

Basic Architectural Concepts and Terminology

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Terminology

1. Architectural Styles:

- **Classical:** Characterized by symmetry and decorative elements like columns and arches.
- **Modern:** Focuses on simplicity, functionality, and use of materials like glass and steel.
- **Postmodern:** Mixes traditional and modern elements, often incorporating bold colors and shapes.

2. Architectural Elements:

- **Facade:** The front exterior of a building.
- **Roofline:** The outline formed by the roof's edge.
- **Foundation:** The base on which a building stands.
- **Columns:** Vertical supports that bear weight and add aesthetic appeal.

3. Architectural Features:

- **Windows:** Openings in walls to allow light and air into a building.
- **Doors:** Entry points into a building, can vary in size and design.
- **Balcony:** A platform projecting from the wall of a building, often with a railing.

4. Architectural Layout:

- **Floor Plan:** A bird's eye view of a building's layout, showing rooms and spaces.
- **Elevation:** A drawing showing the exterior view of a building's facades.
- **Section:** A cut-away view of a building to show internal structures and details.

5. Architectural Terminology:

- **Fenestration:** The design and arrangement of windows in a building.
- **Cornice:** A decorative molding at the top of a building.
- **Pilaster:** A flattened column attached to a wall for decoration or support.
- **Atrium:** A large open space within a building, often with a glass roof.

Understanding basic architectural concepts and terminology can help in appreciating and analyzing the design of buildings around us.