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Question 6: Architecture in Wales can sometimes be categorised as just a collection of stone cottages and medieval castles. What can be said about contemporary architecture in Wales? Discuss and give examples to support your argument.

There are many historical aspects of Wales from the mines, cottages to the historical castles. However Wales also has many amazing pieces of contemporary architecture.

Wales has many stylish and sleek buildings designed by very talented and well-known architects. The first example is Caerphilly Castle's visitor centre. This building has been restored by using Welsh slate and steel/lead, the goal was to create a building in which would sympathise with its surroundings. The design is a perfect blend of tradition and modern! Traditional materials were used under modern construction methods.

Contemporary architecture in Wales can range from using historic materials to sympathise with its landscape, ~~by~~ To using pure glass facades and framework. A polar opposite to the first contemporary example in Wales is 'the great glasshouse' based in the national ~~botanical~~ botanical gardens, built in 2000 and was the largest in the world. The facades being glass along with the domed roof creates an amazing

atmosphere within, making the interior sparkle on sunny days.

One of Wales's most known 'recent' contemporary designs, that has become an icon in Wales is 'millennium centre' based in Cardiff. As much as this building is a contemporary icon in Wales, some say the design is too stereotypical. Why? due to the use of materials i.e. steel, copper and stone, but many also find the building distinctly Welsh.

going back to the question, yes Architecture in Wales can be categorised as just a collection of stone cottages and medieval castles. However Wales incorporates the well known typical Welsh materials slate, steel and stone into amazing contemporary buildings too.

A personal favourite of contemporary buildings in Wales is the 'national assembly building' for Wales. The use of the glass facade to show the space, the dramatic overhang at the entrance of the building and the exterior frame for both decoration and structure is phenomenal. using traditional materials but giving a distinctive ultra-modern forum.

Welsh architecture has a perfect balance of contemporary and historic buildings. Both with their own unique styles but showing Welsh aspects clearly, i.e. use of materials.

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Question 2: Are Architecture Awards important? What, or who, do you think architecture awards are for? discuss

Architecture awards are both for the architects, and those observing the architect. Along with the building that's getting the award.

The awards can be used for design education purposes, allowing students to look at the awards and what aspects are successful. They're also for community feedback, and for design criticism in major publications.

There are many architecture awards 'RIBA' / 'LEAF'. The awards honour the architect/architect, whose work demonstrates a combination of talent and high quality. The awards show the vision and commitment which has produced a significant contribution to the built environment, a perfect example being Frank Lloyd Wright's 'falling water.'

Are Architecture awards important?

Architecture awards are important for the educators, the learners and those inspired by buildings.

However to many they're just pretty pictures.

They are important as it shows the creation and that not all buildings have flat facades or typical materials such as brick or glass.

the awards are accessible to the public to both

teach and learn from them.

There are many amazing examples of architectural awards that show they're important, these being:

- ° Heydar Aliyev Center - 2016 Shortlist by Zaha Hadid, showing materials such as cladding, this encourages people to broaden their materials palette, an ideal building to inspire students
- ° Kew House, by Piercy and Company, won in 2015. an amazing way to show how you can add modern onto existing and not destroy the aesthetic.

Conclusion

After exploring the topic I have come to the conclusion that the main audience for the awards are fellow architects to share knowledge and inspiration, along with students.

Architectural awards do help architects get noticed however there are many awards, i.e. mechanics within the building, aesthetics. Showing different skillsets, perfect for sharing to give and gather knowledge.

Architectural awards are important, they give insight on new knowledge, styles and fabrication. The awards allow architecture to develop, showing how our skillsets are evolving into something extraordinary, a perfect example is the 'Kew House' Award winner of 2015 combining both modern with traditional materials during refurbishing the building. Shows true development.

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Question 3: discuss the origins and characteristics of 'organic architecture'.

Is the term 'organic architecture' relevant today?

Origins:

The words were introduced by Frank Lloyd Wright and his philosophy of Architecture. He forwarded from his teachings by Louis Sullivan, of whom created 'form follows function' in modern architecture. Other Architects inspired by organic Architecture were Gaudi and Steiner. 'Organic' to most means animals, plants or lack of pesticides but to Frank Lloyd Wright 'organic' meant that the forms were a representative of nature. His concept was for the architecture, humanity and nature to all be in harmony with one another. He wanted people to respect the properties of each material.

Characteristics:

The characteristics of organic architecture are as follows:

- Simplicity; organic architectures designs and schemes are clear.
- Nature: Nature is a major characteristic, the use of form, ~~colors~~ colors and texture. All of which are in nature. The idea of organic architecture was the way the materials, the occupancy of the space and the site was formed. Organic architecture doesn't imitate nature.

- **Building and Site:** It is important that the building is at one with its landscape, growing out of the landscape, just like a flower. The idea is that the building and its relationship to the site is unique and won't work anywhere else. Just like falling water and the way it's moulded into its landscape and the waterfall.
- **proportion and scale:** It's important that the scale is compared against a human body, all aspects must harmonise.
- **ornament:** ornament is integrated into the building, the sculptures and paintings are part of the design not stuck on.
- **Organic form:** organic architecture uses curves as a signature along with playing on the interpretation of nature.

Organic architecture today:

Contemporary architecture is the organic architecture of today. It uses a range of materials and facades to manipulate how nature completes a space, a perfect example of this is 'Parkroyal' in Singapore. Some contemporary architects use crystallised facets changing colour depending on the sun's orientation. The style of architecture also follows a flowing form with the use of curved lines.

Concluding with organic architecture is relevant today, contemporary architecture is the modern interpretation of organic.

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Question 4 : is ornament and embellishment architecturally important for a bystander, to understand the language of a building?

Ornament:

Ornament is luxury; the more ornament on a building the more labour has gone into the production. However due to machinery ornament has now become 'cheap'; and plain facades are now an ornament within themselves. Also known as the birth of modernism.

Adolf Loos once said 'Ornament is the language through which architecture communicates with a broader public'. Another architect that goes into a depth of decoration is Antoni Gaudí. With twice the amount of visitors to 'Sagrada Família' a year to the residence in Barcelona. Shows ornament within a building is important to bystanders. To them it's the way the building communicates.

Frank Lloyd Wright also uses ornament within his buildings, although his facades are simple he includes ornament in the design by using posters, tea towels and coasters, whilst trying to manipulate light into the space.

Embellishment:

Ornament applied embellishment in various styles distinguishing characteristics, furniture and household items.

If you look up ornament in the dictionary you'll see four meanings. All which imply that ornament is supposed to add something positive to something else, i.e. Column ornament, adding to the beauty.

Ornament to bystanders:

Ornament is what attracts public to buildings, if a building has lots of ornament most people link it to hierarchy. The more ornament and grander the building the more importance it must hold, i.e. Churches and chapels.

Architecture has never been all about function, its also about expression of human achievements and aesthetics. There are many perfect examples of ornament, some of these being:

- Queens house, London, famous for the tulip stairs
- Embarcadero Centre, USA, uses mosaic decorations, and pillars to create a feeling of historic prominence.
- Casa batlló, Barcelona, a building admired by the public for its astonishing unique facade.

Conclusion:

~~After~~ Upon writing, a conclusion has been made that ornament and embellishment is just as important as function to a bystander.

Whereas ornament doesn't affect the physical use of a building, to a bystander it can make it comforting. An aesthetically pleasing building with ornament is respected and owed at for its beauty, therefore ornament is important just as 'form follows function' is.