

M5X01981 History & Theory exam.

Question 1.

It is a feeling of pride and betrayal at the same time.

First, I would be immensely proud of myself, since one of the designs I have worked extremely hard on has been worthy of being nominated and having won one of the most prestigious awards in the world of architecture, RIBA awards. With such an award to my name, it would give me the courage and enough energy to continue designing and working in a profession that I love, architecture.

On the other hand, the prize that they have given me is for a design that throughout its construction the client has been making changes to his liking, so many are the changes that the client has made to the original design that in the end it looks like another design and another building. I won the RIBA award with my original design and ended up building a different one.

Question 2.

Organic architecture Of Greek origin "Organikos " means organ or instrument. Organic architecture has a connection with nature, its form, its structure, and its materials. This type of architecture is used as a means of communication between human beings and mother nature, by using mother nature as precedent studies for building designs, a profound respect and admiration for nature is shown to create a unified ecosystem, in which architecture is just an extension of nature. The sun is an especially crucial point when designing an organic style building, since natural light is particularly important for this type of style, it is another form of connection between architecture and nature. It uses organic materials like unadorned wood, stone, plants, an organically designed building suits the landscape in which it will be built.

This architectural style uses sustainable and consistent materials at the time of its construction, this means that when designing and building buildings in the organic style we are not only one step closer to achieving net 0, but we can also achieve a connection between architecture and nature.

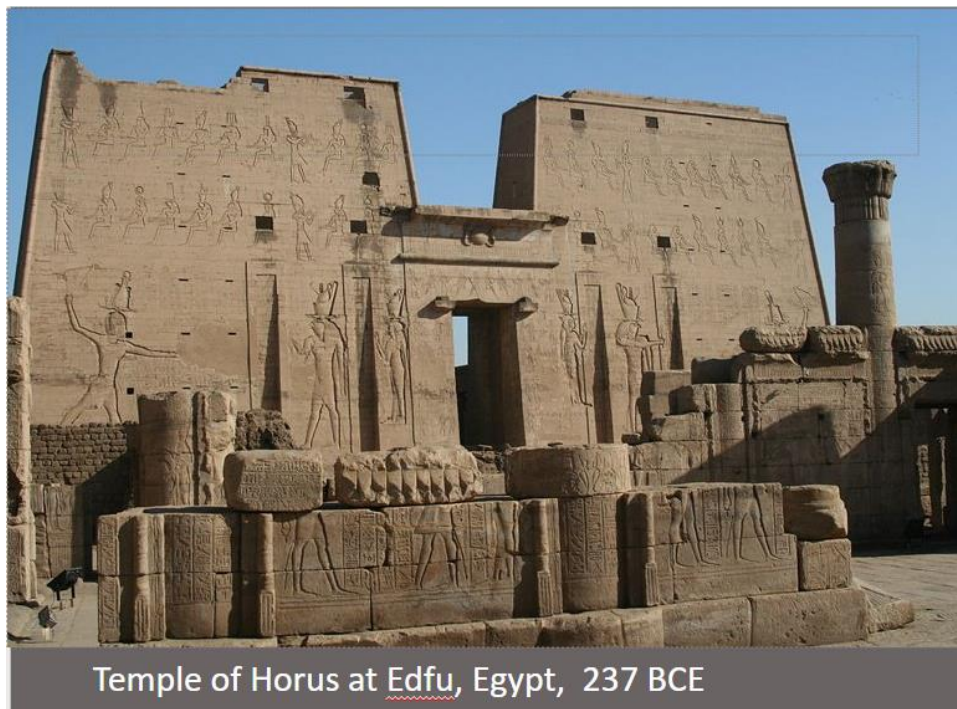
The first civilizations to use organic architecture were the Celts, Egyptians, and Greeks.

The Celts adopted the organic forms of trees, plants, water, and earth, discarding the idea of straight lines from the beginning. They had a more abstract and mystical representation of nature when designing their buildings. Their choice of materials for their building were wood, straw and mud.



Example of some Celtic buildings.

The Egyptians and Greeks used an abstract form of the human body for their designs (Since this pair of cultures had an adoration for the human body and its form), choosing circles, ellipses, triangles, and rectangles for their buildings and temples keeping a harmony between the gods and them. the choice of materials for their constructions were clay, bricks, cut rock.



Temple of Horus at Edfu, Egypt, 237 BCE

In later years with architects like Antonio Gaudi (1852-1926), Frank Lloyd Wright made of organic architecture the 20th century style.

