

THE INTERNATIONAL STYLE IN BANFF 1945-1980

The International Style has influenced commercial development in Banff since the mid century. The style is characterized by an underlying philosophy of buildings devoid of ornamentation, and designed solely to facilitate interior needs. In Banff, the sleek, predominantly stuccoed International Style was modified to suit the Rustic approach, using stone and wood cladding in ways that were limitedly employed in later International buildings elsewhere.

Architectural Principles

- Machine-style buildings designed for function rather than ornamentation
- Focus on free-flowing interior volume and spaces, enclosed by simple, lightweight walls
- Window placement based on interior uses
- Flat roof, set flush with walls

Identifying Features

- Large window groupings (horizontal ribbons, sometimes floor-to-ceiling), and other large expanses of blank wall
- Simple casement window forms
- Multiple roof levels, and cantilevered sections (distinct from Contemporary style, with its continuous flat overhanging eave lines)
- Single-material wall cladding, sometimes interspersed with large vertical sections in a distinct material
- Use of natural wall cladding materials (smooth wood boards, brick, flat stone)

