

1.Consider the term ‘organic architecture’? What is your understanding of this term, and does it have any relevance to architecture today?

The term organic architecture can be interpreted in so many ways. My understanding of it is that it is a type of architectural design in which the buildings inspired and a way of blending in with the natural aspects of nature itself, with a slight mimic of the certain area it is built around. This sort of creates harmony between nature itself and the human living standards, coexisting with one another. The actual philosophy of organic architecture first derived from an American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright around the early 19 hundreds to create a cohesive whole with the use of natural materials and the style of architecture itself.

The main principle of organic architecture is having that balance between the architecture itself, the terrain around it and our standards of living within. The architecture part is meant to signify and meant to have a natural extension of the land around it making it not have a human footprint that will dominate the pre-existing land that surrounds it. The terrain and nature aspect is important throughout the design as it is essential as the design within should always reflect the environment at hand with adaptation to design because of it. An example of this would be Frank Lloyd Wright’s building such as falling water where the building emphasises interdependence which is highlighted in the use of natural materials like the use of stone, wood, rocks and the water within it. His brilliant way of thinking about the light and visibility was shown in his designs too, like his window placements and floorplans that are very spatially open to create the environment being a lot less interrupted by a lot of cramped rooms, with also having the idea of a free flow from the exterior into the interior of the building.

The history behind organic architecture is as old as nature itself, the style enforces the idea of organisms with the same ecosystem should coexist with each other, Frank Lloyd Wright has just given it a more modern genre name to have it more widely recognised. Form and function come under organic architecture in terms of its concept that has become a lot more popular in the era of climate change which is explained in more detail in the “Cause of Architecture (1908)” book from Frank Lloyd Wright which explores this in more detail. It has had relations between the colour and tone of a home which should naturally spring from the land around it which will then give off the furniture and ornamentation concept out of it. In today’s world a lot of the organic architecture styles have been named as historical sites in which the style also influences those architects looking to design buildings made from sustainable materials that are also congruent with the environment they are going to be built around.

There are a lot of examples that reflect this style of architecture, some of my favourites are:



The Taliesin West (1937)

Perfect example of the use of desert rocks as the wall feature and the use of colour, red, yellow and orange, which reflect the hues of the nature that surrounds the building, with a pavilion with a see-through roof feature that lets the sunlight through and highlights the open space around and into the building.



Tampere Central Library (1986)

Another great example of organic architecture that uses Finnish rock granite and features animal like shapes with glacial patterns again in harmony with the surrounding and free flow of the building style itself with a lot of open space and windows for the natural lighting.

In terms of relevancy in today's day and age. I feel like organic architecture is very relevant and appropriate way of thinking about the way buildings should be made. Prime examples of modern takes on organic architecture are, the extravagant gardens by the Bay tree like towers, which showcase just how amazing someone's ideas may be put into life. The way world is going with the climate change issues and global warming, I feel like it is important to use the ideologies of organic architecture into making buildings more sustainable and healthier for the environment and therefore taking examples of a lot of previous architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and putting their ideas and mindsets into the way structures are built nowadays and in the future.

2.Conservation /Restoration, b) renovation c) refurbishment? Discuss these ideas in terms of architectural philosophy when acting as an architect working with historic buildings? (a) 9 marks, b) 8 marks and c) 8 marks available) (total 25 marks available)

Conservation practises based on the values offered by architectural heritage resource is for different individuals, groups, societies and governments. Conservation itself is a process of maintaining and managing a change to a heritage asset or a building in a way that sustains and where necessary, enhances its significance. There are a few high-level principles of conservation, that should be considered.

The principle of historic Environment. It's a shared resource, this principle proposes that the historic environment is valued by people as part of their culture and natural heritage. This represents the public interest in places regardless of the ownership, which by law protects what is in the public interest where justified. Another principle that is to be considered when conserving or restoring a building is the management of significant places which is necessary to sustain within their values. Conservation and restoration are the processes of managing the change of heritage values when necessary. If our understanding of the past increases so will our knowledge of the harm architects may do to a building that is to be historically preserved. Meaning we will have more undamaged buildings we can look back to. However, not to be confused, conservation architects are not the same as restoration architects. A restoration architect will transform an existing building as it previously would have been designed, they will still include the features of original building, but have no ambiguity about their intentions to restore the building to its original glory. Whereas conservation architects care about preserving the character of the building from its moment in time, showing all of the changes that make up the rich history of the building. They will work to ensure That the building does not degrade further and fall into neglect.

“To conserve a property and its contents mean that the building, its interior and contents are kept as they are, and only necessary repairs are made.” – English Heritage advisors.

