



Some people claim the Ottawa city hall is chiefly significant as a symbol of government despite the fact that there has never been a time when people were less able to form images in their own minds of any sort of institution. The argument always breaks down, not on the question of whether such-and-such a building is an effective symbol, but on the question of what, precisely, is to be symbolised. We would call Ottawa's new city seat significant because it carries a simple, massive conception to a completely logical conclusion in siting, symmetry, structure and detailing, without bricks or experimentation; this is rare in Canada.

Across page, top: the main elevation, the council chamber suite projecting. Centre: detail of a facade unit. Bottom: the entrance staircase leading to the council chamber floor. This page, top: sculpture by Louis Archambault.

OTTAWA CITY HALL  
ROTHER | BLAND | TRUDEAU

