

5). What is your understanding of the idea of 'critical regionalism' in architecture? In what ways did the work of Alvar Aalto and Jørn Utzon demonstrate this idea in their work by briefly describing the commonalities and distinctive qualities of the architecture and design approach of both architects?

In your opinion, give examples of buildings that best ~~identify~~ display their work in this regard?

The approach itself of the idea of critical regionalism seeks to balance the placelessness and the absence of identity of the international style with also rejecting the ornamentation of post modernist architecture. Alvar Aalto, being one of the most influential architects of the 20th century, his 'organic line' in objects that he made such as his furniture or glass ~~has~~ moved forward the designs of living rooms in western countries and revolutionise the way things were made with his natural and regional. His work reflects designs of a more smoother and natural flowing shapes and objects. His focus and the response that sensitively evokes the surrounding therefore fitting to the national and regional cultures of that building. His incredible furniture and object finishings makes him one of the best Finnish architects of his generation. Jørn Utzon on the otherhand expressed the concern for nature and its form, material and function of the social values in Norway. He strived to reaching to the horizon under vast sky, he was determined to have his work apart from the basic level of the ground and "reach for the sky" in his designs. Most famous of his projects was the Sydney Opera house with the idea of a floating roof.

One of my favourite buildings that I think best display his work is villa Mairea and the saynatsalo town hall they both are done

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exceptionally well in terms of its design and layout, with curvatures and nice visible colours that are greatly demonstrated in these two designs.

One obvious one from Jørn Utzon buildings is the Sydney Opera house and the Utzon center clearly demonstrates the way his style works.

Alvaros style mostly creates curved and more flowing ~~and~~ designs whereas Jørns ~~and~~ designs focuses more on sharper higher rise more kite like designs with lighter colours like whites and neutrals whereas Alvaros used more brighter materials with red brick layouts. ~~and~~

Overall both ~~of these~~ were great influences and great additions to the history books, will have huge influences on future designs of other architects work.

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2.) What, or who, do you think architecture awards are for? Are architecture awards important?

There are a lot of awards architects can win or apply for, many of which are for students and young architects, National awards, international regional awards and the biggest global awards.

There's many of mention that an architect may get specific and popular ones include the Pritzker prize established 1979 with a winning prize of \$100,000 dollars with a purpose of honouring architects whose work shows talent, vision and commitment with contributions to peoples lives and the built environment through the art. The Prix Versailles awards which was mainly for the remarkable structures of hotels, stores and restaurants and then there is probably the most honoured award, the Royal Gold Medal, for the life dedication of the advancement of architecture. I think awards like these are given (sometimes wrongfully) to architects to show appreciation for exceptional contributions to the society and the whole world. Giving a national recognition to the architects work, it is a proud moment for them and can be for their country or family.

Awards in general are important for many reasons, depending on the architect to. I think there are two factors of why they are important to people one of which are personal reasons, smaller prizes that are mostly given to students give them a culture of achievement and the gratitude and proudness of family and friends, these architects get the pride of the award more than actual prize itself.

It can also help with the company morale and improve everyone's motivation to strive and do better. This will give them the chance to work better and harder for themselves as architects or as an overall firm.

On the other hand ~~prizes~~ awards are important for the beneficial factor of recognition or prizes. This is very important to have as it helps architects business to grow and expand to a greater level of their work. It makes architects differentiate themselves and their work to everyone else which in turn would make architects visible to new and potential clients and therefore have an edge over their competitors, which if an architect is focused on making money out of this, they can therefore higher their prices and ~~the~~ widen their clientele.

With that said, winning an award may not be important in ~~cases~~ some cases. For example, winning an award for an architectural piece that has been done the worst in the country, clearly pointing out that the architects work reflects his/hers ways. Potential clients may therefore turn down business related arrangements they may have or had with them or even other architects may turn down any collabs they may have had arranged. This would create ~~business~~ opportunity declines and potentially harm their business. Also the fact that they would've won high level awards may change their client base and people may not go to that architect anymore thinking they are too high level for the area of work. Either way I feel like awards are important to some aspect giving and creating new opportunities and experiences to architects with all skill sets.

~~3. Discuss the origins~~

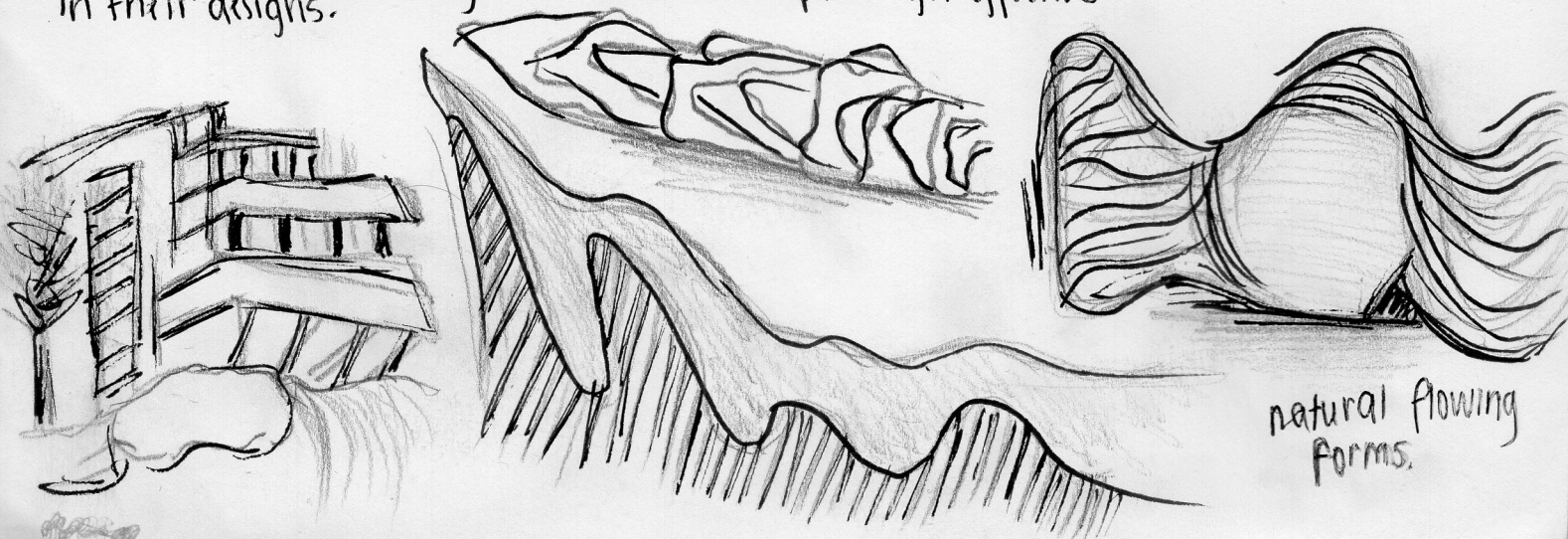
3. Discuss the origins and various interpretations of 'organic architecture'? (10 marks).
Is the term 'organic architecture' relevant today? (15 marks available).

