

Curriculum Guide



Appendix

Glossary



A:

Acoustical ceiling tile (noun)

- Ceiling material used to control the sound characteristics of a room

Activity (noun)

- Being in a state of action; a sphere of action

Adaptive reuse (noun)

- To take an existing building that had one purpose and renovate it to be used for a different purpose

Adobe (adj.) (noun)

- A type of brick used in building houses that comes from washed away rock sediment, soil or sand (alluvial)
- Sediment sun-dried in lieu of fired or burnt brick

Adobe house (noun)

- A house made of the sun-dried brick usually found in more arid climates

Aerial photograph (noun)

- A photograph taken from the air

Aesthetics (noun)

- The artistic component of architecture
- A sense of appreciation for beauty in nature and art

Air conditioning (noun)

- The process of cooling down the outside air to make it more comfortable inside a building or vehicle by controlling the humidity and temperature





Aluminum (noun)

- A building material whose chemical makeup provides lightness plus strength and non-corrosive properties; often used for exterior trim, window and door frames, handrails and fences

Anatomy (noun)

- The structure of a plant or animal

Angle (noun)

- The amount of difference in direction of two intersecting lines or planes measured in degrees or radians

Anthropomorphic (adj.)

- Relating to or characterized by attributing human qualities or characteristics to non-human things

Apartment (noun)

- A room or suite of rooms to live in that one leases (pays to live in) but does not own

Aqueduct (noun)

- A conduit or manmade canal for bringing water by gravity from a distant source

Aquifer (noun)

- A wet underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or materials such as gravel, sand or silt which transmits water to a well or a spring

Arch (noun)

- A curved structure, as of masonry, that supports the weight of material over an open space as in a bridge, doorway or gateway





Architecture (noun)

- The science, art or profession of designing and constructing buildings
- A style of construction

Archway (noun)

- A passage through or under an arch

Arctic region (noun)

- A very cold region around the North Pole

Area (noun)

- The measure of a bounded region on a plane or surface of a solid
- Defining a specific area of a house, e.g., kitchen area, dining area, etc.

Arena (noun)

- An open, central area in which games or contests are conducted

Arid (adj.)

- Dry, parched, having little rainfall

Artificial light (noun)

- Light that is created by humans instead of by natural means, such as sunlight

Artisan (noun)

- A craftsman

Asphalt (noun)

- A tar-like substance, usually black in color, that is used as a surfacing material on roads, playground areas or walkways





Attic (noun)

- The space above the living area just below the roof of a house

Axis (noun)

- A real or imaginary straight line in which the parts of the object are symmetrically or evenly arranged on both sides of the line

B:

Balcony (noun)

- A platform projecting from the wall of a building, usually enclosed by a railing

Barter (verb)

- The act of trading by exchanging one commodity for another

Baseball field (noun)

- A diamond-shaped field on which the game of baseball is played, consisting of three bases, an infield and an outfield

Basement (noun)

- The lowest floor of a building, which is partially or completely underground

Basketball court (noun)

- The court where the game of basketball is played, with a netted hoop at each end of the court

Bathroom (noun)

- A private room designed for the caring of one's personal hygiene, such as bathing, washing, shaving, brushing of hair and teeth, and elimination of bodily waste; equipped with water, toilet, basin and sometimes bathtub and/or shower stall





Beam (noun)

- A piece of wood, metal or stone that spans from support to support and holds the weight of the floor, roof or material above it

Bedroom (noun)

- A private room that contains a bed for sleeping, an area for dressing and undressing, and storage for clothing

Bench (noun)

- A platform or horizontal structure that provides a place for sitting and lying; can be found in parks, back yards or inside homes

Bird's-eye view (noun)

- The view of an object from overhead

Block (noun)

- A three-dimensional object with straight sides and right angles, usually solid, e.g., a building block
- A small area of a city or town that is part of a neighborhood and is usually bounded by streets

Brace (noun)

- A structural member that is used to stiffen or support a structure; a strut that supports or fixes another member in position

Bracket (noun)

- A support projecting from a wall or column
- Any angle shaped support, especially one in the form of a right triangle (e.g., a shelf bracket)

Brick (noun)

- A building material made with a clay base and fired in a kiln; used as a building material for walls and pavement





Bridge (noun)

- A structure that spans a depression and provides a passage between two points for pedestrians or vehicles to cross

Bubble diagram (noun)

