100 YEARS OF PLAYFUL ARCHITECTURE 1918-2018

Worksheets Playful Architect 2018 100 Years of Architecture





INTRODUCTION

This year the Czech Republic and many other nations celebrate a 100 years of independence and freedom. These are 100 years in which architecture has gone through a whole array of different styles. We have chosen a few of them for you to explore and find in your own town!

In this century the greatest forces of social change have been the new ideologies and philosophies. In architecture, the new materials and technologies enabled totally different ways to build and design: since the days of the Industrial Revolution, everything is accelerating, the distances are shorter and the borders disappear. Up until those times, individual styles like the Baroque could last for more than a 100 years; but at the turn of the 20th century, "fashions" became much shorter and ever changing, just like the clothes we wear today: changing with every season.

What is the effect of this acceleration on architecture? What is the effect on our lives? And on our planet?





EXPRESSIONISM - CONSTRUCTIVISM

EXPRESSIONISM was an early 20th century movement that developed among architects from Germany, Austria and Denmark, who tried to create works that looked like nothing that had come before World War I. Expressionist architecture was designed to "express" inner feelings and extreme emotions, and their buildings made strong statements that stood out over their surroundings, using unusual shapes, building techniques and materials.

Examples: The Einstein Tower by Erich Mendelsohn, the Chilehaus in Hamburg by Fritz Höger, the Second Goetheanum in Dornach by Rudolf Steiner, the Het Schip building in Amsterdam by Michel de Klerk and the De Bijenkorf store in The Hague by Piet Kramer.



Einstein Tower - Erich Mendelsohn



Rusakov Club - Konstantin Melnikov

CONSTRUCTIVISM was the name of an architectural and artistic movement that expanded mainly in Russia from the 1917 Revolution until the 1930s. It largely influenced other styles such as Cubism with its emphasis in geometrical design. Constructivism favored technical perfection, the beauty of materials and the efficiency of buildings, and rejected unnecessary luxury.

Examples: The Derzhprom in Kharkiv by Serafimovich, Kravets and Felger, the Lenin Mausoleum by Alexey Shchusev, the Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam by Van der Vlugt and Mart Stam and the Rusakov Worker's Club in Moscow by Konstantin Melnikov.











MODERNISM - ART DECO

MODERNISM became an important movement in Europe during the 1920s, following the creation of the Bauhaus School by Walter Gropius and the work of Mies van der Rohe in Berlin. Le Corbusier and a group of architects including Perret, Garnier, Mendelsohn, Bourgeois, Stam, Loos and many others organized a congress in 1928 to lay the rules of the new international style.

Examples: The Barcelona Pavilion by Mies van der Rohe, the Bauhaus School by Walter Gropius, the Villa Savoye by Le Corbusier and the Villa Noailles by Robert Mallet-Stevens.



Bauhaus School - Walter Gropius



Chrysler Building - William Van Alen

THE ART DECO was a modern style, but it was not modernist: although it used materials such as concrete, glass, steel and chrome, it was different from main Modernism because it made use of a lot of decoration and color. In Europe, Art Deco was very popular in cinemas, department stores and theatres. In the USA, it became the main style for skyscrapers, instead of the earlier neo-gothic or neo-classical trends.

Examples: Samaritaine department store in Paris by Henri Sauvage, the General Electric Building in New York by Cross & Cross, the Guardian Building in Detroit by Wirt Rowland and the Chrysler Building in New York by William Van Alen.











FUNCTIONALISM - POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE

FUNCTIONALISM is the architectonic principle that says that buildings should be designed only to assist the function or purpose of such building. The style was part of the Modernist movement, and it wanted to build a better world and living conditions for people. Decoration was only accepted if it improved the functionality of a house, for example. Functionalism had a big impact in Germany, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, Netherlands and Scandinavia.

Examples: The Helsinki Olympic Stadium by Lindegren and Jäntti, the city of Zlín in Czechoslovakia by Frantisek Gahura, the residential area of Södra Ängby in Stockholm, the Aarhus City Hall in Denmark by Jacobsen and Möller and the Villa Tugendhat in Brno by Mies van der Rohe.



Building 21, Zlín - Frantisek Gahura



Guggenheim Museum - Frank Lloyd Wright

POST-WAR ARCHITECTURE in the USA was in part a result of the biggest figures of Modernism like Gropius and Van der Rohe moving to America, redefining the concepts of architecture. Frank Lloyd Wright was already working in the USA for a long time, but some of his most iconic works were built in the 1940s. In Europe the main architects of the period included James Stirling, Alvar Aalto , Gio Ponti, Johannes Krahn, Josep Lluis Sert and Arne Jacobsen.

Examples: The Chapel of Notre-Dame-Du-Haut by Le Corbusier, the PanAm building by Walter Gropius, the Seagram Building by Mies van Der Rohe, the Lever House by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the Gateway Arch by Eero Saarinen and the Helsinki University of Technology by Alvar Aalto.











