



Architecture

with Dr Lisa Landrum

Talking points

Comprehension

1. What is the difference between an architecture policy and a building code?
2. How might architecture affect someone's actions or emotions?

Application

3. What do you think your country's architecture policy should include?

Analysis

4. How do you think architecture influences place, people, prosperity and potential? How do you think each of these themes influence architecture?
5. How do you think bad architectural decisions can lead to social injustices?
6. Why is it important for communities to have a say in the development of their built environment?
7. CAFÉ promotes the work of Indigenous architects. Why is it important for Indigenous peoples to lead design in their communities and have their perspectives incorporated into architectural developments?

Evaluation

8. Think about a place, building or structure that you like and one that you dislike. What is it about each design that you like or dislike? How does the design influence your feelings and interactions with the world?

Activities

Explore local architecture

"Since architecture is all around us, it can be hard to see how it affects us all the time, influencing how we interact with people and the world" says Lisa. Walk around your neighbourhood and consider how the built environment affects you.

As you walk around, write a list of things that you notice about the architecture. This could include aspects such as the construction materials of buildings, the views from certain areas, the openness (or lack of openness) of spaces, and the layout of buildings. How does each point on your list influence your emotions? How does it influence how you interact with people and the world?

How do you think the built environment in your neighbourhood influences the people who live and work there? For example, how easy is it to cross roads? How accessible are buildings for people with disabilities? How might this impact people's health, safety and personal identity? What architectural designs and features promote or hinder social and environmental justice?

Redesign your school or classroom

How could you improve the architecture of your school or classroom? Talk to your classmates and teachers to discover what features they would like to be included, then sketch your vision for a school or classroom that is 'an environment to inspire young people'.

What is architecture?

How would you describe architecture in five words or less? Watch this CAFÉ video in which CAFÉ members share their ideas: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv6QWXhjLoM Which descriptions do you most agree with, and why? Which do you think are the most important qualities for architecture?

More resources

- Learn more about the CAFÉ network: www.architecturecanada.ca
- This short video from CAFÉ explains why Canada needs an architecture policy: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeOz4izXZlw
- Lisa led the Unstacking the Deck: Towards Equity in Architecture project which created a pack of playing cards celebrating women in architecture: www.unstackingthedeck.ca
- Lisa suggests watching films about architecture, such as *City Dreamers* (2019) by Joseph Hillel, about four trailblazing women architects; *Robin Hood Gardens* (2022) by Thomas Beyer and Adrian Dorschner, about the legacy of a famous housing estate; and *Columbus* (2017) by Kogonada, about the remarkable architecture in a small town in Indiana.
- Lisa has recently published a book about the performative potential of architecture, *Theatres of Architectural Imagination*: www.routledge.com/Theatres-of-Architectural-Imagination/Landrum-Ridgway/p/book/9781032286112