- A visual aid on a drawing using circles or "bubbles" connected by lines labeled with specific spatial use/ functions to aid in organizing areas relative to one another

Building (noun) (verb)

- Any permanent structure or enclosure built with walls and a roof
- The act of constructing a permanent structure

Building program (noun)

- A checklist to determine the requirements of a particular building in the early stages of planning to ensure that all the necessary elements are included in the final plan

Built environment (noun)

- The environment that has been altered from its natural state by man to meet the requirements of the people utilizing an area

C:

Cabin (noun)

- A small, one-story structure, usually crudely built from logs
- Any small, simple structure designed for a brief stay

Cantilever (noun)

- A large bracket or block projecting from a wall and supported on one end only; often supports a balcony or extended part of a building





Carbon Footprint (noun)

- The measure of an entity's impact on the environment based on the release of the carbon dioxide that entity creates.

Carpet (noun)

- Floor covering made from thick synthetic or natural material usually woven with jute backing

Castle (noun)

- A large building fortified with thick walls, battlements and often a moat
- A fortress usually owned by royalty

Cave (noun)

- A hollow usually formed naturally as a void in rocks and earth

Ceiling (noun)

- The inside top part or covering of a room opposite the floor

Cell-phone tower (noun)

- Radio tower that is strategically installed and capable of receiving and transmitting radio signals (waves)

Cellar (noun)

- A room or group of rooms below the ground level and usually under a building; often used for storage

Cement (noun)

- A substance made of powdered lime and clay; when mixed with water, it forms a hard solid





Center (noun)

- A point around which everything revolves
- A point of equal distance from all points on the circumference of a circle or surface of a sphere

Centimeter (noun)

- In the metric system, a unit of measure equal to one-100th of a meter

Ceramic tile (noun)

- A clay tile with a glazed hard surface; used as a finishing material in high-water usage areas such as bathrooms and/or kitchens; provides low-maintenance finish

Chemicals (noun)

- Any substance used in or obtained by a chemical process or processes

Chimney (noun)

- A vertical structure containing an opening and extending above the roof of a building to allow smoke to escape and to allow draft for a fire; required for gas-fired equipment and fireplaces

Circle (noun)

- A plane figure bounded by a simple curved line; every point is equally distant from the point at the center of the figure

City (noun)

- In the United States, an incorporated municipality whose boundaries and powers of self-government are defined by a charter from the state in which it is located





City planner (noun)

- A person especially educated in the complexities of a city who maps out the flow of the functions of the city based on land location, major routes and natural topography; develops plans for immediate needs as well as future development

Civilization (noun)

- Advancement in social culture characterized by relative progress in the arts, sciences and statecraft

Climate (noun)

- The prevailing or average weather condition of a place as determined by meteorological and temperature changes over a period of years

Collaborate (verb)

- To collectively exchange ideas and experiences, resulting in a final conclusion or idea

Collage (noun)

- A collection of smaller irregular pieces of material, such as paper, cloth, flowers and leaves of various sizes, shapes and colors, that are assembled and glued together in a relationship that conveys the artist's expression

Colonial style (adj.)

- Works of art or architecture reflecting the appearance of the British colonies in America, typical of the 17th and 18th centuries

Color (noun)

- The sensation resulting from stimulation of the retina of the eye by light waves of certain lengths
- The property of reflecting light waves of a particular length
- The primary colors are red, yellow and blue
- All other colors can be made from the three primary colors





Column (noun)

- A vertical support for supporting horizontal structural members
- Also called a post

Column and beam construction (noun)

- A horizontal member (beam) supporting weight from above and transferring the weight to a vertical member (column), which takes it to the ground where the column is secured

Commerce (noun)

- An exchange of goods, wares and property of any kind, either by barter or through purchases between persons or nations

Communal (adj.)

- Of a community, pertaining to a community or public entity, such as public property

Communication (noun)

- The act of imparting, conferring or delivering opinions, ideas or facts by writing, talking, signing or any form of language

Community (noun)

- A body of people having common organizations or interests, living in the same place under the same laws

Component (noun)

- Serving as one of the parts of a whole

Compression (noun)

- The state of being pushed together or squeezed together, which results in a decrease in volume





Concrete (noun)

- A material made from limestone, sand, aggregate, cement and water; when hardened, it provides a strong finish material

Condominium (noun)

- A place where the persons residing there jointly own portions of the land and community property, while owning their own individual living spaces

Cone (noun)

- A solid with a circle for its base and a curved surface tapering evenly to an apex so that any point on this surface is in a straight line between the circumference of the base and the apex

Coniferous (adj.)

