Building Connections is a multi-layered resource aimed at supporting the teaching of architecture units as part of the Visual Arts Syllabus Stage 6. It is divided into 3 parts – the frames, conceptual framework and practice, and focuses on the architecture of six art galleries and museums. It explores the connections between architecture and other art forms, investigating ideas and themes through images, text, artmaking activities and links to other information. Two of the galleries are examined in more detail through essays and descriptions of practice, demonstrating how architecture can be considered within broader discussions of the Visual Arts.

Part 1 includes:

1. discussions of national and international art gallery and museum architecture.
2. explanations using the frames as a means of interpretation.
3. examples of related artworks to reinforce insights and create connections between architecture and other art forms.

DEVELOPED BY

object.com.au    architects.nsw.gov.au
PART 1: The Frames

3 Introduction, Outcomes and Acknowledgements

4 GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM BILBAO

5 Cultural Frame

5 Postmodern Frame

6 The Art

7 Sample Questions and Art Making

8 MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY

9 Structural Frame

10 Cultural Frame

10 The Art

11 Art that ‘Infills’ Spaces

11 Art that Rethinks Existing Structures

12 Sample Questions and Art Making

13 CHICHU ART MUSEUM

13 Structural Frame

14 Subjective Frame

14 The Art

15 Other museums designed for specific collections

16 Outside the Museum

16 Sample Questions and Art Making

17 GALLERY OF MODERN ART BRISBANE

17 Cultural Frame

18 Structural Frame

18 Sample Questions and Art Making

19 Jean-Mariet Jibaou Cultural Centre

20 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

20 Postmodern Frame

21 Subjective Frame

21 The Art

22 Sample Questions and Art Making

23 ULURU-KATA TJUTA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

23 Cultural Frame

24 Structural Frame

25 The Art

25 Bowali Visitor Centre

26 Sample Questions and Art Making

26 Australian Art Galleries and Museums

PART 2: Conceptual Framework

2 Why do contemporary artworks make particular demands on audiences?

4 Examine how documentary evidence enables the viewer to recreate the meaning and context of the artwork.

PART 3: Practice and resource material

2 Frank Gehry Practice

3 Paul Berkemeier Interview

5 Australian Art Galleries and Museums
OUTCOMES

This resource is written for teachers to gain a greater understanding of:

1. how to build descriptions, narrative accounts, interpretations, comparisons and judgements around architectural concepts and examples

2. how to use the frames to unpack the elements and qualities of architecture

3. the relationship between architecture and other art forms, the world and the audience

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PART 1  BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Commissioned by the industrial port of Bilbao for the Guggenheim Foundation, Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Museum has become one of the most internationally recognised art museums. Both the Guggenheim Foundation and Bilbao wanted a building that would be both architecturally and aesthetically significant.

Gehry’s design incorporates flowing, fragmented, sculptural masses that form a complex exterior. Geometric and organic solid and voids are combined to create a seamless, dynamic rhythm. His consistent exterior metal skin, in this case 24,000 facets of rectangular titanium, produces a reflective surface that responds to and integrates the site into the monument.

I approach each building as a sculptural object, a spatial container, a space with light and air, a response to contact and appropriateness of feeling and spirit. To this container, this sculpture, the user brings [their] baggage, [their] program and interacts with it to accommodate [their] needs. If [they] can’t do that I’ve failed. FRANK O. GEHRY
POSTMODERN FRAME

Gehry exemplifies a reaction against the cool, rational, geometric modernist ‘box’. This is a recurring feature of his architectural commentary. Seeking a more engaging, subjective approach to architecture, Gehry’s buildings are sensory bombardments in stark contrast to the reserved intellectualism of the International Style. The modernist canon ‘form follows function’, the idea that every aspect of a building is a perfect visible form and their structural purpose obvious, is discarded in the attempt to excite and surprise its audience.

Gehry has been called a deconstructivist architect because his work explores forms that purposely distort, fragment and complicate the rational and clear geometry of past architecture. Deconstructivism has its critics of course, (Gehry himself rejects it), who speak of an architecture of ‘destroyed forms’ (Nikos Salingaros) and an ‘aggressive assault to human senses’, not to mention an attention-seeking irreverent flamboyance that dominates the site rather than complementing it sympathetically. Others draw attention to a confusing and compromised relationship between exterior and interior.

