Place is the Space: Post-Visit Activity

Sketch Your Space

1. Spend time standing in front of the place in which you live. Observe your home from the sidewalk in front of it. Examine it from across the street. Walk around the structure (in the alley, backyard, sidestreets, etc.).

2. Use a camera (phone/digital/disposable) to take picture sketches of your house from all angles/perspectives. Use an online photo sharing website like Flickr (www.flickr.com) to download and share all photos of the varied structures that make up the class.

3. Make pencil sketches of the facade (front view) and side and rear views of your home.

4. Make notes about the following:
   - What materials were used to make this building?
   - What are some interesting design elements you haven’t noticed before?
   - What are things you like about the design of this building?
   - What are things you would like to change?
   - How does it compare to the building that is closest to it in any direction?

ADVANCED: Walk your block and answer the following questions:
   - Where is there evidence of infrastructure (sewer service, telephone lines and power poles) or other utilities?
   - How far is your home from other city services (if any), such as public transportation?
   - How far is your home from amenities like stores or coffee shops or restaurants?
Design Your Perfect Bedroom

Materials:
- Markers
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Water Color Pencils
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Paper 11 x 17 or Larger
- Vellum 11 x 17 or Larger
- Masking Tape
- Clear Tape
- Tape Measure

1. Consider what you like to do or need to do (what architects call the program function) in your bedroom space. What words (adjectives) describe what you want your bedroom to look like and feel like? How do you want to mentally feel when you spend time in this space? Write these ideas down.

2. Measure your existing bedroom wall-to-wall using a tape measure. Write down the wall lengths on a blank sheet of paper. Sketch the shape of the room. Make notes of existing features in your room or sketch/photograph what your space looks like now.

3. Use a ruler, pencil, and a large sheet of paper to make a scale drawing of your existing room. A scale to use might be one inch = one foot. For example, if your room is 12 feet by 15 feet in size, make a drawing that has a shape on paper of 12 x 15 inches in size. Adjust the scale of your drawing if needed (one inch = two feet) for available paper size.

ADVANCED: Use the website DiscoverDesign.org to complete this project online. Once on the website, choose a design project. The design-your-bedroom online project is listed there.
John Hancock Tower, Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Chicago, IL, 1969 (mixed use)
The Glass House, Philip Johnson, New Canaan, CT, 1949
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4. Once you have the floor plan outline of your room drawn on paper, think about what design features and furniture is needed in this space. Where should it go? What should be included to achieve what and how you want the room to look and feel? Sketch these elements into your floor plan to create a birds' eye view of the room, including furniture or features like built-in bookshelves or a desk/window seat.

5. Next, make an architectural perspective drawing of your space from the point of view (perspective) of you entering the room. Outline the design elements and furniture in this space. Place a sheet of vellum (the same size as the perspective drawing paper) over the drawing. Using tape, make a hinge at the top of the sheets to keep them together, but so you can lift up the vellum. Slowly trace over the perspective drawing outlines using a fine point marker or pencil on the vellum.

6. Now consider color and finishings to your perspective drawing—what colors could you add to the walls, ceiling, floor, furniture to best communicate how you want to feel in this space? Use marker and crayon or colored pencil to finish your design on the vellum paper. Add details as you desire to your drawing of your envisioned new space. Share your space ideas with your classmates.

Three-Dimensional Alternative Idea:
Use cardboard bankers’ boxes to create a three-dimensional diorama of an envisioned or better space. Students can use cardboard tubes, paperboard, paper, and found objects to create a version of their existing room or dream rooms.

ADVANCED Online Resources:
- http://www.discoverdesign.org
- http://www.discoverdesign.org
- http://www.sketchup.com
Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright, Bear Run, PA, 1935-39

Monticello, Thomas Jefferson, Charlottesville, VA, 1769-1826
Gehry House, Frank Gehry, Santa Monica, CA, 1978

Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe New Mexico, 17th century
1. What style is it? Use the terms below to decide. (See sheet with full definitions.)
   Modern                     Neo-Classical                Organic
   Spanish Colonial           Post-Modern                 Structural Expressionism

2. What materials were used in its design and construction? Why do you think this?

3. When was it made? What do you see that makes you think this?

4. Who do you think lived/lives here? Why?

5. Describe what you think it might be like to live here?

6. Is this a place you would like to live? Why or why not?
House of Cards

This activity, and following terms and definitions, goes with the Six Image Cards. Each card displays a particular famous residential structure with basic time/place/architect on the face and questions for classroom discussion on the reverse.

Architectural Terms:

**Spanish Colonial Style**
Spanish Colonial architecture in the American southwest is usually typified by thick, solid adobe walls, often covered with a protective layer of stucco or plaster; a one-story building around an enclosed courtyard and a long, narrow, covered porch either facing the street or facing a patio commonly supported by columns.

**Modern Style**
The Modern architectural style emerged in many Western countries in the decade after World War I. It was based on the "rational" use of modern materials. It was believed that the design of a building should be based on the purpose of that building with the rejection of ornament. An example of this style is the exposed, iron skeleton of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, which was met with public outrage in 1889.

**Organic Architecture**
Organic Architecture features design in accordance with nature, rather than based on an imposed design; a design philosophy of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959) based largely on his early-20th-century assertion that a building (and its appearance) should follow forms that are in harmony with its natural environment. The materials used on the exterior should respond to the building’s locale, thereby relating the building to its setting, as if it were the result of natural growth.

**Post-Modern**
Post-Modern describes architecture from the late 1960s to present, where function and emphasis on the expression of structure are rejected in favor of a greater freedom of design, including Classical historic imagery. This leads to new contemporary forms and materials with frequent historic references, often ironic, like the use of non-supporting Classical columns and medieval arches. Post-Modern architecture also reacts to commercial mass culture by including such elements as bright colors, neon lights, and advertising signs.

**Structural Expressionism**
Structural Expressionism is a style of modernist architecture in which the core structural elements of the building are expressed in the building’s appearance. The style has been around since at least the 1960s, but it did not become popular and widespread until the 1980s. Structural Expressionist buildings reveal their structure on the outside as well as the inside, but with visual emphasis placed on the internal steel and/or concrete skeletal structure as opposed to exterior concrete walls. The style is sometimes referred to as "high tech" modernism.