

# 01

## Architecture and Building Design

*It is the process and the product of planning, designing, and constructing buildings and other physical structures. Architectural works are often perceived as cultural symbols. Historical civilizations are usually identified with their surviving architectural achievements.*

### Architecture

from Academic-Plus.com

Architecture is the designing and construction of buildings. Every era that has the human civilization has gone through, in its inexorable progress into the future, has been marked by its own unique architecture, attesting to the craftsmanship of its people. Architecture is art and science at the same time.

Architecture is art because a building that is constructed is an expression of the imagination and creativity of whoever is involved in its design. This is why even buildings used for the most mundane of purposes transform into a work of art in the hands of a gifted architect. Moreover, certain architectural wonders, be it a house or a public building like a museum, bears the signature of the architect. They reflect the architect's personality and beliefs.

However, architecture is also a science because a building design has to be within the realms of rational thinking: It cannot ignore reality and its boundaries. For example, a house addresses the need for shelter, a basic human necessity. It has to be functional, durable, sustainable, and affordable. Ensuring these qualities needs empirically tested and validated knowledge, which we call science. In modern times, scientific principles and data are increasingly being used in architecture, so that buildings may be resistant to such natural disasters as earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Interestingly, it is not only modern scientific concepts that influence architecture. The ancient Chinese knowledge system called 'Feng Shui', developed over 3,000 years ago in China, advises how to balance the 'energies' of any given space. In India, 'Vaastu Shastra', an ancient Indian science of architecture and buildings, is hugely popular even today. Both Feng Shui and Vaastu Shastra are thought to guide people in taking advantage of the natural benefits of a given space and 'energy fields' for enhanced health, prosperity, and happiness.

Thus, being art and science, architecture inhabits a unique space among the modern knowledge systems. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond, architecture is all set to satisfy both aesthetic sensibilities and functional, economic and social requirements of the human race.



**Vocabulary: Empower your words.**

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**Directions:** Choose the correct definition for the following words and phrases from the article.

**1. craftsmanship**

- A. *lack; unskill*
- B. *skill in a particular craft*

**2. aesthetic**

- A. *concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty*
- B. *displeasing; ugly*

**3. mundane**

- A. *extraordinary; wonderful*
- B. *lacking interest or excitement; dull*

**4. inexorable**

- A. *in a way that is impossible to stop*
- B. *flexible; merciful*

**5. empirically**

- A. *theoretically*
- B. *by means of observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic*



## Speaking: What's on your mind?

**Directions:** Express your opinions regarding the topic for today. Do your best to exchange ideas with your teacher.

**1. How can an architect express his creativity and beliefs with the buildings he constructs?**

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**2. How can an architect combine art and science in designing buildings?**

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**3. How does architecture become unique as times go by?**

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## Conversation: Let's talk about it.



**Directions:** Discuss with your teacher the questions below. Remember to support your answers.

1. What was the last famous building you visited?
2. How important is architecture?
3. Do you think that buildings like the Eiffel Tower, Taj Mahal, Burj Khalifa, Big Ben, Forbidden City, or The New York Times Building define a city? Why or why not?
4. What do you think of your country's modern or traditional architecture?
5. How are the construction and real estate industries in your country?
6. Describe a well-known building in your hometown.
7. What would be your ideal house - underground, eco-friendly, rural, or apartment? Why?
8. How much does architecture affect people's moods?
9. What do architects need to be good at?
10. Which is more important – building appearance or comfort for humans?
11. What architecture do you like from other countries? Why?
12. How are they different from structures in your country?
13. How has architecture changed over the last 200 years? What would it be like in the future?
14. Do you think we should preserve old buildings or knock them down? How do you think so?
15. If you could make one change to your home, what would it be and why?