The great complexity of structure and the resulting practical difficulties of actual construction that emerge from a deconstructivist approach are only made possible by the sophistication of C.A.T.I.A. software and its links to design and manufacture. Buildings like Bilbao are comprised of endlessly different architectural pieces; no two pieces of the steel girder frame are the same.

Critics distinguish between postmodernism in architecture, which revives decoration and historicism, and deconstructivism, which, like modernism, abandons decoration but also challenges the utopian ordered exploration of the ideal geometric form.

CULTURAL FRAME

Bilbao was a declining Basque port on the Nervion River when the decision was taken to raise the profile of the city and to energise its cultural and civic life by building an important and arresting new art museum. The museum would form the centrepiece of a revived civic centre that would draw the people back to the increasingly abandoned industrial site.

The ‘Bilbao effect’ refers to the way art and architecture can completely transform the identity of a city and its people. The decision to build an expensive art museum demonstrates a belief in the power and cultural importance of art and a desire to participate in a global intellectual culture. It invokes the status that is conferred by participation in the fine arts, seeking a redefinition of Bilbao in this dignified and elevated cultural light.

It’s not new. The ‘Bilbao effect’ is the Parthenon effect, the Chartres Cathedral effect, the Notre Dame effect. The press labeled it the ‘Bilbao effect’; I didn’t name it. It’s not new that architecture can profoundly affect a place, sometimes transform it. Architecture and any art can transform a person, even save someone. It can for children—for anyone. It still does for me. FRANK O. GEHRY
Richard Serra is an internationally renowned American artist whose works are imposing, some would say threatening structures that are manufactured in Siegen Germany, the only steel mill capable of their production. Serra’s experience as a steelworker in his early adult years led to his deep engagement with this material.

*The Matter of Time*, situated in the Guggenheim, Bilbao, is an installation of undulating walls of steel that create a series of pathways for visitors to follow in one direction. The four metre high walls of the sculptures frame a view of the architecture overhead, excluding all but the sculpture from the viewer’s vision.

There is a fascinating dialogue between the sculptures and the museum: the heavy, dark, dense, absorbent simplicity of *The Matter of Time* contrasts with the light, bright, airy, complex, reflective and contradictory qualities of the Guggenheim.

In *The Matter of Time* the steel leaves of the sculpture incline and separate recalling the undulations of the gallery walls, hence ‘the building becomes a sculpture and the sculpture becomes part of the architecture’ (Architecture the Complete Box Set).

*Unique Forms of Continuity in Space*, 1913
Umberto Boccioni (Italian, 1882-1916)
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY
Bronze

The dynamic and reflective forms used by Boccioni to create a sense of movement and fluidity are reminiscent of the shapes and forms used by Gehry.
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Using the postmodern frame, explain how traditional patterns of authority in art and/or design and/or architecture have been questioned and revised by practitioners.

‘Artworks shape the way we understand culture.’
With reference to this statement, explain how artists raise awareness of economic, political or social issues.

ART MAKING
Speculative Architecture

Design and create a proposal for an ‘Inspired Building’.

1 In your Visual Design Journal, define the purpose/concept of your building.

2 Record the development of your concept including preparatory sketches.

3 Present your finished proposal in a digital format (Sketchup, Photoshop or Indesign) using plans, elevations, and site maps, or make 3d architectural models using available materials (eg cardboard, wire, plastic etc).

Design Possibilities include:

A Building that responds to a specific social need, such as a museum, art gallery, hospital, school, a place of worship, etc;

B Building inspired by a particular site that might be restrictive, difficult or that was part of a breathtaking landscape;

C Building inspired by emotions or abstract concepts such as power, romance or friendship;

D Concept for Barangaroo near Darling Harbour;

E Building to complement already existing structures or as part of a broader event or concept. Consider the Olympic stadiums, regeneration projects such as Docklands in Melbourne or Darling Harbour in Sydney.

