

Architecture as Activism



How can
architecture play
a role in bettering
our community?

BACKGROUND: From prehistoric times to the present, people have used a wide range of materials to build shelters for protection from the heat, cold, rain, and wind. Buildings are designed to fulfill certain functions, often utilizing materials from the surrounding environment: simple shelters of branches and clay and pyramids of stone. Castles were built for protection, cathedrals for worship, and skyscrapers for business. A good building design combines the **function**, the **environment**, and the **elements of design**.

As you learn about the rise and fall of civilizations all around the world – and how architecture plays a role in various time periods and environments – you will use the Architecture as Activism project to dive deeper into your own community. You will investigate a particular challenge facing the Triangle. Then, you will create a plan for a building that addresses the need and that reflects the culture, geography, and ecology of our region. Using skills from many different subject areas, you will create a proposal, a blueprint, and a model of your plans, demonstrating how our abilities can impact the world for the better!

PROCEDURE:

1. **RESEARCH:** You will brainstorm, plan, research, seek expert guidance, and conduct site visits to gather information. You will learn how architecture is used in other communities around the world, how form follows function, and how architecture can operate in concert with its environment.
2. **PROPOSE:** You will draft a proposal that is professional, persuasive, thorough, and creative.
3. **PLAN:** You will draft blueprints of your building (and, if applicable, grounds) that are drawn neatly and to scale.
4. **BUILD:** You will construct a professional model of your plans.
5. **PRESENT:** You will prepare and present your work to a group of “investors.”

ASSESSMENT: Each component of this project is assessed in the class where the work takes place. You will receive direction from individual teachers about how to achieve the grade you desire.