- Referring to any of the trees, shrubs, etc., that bear cones

Craftsman (noun)

- One who practices on art, skill, trade or manual occupation; an artisan

Crosswalk (noun)

- A designated area usually using striping or a sign that allows pedestrians to cross a road safely by lawfully making vehicular traffic yield to pedestrians

Cube (noun)

- A solid with six equal square sides

Curb (noun)

- A stone or concrete edging of sidewalk or pavement that forms a step to a raised surface





Cylinder (noun)

- A solid object described by the edge of a rectangle rotated around the opposite edge as axis; the ends of the rotated forms are parallel and equal circles

D:

Deciduous (adj.)

- Referring to leaves that fall off at maturity or by season as opposed to remaining on trees all year round

Degree (noun)

- A unit of measure in angles or arcs one-360th part of the circumference of a circle; the measure of an angle is the number of degrees between the two sides
- An increment of measurement that defines an angle, e.g., an angle of 60 degrees

Demographer (noun)

- One who gathers and processes population information

Demographics (noun)

- The characteristics of a population, especially as classified by age, sex, income, etc.

Depth (noun)

- The distance from the top downward, from the surface inward or from front to back

Desert regions (noun)

- A dry barren region usually treeless and sandy due to the lack of water to sustain plant life

Design (verb) (noun)

- To create original plans, sketches, patterns
- The arrangement of parts, details, forms and color to produce a complete and artistic unit





Diagram (noun)

- An explanatory graphic design to convey a concept or an idea

Dilapidation (noun)

- The natural deterioration of a building due to neglect

Dining room (noun)

- A room in which people eat their meals

Disposable (adj.)

- Referring to an item that can be discarded after use

District (noun)

- A geographical or political division created for a specific purpose, such as a school district

Dome (noun)

- A hemispherical roof or one formed by a series of rounded arches or vaults on a round or many-sided base

Domesticate (verb)

- To tame, as to tame a wild animal
- To accustom to home life

Dormer (noun)

- A projection in the roof to allow more space; a vertical window in the roof area

Door (noun)

- A movable structure for opening and closing an entrance into a building or giving access between two enclosed spaces, such as between a room and a closet or the outer and inner spaces of a cabinet





Driveway (noun)

- A hard surface leading from the street up to the house or garage; access into or out of an area that allows cars

Drywall (noun)

- A gypsum material that provides a hard surface for wall construction; it usually comes in large 4 x 8-foot panels

Dwelling (noun)

- A place where one resides

Duplex house (noun)

- A single building purposely designed for and divided into two separate living units, each having its own entrance and living space

E:

Earth (noun)

- The third planet from the sun in the solar system of the Milky Way

Earth friendly (adj.)

- Things that encourage or promote the natural process of the environment in lieu of destroying or inhibiting the natural progression of the environment, e.g., biodegradable boxes that eventually return to being part of nature

Echo (noun)

- The repeating of sound produced by reflection of sound waves from a surface

Ecology (noun)

- The branch of biology that deals with the relationship between living organisms and their environment





Economics (noun)

- The science that deals with the production, distribution and consumption of wealth

Edges (noun)

- Any sharp terminating point or border that defines where one area ends and another area begins

Electricity (noun)

- A form of energy generated by friction, induction, or chemical change, and having magnetic, chemical and radiant effects; it is a property of the basic particles of all matter, consisting of protons and electrons that attract each other

Electric wires (noun)

- A conduit which carries electricity from point to point

Elements (noun)

- One of the simplest parts into which something can be divided

Elevation (noun)

- A geometrical projection (often in drawing form) of a building in a vertical plane, as in a front elevation, side elevation and back elevation

Ellipse (noun)

- In geometry, the path of a point that moves so that the sum of its distances from two fixed points (called foci) within the ellipse is constant; the closed curve produced is egg shaped

Energy (noun)

- The quantified ability that a physical system has so that it can do work on other systems





Entrance (noun)

- A point of access to a building

Environment (noun)

- All the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting the development of human habitat for both shelter and community

Environmental Stewardship (noun)

- Caring for the environment in order to preserve valuable natural resources

Erosion (noun)

- The act of a material being worn away gradually by wind or water

Estimate (noun)

- A rough calculation of size, value or cost of an item; projected cost of work to be done by the person performing a task

Ethnic (adj.)