LATIN AMERICA - ASIA PACIFIC

IN LATIN AMERICA, Brazil became a leader in modernist architecture through the genius of Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer, who worked with Le Corbusier in the United Nations Headquarters building in New York. The two brazilians designed the new capital Brasilia, one of the most ambitions urban projects of the 20th century. In Mexico the modernist movement had its best representatives in Mario Pani, Pedro Ramírez Vázquez and Luis Barragán, who won the Pritzker Prize in 1980.

Examples: The Brasilia government buildings and Cathedral by Oscar Niemeyer, the Ministry of Education in Rio by Lucio Costa, the Mexico Olympic Stadium by Ramírez Vázquez and Rafael Mijares and Luis Barragán's studio hourse.



Brasilia Cathedral - Oscar Niemeyer



Sydney Opera House - Jorn Utzon

ARCHITECTURE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION was

dominated by the need to rebuild housing after World War II in Japan and the Pacific Islands, and by a rapidly developing economy in Australia and China. Kunio Maekawa was a leading modernist in Japan, who worked with Le Corbusier. Another Japanese architect, Kenzo Tange, designed the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, while Danish architect Jorn Utzon, influenced by Alvar Aalto, worked on the Sydney Opera House.

Examples: The International House of Japan by Kunio Maekawa, the Yoyogi National Gymnasium by Kenzo Tange, the House Arjomand in Kerman by Dariush Borbor and the Sydney Opera House by Jorn Utzon.











POST-MODERNISM - CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

POST-MODERNISM AND HIGH TECH architecture came as a reaction to the Modernist ideals of function and efficiency, as architects searched for more imaginative and expressive forms. The High-Tech buildings of Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers and Norman Foster resemble machines that could be assembled anywhere in the world, while the post-modern movement and all its styles had the opposite objective: to bring back the decorative elements abandoned from the neo-classical period and creating true architectural scupltures full of emotions and subjectivity.

Examples: The Guild House by Robert Venturi, the Lloyds Building by Richard Rogers, the HSBC Building by Norman Foster and the Guggenheim Museum by Frank Gehry.



Centre Georges Pompidou - Piano & Rogers



The Gherkin - Norman Foster

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE is a continuously developing force with no clear style and in which innovation and uniqueness are more important than the older principles of function and decorativeness. Buildings tend to become taller, lighter and stronger thanks to the technological advances, and there is a tendency to create intelligent and green architecture. The focus of this new architecture has also shifted towards China, the Middle East and Oceania, rather than to Europe or America.

Examples: The Burj Khalifa by SOM, the CCTV Headquarters by Rem Koolhaas, the Valencia City of Arts by Santiago Calatrava, the MAXXI Museum by Zaha Hadid, the Denver Art Museum by Daniel Libeskind, and the Elbphilharmonie by Herzog & de Meron.











(REATIVE PROJECT

The creative project of Playful Architect 2018 is intended for children of the 3rd and 4th grade, working with their teachers and guest architects or art historians, to create and select 6 artistic works of buildings from the last 100 years in their localities, and a short multimedia montage to accompany the works.

ART SECTION

Children can work in different techniques: painting, drawing, collage or print, and can select between tempera, watercolors, ink, charcoal, pencil, crayons, markers, pastels or similar materials. The format of the media is **A3 (297x420mm), vertical or horizontal** (this size is mandatory for all participants).

SELECTION

All artistic works will be evaluated and selected by the children themselves, with the guidance of their teachers. **The 6 best paintings** will be sent to Prague to be included in the Playful Architect - 100 Years of Playful Architecture exhibition in the Mánes Hall in Prague during Architecture Week Prague 2018 - and later in a touring exhibition around the world, including Bratislava, New York, Tel Aviv and more.

MULTIMEDIA MONTAGE

We request all schools to prepare a 1-2 minute montage in video format (live, animated or presentation) showing the architecture that inspired children and their works, plus photos and videos of the work process throughout the year. This montage will be presented at the exhibition and in the Playful Architect website. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and you can contact us via email or telephone.





(ALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

You can use this checklist to control the progress of the project at your school:

FEBRUARY 2018	School registration with Playful Architect
FEBRUARY 2018	Receiving the Worksheets
FEBRUARY 2018	Select the architecture to study, prepare the sessions
MARCH-MAY 2018	Sessions with teachers/architects
31 MAY 2018	Communicating the results of the project
31 JULY 2018	Deadling for submitting the selected works and video montage





THE FUTURE

You didn't find anything in your own town or city that you'd like to paint? It doesn't matter! Think about what is missing in the place where you live... What would you like to fix or improve? What needs a reconstruction or redesign? Take it and build something new with your imagination! Now YOU are the architects and you can suggest what you want to see built in your town. A little something to inspire you:



PARK + PUBLIC AREAS



SQUARES



SHOPPING MALLS



HOUSES



ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS

SPORTS STADIUMS



International artistic-architectural project 100 Years of Playful Architecture

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Cover photograph: stairway of the House of the Black Madonna, Prague