The term renovation itself refers to the process of returning something to a good state of repair. Renovation refers to the process of modifying and modernising an old, damaged or defective building, which results to the disturbance of for example painted surfaces of the historical building. This process is the least favoured by historical architects as it somewhat destroys the originality of a building and replaces it with a new build to make it a functioning part.

The meaning of refurbishment in architecture. Is mainly the process of improving A building by cleaning, decorating or re-equipping the existing building. It also has some elements of retrofitting with the aim of making the building more energy efficient and sustainable in today's Modern ways of living. There is often confusion between renovation on the refurbishment. The life span of a building can be significantly extended by effective refurbishment. As such, it is a key component in achieving a circular economy. Every building is unique, not only structurally, technically or typologically, but also in local context. The correct approach to refurbishment should be assessed according to the particular conditions. Architects should seek to understand the actual uses of the existing building and communicate that into the refurbishment of the building.

The main difference between the two is that renovation typically refers to restore something to a good condition or state of repair, whereas refurbishment implies the process of improvement by a more subtle way, not taken away too much from the buildings historical factors and simple just enhancing the look of the originality of the building, aiming to improve the buildings sustainability and energy efficiency. Refurbishment in some cases is an important asset to architecture history. However, unlike historical building restoration which preserves high value buildings for the future, also preserves a country's past. In terms of importance, refurbishment is the least important in historical preservations of graded and historically important buildings, however it does have so value when looking into for example the interior of a building. It aims to recreate what once was to let us look into how it used to be decorated and used within.

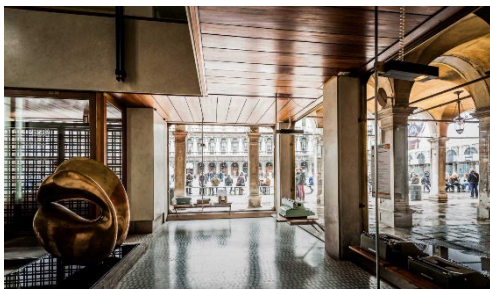
3. Briefly describe the distinctive qualities of the architecture, influences and design approach of the Italian architect Carlo Scarpa. (15 marks available) Give examples of buildings that best display his work. Do you believe the intellectual heritage of his architecture is relevant today? (10 marks available)

Carlo Scarpa was an Italian architect and designer, heavily influenced by the history of Venetian culture, materials and landscape. He possessed an exceptional understanding of raw materials, mainly influenced and works with the modernist style of architecture. Scarpa's architecture manages to respect the old and the historic while simultaneously introducing newer modern design details. His interest in glass within his designs was marvellously incorporated. Natural elements seen by Scarpa as materials of composition. Do

you support in Scarpa's Gardens? Is coupled with labyrinthine forms and rare stone materials. The combination of water and stone seems to provide one of the most important symbolical associations in Buddhist gardens (where he gets a lot of his inspiration from), the elements are linked in evoking the mystery of life. He also looks into the concept of decoration within some of his designs, the significance of ornament emerges when the matter is no longer considered.

A lot of Scarpa's work was influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright as well as Josef Hofmann. He executes a minimalist aesthetic with historic buildings, which allows the existing context to exist within the new work without being disrupted. The extraordinary care in the execution of handrails, floor patterns, door handles set Carlo Scarpa's work apart from others of his generation. His style of architecture is expressed through precision detail, a delicate combination of modernism, historicism and craftsmanship. Although Venice was the central of his creations, during his lifetime, he developed a fascination with Japanese art and culture. Starting from the 1950s, he undertook several journeys to Japan, where he later passed away at.

His best pieces of work that display his great skills in my opinion are:



The Olivetti Showroom in Venice,

He successfully manages to transform a long dark alley into a comfortable and vibrant retail space. The brief that he has so successfully applied with is to have been translated the company's wishes for its attention to detail in his design in the manufacture of typewriters. He used a lot of detail in glass windows to improve the transparency and to help with the blend of the exterior with the interior that way. He successfully managed to catch the eye for the artistic metal details and the main marble staircase. The composition of materials and textures throughout this showroom makes this minimalist interior pop.



Casa Tabarelli, North Italy,

Another great example of his work that shows the various techniques he used to create a powerful piece of architecture. Constructed on a foundation of 5 parallel concrete slabs that are all embedded on a hill which appears to be almost suspended. The use of asymmetrical roof is used to mimic the mountain peaks as a series of overlapping platforms. Almost all the rooms have its own private gardens that are surrounded by thick exterior to endure the harsher weathers.

There's a lot of inspiration taken and incorporated into contemporary designs nowadays which make his work very relevant and somewhat repeated in a lot of architect's work, mainly its definitely his approach of the act of thinking visually about a problem that is widely used and valuable in today's day and age.