- Relating to people who are distinguished by customs, characteristics, language, common history and/or religion

F:

Façade (noun)

- The front of a building; part of a building facing a street, courtyard, etc.

Farmhouse (noun)

- The dwelling of a farmer
- A style of house conducive to life on a farm; usually a two-story house with a large covered porch





Federal style (noun)

- In the United States, a revival style emulating the architecture prevalent from 1790 to 1830

Fence (noun)

- An outdoor structure made of materials that define the boundaries of one's property or of an area to be utilized for a specific function

Filtration (noun)

- The process of purifying or removing foreign particles or unwanted materials from water

Fire (noun)

- A chemical change accompanied by the emission of heat and light and often flame

Fire hydrant (noun)

- An outside source of water to which firefighters attach their fire hoses to in the event of a fire; usually round and 24 inches in height; the design and placement is regulated by the city for easy identification and access

Fire station (noun)

- A building designed for the housing of trucks and people who fight fires; includes a garage area for trucks and may include living and sleeping quarters for firefighters

Floor (noun)

- The inside bottom surface of a room or building on which one walks or stands

Floor plan (noun)

- A scaled drawing showing the size and arrangement of rooms and their relationships to one another





Flower (noun)

- The bloom or blossom of a plant

Flying buttress (noun)

- An inclined masonry structure outside of the wall of a building; connected to the building by an arch designed to resist the outward pressure imposed by a vault or the building's roof; usually found in Gothic churches

Focal point (noun)

- A precisely specified position, location, place or spot

Foot (noun)

- A measurement of length derived from the approximate length of the human foot; later standardized to a uniform length of 12 inches

Force (noun)

- Strength, energy, vigor and power

Foundation (noun)

- The base upon which something rests; specifically the supporting part of a wall, house or building, usually in the ground

Fountain (noun)

- An artificial jet or flow of water usually used for aesthetics; also can be used for drinking; usually found in public places

Frame (noun)

- The structural skeleton of a building

Framework (noun)

- Skeletal structure of a building to which the final finish will be added





Freehand sketch (noun)

- A drawing done without mechanical aids or devices

Function (noun)

- The normal or characteristic action of anything

G:

Gable (adj.)

- The triangular wall formed at the end of two enclosed sloping sides of a ridged roof

Garage (noun)

- A structure with a large door for the storage of cars

Garden (noun)

- A designated area of land to grow flowers, vegetables and fruit or a combination of both

Gate (noun)

- The opening in a fence to allow entrance into a property

Geography (noun)

- The descriptive science dealing with the division of the surface of the earth into continents and countries, including the study of climate, plants, animals, natural resources, inhabitants and industries particular to those areas

Geothermal Heating (noun)

- A heating and cooling system that takes advantage of the constant temperature of the earth underground.

Geometry (noun)

- The branch of mathematics that deals with points, lines, surfaces and solids and examines their properties, measurement and relationship





Glass (noun)

- A hard, brittle substance made by fusing silicates with other materials; most often transparent or translucent and used for windows

Gothic style

- A style of architecture developed in Western Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries; characterized by the use of ribbed vaults and flying buttresses

Gravity (noun)

- The force that tends to draw all bodies in the Earth's sphere toward the center of the Earth

Greek Revival (adj.)

- Referring to a revived Greek style of architecture created in the 1820s and characterized by symmetry and formal geometry

Green Roof (noun)

- A living roof that is partially or completely covered with vegetation, and which provides extra insulation and provides a habitat for wildlife.

H:

Half-circle (noun)

- A circle divided into two equal parts

Hearing (noun)

- The sense that enables animals to perceive sound (sound waves) through the ear and receive impressions through its auditory nerves

Heating system (noun)

- The method used to add heat to a building interior for the comfort of its inhabitants; often a furnace or boiler





Hedge (noun)

- A thicket of shrubs

Height (noun)

- The measured distance from bottom to top of an object

Hemisphere (noun)

- Half of a sphere

Historic (adj.)

- Referring to an example from the past

Horizontal (adj.)

- Parallel to the plane of the horizon
- Lying flat (or tangent) with the ground as opposed to vertical (or perpendicular) to the ground

Hospital (noun)

- A building where the ill or injured receive medical or surgical care; a facility that has the necessary equipment needed by doctors and nurses to administer proper care

House (noun)

- A building for human beings to live in
- A structure for animals to live in, e.g., a doghouse, a bird-house, etc.

