

Towers Columns University Of Western Ontario

Unveiling the Architectural Enigma: Towers and Columns of the University of Western Ontario The University of Western Ontario (UWO) campus, a vibrant hub of academic and cultural life, boasts a captivating architectural landscape. Its iconic structures, often featuring towers and columns, are more than just aesthetic elements; they reflect the university's history, values, and aspirations. This delves into the intricate world of these architectural features, examining their significance, potential benefits, and any inherent limitations.

A Legacy in Stone

The University of Western Ontario, with its diverse range of buildings, showcases a progression of architectural styles. From the classical elegance of some structures to the more contemporary designs, the towers and columns tell a story about the evolution of the institution and its relationship with the surrounding community. This exploration investigates the specific architectural characteristics of UWO's towers and columns, analyzing their historical context and possible implications for the student and visitor experience.

Examining the Architectural Styles

UWO's campus is a testament to a variety of architectural periods. Some buildings exhibit characteristics of Beaux-Arts, with its emphasis on symmetry and grandeur, while others showcase a more modern aesthetic.

Beaux-Arts Influence

Several key buildings on campus, including notable academic buildings, exhibit features reminiscent of the Beaux-Arts movement, including symmetrical facades, classical orders of columns (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian), and elaborate carvings.

Modern Interpretations

The incorporation of modern architectural styles is also evident. New buildings have embraced contemporary design elements, utilizing different materials and structures. These contemporary structures may be designed for specific functional purposes, like research facilities, accommodating specialized equipment, and promoting efficient resource usage.

Potential Advantages of Towers and Columns

While not always a clear-cut advantage, towers and columns can contribute to the overall architectural experience in several ways: • Enhanced Visual Appeal: The grandeur of towers and columns can create a memorable and aesthetically pleasing campus environment, potentially attracting students and contributing to a positive campus image. • **Historical Significance**: The presence of towers and

columns in certain buildings often reflects the historical period in which they were constructed, offering valuable insights into the university's development. • **Symbolic Representation:** The specific architectural styles of the towers and columns might represent the university's values, such as tradition, learning, or progress. • **Increased Campus Pride:** Iconic buildings, including those with visually striking towers and columns, can foster a sense of pride and belonging within the student body.

Potential Drawbacks and Related Themes

While towers and columns can contribute positively, there are also considerations:

Maintenance and Cost

Maintaining these structures can be a significant expense, requiring regular upkeep and repair. The substantial cost involved in restoration and upkeep should be carefully considered.

Accessibility Concerns

The design of structures with towers and columns might not always prioritize accessibility for individuals with disabilities. This can affect usability and inclusivity.

Potential for Obsolescence

The presence of historic structures, while valuable, may not always align with contemporary needs and may face challenges in adaptation to changing technological requirements. This is particularly relevant if those structures lack flexibility for accommodating modern facilities.

Case Study: The University Hall Renovation

University Hall, a prime example of a historic building, underwent a recent renovation. While it retained its original architectural elements, the renovation incorporated modern accessibility features, highlighting how historic buildings can adapt to modern needs.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

The use of materials and construction methods in these structures can have implications for environmental sustainability.

Material Sourcing

The materials used in construction, their origin, and impact on the environment are crucial considerations in contemporary design. Sustainable practices, such as using locally sourced or recycled materials, might be implemented in future projects.

Energy Efficiency

The design of buildings featuring towers and columns should consider energy efficiency. Passive design strategies, such as utilizing natural light and ventilation, can reduce reliance on energy-consuming systems.

Example: The Engineering Building

A new engineering building on campus that prioritizes energy efficiency could incorporate sustainable design elements, such as solar panels on the roof and optimized window placement, thereby reducing its environmental footprint.

Conclusion

The towers and columns of the University of Western Ontario are part of a rich architectural heritage. While they offer aesthetic appeal and historical significance, potential drawbacks like maintenance costs and accessibility challenges need careful consideration. The key lies in a balanced approach—preserving the past while adapting to modern necessities, and striving for both beauty and functionality. Sustainable design principles and a thoughtful approach to accessibility are crucial for the continued relevance and appeal of these structures.

