

# The Beauty of Symmetry



The first image is of the Massachusetts State House which was designed by the famous architect Charles Bulfinch. The second image is of my home in Upstate New York, which is a traditional federal style home built in 1826. Placing these images side by side shows that they are both historic buildings with many symmetrical qualities. The State House is more symmetrical than my home because there is a great amount of detail within it. It has arched doorways and windows, columns, and other details crafted into its brick walls. These features are placed so there is an exact number of each on either side of the building's center. Charles Bulfinch, the architect, attended the prestigious Harvard University before he began to design this building. In order to be accepted into such a school, there must have been some form of symmetry in his life in order to keep him on a straight path to this college. Therefore, it can be inferred that his personality influenced the design. Its symmetrical features give onlookers a feeling of security and stability, which are important qualities for a state house. By contrast, my home shows less stability in that the windows on the walls and around the door are the only aspects that can be considered symmetrical. This gives the building more of a “homey” feel, or a feeling of being at peace. The brick walls show strength, while the simple details and lack of symmetrical features make this building feel like what it is, an inviting family home.