

FAQ's

1. What are the primary elements of form making and its properties?

As the prime generator of form, the

- **Point:**

Point indicates a position in space. A point extended becomes a line.

- **Line:** with the properties of; Length, Direction, Position. A line extended becomes a plane.

- **Plane:** with the properties of; Length and width, Shape, Surface, Orientation, Position. A plane extended becomes a volume.

- **Volume:** with the properties of; Length, width, and depth, Form and space, Surface, Orientation, Position.

2. What is significance of a POINT?

A point marks a position in space. Conceptually, it has no length, width, or depth, and is therefore static, centralized, and directionless.

As the prime element in the vocabulary of form, a point can serve to mark:

- The two ends of a line.
- The intersection of two lines.
- The meeting of lines at the corner of a plane or volume.
- The center of a field.

Two points describe a line that connects them. Although the points give this line finite length, the line can also be considered a segment of an infinitely longer path.

Two points further suggest an axis perpendicular to the line they describe and about which they are symmetrical. Because this axis may be infinite in length, it can be at times more dominant than the described line.

Two points established in space by columnar elements or centralized forms can define an axis, an ordering device used throughout history to organize building forms and spaces.

In plan, two points can denote a gateway signifying passage from one place to another. Extended vertically, the two points define both a plane of entry and an approach perpendicular to it.

3. What is significance of a LINE?

A point extended becomes a line. Conceptually, a line has length, but no width or depth. Whereas a point is by nature static, a line, in describing the path of a point in motion, is capable of visually expressing direction, movement, and growth.

A line is a critical element in the formation of any visual construction.

It can serve to:

- Join, link, support, surround, or intersect other visual elements.
- Describe the edges of and give shape to planes.
- Articulate the surfaces of planes.

The orientation of a line affects its role in a visual construction. While a vertical line can express a state of equilibrium with the force of gravity, symbolize the human condition, or mark a position in space, a horizontal line can represent stability, the ground plane, the horizon, or a body at rest.

An oblique line is a deviation from the vertical or horizontal. It may be seen as a vertical line falls or a horizontal line rising. In either case, whether it is falling toward a point on the ground plane or rising to a place in the sky, it is dynamic and visually active in its unbalanced state.

Two parallel lines have the ability to visually describe a plane. A transparent spatial membrane can be stretched between them to acknowledge their visual relationship. The closer these lines are to each other, the stronger will be the sense of plane they convey.

4. What is significance of a PLANE?

A line extended in a direction other than its intrinsic direction becomes a plane. Conceptually, a plane has length and width, but no depth.

Planes in architecture define three-dimensional volumes of mass and space. The properties of each plane size, shape, color, texture as well as their spatial relationship to one another ultimately determine the visual attributes of the form they define and the qualities of the space they enclose.

In architectural design, we manipulate three generic types of planes:

Overhead Plane: The overhead plane can be either the roof plane that spans and shelters the interior spaces of a building from the climatic elements, or the ceiling plane that forms the upper enclosing surface of a room.

Wall Plane: The wall plane, because of its vertical orientation, is active in our normal field of vision and vital to the shaping and

enclosure of architectural space.

Base Plane: The base plane can be either the ground plane that serves as the physical foundation and visual base for building forms, or the floor plane that forms the lower enclosing surface of a room upon which we walk.

5. What is significance of a VOLUME?

A plane extended in a direction other than its intrinsic direction becomes a volume. Conceptually, a volume has three dimensions: length, width, and depth.

All volumes can be analyzed and understood to consist of:

- Points or vertices where several planes come together.
- Lines or edges where two planes meet.
- Planes or surfaces that define the limits or boundaries of a volume.

Form is the primary identifying characteristic of a volume. It is established by the shapes and interrelationships of the planes that describe the boundaries of the volume.

As the three-dimensional element in the vocabulary of architectural design, a volume can be either a solid-space displaced by mass-or a void-space contained or enclosed by planes.