Advanced FAQs

1. How does the historical context of a building with towers and columns influence its current value? > The historical context, including the architectural style, materials, and social context, provides crucial insights into the values and aspirations of the era in which the building was constructed. This contextual understanding often enriches the experience of visitors and enhances the historical value of the campus as a whole.

2. **What are some alternative architectural solutions that can maintain aesthetic appeal without the costs associated with towers and columns?** > Alternative designs, like prominent roof lines, expansive windows, or strategically placed sculptures, can create visual interest and achieve a similar aesthetic impact at a potentially reduced cost. Careful planning and architectural design can contribute to a cohesive and engaging campus environment.

3. **How do accessibility regulations impact the design and maintenance of buildings featuring towers and columns?** > Accessibility regulations play a significant role, demanding that any restoration or addition to a historical building include accommodations for people with disabilities. Ramps, elevators, and widened doorways are often necessary to ensure accessibility for all users.

4. **What role does community engagement play in decisions regarding the preservation and renovation of historical structures with towers and columns?** > Community engagement is essential in preserving historical structures. Involving local residents, students, and alumni in discussions about renovations and preservation ensures that the project reflects the community's values and needs.

5. How can future developments on the UWO campus integrate sustainability into the design of structures with towers and columns? > Future development can integrate sustainability into design by using sustainable materials, optimizing energy efficiency, and employing green technologies. Incorporating features like solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and green roofs, can demonstrate a commitment to environmental responsibility.

The Majestic Towers and Pillars of Western University: An Iconic Architectural and Academic Legacy

When you think of Western University (officially The University of Western Ontario), what images spring to mind? For many, it's the imposing, elegant structures that define its stunning campus. The iconic "Towers" and the stately "Columns" are more than just architectural marvels; they are symbols of

academic excellence, rich history, and the enduring spirit of one of Canada's most respected institutions. Let's take a deep dive into the world of Western University's towers and columns, exploring their significance, their history, and the integral role they play in the student and academic experience.

The campus of Western University, nestled in the heart of London, Ontario, is renowned for its Gothic-inspired architecture. This design choice wasn't accidental. It was a deliberate decision to imbue the university with a sense of gravitas, tradition, and timeless intellectual pursuit. Among the many beautiful buildings, the "Towers" and "Columns" stand out as particularly captivating landmarks. These aren't just aesthetically pleasing; they are deeply woven into the fabric of student life, academic endeavors, and the very identity of Western.

Understanding the "Towers" and "Columns": More Than Just Stone and Mortar

It's important to clarify what we mean when we refer to the "Towers" and "Columns" at Western. While there might be multiple towers and columns scattered throughout the sprawling university grounds, two specific architectural features tend to dominate the visual landscape and the collective consciousness of the Western community:

The University College Towers

When most alumni and students speak of "The Towers," they are likely referring to the magnificent twin Gothic Revival towers that crown the historic University College building. These towers are arguably the most recognizable silhouette of Western University. Their soaring spires, intricate stonework, and imposing presence make them a focal point of the campus. They stand as sentinels, overlooking the academic quad and serving as a constant reminder of the university's long-standing commitment to learning and scholarship. The University College building itself is one of the oldest on campus, and its towers are a testament to the enduring architectural style that has shaped much of Western's identity. These towers are not merely decorative; they house offices, lecture halls, and are an integral part of the academic infrastructure, symbolizing the height of intellectual aspiration.

The Huron College Columns

Similarly, when "The Columns" are mentioned, the most prominent and celebrated are those adorning the entrance to Huron University College, another federated college of Western University. These grand, classically inspired columns create a stately and welcoming facade. They evoke a sense of tradition, dignity, and intellectual inquiry. The Huron College columns, with their robust design and symmetrical arrangement, create a sense of permanence and authority, befitting an institution dedicated to theological, arts, and social science education. They are a popular spot for graduation photos and a meeting point for students, embodying the welcoming yet profound nature of higher education.

A Journey Through Time: The Historical Significance

The origins of Western University, and by extension its iconic architecture, are deeply rooted in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The vision was to establish a prominent academic institution that would rival those in other major cities across Canada and internationally. The choice of a Gothic Revival architectural style was a deliberate nod to the prestigious universities of Oxford and Cambridge, aiming

to project an image of prestige, tradition, and scholarly rigor.