Human proportions (noun)

- A comparative relationship between the size of an object and the size of the human body

Hut (noun)

- A crude, small house; a hovel or cabin





I:

Igloo (noun)

- A house made of blocks of snow found in the Arctic Region; usually in the shape of a dome

Inch (noun)

- A measure of length equal to 1/12 of a foot

Infrastructure (noun)

- The basic installations and facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community depends, such as roads, schools, power plants, utilities, transportation and communication systems

Insulation (noun)

- Any material used to separate a warm space from a cold space and prevent the loss of heat

Interrelated (adj.)

- To be interconnected

K:

Kilometer (noun)

- 1,000 meters in the metric system; equivalent to approximately 5/8 of a mile

Kingdom (noun)

- The dwellings and land owned by a king

Kitchen (noun)

- The room in a house where food is prepared





L:

Land (noun)

- The physical solid surface of the earth

Land-use planning (noun)

- The process of determining what the land will be used for in context of an overall design

Landmark (noun)

- Any prominent object marking a locality, often one of historical interest
- Any object on land that serves as a reference point or a destination point

Landscape (noun) (verb)

- An expanse of natural scenery seen by the eye
- To create a desired effect of the natural scenery by adding trees, shrubs, greenery, plants, water, etc.

Lawn (noun)

- Land covered with grass that is kept closely mowed or manicured, especially in front of or around a house

Library (noun)

- A building or room that stores and displays books, periodicals and other audio, video and reading matter that is usually available for public use and borrowing

Linkage (noun)

- Connection of spaces or functions

Lintel (noun)

- A small structural piece of wood, steel, stone or masonry, usually over a door or window, that supports the material above; an archway is a form of lintel





Line (noun)

- The geometric shape created by connecting two points

Living room (noun)

- The room in a house where most of the public activity takes place; a meeting place for family and friends

Location (noun)

- Position in space; place where a structure is to be built

Log cabin (noun)

- A house built of logs that are laid horizontally and notched and fitted at the ends

Lumber (noun)

- Wood that has been sized and is used for building

M:

Map (noun)

- A representation of a part of Earth's surface

Mass (noun)

- A quantity of matter forming a shape often of a relatively large size

Mass Transit (noun)

- Transportation (like busses and trains) that carry more people at one time

Master plan (noun)

- A diagram or drawing showing the arrangement of the components of a city or community

Mayor (pronoun)

- The highest elected government official of a city





Measurement (noun)

- Size, capacity, extent, volume or quantity determined by comparison to some standard or unit

Meter (noun)

- A basic unit of length in the metric system; equal to 39.37 inches

Metric system (noun)

- A system of measurement using decimals; units of measurement include meters for length, grams for weight, liters for volume; established in France and widely used by most nations

Metropolitan (adjective)

- Of or constituting a large main city or center of population and commerce

Millimeter (noun)

- 1,000th of a meter

Mobile home (noun)

- A manufactured house that is set on wheels and used as a residence; built in a factory, usually in two pieces and shipped to a site where it may be placed on a permanent foundation

Monetary (money) system (noun)

- The organization of coinage or currency of a country (standard pieces of gold, silver, copper and nickel stamped by government authority and used as a medium of exchange)





Montage (noun)

- The art or process of making a composite picture by arranging into a single composition a number of different pictures or photographs; by superimposing one on another, they form a blended whole and yet express their individual character

Mortar (noun)

- A mixture of sand, lime and cement combined with water to make a mixture used between bricks, stones or block to bond them together
- The system of putting masonry together with mortar is called masonry construction

N:

Native American (adj.)

- Referring to the original inhabitants of the United States

Natural Environment (noun)

- The part of the environment that is not made by man

Natural light (noun)

- Illumination from a natural source, e.g., sunlight, moonlight, candlelight or light from a fire
- The opposite of artificial light, which is man-made using electricity

Natural material (noun)

- Matter or substance produced by nature that retains its essential character; not man-made

Natural resources (noun)

- Organic materials that are found in nature, such as water, oil, trees, etc.





Neighborhood (noun)

- A community or district composed of people living near one another

Node (noun)

- A focus of activity where people gather

Nomads (noun)

- People who travel from place, never permanently settling in one area

O:

Outlet (noun)

- The point in a wiring system at which electrical current is available for connecting equipment; usually located in a wall, floor or ceiling

Ornament (noun)

- In architecture, every detail of shape, texture and color that is deliberately added to a building to create beauty and attract an observer

Overpopulation (noun)

- A condition in which the number of people is greater than the capability of the area's resources to support them

P:

Parallel (adj.)