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Now and When: Australian Urbanism
Abundant: Models from the Australian Pavilion 11th International Architecture Exhibition
Archigram
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Architecture the Complete Box Set, Number 4, DVD, Ovation, 01 July 2009,
Craven, J, Frank Gehry, “Deconstructivist” Architect
David Basulto, Frank Gehry Interview on Playboy, Architecture Daily
Richard Serra Writings, Interviews, University of Chicago Press 1994
MRAG is comprised of two historical buildings designed by the New South Wales Government architect, Walter Liberty Vernon, and a new infill section designed by Berkemeier and McGregor, linking the historical with the present.

The two older buildings, previously known as the Maitland Technical College, house spaces for workshops, classes and a museum. The older buildings were never completed due to budgetary issues. Berkemeier and McGregor converted these spaces into an art gallery providing an outstanding example of adaptive reuse.

The new work provides contemporary gallery accommodation sitting between these two historic buildings. It is a two-storey, linear form that unites the entire gallery complex. The architects used glass and openings to reveal the unfinished fabric of the older buildings and reinforce the story of the change of architectural direction that occurred in the early 20th century.
The new addition makes a bold statement and acts as an ‘infill’ work between the two older buildings. The exterior uses strong geometric shapes combined with restrained colour and materials that contrast against the warm textured bricks of the older facades. Both old and new buildings have imposing exteriors, one with a modern asymmetrical block form and the other with a weighty symmetrical Federation facade. The architects have played with scale and proportion in the new addition, providing the gallery with a focal point while still allowing the older structures to reveal themselves.

Inside the new two storey space the use of glass discloses the unfinished sections of the older buildings with the half completed brick walls, filled openings and toothed nibs. The dramatic change in design to the 21st century building is experienced in both the interior and exterior.

The interior of the oldest building includes neo-Gothic arches that divide the rooms into exhibition spaces, an Art Nouveau inspired skylight, a cantilevered marble staircase and a suspended concrete slab. The latter two features demonstrate exceptional technical achievement for the time of construction in 1908.
CULTURAL FRAME

The Maitland Regional Art Gallery is an outstanding example of adaptive reuse and the connection between past and present communities. This is evident in the maintenance of the two historical buildings and in providing them with a new function.

As well as adapting the older building as gallery spaces, the new building adheres to the intentions of the original site as a place for education with workshops as dedicated spaces to facilitate learning.

The gallery provides a fine example of both early 20th century and contemporary architecture and is situated in the centre of the town close to other civic amenities. Constructed with creativity and technical ability, the interior of the larger building completed in 1908 is an obvious example of a mixture of architectural styles, influences and ideals. The Federation building uses neo-Gothic archways, an Art nouveau skylight and was constructed with brick and stonework that demonstrate a high level of craftsmanship.

THE ART

*Time Capture*, 2003
*Lara O’Reilly*

The new section of the Maitland Regional Art Gallery was built with a place for the artwork *Time Capture* to be incorporated into the fabric of the building at the junction where the old and the new buildings connect. Hidden within a cavity and spanning two levels, *Time Capture* is a visual display that reveals the stories of 100 Maitland females aged from three months to 93 years. These women and children, filmed with a few of their treasured objects, celebrate the diversity of women in the Maitland community. The entire work, spanning 25 years, runs at a slow mesmerizing pace which is quite addictive for audiences.

www.laraoreilly.com

Above Viewing window at the junction of old and new
Left View into two storey projection space
Photos Damien Furey
**ART THAT ‘INFILLS’ SPACES**

*Dispatchwork, Street Art, 2007*
Jan Vormann

Brightly coloured Lego pieces are used to repair cracks in the city environment. The artist, Jan Voorman has done this all around the world and is now encouraging others to get involved.

**List of art locations:**
www.dispatchwork.info/

www.janvormann.com/testbild/dispatchwork/

*Decorative Potholes*
Juliana Santacruz Herrera

The artist ‘repairs’ the streets of Paris through her visual intervention using braided strips of colourful fabric. Seeing the many cracks and potholes of the city as the ‘canvas’ for her project, the site-specific pieces are a playful addition to the grey urban setting.


