


feedback

Baker House not maintained

To the Editor:

Every time I manage to get to Cambridge, I make a point of visiting Baker House, designed almost forty years ago by the late Alvar Aalto, and still one of the most extraordinary examples of the work of that extraordinary architect. Indeed, in some respects, Baker House is probably the best modern building in the Greater Boston area.

After my most recent visit, I am not sure I ever want to come back. One assumes, of course, that a student dormitory will be subjected to a certain amount of abuse; still, one also assumes that an institution of higher learning, like MIT, which boasts one of the finest Schools of Architecture in

the world, would maintain a great building like Baker House at least minimally.

This assumption is unfounded. Baker House, as currently maintained, is a cross between a slum and a garbage dump, and a disgrace to MIT. Perhaps this marvellous building is not appreciated by your institution, and should be taken over by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or by Walt Disney Enterprises, and maintained in a manner that befits a truly civilized institution.

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