The Founding and Early Development

Founded in 1878, Western University's early years were marked by significant growth and the construction of its foundational buildings. The University College building, including its distinctive towers, was constructed in stages, with significant portions completed in the early 20th century. This period was crucial in establishing the architectural language that would define the campus for generations to come. The visionaries behind Western wanted a campus that felt both timeless and inspiring, a place where minds could flourish under the shadow of enduring architectural beauty. The presence of these towers and columns was intended to foster a sense of awe and respect for the pursuit of knowledge.

Architectural Evolution and Preservation

Over the decades, Western University has continued to grow and evolve, with new buildings and facilities being added to its impressive campus. However, the commitment to preserving its historic architectural heart has remained paramount. The towers of University College and the columns of Huron College have undergone careful restoration and maintenance to ensure their longevity. These preservation efforts are not just about aesthetics; they are about safeguarding a tangible link to the university's past and ensuring that future generations can experience the same sense of wonder and inspiration that these landmarks evoke. Discussions around campus planning and development at Western often include a strong emphasis on how new structures can complement, rather than detract from, the existing historic core, thus preserving the visual harmony of the "towers and columns" aesthetic.

The Role of Towers and Columns in Campus Life and Identity

Beyond their architectural grandeur, the towers and columns of Western University play a multifaceted role in the daily lives of students, faculty, and visitors. They are more than just backdrops; they are active participants in the university's vibrant ecosystem.

Symbols of Academic Pursuit and Excellence

The soaring heights of the University College towers are often seen as metaphorical representations of reaching for intellectual heights, of striving for academic excellence. Similarly, the solid, stately columns of Huron College symbolize the foundational strength and enduring principles of higher education. They serve as constant reminders of the university's mission to foster critical thinking, innovation, and lifelong learning. For students embarking on their academic journeys at Western, these landmarks become intertwined with their personal growth and achievements. Passing under the Huron columns or gazing up at the University College towers can evoke a sense of belonging and pride in being part of such a distinguished institution.

Iconic Landmarks and Gathering Spaces

The towers and columns are undeniably iconic landmarks that contribute significantly to Western's

recognizable identity. They are frequently featured in university publications, marketing materials, and, of course, countless student photographs. The areas surrounding these architectural features often become natural gathering spaces. Students might meet friends under the shade of the Huron columns, study on the steps of University College, or simply pause to admire the view. These spaces foster a sense of community and shared experience, creating lasting memories for all who walk the grounds of Western.

Inspiring Architecture and Student Experience

The Gothic Revival architecture, with its emphasis on grand scale, intricate detail, and the interplay of light and shadow, has a profound impact on the student experience. The imposing nature of the towers and the elegant simplicity of the columns create an atmosphere that is both stimulating and conducive to deep thought. Walking through the campus, surrounded by these inspiring structures, can evoke a sense of tradition, intellectual curiosity, and belonging. This architectural environment contributes to the unique "Western experience" that many alumni cherish.

Exploring the Specifics: University College Towers and Huron College Columns

Let's delve a little deeper into the specifics of these beloved landmarks.

University College Towers: Guardians of Knowledge

The University College towers are a masterclass in Gothic Revival architecture. Their pointed arches, pinnacles, and tracery work are characteristic of the style, designed to draw the eye upwards and symbolize spiritual and intellectual aspiration. Within the University College building, these towers house a significant portion of the administrative and academic functions of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Imagine attending lectures or meeting with professors in rooms that have witnessed generations of intellectual discourse, all under the watchful gaze of these magnificent towers. The very stones seem to whisper tales of past academic endeavors, making it a truly unique learning environment. The university's commitment to maintaining these structures reflects their understanding of their historical and cultural value.

Huron College Columns: A Gateway to Learning

The columns at Huron University College, while perhaps less towering than their University College counterparts, possess a commanding presence of their own. Their classical proportions and robust design offer a different, yet equally impactful, architectural statement. These columns frame the entrance to Huron College, a federated institution with a rich history in theological studies, as well as arts and social sciences. Walking through these columns is often a symbolic passage for students entering Huron, representing their transition into a new phase of academic and personal development. The serene beauty and dignified presence of these columns contribute to the tranquil and focused atmosphere that many students associate with Huron College. They serve as a constant reminder of the academic rigor and ethical grounding that the college strives to impart.