**ART THAT RE-THINKS EXISTING STRUCTURES**

*Vai Com Deus, typographic installation, 2008-9*
R2 Design

The Ermida Nossa Senhora da Conceição, in Lisbon, is a small chapel repurposed as a gallery that shows work by contemporary Portuguese artists. R2 Design have used raised typography on the outside walls, referencing sayings about God, that are not permanent as the building is heritage listed.

www.typestack.com/uncategorized/%E2%80%9Cvai-com-deus%E2%80%9D-typographic-intervention/

*Parasites*
Richard Goodwin

Parasites are attachments to architecture that mediate the space between the ‘host body’ and public space. It transforms the architecture that it is attached to it by way of attack.

www.richard-goodwin.com/flash/gallery/album/03_Architecture%20Parasite/index.html
1. Evaluate the view that art reflects the social values of a particular time and place.

2. Explain the function of material decisions artists make in developing a visual language.

**ART MAKING**

1. Using Photoshop or image cut outs, create a photomontage using a range of architectural styles for public buildings, houses, galleries etc. These can be collected from the internet or magazines.

2. Students can draw over the top of the montage in order to extend their vision of the future.

3. Focus should be on the cultural significance of different architectural styles and how the photomontage will symbolise the ‘mash-up’ of a range of ideals expressed through the built form.

4. The artwork could be developed through film/video, ceramics, sculpture or installation.

5. Students will begin discussing what they think the future city might look like. They need to consider matters around climate change, population and changes in social structure. Technology, bio-mimicry, re-use of existing structures or the cultural significance of various architectural styles could be used as starting points for investigations.

**REFERENCES**


culturehunter.org/notice-board/interview-kim-blunt-maitland-regional-art-galleries-public-programs-coordinator


The Chichu (‘in the earth’) art museum was designed by Japanese architect, Tadao Ando, for the Benesse Foundation and is situated on the cliffs that overlook the Seto Inland Sea on the island of Naoshima. With his underground museum, Ando sought to question the relationship between people and their environment. Designed specifically to house the works of Claude Monet, James Turrell and Walter de Maria, it was built over three levels.

Nature in the form of water, light and sky restores architecture from a metaphysical to an earthly plane and gives life to architecture. A concern for the relationship between architecture and nature inevitably leads to a concern for the temporal context of architecture. I want to emphasize the sense of time and to create compositions in which a feeling of transience or the passing of time is a part of the spatial experience. TADAO ANDO
SUBJECTIVE FRAME

The Chichu Art Museum articulates relationships between architecture and nature, artworks and site, light and space. This gives the building a mystical and spiritual depth when ‘walking’ the interior.

Historically, art museums can be categorised into three phases. The first phase museums, such as the Louvre (1546-1878), were built for the collections of royalty. Second phase museums took a critical stand against their predecessors in that their exhibition spaces are abstract yet uniform eg. the Guggenheim Museum (1956-1960), New York, by Frank Lloyd Wright, and the National Gallery in Berlin (1965-1968), by Mies Van Der Rohe. Third phase museums feature art works which interact with their surroundings, i.e site specific art works. The Chichu Art Museum epitomises this concept.

THE ART

Five of Impressionist Claude Monet’s water lily paintings are housed in a space which is naturally lit. This focus on an ever-changing light reinforces Monet’s wish that brush strokes be connected in order to read the paintings thus allowing the audience to create meaning. This concept is also apparent in the work of Turrell and De Maria.

Walter de Maria’s Time/Timeless/No Time, 2004 consists of a black granite sphere and 27 gold-leaf wooden sculptures which define the space aligned from east to west. The constantly changing light throughout the day constructs the audience’s experience of the work.

James Turrell’s works, Afrum, Pale Blue, 1968, Open Field, 2000 and Open Sky, 2004, present light as an art itself and the distinction between architecture and art is blurred.
MONA
MUSEUM OF OLD AND NEW ART

Hobart, TAS

Nonda Katsalidis

www.mona.net.au

2011

MONA is an underground space carved into a sandstone hill on the Derwent River, sitting below two existing Roy Grounds buildings. It is a brilliant example of a unique interrelationship between building and environment. It was designed specifically to accommodate the private collection of Tasmanian David Walsh. A visit to MONA is akin to journeying into the ancient catacombs.

