

“Fail, Fail Again,
Fail Better.”

—
Samuel
Beckett



As a young boy, I got lost in the largest of Istanbul's underground water tanks built in Byzantine times, reusing fragments of earlier architectures. The upside-down giant stone head of a Medusa, roughly re-employed as the base of a column—showed me both architecture's frailty and long-term responsibility.

At my design table, I always wear a long work apron with rubber bands that my wife sowed on the sleeve edges to protect my shirt cuffs from getting smudged and blackened by the 4B lead mines I use when sketching.

I CANNOT design without my “Radio Cino” turned on... that's my iTunes collection of 90,587 songs...

On shuffle, I listen to anything from French “Nouvelle Vague” to “New Wave” heroes of the eighties all the way to the contemporary indie Canadian music scene. Oh Canada!

My greatest dream is a long, dreamless nap on my sofa on a Sunday afternoon ... one where I don't have unfinished business to catch up on!

To me, Jacques Herzog and Pierre De Meuron remain the most inspiring contemporary figures of all times. Like Kubrick in film, continuously changing genres and moods to service the script, they surprise us with their amazing ability to invent and reinvent according to the theme.

Two collective almost delirious landscapes, Venice and New York, built not by monks but by merchants, are my all-time favorite spots in the world.



“Mine is a world of patience done by an impatient person.”

—
Paul
Valéry