Aaron Hall Anna Ikarashi Marcus Shepheard

ORTHODOX FORMS

A PHOTO ESSAY ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Science and religion have to go hand in hand with the mystery, because there's a certain point beyond which you say, there are no answers.

- Ray Bradbury

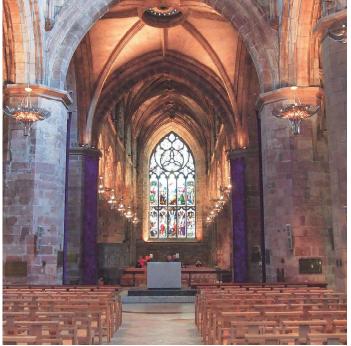




"Religion traditionally was the only thing we had to inform our world view, and tell us about our place in the universe. Science now also tells us about what makes up our universe and our place in it. Science has now told us the size of the universe, hold old it is and how we came into being."

- Professor Pete Markowitz





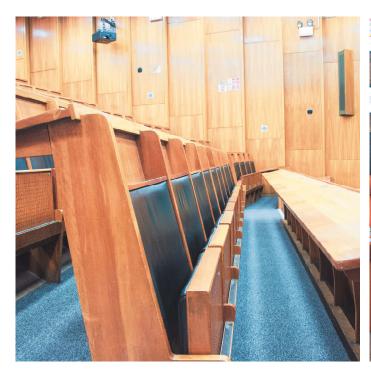
"The huge underground complex of Cern is almost entirely hidden from sight. The presence of this wonder of the modern world is, to say the least, muted. Most of its buildings are matter-of-fact industrial sheds or concrete bunkers with none of the obvious allure or artistry of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, the Parthenon, Chartres Cathedral or the Eiffel Tower. And yet here is a place of mystery and imagination, as well as mathematics, physics and imaginative engineering, that promises to take us on a journey into the realm of the spiritual as well as the purely scientific and rational. In this sense, Cern is a modern equivalent of the great temples and cathedrals of the past. It aims to find the point at which creation began."

– Jonathan Glancey



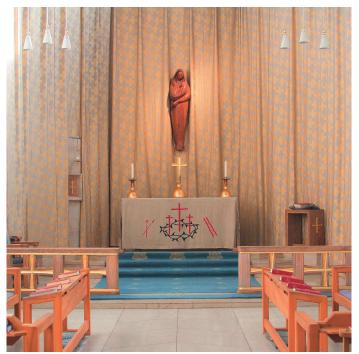


Love and anger, luck and shame, red can mean all these things and more. In Shinto red is the colour that wards off evil powers. In the hallways of the X-Ray labs, red connotes danger, warning individuals about the powerful and dangerous devices behind the doors.





Organisation within science and religion is often similar as a result of necessity. Here regularity exists to relate the audience to the speaker. The design not only demonstrates a functional purpose, but the coming together of people to listen, learn, and engage.





Grand structures draw awe and fame, yet most science and religion are generally pursued in more intimate spaces.



"The split between Science and Religion is relatively new. Isaac Newton, who first worked out the laws by which gravity held the planets and even the stars in their traces, was sufficiently impressed by the scale and regularity of the Universe to ascribe it all to God."

- Seth Shostak.



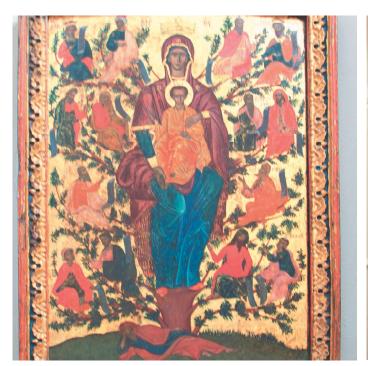


The church organ and the ductwork of the hydrodynamics laboratory share both an intricacy of design and a confluence of function. Ultimately both are mere contributory elements in something greater, whether that be music to exalt God, or research into the stability of oil rigs.





Doors enclose where windows expose. In the regulation of religious and scientific activity, the notions of restriction and access apply most highly to the valuable, the dangerous, and the important.