ABC Arts Online: ‘Inside MONA’s subversive Disneyland’

Australian Design Review article

PART 1 BUILDING CONNECTIONS

DIA: BEACON

Hudson River, New York

Renovated with artist Robert Irwin and architect OpenOffice

www.diacenter.org

2003

The DIA Foundation has utilised a former Nabisco Box Printing Factory on the Hudson River in New York to house their large scale collection of artworks from the 1960s to the present. The converted building is lit by natural light from 25,000 square feet of north facing skylights.

Artists represented include Richard Serra (b.1939), Cy Twombly (b.1929), Walter de Maria (b.1935) and Andy Warhol (1928-87).
Outside the museum – ‘Architecture becomes the art’

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. How are artists’ practices shaped by the innovations of other artists? In your discussion of specific examples, consider: materials, techniques, beliefs and theories.

2. Explain how particular art works/exhibitions of art have caused changes in artworld beliefs and practices.

3. Do you agree or disagree with John McDonald? Present your point of view using evidence, including artists and their works.

ART MAKING

Light

1. Students choose an artist’s work which focuses on the element of light. Once the student is committed to this artwork, they are to design a space for this work to be housed – either inside or outside.

2. The space is to have a structural focus based on one geometric form eg. cube, triangular prism or sphere.

3. Natural light is to be incorporated into the function of this space. The design process is to be documented as part of the final product.

The great artist retains an ever-renewing sense of discovery and expresses that feeling to his or her audience.

JOHN MCDONALD, Art Critic

Gordon Matta Clark (1943-1978) was trained as an architect and produced a body of site specific artworks known as ‘the building cuts’ – sculptural transformations of abandoned buildings.

枋立, 1974
Gordon Matta Clark

References:

Artnet Article on Gordon Matta Clark

Mathew Colson pdf on Chichu
Chichu info from Benesse Art Site
Naoshima website
The Gallery of Modern Art is situated on the Brisbane River only 150 metres from the Queensland Art Gallery and adjacent to the State Library in what is now a vibrant cultural precinct. The design is a lightweight, open riverside pavilion containing two major levels of exhibition space, two cinemas, education facilities, a restaurant and boardwalk café. The gallery is organised into flexible, adaptive spaces which can house changing programs and exhibitions of modern and contemporary Australian and international art, indigenous Australian art, and the art of the Asia-Pacific region.

CULTURAL FRAME

The building with its prominent placement on the river’s edge, creates a strong sense of connection to the Central Business District of Brisbane and is part of the life of the city. The choice of materials, the spatial organisation, and qualities of transparency and lightness connects it to place – Australia and the Asia Pacific. It promotes continuity and a sense of belonging through the adaptation of traditional methods to solve contemporary problems. Australia and Queensland in particular, has a tradition of timber buildings in both public and residential work. The use of timber screens in response to climate and orientation quickly became a distinctive and identifiable building element as did the large overhanging eaves. The circulation spaces in the gallery directs views out to the city through vast glazed walls, and the buildings edges are activated with observation decks, a café, restaurant and reception spaces.

Unlike buildings designed merely as an object we set out to create a building that would engage with its place and act as a catalyst for future cultural/social endeavours within a subtropical climate.

KERRY CLARE

The Gallery of Modern Art is situated on the Brisbane River only 150 metres from the Queensland Art Gallery and adjacent to the State Library in what is now a vibrant cultural precinct. The design is a lightweight, open riverside pavilion containing two major levels of exhibition space, two cinemas, education facilities, a restaurant and boardwalk café. The gallery is organised into flexible, adaptive spaces which can house changing programs and exhibitions of modern and contemporary Australian and international art, indigenous Australian art, and the art of the Asia-Pacific region.

