

## Architecture Syllabus

Tuesdays 1:30-3:00

Instructor: Laura Erlig

Architecture is all around us. Students will look at the architecture in their neighborhoods and in the world. The class will examine how closely society and its architecture are tied together by exploring the architecture of different civilizations and time periods, such as the ancient Greeks, ancient Chinese, ancient Middle Easterns, Gothic, Victorian, Art Deco, and modern architecture. We will discover why flying buttresses help keep Gothic Cathedrals standing and what makes a skyscraper. Students will wonder about the architecture of the animal world and look at biomimicry designs that were inspired by nature. Students will be exposed to famous architects like Julia Morgan (first woman in California to receive her architect's license and designed Hearst Castle), Frank Lloyd Wright (one of the world's most controversial architects), and Paul R Williams (first African American architect in California and noted for the theme building at LAX and the monorail system called skylift). Students will be able to distinguish the differences between blueprint, floor plans, elevation drawings and 3-D models.

Each class will consist of time dedicated to lecture or research and time dedicated to hands-on exploration related to the subject of the week. We are working on guest speakers who work in the field of architecture and are planning a field trip to one of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs, the Hollyhock House, on a Friday afternoon leaving at 1pm. Date TBD.

Google Classroom Code: 47lj3lv

### Week 1 Introduction to Architecture and Ancient Chinese Architecture

- Focused Architectural Characteristics: **horizontal lines, symmetry, curved roof, dragon, the color red, implied and real textures, floor plans, elevation drawings, and 3-d models**
- Group work and collaboration, communication, time management, organizational skills
- Groups will sketch, build, and evaluate work produced and self assess.
- Optional extra credit: Take a picture of yourself and bring it into class to share your experience amongst Chinese architecture. Here are some ideas for visiting Chinese architecture during the [Lunar New Year](#).

### Week 2 & 3 Classical Greek and Middle Eastern Architecture

- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Greek): **perfection, clear order - Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, frieze & pediment above columns that are decorated with reliefs, rectangular shapes, rows of columns, implied and real textures**
- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Middle Eastern): **Arches (ogee or horseshoe), Domes, Iwan, Minarets, Decorations (arabesque, geometric patterns, or calligraphy), implied and real textures**
- Learn more about blue prints vs. floor plans
- Group work and collaboration, communication, time management, organizational skills
- Groups will sketch, build, and evaluate work produced and self assess.

- Optional extra credit: Take a picture of yourself and bring it into class to share your experience amongst [Greek](#) or [Middle Eastern](#) architecture.

#### Week 4 & 5 Introduction to Gothic, Victorian, and Art Deco Architecture

- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Gothic): **Pointed Arches, flying buttresses, spires, ribbed vaults, rose windows, gargoyles, and implied and real textures**
- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Victorian): **2-3 stories, trim commonly called gingerbread, porch, balcony, turrets, vibrant colors and implied and real textures**
- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Art Deco ): **Sharp Edges & cubic forms, geometrical forms, zigzags, and or chevrons, stepped or set back front facade, and implied and real textures**
- Group work and collaboration, communication, time management, organizational skills
- Groups will sketch, build, and evaluate work produced and self assess.
- Optional extra credit: Take a picture of yourself and bring it into class to share your experience amongst [Gothic](#) or [Victorian](#) or [Art Deco](#) architecture.

#### Week 6 & 7 Introduction to Modern Architecture and Frank Lloyd Wright & discuss their project due the last week of of class

- Focused Architectural Characteristics (Modern Architecture and Frank Lloyd Wright): **simple design & form, prairie style, organic architecture (biomimicry), geometric stained glass windows, walls of windows, implied and real textures**
- Group work and collaboration, communication, time management, organizational skills
- Groups will sketch, build, and evaluate work produced and self assess.
- Homework: Recreate your room Frank Lloyd Wright Style - see hand out.

#### Week 8 & 9 Julia Morgan (first woman in California to receive her architect's license and designed Hearst Castle) and Paul R Williams (first African American architect in California and noted for the theme building at LAX and the monorail system called skylift).

- Focus on Draft their dream house using at least 5 of the architectural characteristics learned and going over common floor plans and drafting their floor plans and creating their model and labeling their characteristics.
- Last class Models and drawing will be displayed and families are encouraged to come and see their work.