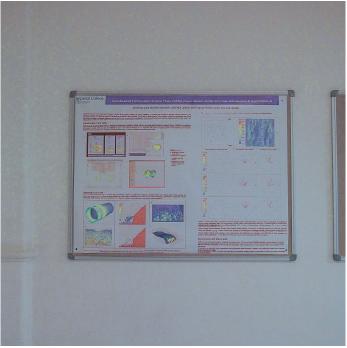
Art offers an inherently individual experience that speaks to larger ideas. Within science art illustrates natural beauty and a sense of wonder arising from discovery. In doing so it reflects on the community of scientists. The largest ideas of religion are those of deity and perfection, and it is these which religious art reflects on, looking not to the community, but to the authority for inspiration.

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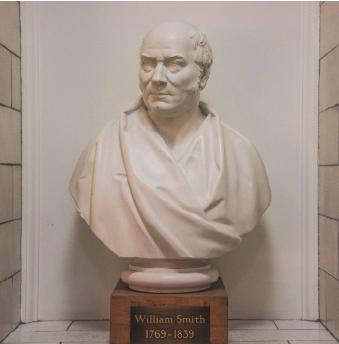
Memorials offer the chance to reflect and mull over a sacrifice of not just individuals, but of a community. They hold a sense of giving of the highest order, without ever exuding a literal sense of death. Within science and religion, memorials exist almost in synergy, in terms of craftsmanship, presentation and remembrance of those who have passed.





Religion and science inform our understanding of the world. Likewise they both have ways of simplifying messages that are important, and should be understood by those that are interested. In doing so representations of understanding leaves a permanent record of the messages that were passed on.

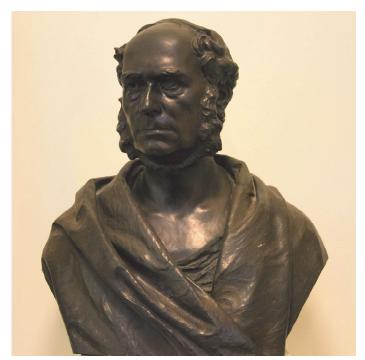




Science and Religion both place busts of people within the architecture to celebrate important individuals or figures from the community.

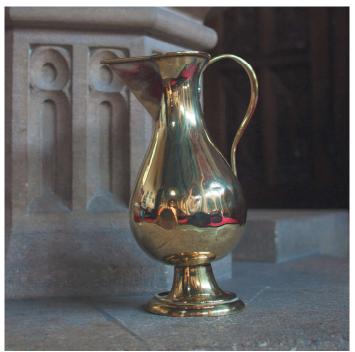


Art and prayer are two different means by which individuals relate to complex or unknowable problems, and in doing so gain understanding.





John Knox (right) was a prominent Scottish Reformer who led Scotland away from the Roman Catholic church and founded the Presbyterian denomination. Sir Henry Bessemer (left) was a British inventor and engineer who developed a new method for manufacturing steel inexpensively, one still used today - the Bessemer Process.



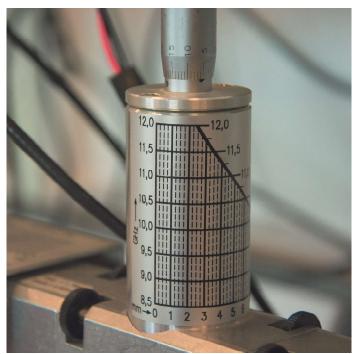


Recurring forms often assume deeply different meanings. Here the communion flask represents the notion of sharing, communion. Whereas the scientific flask is an empirical device, existing solely to measure.





Bowls have been used by humans since the Bronze age. Their form is functionally linked to holding liquid, however their purposes are diverse. In the context of cleansing, while the scientific instance is literal, the religious one is allegorical, employed in the purification of the spirit, rather than the body.



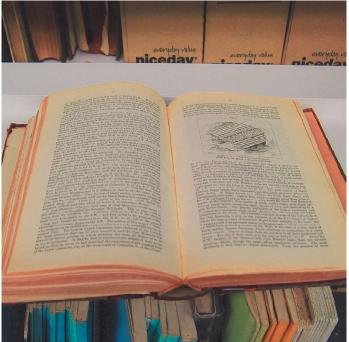


[&]quot;There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now. All that remains is more and more precise measurement." - Baron William Thomson Kelvin



Dialogue is essential within both the religious and scientific communities; what is offered in the form of oral teaching is extended through the medium of print.





Texts represent the permanence of knowledge. The purpose of books in science and religion is identical, even if the content is divergent, even contradictory.