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The gallery’s most distinctive element is the tapered metal roof that provides the metaphorical ‘hat’ and principal shading device that permits the rest of the design to work so effectively. The roof also reflects sunlight deep into the gallery via reflection from the underside of the roof overhang. At either end of the roof, angled broad blades create narrow blades of light and shadow.

The intention of the overall design is represented by a black box symbolically and functionally representing the cinema, and the white box representing the gallery. The forms and spaces of the building are logical and well organised around a voluminous ‘Latin cross’ shaped circulation space. By including large areas of glazing in the circulation spaces, visitors can connect with the city and landscape beyond. The concentration of almost all movement in this space ensures that the new galleries have a simple clarity and allow for a focus on the art.

The materials are commonplace and include polished concrete floors and white walls. The finer details such as zinc panelling at the gallery thresholds and timber and stainless steel nosing to concrete stairs contributes to a more finely tuned design.
PART 1 BUILDING CONNECTIONS

A bit more on Architectus:

Kerry and Lindsay Clare were the founding architects and designers of Architectus Sydney (2000 – 2010) During this time the firm designed the multiple award winning Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane. In 2010, they were joint recipients of the Royal Institute of Architects Gold Medal. The couple is widely known for their sub-tropical, low impact, sustainable residential projects across regional Queensland. Kerry and Lindsay Clare are champions of sustainability and always imbue their work with a sense of place.

Jury Citations

2007 RAIA Queensland Architecture Awards

Architect’s statement

REFERENCES

Notes from Kerry Clare:
www.qag.qld.gov.au
Australian Institute of Architects jury citations

www.qag.qld.gov.au/about_us/architecture/goma/architects

JEAN-MARIE TJIBAOU CULTURAL CENTRE
NEW CALEDONIA

A connection to place and culture

-----------------------------------------------

Renzo Piano
-----------------------------------------------

2007
-----------------------------------------------

laminated and natural wood, concrete, coral, aluminium castings, glass panels, tree bark, stainless steel

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www.adck.nc

Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre celebrates the Kanak culture of Noumea. The assemblage of buildings is comprised of ten conical huts, constructed out of wooden joists and ribs that are arranged in three groups, or village clusters, enclosed in a setting of great natural beauty.

Piano’s centre is a contemporary interpretation of traditional designs based on the village cluster and the ribbed huts from Pacific culture of Noumea.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1 Explain the function of material decisions that artists make in developing a visual language.

2 ‘Artworks shape the way we understand culture’. With reference to this statement explain how the architecture of galleries and museums reflect the place and culture.

ART MAKING

1 You have been invited to submit a proposal for an artwork that responds to a description of GoMA found on the website: ‘A main theme of Architectus’ design is a pavilion in the landscape’. The artwork may be two and/or three dimensional.

2 Design a house for subtropical or tropical conditions using the same principals that Architectus used in GoMA.
The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) sits on the shores of Lake Michigan in the mid western city of Milwaukee. The original museum (1957) was an early work of well known architect Eero Saarinen and the first addition (1975) was designed by Milwaukee architect David Kahler.

The spectacular additions designed by Spanish architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava are one of a long list of recently constructed, architecturally daring art museums intent on exciting visitors and attracting them to a particular city.

The Calatrava additions, completed in 2001, are comprised of three main elements; the Quadracci Pavilion, the pedestrian bridge, and the moveable Brise Soleil or permanent sun shading. These additions serve to connect the museum with the downtown business section of Milwaukee and to Lake Michigan’s wide expanse of water. They also create a spectacular presence that has since become a symbol of the city.

Rather than just add something to the existing buildings, I also wanted to add something to the lakefront. I have therefore worked to infuse the building with a certain sensitivity to the culture of the lake - the boats, the sails and the always changing landscape.”

SANTIAGO CALATRAVA

See the Brise Soleil open
POSTMODERN FRAME

Calatrava’s designs are often inspired by nature, featuring a combination of organic forms and technological innovation.

Calatrava has drawn inspiration from Gothic Cathedrals, flight, and maritime themes. Among the many elements in Calatrava’s Milwaukee design are: movable steel louvres inspired by the wings of a bird; a cabled pedestrian bridge with a soaring mast inspired by the form of a sailboat; and a curving single-storey galleria reminiscent of a wave.