- Extending in the same direction and at the same distance apart at every point so as never to meet, as with parallel lines or planes

Parallelogram (noun)

- A flat plane figure with four sides, and with the opposite sides parallel and equal in length





Park (noun)

- An area of public land usually laid out with walks, drives, playgrounds, nature areas, etc., for public recreation
- An open square in a city, with benches, trees, etc.
- A large area known for its natural scenery and preserved for public recreation by a governmental authority

Path (noun)

- A walkway for the use of people on foot, as in a park or garden
- The route of travel between any two locations

Pattern (noun)

- An orderly sequence consisting of a number of repeated or complementary elements
- A repetition of a form or element to create a design

Pavement (noun)

- A surface of concrete, asphalt, brick, etc., usually used for streets and sidewalks

Plaster (noun)

- A cementitious finishing material primarily used in older buildings, mostly for walls and ceilings

Playground (noun)

- A piece of ground set apart for children to play on; often part of a school

Plaza (noun)

- An open square or marketplace in a town or city for use as a public gathering place
- A group of shops or buildings, e.g., a shopping plaza or an office plaza





Plumbing (noun)

- A building's pipes, fixtures and other apparatus for bringing in fresh water and removing liquid and waterborne wastes

Point (noun)

- An element in geometry having definite position (the center) but no shape, size or extension

Police station (noun)

- The headquarters of the local or district law enforcement officers

Politics (noun)

- The science or art of managing affairs of the government

Pollution (noun)

- The result of harmful chemicals and waste materials discharged into the water, on the land and in the air

Polygon (noun)

- A closed, two-dimensional figure with more than four sides and angles

Population (noun)

- The number of people in a building, community, city, state, country, region, etc.

Porch (noun)

- An entrance surface/platform to a building

Post (noun)

- A vertical support for supporting horizontal structural members
- Also called a column





Preservation (noun)

- Protection from harm and/or damage

Proportion (noun)

- The comparative relation between parts, things or elements with respect to size, amount, degree, etc.; ratio of various parts to one another

Proximity (noun)

- The state or quality of being near; nearness in space, time, etc.

Pyramid (noun)

- A solid figure having a triangular, square or rectangular base, of which each side of the base forms the bases of triangular surfaces sloping inward and meeting at a common point
- A large structure from ancient times used as a symbol of power and as a burial tomb for the wealthy

Q:

Quarry (verb) (noun)

- To excavate or take from an area the stone, marble or granite which is naturally found there
- The area where these materials are mined is called a quarry (noun) and is usually found above ground

R:

Rainforest (noun)

- A forest characterized by high rainfall and millions of species of plants, insects and microorganisms and high oxygen production

Rectangle (noun)





Recycle (verb)

- To collect, reprocess and use over again instead of discarding

Relationship (noun)

- The quality or state of being connected to another person or group

Renewable Materials (noun)

- Materials that can be regrown or replenished. These materials are usually plant-based products, earth (soil) based products, or animal products that are humanly extracted

Restoration (noun)

- The act of returning a building to its original condition

Reusable (noun)

- Something that can be used over again instead of being discarded

Right angle (noun)

- Angle made by the meeting of two straight lines perpendicular to each other (90-degree angle)

Road (noun)

- A path designed for vehicular traffic

Romanesque (adj.)

- Referring to a style of European architecture from the 11th and 12th centuries based on ancient Roman architecture and characterized by the use of rounded arches and vaults supported by thick walls

Roof (noun)

- The outside top covering of a building, which provides weather protection





Room (noun)

- An interior space enclosed by walls and separated from other similar spaces by partitions; accessed through an opening

Rubbing (noun)

- In art, the result of placing paper over an item with texture and lightly moving a pencil or chalk over the paper to re-create a texture on the face of the paper

Rules (noun)

- A prescribed guide for conduct or action, usually to ensure adherence to safety, morals and ethics

S:

Safety (noun)

- The quality or condition of being free from danger, injury or damage; security

Sanitary Sewer (noun)

- A system of pipes designed to transfer polluted water to a waste disposal source

Scale (noun)

- The proportion or ratio that a map, model, drawing, etc., bears to the real thing it represents

School (noun)

- A building or institution that provides an environment for learning

See (verb)

