

FAQ's

Explain the Portland building of Michael Graves.

The Portland building is considered the first major built work of postmodernist architecture. The design, which displays numerous symbolic elements on its monumental facades, stands in purposeful contrast to the functional modernist architecture that was dominant at that time.

"a symbolic gesture, an attempt to re-establish a language of architecture and values that are not a part of modernist homogeneity", Graves explained on his architecture.

He gives credence to the basic tenet that there is no such thing as an original idea but that everything original is based on the reworking of what already exists.

Graves's language of architecture operates on a number of levels. It is meant to be legible and a part of everyday life.

Secondly, and certainly no less important although admittedly more understandable to the trained eye, is a passionate and sometimes playful interest in reworking the commonly accepted language of architecture into a uniquely personal expression of what it might become, without losing its identity. The reworking of what exists into what is unknown but still recognizable is the goal.

Graves's practice is practice in the literal sense of the word. He is constantly practicing the rules and principles of architecture.