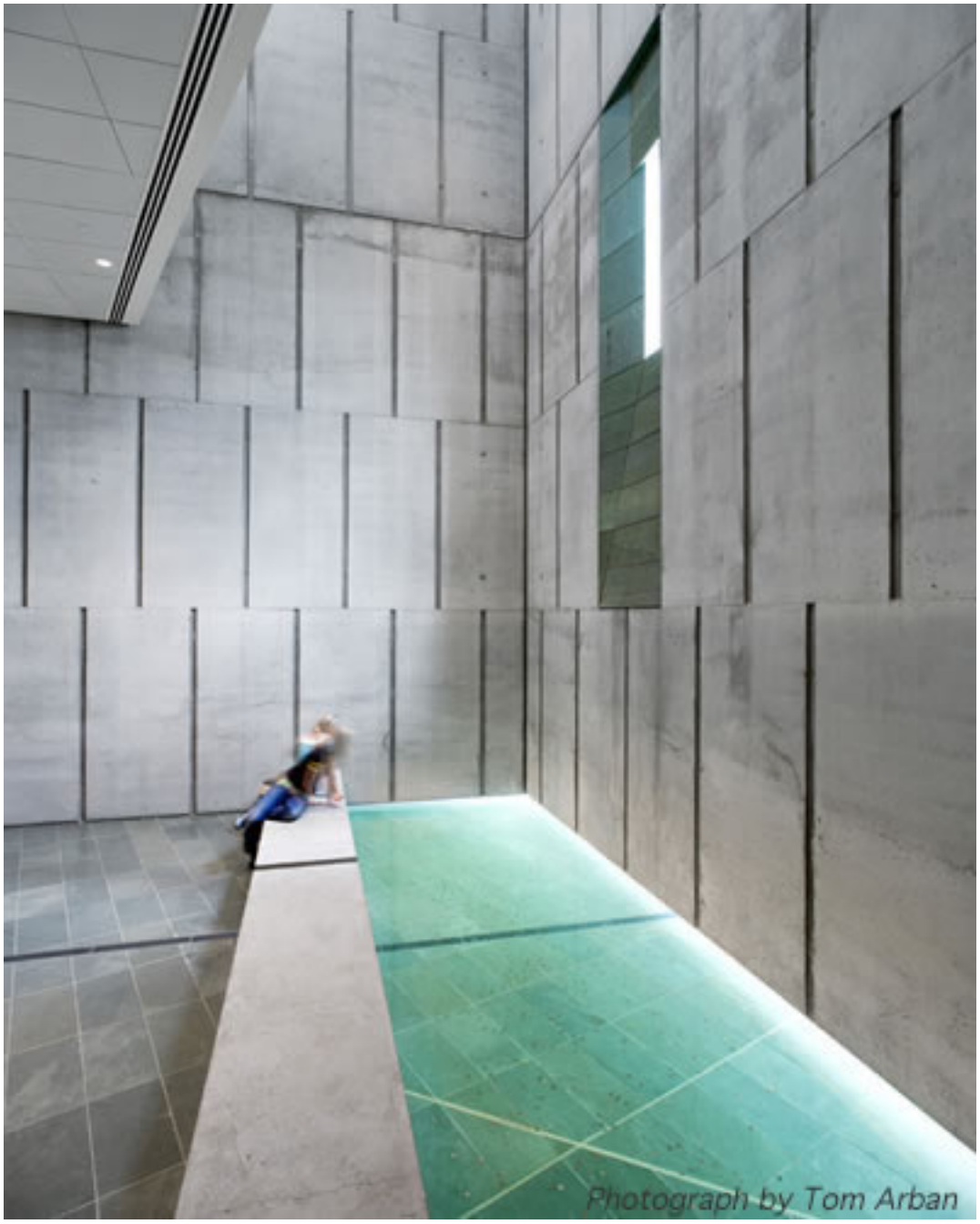
Photograph by Canadian Aerial Photo Corporation

Regeneration embodies the sequences of devastation, survival, rebirth, adaptation and life. In war, nature—comprising the land and the human spirit nurtured thereon—is ravaged and seemingly destroyed.

Miraculously and somehow inevitably, however, nature survives and regenerates as the power of life prevails. It is this process of regeneration and healing that nourishes and rekindles human hope, faith and courage.

Located in the Ottawa, Canada, the project's conception is a joint venture between Moriyama & Teshima Architects and Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects.



The design concept of Regeneration was inspired by stories of Canadian veterans, war poetry, and images found in photographs and paintings in the Canadian War Museum's Beaverbrook Collection of War Art: Canadian soldiers standing in desolate foreign landscapes; and the Beaumont Hamel Memorial in France where trenches, now covered with lush green vegetation, preserve the memory of the 710 Newfoundlanders sacrificed at the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