- To perceive by light passing through the eyes and projecting an image that is picked up by the brain; the ability to see, or sight, is one of the five senses





Semi-circle (noun)

- A circle cut in half

Senses (noun)

- The five faculties of transporting impressions to a person's brain through specific body organs and the nerves associated with them: sight, touch, taste, smell and hearing

Sensory perception (noun)

- The awareness of objects or other data through the senses (see "senses")

Sewers (noun)

- A system of pipes designed to transfer storm water and polluted water to a waste disposal source

Shape (noun)

- That quality of an object which depends on the relative position of all points composing its outline or external surface; physical or spatial form

Shelter (noun)

- Something that covers or protects living creatures or their goods from the elements

Shopping center (noun)

- A concentration of stores in one location with a variety of vendors to allow a person to conveniently make multiple purchases with a minimum of travel

Sidewalk (noun)

- A path or area for pedestrian use

Single-family house (noun)

- A building where one family resides





Size (noun)

- The length, area, volume or dimensions of something compared to a standard of measurement

Slide (noun)

- A piece of recreational equipment consisting of an inclined slippery surface and a ladder

Smell (noun)

- One of the five senses of the body by which a substance is perceived by the brain through the chemical stimulation of olfactory nerves in the nasal cavity by particles given off by the substance

Social (adj.)

- Of or having to do with human beings interacting together as a group in a situation in which their dealings with one another affect their common welfare

Soccer field (noun)

- A designated area where the game of soccer is played by kicking and maneuvering a regulation ball with one's feet or body (no hands) down the regulation field

Space (noun)

- A distance extending in all directions; the continuous expanse extending in all directions or in three dimensions within which all things exist, variously thought of as boundless or indeterminate
- Area sufficient for a specific use, e.g., a parking space, a space to store one's bicycle

Spatial (adj.)

- Of or relating to space and the perception of space; the form/shape taken on by a design occupies space and brings into being a "spatial" articulation





Spatial relationship (noun)

- The relationship of how two or more defined areas affect each other, e.g., in a home, a bedroom needing quiet would not function well if placed in close proximity to the noisier family room

Sphere (noun)

- A three-dimensional, round figure having all its surface equally distant from the center at all points, e.g., globe or ball

Square (noun)

- A two-dimensional figure having four equal sides and four right angles

Steel (noun)

- A metal made from natural ores; used for support framing for buildings and other purposes

Steps (noun)

- A series of horizontal surfaces for the foot for use when ascending or descending

Stone (noun)

- Natural rock that is cut into pieces for use as a building material

Stop sign (noun)

- Octagonal red traffic sign giving instruction to halt, usually at a street corner or pedestrian crossing

Street (noun)

- A road for vehicular traffic

Street light (noun)

- A light positioned high above the street to illuminate it for visibility and safety





Streetscape (noun)

- The buildings along the street viewed from the street

Structure (noun)

- The arrangement and interrelationship of parts in building construction

Suburb (noun)

- A district, especially a residential district, on or near the outskirts of a city and often separately incorporated as a city or town

**Sustainable/
Sustainability** (noun)

- Meeting present needs without preventing future generations from being able to meet theirs; includes respect for the environment and for people

Symmetry (noun)

- Similarity of form or arrangement on both sides of a dividing line or plane

T:

Taste (noun)

- The perception of salt, bitter, sour and sweet substances through the stimulation of taste buds on the tongue; one of the five senses

Taxes (noun)

- A percentage of the dollar value of an item or a percentage of income that is paid to the government to help pay for government expenses and programs

Technology (noun)

- The science or study of the practical or industrial arts; applied sciences, etc.





Teepee (noun)

- A cone-shaped structure of animal skins on a framework used by the Plains Indians

Telecommunications (noun)

- The transmission of information over significant distances in order to communicate. Includes early smoke signals, telegraphs, telephones, radio, fiber optics, cables, satellites and the Internet

Temperature (noun)

- The measurement of heat flow using an established scale, such as the movement of mercury in a thermometer

Tension (noun)

- The state or condition of being pulled or stretched

Texture (noun)

- The arrangement of the particles or constituent parts of any material (wood, metal, fabric, etc.) as it affects the appearance or feel of the surface, structure, composition or grain; the more texture a material has, the deeper the shadows cast by the light and the rougher it feels to the touch

Three-dimensional (adj.)

