomena and emphasises observation

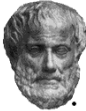
Plato & Aristotle
telos & ergon

Politeia 353a and Nichomachean Ethics

- The form of an object has its essence or essential nature. The essence of an object is its function and the ideal existence of that object is to fulfill its function perfectly.
- If the knifemaker makes a knife that fulfills its function well, he is led by a conception of the function from which the form is generated....

Carlo Lodoli 1690-1761


- Francesco Algarotti 1712-64
- Andrea Memmo 1729-92
- architectural forms and proportions should be derived from the abilities of the material being used





Aristotle's Four causes

- A thing's **material cause** is the material of which it consists. (For a table, that might be wood; for a statue, that might be bronze or marble.)
- A thing's **formal cause** is its form, i.e. the arrangement of that matter.
- A thing's **efficient or moving cause** is "the primary source of the change or rest." An efficient cause of x can be present even if x is never actually produced and so should not be confused with a sufficient cause. (Aristotle argues that, for a table, this would be the art of table-making, which is the principle guiding its creation.)
- A thing's **final cause** is its aim or purpose. That for the sake of which a thing is what it is. (For a seed, it might be an adult plant. For a sailboat, it might be sailing. For a ball at the top of a ramp, it might be coming to rest at the bottom.)

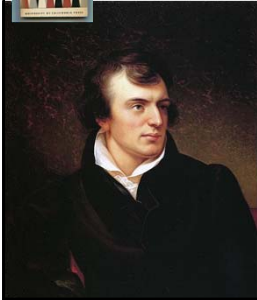
De Abbé
Laugier,
*essai sur
l'architecture*
e, 1755





Horatio Greenough, 1805 –1852


- Horatio Greenough criticized contemporary American architecture for its imitation of European historical building styles
- He wrote about the beauty of animal bodies, of machine constructions, and of ship design
- He argued that formal solutions were inherent in the functions of the building



Horatio Greenough: statue of George Washington, 1840



18th Century Brigantine Cargo Ship Frame




Burtynski, Shipframe




Louis Henry Sullivan,
1856-1924

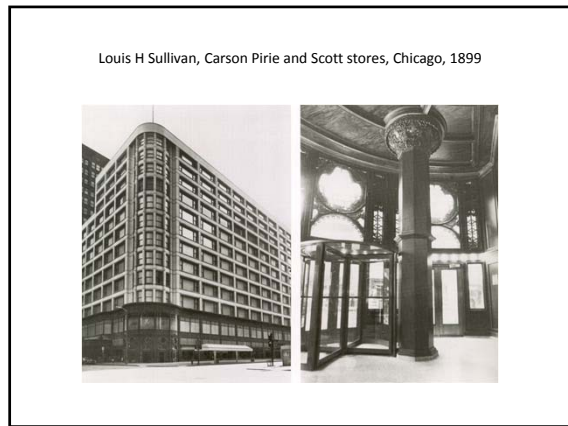
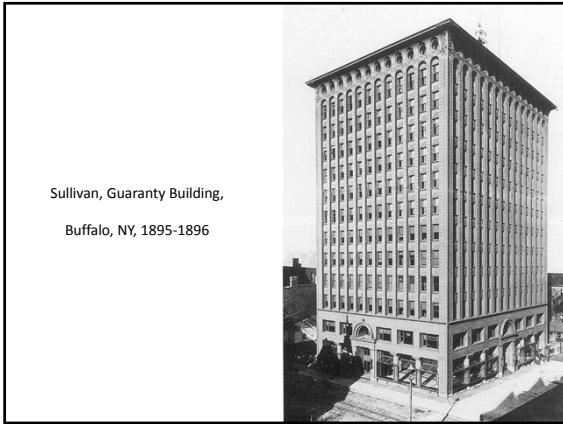
He coined the phrase, in 1896, in "The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered"

It is the pervading law of all things organic and inorganic,
Of all things physical and metaphysical,
Of all things human and all things super-human,
Of all true manifestations of the head,
Of the heart, of the soul,
That the life is recognizable in its expression,
That form ever follows function.
This is the law.

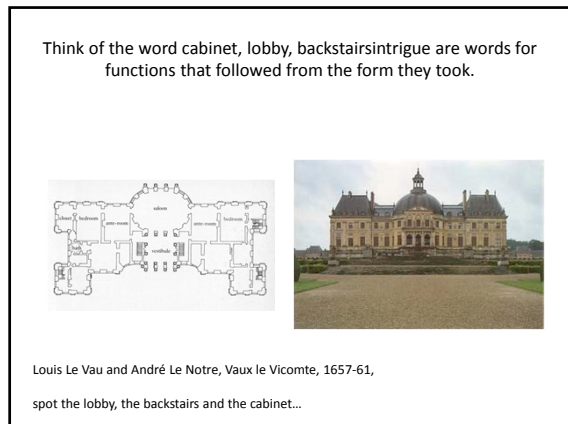


Louis Henry Sullivan,
Wainwright Building, 1891





form doesn't have to *follow* function



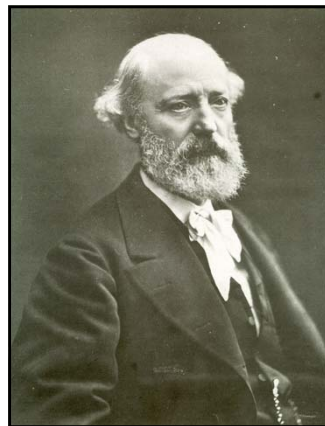
form and function are aspects of each other

forms function
functions are form based
functions are a function of form and its context
forms do not have a single purpose, they have possibilities and limitations

forms *fit* functions
forms *fill* functions
forces of desire *find* forms for functions
forms have functions *thrust upon them by force*
functions forcefully *suggest* likely forms

form's function is to suggest functions forcefully

So....form follows function is a way of lying to ourselves or is it...?

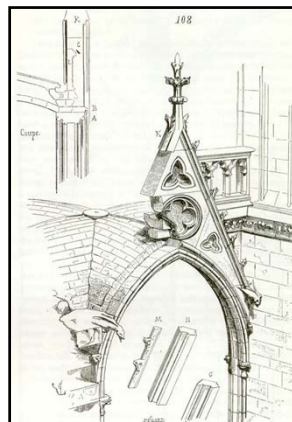


Eugène Emmanuel
Viollet-le-Duc
1814-1879

by Nadar 30th January 1871

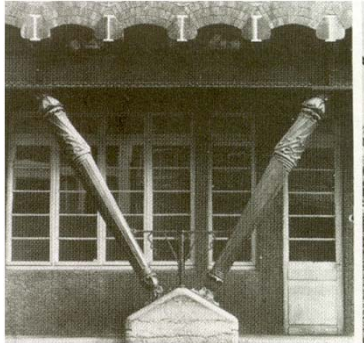
Eugène Emanuel Viollet-Le-Duc 1814-79

- *Dictionnaire raisonné de l'architecture française (1854-68)*
- *Entretiens sur l'architecture (1863 & 1872)*



Viollet le Duc, The Sainte Chapelle, windowhead, Dictionnaire raisonné, Vol. IV, Construction

Hector Guimard, École du Sacré Coeur, Paris, 1895



Walter Gropius, 1883-1969



Gropius, Fagus Fabrik, 1911-25, Alfeld and der Leine



Gropius in front of his Chicago Tribune Competition entry 1922



Gropius & Fry, House for Ben Levy, Old Church St, Chelsea, 1935-36



Gropius, Bauhaus, Dessau, 1925-26, Prellerhaus balkons en Bauhaus uit NW