The philosophy of organic architecture first derived from Frank Lloyd Wright around the early 19th hundreds, with an extension of ~~the~~ his mentor Louis Sullivan's teachings and influences of his own work.

The meaning of organic architecture itself is varied to individuals opinion, personally I think its a concept ~~is~~ that has been mutated into various interpretations but is usually linked to buildings that have been made and shaped or made to function its surroundings to mimic the nature and its distinct surroundings, as if to sort of blend or compliment the area its been built around, creating harmony between the nature and the human living standards. Which links to a certain popular slogan that a lot of architects aspire from and include in their designs, "form follows function," becoming a sort of hymn in a sense in the architecture world. Not only should the exterior flow and sync with the natural aspects of its surroundings, but also should the interior, making it harmonious and sympathetic to its exterior, ~~be~~ peacefully flowing through ~~the~~ each room of the building. As mentioned Frank Lloyd Wright clearly and beautifully demonstrates these physical and spiritual aspects within his designs famously rejecting the idea of making a bank look like a Greek temple, he always made sure to respect and bare in mind the nature. Famously quoting "Nature is my manifestation of God. I go to nature everyday for inspiration in the day's work." - Frank Lloyd Wright, taking on a completely new meaning.

Besides many architects there are ~~many~~ a lot of signature principles that mainly Frank Lloyd Wright goes by and these are simple geometric shapes, organic colours, intergration of the building ~~and~~ within its natural surroundings, and hidden entries.

There are alot of variations of organic architecture many of which show free flowing ideas that are simplistic yet effective in their designs.



Other various interpretations can be taken from the form of organic architecture, such as the biophilic design, which seeks to interlink the occupants with the nature aspect of the surrounding placement. With the inclusion of natural lighting, ventilation and the sense of when entering having a feeling of still being outdoors this method of building takes principles from organic architecture and interprets it into a more modernist feel for designs, with still having the sense of nature connection, its natural patterns, shapes and materials that have been altered to reflect its surroundings.

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 ~~as~~ 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 someones ideas may be ~~be~~ put to life. The way the 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 taking ~~an~~ examples of a lot of previous architects like Frank Lloyd Wright and putting their ideas and mindsets into the way ~~the~~ structures are built nowadays and in the future.

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- 6). what can be said about contemporary architecture in Wales?
Discuss this statement and give examples of buildings to support your argument.

Contemporary architecture hasn't got a specific style in mind when it comes to its description, architects work in all sort of different styles anything from high-tech, postmodernism to the more traditional routes with highly sculptural and conceptual ways of building its buildings. There is a big difference between "modern" architecture and a "contemporary" one, modern is just a time period of style and contemporary is more the modern day trends of designs that are "in" in that period of time.

Contemporary architecture isn't widely used in Welsh architecture, but more so in bigger countries like United States or China.

Wales has mostly been a region of traditional, gothic revivalism and historicism architecture with a lot of castles and older cottages.

However there are some interesting contemporary forms and structures throughout Wales such as the Caerphilly Castle visitor center which is a blend of the modern in trend style with the more historic castle form in the back, trying to make it sympathetic of to the surrounding. The use of Welsh slate and steel/lead for the roof which were both common features in the old castles. The design by Davies Sutton is to honor the past by using traditional materials yet using modern construction methods and the way its designed.



The great glasshouse is another great example of a contemporary architecture in Wales.

Designed by Norman Foster and Partners, creating a stunning larger-than-life domed roof making the interior bright and sparkly on sunny days. It is a great example of contemporary architecture that is perfectly incorporated into its surroundings, shaped like a giant raindrop in the middle of a national park, coming from six different places in the world are the plants housed within. created to blend in into the greenery around the park.

After ~~extensive~~ extensive studies into various geometric forms suitable to achieve the double-curved oval shape of the dome, demonstrating the complexity architects go through to find the right balance between contemporary, natural and modern. Wales currently doesn't have many examples of this and definitely has room for more, with the right factors and in a way that is done to a certain standard. With that said another great example is the Ruthin Craft center designed by Sergison Bates Architect, featuring an unmistakable zinc roofline, throughout lighting, workshops and the courtyard terrace/terracotta coloured stone add to the unique design of the center. I believe we have to re-visit the learning that has been ~~not~~ embedded in traditional ways to design, making it so rooted into the connection of nature's patterns and processes, facing critical challenges begging for some of these approaches to be brought back into Welsh contemporary practice.