In Calatrava’s additions the boundaries between engineering, sculpture and architecture have disappeared. He combines old world craftsmanship with cutting edge technology. Ancient engineering techniques such as counterbalance create new and innovative forms, and technology is exploited to introduce moving parts.

He has drawn on Saarinen’s TWA Terminal for inspiration with its curving contours suggesting a bird in flight.

SUBJECTIVE FRAME

The impressive entrance over a bridge creates a sense of a journey from the city into the gallery space. As the visitor enters the large white Windhover Hall they are drawn to the view of the lake beyond and experience the feeling of floating over Lake Michigan. Moving from the grand Quadricci Pavilion through the arched corridors to the more enclosed spaces of the older sections of the museum, visitors experience another journey from the contemporary postmodern to the modernist space.

The shapes in the building are organic and powerful and change continuously depending on the viewer’s perspective and the light entering the building.

The Brise Soleil creates a sense of wonder and emotion in the viewer by evoking a feeling of flight while the whiteness of the building suggests purity and spirituality.

Left Windhover Hall in the Quadricci Pavilion
Above, View of entrance
Top right, The Brise Soleil, as seen from the arched corridor linking the Quadricci Pavilion to the Milwaukee Art Museum
Photos Spinstah

PART 1 BUILDING CONNECTIONS
THE ART
Expressing Movement

Dale Chihuly has revolutionized the art of blown glass, moving it into the realm of large-scale sculpture, as a vehicle for installation and environmental art. Working in collaborative teams and dividing the labour within the creative process allowed Chihuly to create large and complex works made from multiple parts. Under his influence the traditional art of glass became a contemporary medium while evoking the glamour and luxury of the Venetians.

Nike of Samothrace (c. 190 BC)
Photo courtesy of Patrick Rasenburg

Nike of Samothrace
Louvre, Paris

The Nike of Samothrace originally stood on the marble bow of a sculpted warship, a monument that commemorated a naval victory. The Nike is designed to seem as if she is just landing in a fierce headwind, her great wings still aloft. The body twists slightly as if to maintain its balance, while the sheer chiton, heavy with sea spray, both clings and billows dramatically.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. ‘Technological advances have transformed the practices of artists.’ Discuss this statement.

2. ‘Artists deliberately set out to provoke audience reactions.’ Argue a case both for and against this statement.

ART MAKING

1. Take one element of the Calatrava additions to MAM and use this as a starting point for a sculpture in the round or in relief. Consider elements of repetition, light, movement, organic shapes.

2. Design and make a vessel that reflects the parabolic arches and structures in MAM. You could use heavy card or perspex.

3. Create a design for a relief print using Calatrava’s buildings or bridges. The emphasis could be on rhythm and movement.

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Kent, C and Gordon, D, Santiago Calatrava: Milwaukee Art Museum, Quadricci Pavilion, Rizzoli, 2005, Cheryl Kent (Author)
Visit Amazon’s Cheryl Kent Page Find all the books, read about the author, and more.
See search results for this author
Are you an author? Learn about Author Central
http://www.calatrava.com (12.12.11)
http://mam.org/info/architecture.php (13.12.11)
http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/chihuly (13.12.11)
Uluru-Kata Tjuta Aboriginal Cultural Centre is comprised of two main buildings, which follow the contours of the surrounding dunes. The buildings wrap around a central courtyard and are joined by curving timber and brush walls that create outdoor spaces.

The use of natural forms and materials have produced a building with rough edges, bumps and distortions, which capture the site and reflect the surrounding desert environment.

From the air the building looks like a topographic map showing the layers of the land. In reality, however, we are experiencing the songlines of the indigenous Australian people. The curves of the roof line sinew across the land reflecting the tjukurpa ancestors, Kuniya (the woman python – southern building) and Liru (the poisonous snake – northern building).
CULTURAL FRAME

The Cultural Centre is situated one kilometre from Uluru, a sacred site for the Mititjulu people. It is intended as a meeting place for the Anangu (people) of the western desert, the traditional custodians of the national park. The site was chosen with consideration given to the environmental impact, the atmosphere of the surrounds, and the wishes of Anangu.