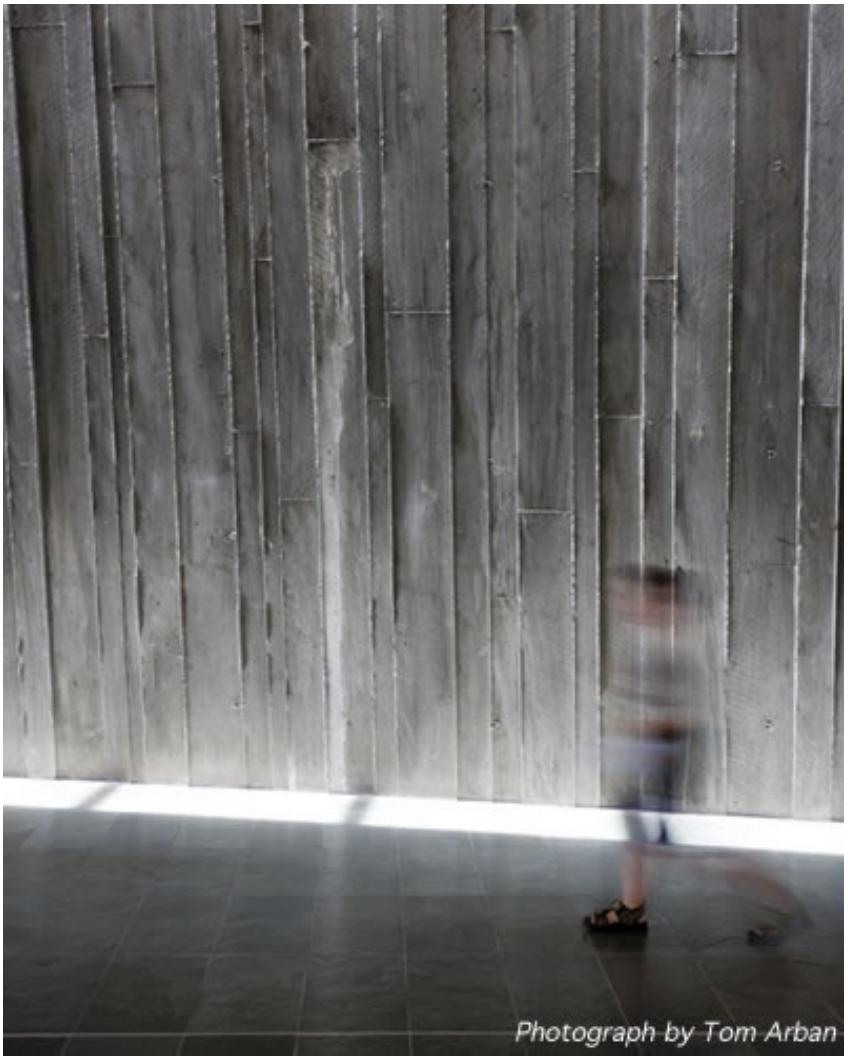
The building emerges gently from the bank of the Ottawa River, rising slowly towards the east to engage the urban cityscape and pay homage to, in the distance, the Parliamentary Precinct.

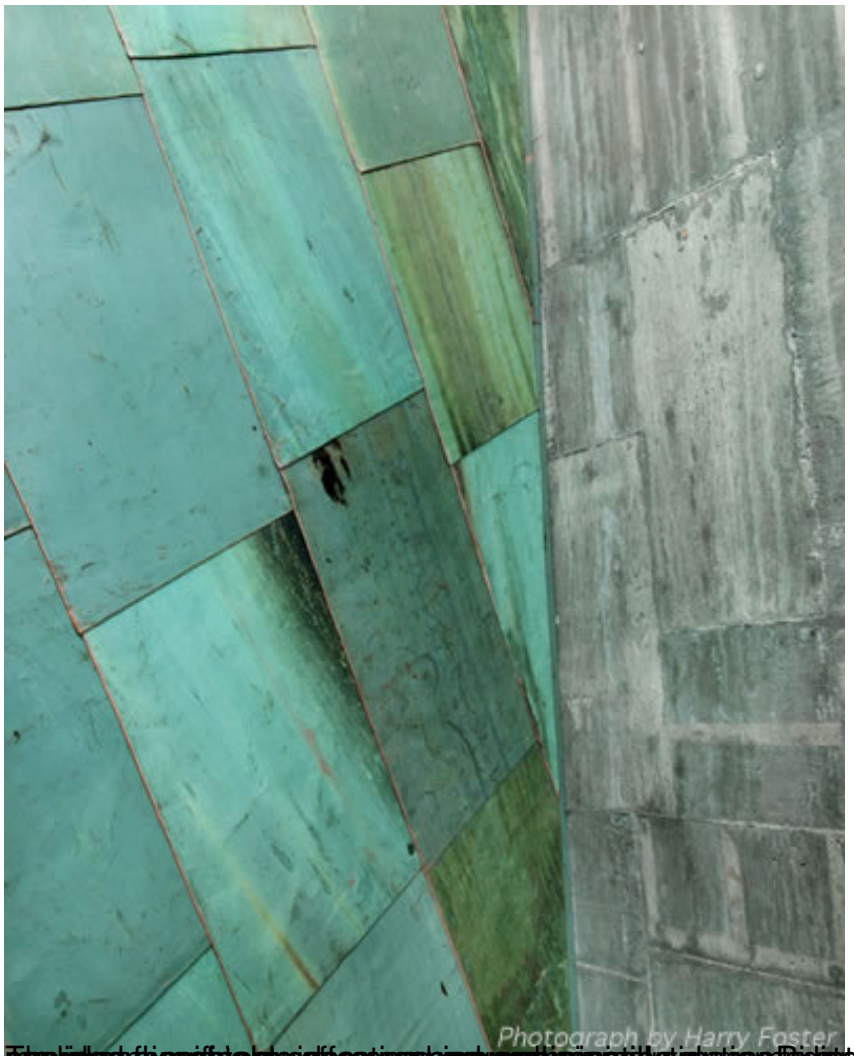
The overall expression of the building is horizontal, with a rooftop of wild grasses.

One can imagine peeling back this protective cover to reveal the interior spaces: the memory of war captured in the complex system of tilting planes that collide and intersect with one another lending to a sense of disorientation from within. The landscape overlay is evidence of the healing power of time and nature: land fusing with ruin in a slow process of regeneration

and hybridization.

The concept of Regeneration demanded design and construction strategies that embraced sustainability and energy conservation. Recycled copper cladding from the Library of Parliament covers two walls in the foyer, and the north wall of Lebreton Gallery.




Photograph by Harry Foster

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