Beyond the Landmarks: The Broader Architectural Landscape

While the "Towers" and "Columns" are undeniably the most celebrated, it's worth noting that Western University's architectural beauty extends far beyond these specific features. The entire campus is a testament to thoughtful design, with many buildings employing similar Gothic Revival elements. From the imposing Mitton Hall to the elegant Somerville House, the consistent architectural theme creates a cohesive and visually stunning environment. This deliberate design choice contributes to the strong sense of place and identity that is so characteristic of Western. The ongoing development of the university, with new buildings like the Health Sciences building, aims to integrate modern functionality while respecting the overarching aesthetic, ensuring that the legacy of iconic architecture, including the towers and columns, continues to inspire.

The presence of these architectural gems also impacts the broader community. The Western campus is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, drawn by its beauty and its vibrant atmosphere. Events, concerts, and public lectures held on campus further integrate these historic structures into the fabric of the city of London. The "towers and columns" of Western University are not just for students; they are a source of pride and a landmark for the entire region.

Conclusion: An Enduring Legacy of Beauty and Knowledge

The towers and columns of Western University are more than just architectural elements; they are living symbols of a storied institution. They represent a commitment to tradition, academic excellence, and the enduring power of human knowledge. For students who have walked its halls, alumni who fondly recall their days on campus, and visitors who marvel at its beauty, the "towers and columns" of Western University hold a special place. They stand as a timeless testament to the university's past, a vibrant heart in its present, and an inspiring beacon for its future. These iconic structures continue to shape the student experience, foster a sense of community, and cement Western University's reputation as a place where intellect and inspiration beautifully converge.

The Towers Columns at the University of Western Ontario represent a distinctive architectural and functional element within the institution's evolving campus landscape. More than just a striking visual feature, these columns embody a fusion of design innovation and academic purpose, symbolizing the university's commitment to fostering collaboration, intellectual exchange, and sustainable development. Nestled prominently across key academic zones, the Towers Columns serve as both structural supports and powerful metaphors for the interconnected nature of knowledge and community.

Architectural Significance and Design Philosophy

The Towers Columns stand as a testament to modern architectural ingenuity, seamlessly blending form and function. Designed with precision, their slender yet robust profile reflects the university's dedication to balancing aesthetic appeal with engineering excellence. Each column integrates sustainable materials and energy-efficient systems, aligning with Western's broader environmental goals. More than mere supports, they frame pathways, guide student movement, and create inviting

public spaces that encourage interaction and reflection. This thoughtful design transforms a utilitarian feature into a defining landmark that enhances the campus identity.

Integral Role in Academic and Collaborative Life

Within the academic ecosystem, the Towers Columns serve as more than structural elements—they act as catalysts for engagement. Positioned at strategic intersections across campus, they create natural gathering points where students, faculty, and visitors converge. These spaces often host impromptu discussions, informal lectures, and collaborative projects, reinforcing the university's mission to nurture dynamic learning environments. By integrating artful design with functional utility, the columns encourage spontaneous intellectual exchange, reinforcing the university's role as a hub of innovation and creativity.

Practical Applications and Community Benefits

Beyond their symbolic and social value, the Towers Columns contribute directly to the practical needs of the university community. Their elevated design provides structural stability while optimizing natural light and ventilation in adjacent spaces, enhancing comfort and energy efficiency. These columns also anchor key infrastructure projects, including green roofs and solar integration, supporting Western's sustainability initiatives. For students and staff, the columns offer not only physical shelter but also a sense of place—a daily reminder of the university's forward-thinking ethos and ongoing investment in a resilient, inclusive future.

Future Outlook and Vision

Looking ahead, the Towers Columns are poised to evolve as living symbols of Western University's enduring commitment to excellence and innovation. As the campus continues to expand and adapt to emerging educational and environmental challenges, these columns will remain central to both physical and symbolic development. Future enhancements may include integrated digital displays, interactive learning zones, and expanded green spaces, further embedding the columns into the university's evolving narrative. Their presence will continue to inspire, unite, and elevate the shared experience of all who walk among them. The Towers Columns at the University of Western Ontario thus stand not only as architectural landmarks but as enduring expressions of the university's values—bridging tradition and innovation, structure and spirit, past and future.

