Concrete and Shadows: A History of Secret Societies and Architecture

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From time immemorial, mankind has struggled with the sociopolitical tension between safety and empowerment of individuals. In modern times, this tension manifests itself as a tug of war between socialist, utopian and conservative, capitalist ideologies. Nowhere is this combat of ideals seen more clearly than in the rise and fall of architectural styles. Witness the Postmodern architecture favoured by many large institutions post-1950 as compared with the Modernist architecture it preceded and the Victorian style it usurped, flowing backwards in time through Federal architecture, Gothic revival, Neoclassical and [REDACTED] a given style rise and fall? What combinations of stylistic concern, economics and social factors combine to create a dominant style? If we compare the rise in prominence of fraternal organisations (so-called “secret societies”) in intellectual, political and business circles, a clear correlation is evident.

Modern [REDACTED] came to be publicly known at a meeting of four London lodges on St. John’s Day (June 24) 1717 [REDACTED] go