In 1986 in the park’s first plan of management it was recommended a cultural centre be established for the purpose of the:

- presentation of interpretative material relating to traditional culture, song and dance
- display and sale of contemporary Aboriginal art and crafts
- display of historical contact and park history
- meeting place for the community where activities and events significant to the desert people are held as well as being a place where they can share their culture with visitors to the land
- conduct of other appropriate Anangu controlled cultural and commercial activities

In 1990, consultation between Greg Burgess Architects and the Mititjulu people began with Burgess spending a month in the community where the culture of the people and their connections to the land were explained to him through stories, song and dance.

As Burgess explains:
Our buildings attempt to articulate the enigma of identity in place, social and communal well-being and the meaning(s) of being-at-home in the world.
STRUCTURAL FRAME

The shapes of the buildings symbolise the two snakes Kuniya and Liru, from the Tjukurpa story. The buildings’ spaces flow from inside to outside, making visitors aware of the continual connection of the building to the land. The position of openings and skylights allows a connection with the outside and natural light is able to flood the interior. Viewing platforms and openings frame the landscape, giving wonderful vistas of the surrounding desert.

Adobe bricks (bricks made from the earth of the site) used for the walls also reinforce the connection to the land. Low technology building methods and materials sourced from the local area (except timber which is a renewable material) ensured the building belonged very much to the land on which it sits. On the roof are bloodwood and copper roof shingles. As it ages, the copper slowly turns green through the oxidisation process—a shade similar to the bushes of the surrounding desert.

THE ART

Awelye (Women’s Ceremony)
Art Site

Awelye means women’s ceremonies but it can also refer to the designs applied to a women’s body as part of a ceremony. The ceremony is women’s business and can reflect their connection the land and their Dreamtime. It is a tradition reaching back thousands of years and is one of the oldest artforms in the world.

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Aboriginal Cultural Centre has provided the space where these ceremonies can be performed and at times shared, in part, with visitors to the land. The colours of the land and the symbolism of the Dreamings are reflected in the ceremonies and the structure of this building.

Read the Tjukurpa story
Read more about Awelye Art
Other cultural centres designed in collaboration with traditional owners:

**BOWALI VISITOR CENTRE**

Troppo Architects, Glenn Murcutt and the Traditional Owners of Kakadu

1992

Bowali is a Gundjehmi name for the immediate area and creek that runs through this locale in Kakadu National Park. This land is owned by the people of the Mirarr clan.

The oblique approach to Bowali Visitor Centre is a meander from car park through the bush and as explained by Big Bill Neidjie is the correct and respectful approach to sacred and important sites. It has been described as a building ‘that challenges European concepts of inside/outside...’ It is a long thin verandah building with an earthy base, breezy middle and huge curved roof soaring over the top. It reaches out to the environment with upward sweeping verandahs, open planning and materials drawn from the land around.

**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the ways in which cultural identity is addressed in the work of artists.

2. Using the structural and cultural frames, interpret the work of an artist you have studied.

3. ‘Artworks shape the way we understand culture’. With reference to this statement explain how the architecture of galleries and museums reflect the place and culture.

**ART MAKING**

Speculative Architecture

1. Design a cultural centre using your own cultural background as a starting point. Use the structural and cultural frames to assist you in developing ideas for your design.

2. Research other cultural centres and examples of architecture that reflect aspects of culture such as Jean-Mariet Jibaou Cultural Centre by Renzo Piano.

3. Use 3D modelling programs, sketches, photographs and physical models to assist in your presentation.

**REFERENCES**

Site relating to the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre oak.arch.utas.edu.au/projects/aus/303/default.htm (13.12.11)

Sites on Architect

George Negus Tonight

In the Mind of an Architect, episode 2
www.abc.net.au/architecture/ep_trn2.htm#trn_uluru

Libu and Kuniyu Architecture Australia

Site relating to information found on Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Note Tjukurpa is the foundation of Anangu life and society.

Site relating to information to Anangu artworks