

LESSON PLAN: Architecture in Art

By Amy Wunsch and Cynthia Lofquist, June 2008



Key Idea

Artists and architects create objects and spaces for people to use, view, and explore. Sometimes artists create large-scale public sculpture and monuments that commemorate events and people. Artists who work in 2-dimensional media also incorporate images of architecture or architectural elements into their compositions, and the spaces and places that surround us are part of our daily lives. Architecture in art can be based on reality or the artist's imagination.

Objectives

1. Students will be introduced to the following concepts, which will serve as basis for questions on the museum tour:

How do elements of architecture (decoration, columns, doors, lighting, etc.) affect people?

How are inside and outside spaces different? How are private and public spaces different?

What does the façade of a building reveal (or hide) from us?

How are sculptures and architecture the same? How are they different?

Why is it important to remember individuals and historical events?

2. Students will participate in an instructor-led tour of the museum and art on campus.

3. Students will create a miniature monument using foam board and other media.

Vocabulary

architecture = the art and science of designing and building.

façade = the front of a building, or any side of a building facing a public space.

architectural elements = the unique details and parts that make the style of houses, buildings and other structures.

monument = something created in memory of a person, event, etc., such as a building, pillar, or statue.

memorial = preserving the memory of a person or thing; commemorative.

module = an architectural part, such as the base of a column, used as a standard unit of measurement for the rest of the form.

Materials Needed

Foam board (instructor: use X-Acto knife to cut into shapes)

Poster putty (removable)

Toothpicks

Glue

Colored paper

Markers

Modeling clay

Assessment

Students will address these issues during classroom discussion:

- What person or event did you choose to commemorate? What inspired you?
- Name some similarities between your monument and one of the works of art we talked about today.
- Who or what would you like to see honored with a memorial in our community?

Tour Artwork Images



Kyu Sung Woo Architects, Inc. (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007
Limestone, glass, granite



Lori Nix and Kathleen Gerber (American, b. 1969)

Museum of Art, 2005

Archival pigment print

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2015.107

Acquired with funds provided by the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Art Acquisition



Jesse Small (American, b. 1974)

Stealth Target, 2001

Soda fired porcelain, glass

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2002.10



Travis Pratt (American, b. 1985)

Union Hill, 2009

Mixed media on paper

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2009.23

Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer



Ricky Allman (American, b. 1978)

Free, 2011

Acrylic on canvas

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 2011.23



Jesus Bautista Moroles (American, b. 1950 – d. 2015)

Fountain of Knowledge, 1998

Granite

Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 1998.07