Antonio Gaudi adopted a more detailed full of ornament, with a mix of gothic idea of organic design, inspired in the organic shapes of nature, for example Casa Mila in Barcelona or La Sagrada Familia the unfinished cathedral in Barcelona.



Casa Mila, 1906-1912 by the architect
Antoni Gaudí

Question 3.

The inclusion of ornament in architecture means the ornaments or decorations that are placed on a building or are part of the building structure, the ornamentation can be so that the beauty of the building is like the facades of the Greek temples or more functional use such as the designs of the doorknobs or the columns on the Greek temples, these can be large decorations such as the gargoyles on the cathedral ceilings or as small as the windows cells.

With the Romanesque and Gothic times, it is when the representation of architectural ornamentation becomes important, since these construction styles are full of ornaments and decorations in their designs, the more decorations there are in a better building. The dominant structural and applied ornamentation of this era had symbolic representations of the art and culture of that period. Grand and intricate pointed arches and ribbed vaults took hold in the Gothic era. THE small windows give way to richly decorated rose windows with large stained-glass windows that make the interior spaces much brighter.



Gothic Ornamentation at Reims Cathedral

When talking about ornamentation and architecture, one of the first names that comes to mind is Antonio Gaudí or, the golden charm of modernist architecture, Gaudí differs from the rest of the modern era architects for his individualistic way of designing. With his work he represents a unique and individual Barcelona, completely moving away from minimalism, Gaudí, with the help of artists such as Josep Maria Jujol, decided to fill his works with ornaments and decorations.

Gaudí showed structural ornamentation in the construction of the Sagrada Família cathedral, elements such as spiral staircases and cone-shaped ceilings are a couple of examples of his structural ornamentation.



La Sagrada Familia.

The Modern Era completely changed the meaning of ornamentation, this era adopts a minimalist style of design and ornamentation, functionality is preferred over decoration, creating remarkably simple shapes for buildings, names like: Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright are synonyms of the modern era, for their simple, minimalist and at the same time beautiful designs.

While Le Corbusier's style of ornamentation had to do with his work in concrete Frank Lloyd Wright's style of ornamentation is best described as minimalist, he had strict views on ornamentation.



Le Corbusier's Work

The ornamentation of buildings is one of the oldest practices in the world, since the first building was designed and built, its ornamentation was part of the plans. Every one of the architectural styles, from the most decorated such as Baroque or Gothic, to the most austere such as minimalism or modernism, have a style of ornamentation specific to their style.

Question 4.

Great Designs by Kevin McCloud is a television program that deals with how people, generally, without any knowledge of architecture or design, want to build the house of their dreams. In the 60 minutes of the program, the presenter comments on the process, the joys, and misfortunes, through which the family of that episode goes through to be able to make the house of our dreams become a reality, or not, since in some cases they never ended. to build.

As an architecture student, the program gives me mixed feelings. On one hand, the idea of being able to watch a show like Grand Designs is an innovative idea. As a student, you can use your designs as potential precedent studies, especially the episodes where families build sustainable homes.

On the other hand, this type of program gives the architectural profession a bad reputation, since it gives the rest of the people the bad idea that it is not necessary to be an architect or have the slightest idea of design or construction to be able to design and build beautiful houses, you just need to have the dream of building your own house, two bad drawings and money, a lot of money, in many cases so much until you do not have money. Everything is for having been able to build your own house without having the slightest idea of construction.

Another part that I do not like about the show is that the presenter focuses more on the personal problems of the family than on the process of designing and building the building. Honestly, before studying architecture, I was an enthusiastic fan of the program, but since I started studying architecture, the program seems to me to be an insult to the profession that I hope to be able to exercise in the future. If I watch the program, I only see the first 10 and the last 10 minutes, to see how the house turned out at the end.

I do not have much to say about George Clarke's Amazing Spaces show, as I have only seen a couple of episodes on YouTube, they are 8-12 minutes each, and just focus on remodelling old vans and RVs into small spaces. One of the things I like about the program is the imagination that people can have to design in spaces as small as a van.

On the negative side, just like the Great Designs program, this one "teaches" that you don't need to have any idea of design or construction to be able to transform an old van into an impressive little house on wheels.

References.

Question 2. Teams. Lecture 7 and 8 Organic architecture parts 1 and 2.

Master class articles. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/organic-architecture-guide#what-is-organic-architecture>.

Question 3. Rethinking the Future. Theory in Architecture: Ornament. <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/rtf-architectural-reviews/a4101-theory-in-architecture-ornament/>