

Evolution of architecture and its significance for society

- Democratisation of architecture – common person holds more influence over the design of buildings
 - Public opinion exerts influence on the architects → Chinese President Xi Jinping
 - Globalisation → mix of different styles → Open Architecture
 - Diversity in architecture, better relate with buildings
- Response to prevailing cultures & ideologies
 - Architects are social agents → reflect the fundamental ideas of that era
 - Brutalist, IM Pei
 - Green architecture
- Diversity in form and function
 - Architecture as a discipline diversified itself over time
 - Buildings which we deem architecturally meritorious today far more diverse than those in previous eras
 - Mainly churches, localized in 1 geographical region
 - Nowadays, many deemed architecturally meritorious
 - Reason: Architects appeal to far broader base now, social structures change?

Practical steps to best influence our surroundings for social, material & spiritual progress

Goal: Creating architecture that provides *all* individuals with a decent standard of living, empowers people with opportunities to succeed, embraces our individual and societal differences, but also recognizing universal aspects of our human condition.

- Create architecture that is sensitive to the material needs of society today
 - Homes for the Homeless – architecture that is adaptive, cheap and self-sustaining
 - Cheap & easily built schools in poverty-stricken areas
 - In wealthier countries, architecture can further material needs. Designing more patient-friendly hospitals/ schools/ whatever other buildings
 - Sustainability in architecture
- Creating architecture that provides people with opportunities to succeed
 - Drawing in marginalized communities and making sure spaces are adapted to their interests and needs
 - Crèches in company buildings
- Creating a post-segregated world

- Allowing for cultural expressions in architecture
 - Adapting zoning laws to facilitate building of religious structures (eg. Minarets)
 - Crowdsourcing to be more inclusive and sensitive to local cultures
- Bringing increased focus on universal interests that bridge divides between people
 - Transparency as a focus instead of status divides