

Architecture

Definition of Architecture

- **Architecture** ([Latin](#) *architectura*, from the Greek – arkhitekton, "chief" and "builder, carpenter, mason") is both the process and product of planning, designing and construction.
- Architectural works, in the material form of buildings, are often perceived as cultural and political symbols and as works of art. Historical civilizations are often identified with their surviving architectural achievements.

"Architecture" can mean:

- The art and science of [design](#) and erecting buildings and other physical structures.
- A general term to describe buildings and other infrastructures.
- The practice of an [architect](#), where architecture means to offer or render professional services in connection with the design and construction of a building, or group of buildings and the space within the site surrounding the buildings, that have as their principal purpose human occupancy or use.

- Design activity, from the macro-level ([urban design](#), [landscape architecture](#)) to the micro-level (construction details and furniture).
- A style and method of design and construction of buildings and other physical structures.

Theory of Architecture



De architectura, by the Roman architect Vitruvius in the early 1st century CE. According to Vitruvius, a good building should satisfy the three principles of *firmitas*, *utilitas*, *venustas*, which translate roughly as

- **Durability** – it should stand up robustly and remain in good condition.
- **Utility** – it should be useful and function well for the people using it
- **Beauty** – it should delight people

- In the early nineteenth century, [Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin](#) wrote *Contrasts* (1836) that, as the titled suggested, contrasted the modern, industrial world, which he disparaged, with an idealized image of neo-medieval world. [Gothic architecture](#), Pugin believed, was the only “true Christian form of architecture.”
- (Q)The 19th century English art critic, [John Ruskin](#), in his *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, published 1849, was much narrower in his view of what constituted architecture. Architecture was the "art

Modern concepts of architecture

- The great 19th century architect of skyscrapers, [Louis Sullivan](#), promoted an overriding precept to architectural design: "[Form follows function](#)".
- Among the philosophies that have influenced modern architects and their approach to building design are [rationalism](#), [empiricism](#), [structuralism](#), [post structuralism](#),

- In the late 20th century a new concept was added to those included in the compass of both structure and function, the consideration of sustainability.

History

- Building first evolved out of the dynamics between needs (shelter, security, worship, etc.) and means (available [building materials](#) and attendant skills).
- As human cultures developed and knowledge began to be formalized through oral traditions and practices, building became a [craft](#), and "architecture" is the name given to the most highly formalized and respected versions of that craft.

- It is widely assumed that architectural success was the product of a process of trial and error, with progressively less trial and more replication as the results of the process proved increasingly satisfactory. What is termed [vernacular architecture](#) continues to be produced in many parts of the world. Indeed, vernacular buildings make up most of the built world that people experience every day. Early human settlements were mostly [rural](#).
- Due to a surplus in production the economy began to expand resulting in urbanization thus creating [urban areas](#) which grew and evolved very rapidly.

Ancient architecture



- In many ancient civilizations, such as that of Egypt and Mesopotamia, architecture and urbanism reflected the constant engagement with the divine and the [supernatural](#), and many ancient cultures resorted to monumentality in architecture to represent symbolically the political power of the ruler, the ruling elite, or the state itself.
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Asian architecture



- The architecture of different parts of [Asia](#) developed along different lines from that of Europe; Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh architecture each having different characteristics. Buddhist architecture, in particular, showed great regional diversity. In many [Asian](#) countries a pantheistic religion led to architectural forms that were designed specifically to enhance the

The medieval builder

- In [Europe](#), in both the [Classical](#) and [Medieval](#) periods, buildings were not often attributed to specific individuals and the names of architects remain frequently unknown, despite the vast scale of the many religious buildings extant from this period.
- During the Medieval period guilds were formed by craftsmen to organize their trade and written contracts have survived, particularly in relation to ecclesiastical buildings. The role of architect was usually one with that of master mason, or *Magister lathomorum* as they are sometimes described in contemporary documents.

Renaissance and the architect

- With the [Renaissance](#) and its emphasis on the individual and humanity rather than religion, and with all its attendant progress and achievements, a new chapter began. Buildings were ascribed to specific architects – [Brunelleschi](#), [Alberti](#), [Michelangelo](#), [Palladio](#) – and the cult of the individual had begun.
- There was still no dividing line between [artist](#), [architect](#) and [engineer](#), or any of the related vocations, and the appellation was often one of regional preference. At this stage, it was still possible for an artist to design a bridge as the level of structural calculations involved was within the scope of the generalist.

Early modern and the industrial age

- With the emerging knowledge in scientific fields and the rise of new materials and technology, architecture and engineering began to separate, and the architect began to concentrate on aesthetics and the humanist aspects, often at the expense of technical aspects of building design

Modernism and reaction of architecture

- The turn of the twentieth century gave rise to many new lines of thought that served as precursors to [Modern Architecture](#). Many architects felt that buildings had become overly decorated and burdened with various styles that they could no longer be honest to the function.
- When [Modern architecture](#) was first practiced, it was an [avant-garde](#) movement with moral, philosophical, and aesthetic underpinnings. Immediately after [World War I](#), pioneering modernist architects sought to develop a completely new style appropriate for a new post-war social and economic order, focused on meeting the needs of the middle and working classes.





