Daniel Schmader

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MONT 106N

Problem Set 2 Essay

The cluster meeting run by Father Kuzniewski was not only informative, but interesting and captivating. Learning the history of how our school was formed and laid out was fascinating to hear. I couldn’t imagine myself living in a giant barracks with forty other students. When Father Kuzniewski starting talking about the expansion of the school is when I started to make the connection to how the natural world had an effect on how the school was built.

In the beginning of the discussion Father talked about how architects went about building on the side of a mountain. Due to the landscape of Mount St. James architects found it difficult to construct buildings. The natural world influenced where certain buildings were put. For example the football field and baseball field were built on the flat service at the base of the mountain. Also when buildings such as Carlin and Alumni were constructed they were built on a flat surface as well avoiding the steep hills in front of them. It was not until later that architects started to dig out the side of the mountain to create buildings such as Mulledy and the library. The dirt

*Interesting point to bring out – I think this kind of arrangement was much more common in the past, at summer camps, and certainly at military bases and colleges.*

*I believe the major earth-moving was required for the construction of O’Kane. The “hill dorms” were built on an area that was already cleared off and relatively flat.*

was used down at the football and baseball fields. Architects

learned to adapt to the world around them.

The natural world also provided another factor the sun rises at the top of the mountain therefore only hitting certain sides of the buildings. This effected the positioning of the buildings. Another aspect of the buildings that Father Kuzniewski talked about was that many of them were in the shape of an I. I believe that there is no symbolic meaning to this, but rather that most of these buildings were constructed by the same architect, therefore having a similar style. The I shaped buildings also might have something do with maximizing space and room size.

The campus of Holy Cross does connect with the natural world quite greatly. The natural world could be described as something not man-made. In this case the Mountain of St. James served as the natural world, and as an obstacle to build this campus. The connection that was made to the natural world was provided to us by the architects who were able to find ways to adapt to the shape of the mountain.

*This is an awkward sentence. Break it up: ``I do not believe that there was a symbolic meaning in this. Instead, since most of these buildings were designed by the same architect, they had a similar style.”*

*Don’t you mean something more like ``everything that is not man-made?’’*

*Dan,*

*This is a good essay on the points Father Kuzniewski raised in his talk about the history of the Holy Cross campus. Your idea about Mount St. James as an obstacle to be overcome is certainly right from the point of view of the architects who designed our buildings. There is another point you might consider too. Note how much effort has been made to incorporate aspects of the natural world (the trees, other plants, and so forth) into the campus landscape. What are the reasons for doing that? Does that change the adversarial relationship?*

*By the way, I also could not help noticing the name you gave to your Word file – phonetically OK, but the spelling is Montserrat(!)*