The Majestic Towers and Enduring Columns of Western University: An Architectural and Historical Deep Dive

Nestled in the heart of London, Ontario, Western University stands as a beacon of academic excellence and a testament to architectural grandeur. Among its most iconic and recognizable features are its magnificent towers and enduring columns, particularly those gracing the historic University College. These structures are far more than mere aesthetic elements; they are interwoven with the university's rich history, its academic traditions, and the very identity of Western Ontario.

University College: The Heart of Western's Architectural Heritage

When one speaks of "towers columns university of western ontario," the immediate image that springs to mind is University College. This is the oldest academic building on campus, and its imposing Gothic Revival architecture, replete with soaring towers and classical columns, sets the tone for the entire institution. Designed by renowned architect John M. Lyle, its construction began in 1907, and it has since served as a cornerstone of Western's academic and administrative life.

The principal tower of University College, often referred to as the main tower or clock tower, is a defining feature of the London skyline. Its intricate stonework, pointed arches, and decorative gargoyles speak to a rich architectural tradition. This tower is not just a visual marker; it has historically housed bell towers and provided panoramic views of the surrounding campus and city, symbolizing the university's reach and influence.

The Enduring Appeal of Classical Columns

Beyond the prominent towers, the pervasive presence of classical columns throughout University College and other older buildings on campus is a significant aspect of Western's architectural narrative. These columns, often fashioned from stone or robust masonry, evoke a sense of timelessness, stability, and intellectual gravitas. They are not merely structural supports but deliberate design choices that communicate authority and tradition.

The use of Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders, though perhaps not always strictly adhered to, echoes the architectural principles of ancient Greece and Rome, civilizations that laid the groundwork for Western philosophy, democracy, and scientific inquiry. This deliberate architectural homage reinforces the university's commitment to liberal arts education and the pursuit of knowledge rooted in historical understanding. Students and faculty walking through these colonnaded walkways are, in a sense, participating in a dialogue with history.

More Than Just Stone: Symbolism and Identity

The towers and columns of Western University transcend their material form to embody deeper symbolic meanings. The towers, reaching towards the sky, represent aspiration, ambition, and the pursuit of higher learning. They are visual metaphors for the intellectual heights students strive to achieve. The solidity and permanence of the columns speak to the enduring values of education, the strength of the academic community, and the lasting impact of the knowledge imparted within these walls.

For generations of Western alumni, the image of these iconic structures evokes a powerful sense of nostalgia and belonging. They are the backdrop to countless memories, from late-night study sessions to graduation ceremonies. The "towers columns university of western ontario" become an intrinsic part of the collective identity of those who have passed through its hallowed halls.

Architectural Evolution and Campus Growth

While University College remains the most prominent example, Western's campus has evolved significantly since its inception. Newer academic buildings, while adopting more contemporary architectural styles, often pay homage to the original design principles, incorporating elements that

harmonize with the historic core. This ensures a cohesive campus aesthetic that bridges the past and the future.

For instance, the Weldon Library, though a much more modern structure, benefits from its proximity to University College and the overall neo-Gothic ambiance of that section of campus. Similarly, newer faculty buildings might feature courtyards with colonnades or prominent entranceways that echo the classical influences of the older buildings. This thoughtful approach to campus planning ensures that the "towers columns university of western ontario" narrative continues to be relevant across the entire university landscape.

The Role of LSI Keywords in Understanding Western's Architecture

When discussing "towers columns university of western ontario," several related concepts, or LSI (Latent Semantic Indexing) keywords, naturally emerge. These include:

1. **University College architecture:** This is a primary focus, detailing the specific style and historical significance.
2. **John M. Lyle architect:** Recognizing the visionary behind University College is crucial for a complete understanding.
3. **Western University landmarks:** Placing these architectural features within the context of other notable campus sites.
4. **Gothic Revival style:** The dominant architectural movement influencing these structures.
5. **London Ontario campus:** Providing geographical context.
6. **University history:** Understanding how these buildings reflect the institution's development.
7. **Academic buildings Western:** Broader context of educational facilities.
8. **Campus symbolism:** Interpreting the deeper meanings embedded in the architecture.
9. **Western alumni memories:** Connecting the physical space to personal experiences.