- Appearing to have depth or thickness in addition to height and width

Touch (noun)

- The perception of the nature of something by placing a part of the human body against it and letting the nerve endings of the skin register its presence and nature to the brain; one of the five senses

Townhouse (noun)

- A single-family house attached to another house on at least one side





Trace (verb)

- To overlay a transparent piece of paper and follow the contour lines of the image below; the transparent paper is called "tracing paper"

Traffic lights (noun)

- A set of signals, usually changing from red to yellow to green and back, placed at intersections of streets to regulate traffic

Traffic sign (noun)

- A mark or symbol that designates how automobiles and pedestrians maneuver on streets and sidewalks; stop signs, yield signs, speed-limit signs, etc.

Trees (noun)

- A woody perennial plant with one main stem or trunk that develops many branches, usually at some height above the ground; most trees are over 10 feet tall with trunks more than six inches in diameter

Triangle (noun)

- A geometric figure having three angles and three sides

Two-dimensional (adj.)

- Having height and width but no depth

U:

Utilities (noun)

- The service of electrical power, gas, water, sanitary waste collection, storm-water collection, telephone, etc.

V:

Vault (noun)

- A masonry covering over an area which uses the principle of the arch





Ventilation (noun)

- A system to provide fresh air to and remove stale air from a building

Vertical (adj.)

- Perpendicular or at a right angle to the plane of the horizon: upright, straight up and down

Victorian style (noun)

- Referring to a type of architecture or design derived from 19th-century Great Britain and named after the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901); popular for home construction in America in the late 1800s and early 1900s

Village (noun)

- A group of houses in a community that is usually smaller than a city or town

Vinyl composition tile (noun)

- A non-asbestos-based resinous compound formed into flooring material and often used in today's buildings

W:

Waterproofing (noun)

- A sheet or brushed-on material applied to a building surface to prevent water penetration

Width (noun)

- The distance from side to side of an object

Wilderness (noun)

- Land untouched by civilization; inhabited by animals indigenous to the area





Wildlife (noun)

- Animals that live in wilderness areas and survive by instinct

Windows (noun)

- An opening in a building for letting in light and air and for looking through

Wood (noun)

- A material that is derived from trees and processed as lumber for use in building

Y:

Yard (noun)

- The part of a building plot not occupied by the building and open to the sky
- A measure of length, equal to 3 feet, or 36 inches; one yard is equivalent to 0.9144 meters

Z:

Zoning ordinance (noun)

- A body of regulations that divides the land uses of a city into separate areas and describes their required purpose and physical characteristics for the protection of health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants



The Architect's Perspective



The built environment is the backdrop to most of human occupation, activity and creativity. It is the arena in which we perform and the stage set on which our lives are played out. However, it is not merely the passive foil to all that goes on in the world. Due to its scale and the intricate ways lives are threaded through it, the built environment has an active role in shaping those lives, in molding those minds and sensibilities that develop in and around it.

So much of the built environment just happens - over time and by accretion with no single author or concept to order it and conduct its proper course. Historically, most outcomes were favorable and not simply serendipitous, occurring in ancient times when nature and context played a much stronger role in influencing the output of human endeavor. Materials were limited by availability within a specific area or region - leading to appropriateness and harmony in texture, color and scale.

But since the Industrial Revolution, man has grown more independent of natural materials, shaping and transforming them in many ways, and manufacturing new ones. Advancement in transportation modes and new technologies has freed him in his selection of materials and methods, leading to substantial diversification and a clash of elements within the built environment. The shrinking of the world and globalization of its varied populations has propelled a cosmopolitan potpourri of influences and cultures into juxtaposition. The built environment can be wildly diverse in scale, concept, aesthetic, color, texture and materials. Human sensibility has been relegated to a lower priority.

Since architecture is so important in affecting our lives and because almost limitless possibilities and choices exist, there has never been a greater need to slow the assault. We must consciously direct the course and the progress of our surroundings to attain a more nurturing and aesthetic built environment that is at the same time conservation conscious in its use and exploitation of natural resources.

In a world where expediency and economy are watchwords, the positive injection of energy and effort to achieve a change in the current course of the built environment is necessary. It requires knowledge and understanding of the principles of architecture and an appreciation of their benefits, together with a committed belief in the outcomes. There is no better place to initiate the endeavor of building a core of understanding and innate sensitivity than in primary education. Through a process of layered learning encounters, awareness of the built environment will become an integral part of the educated soul.

Let us empower our children with the belief that with understanding and awareness, they can make the difference.





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