By weaving these terms naturally into the discourse, we create a richer, more comprehensive picture of what makes Western's iconic towers and columns so significant. It's not just about the bricks and mortar; it's about the stories, the history, and the aspirations they represent.

Preservation and Future of Western's Architectural Treasures

The preservation of these historic structures is paramount for Western University. Ongoing maintenance and restoration efforts ensure that the Gothic Revival architecture, including its distinctive towers and classical columns, can be enjoyed by future generations. The university's commitment to heritage conservation reflects its understanding of the vital role these buildings play in its identity and its mission.

As Western continues to grow and adapt to the evolving landscape of higher education, its architectural legacy remains a powerful anchor. The "towers columns university of western ontario" are not static relics; they are vibrant elements of a living, breathing institution, inspiring academic pursuit and fostering a profound sense of community. They are a constant reminder of the depth of history and the enduring power of place in shaping the university experience.

Beyond University College: Other Notable Architectural Features

While University College commands much of the attention, it's important to acknowledge that the spirit of classical and Gothic Revival influences can be seen in other parts of Western's campus, albeit in varying degrees. The original campus plan, developed by Lyle and landscape architect Frederick Todd, aimed for a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing environment. This vision included the strategic placement of buildings and the creation of visually striking vistas, often framed by grand entrances and, of course, architectural elements reminiscent of those found in University College.

For example, the main gates of the university, often adorned with robust stonework and architectural detailing, serve as another gateway to the campus's heritage. These elements, though perhaps less prominent than the main towers, contribute to the overall sense of grandeur and tradition. The careful integration of new constructions with the existing historical fabric demonstrates a commitment to maintaining the unique character of Western Ontario.

The Enduring Legacy of the Towers and Columns

In conclusion, the towers and columns of Western University are far more than just architectural elements; they are integral to the institution's identity, history, and ethos. They stand as enduring symbols of academic pursuit, intellectual tradition, and the collective experience of generations of students and faculty. The Gothic Revival grandeur of University College, with its iconic towers and majestic columns, continues to inspire awe and a deep connection to the university's past, while serving as a constant reminder of its aspirations for the future. The "towers columns university of western ontario" represent a harmonious blend of aesthetic beauty and profound historical significance, making them a truly defining characteristic of this esteemed institution.

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Questions & Answers About towers columns university of western ontario

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the iconic 'towers' on the University of Western Ontario campus, and what's their significance?	The most prominent 'towers' at Western are the University College (UC) towers, often referred to as the "Twin Towers." These Gothic Revival structures are iconic landmarks of the university, housing administrative offices and lecture halls. They symbolize the university's history and academic traditions.
2	Are there other notable 'columns' or structures resembling columns at Western University?	Beyond the UC towers, Western features many neoclassical architectural elements, including numerous columns throughout its older buildings, particularly in areas like University Hall and the libraries. These columns contribute to the campus's grand and scholarly aesthetic.

3	What's the history behind the 'towers and columns' architectural style at Western University?	The predominant architectural style at Western, especially in its foundational buildings, is Gothic Revival and Neoclassical. This was popular for university campuses in the early 20th century, aiming to evoke a sense of historical gravitas and intellectual tradition, often incorporating towers and classical columns.
4	Can I visit or tour the 'towers' or areas with prominent 'columns' at Western University?	Yes, the main campus, including the University College towers and many buildings with classical columns, is generally accessible to the public for self-guided exploration. Guided campus tours are also offered by the university, often highlighting these architectural features.
5	Are the 'towers' at Western University used for anything specific today?	The University College towers primarily house academic and administrative functions. Their upper levels contain classrooms, faculty offices, and meeting spaces. They are integral to the daily academic life of the university.
6	Where can I find the best views or photo opportunities of the 'towers and columns' at Western University?	The areas around University College and the main quad offer excellent vantage points for photographing the UC towers. Many other buildings on campus, like University Hall and the libraries, provide striking views of their respective columnar facades, especially when approached from the main walkways.

University of Western Ontario towers research, University of Western Ontario columns architecture, Towers and columns at Western University, University of Western Ontario campus columns, Towers and architectural columns UWO, Western University towers academic focus, UWO campus columns and design, University of Western Ontario structural towers, Towers and columns Western University campus, Architectural columns at University of Western Ontario

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