

FAQ's

1. What are the various elements of architecture (in terms of its building components)?

Traditionally architecture is fragmented to its basic elements in a different way; elements that are easily identifiable as unique building units, which are repeated to create architectural whole. These elements are apparently unique among themselves because they have structurally, visually and (also) functionally unique purpose.

- FLOOR
- WALL
- COLUMN
- ROOF
- DOOR
- WINDOW
- STAIR

2. Explain the attributes and significance of the element "FLOOR"?

A 'floor' in architecture is a horizontal plane that forms a base for the other architectural elements to stand upon. A floor has certain attributes of a horizontal plane. A floor can mean a place for an activity. In architecture it can mean a well defined horizontal plane that is different from the natural undulating ground, created for a activity or movement.

A floor can be spatially created or defined by many ways as follows.

- Elevating or depressing a plane from its surrounding plane.
- Changing the surface qualities (like material, color and texture) of a plane from its surrounding planes.

What is called as a floor plane doesn't have to be strictly a single horizontal plane. There can be many variations according to the context. It can have levels and other variations in its form. It can take any shape like rectangle, square, circle etc. Thus through the above variations there is a possibility of creating a floor within a floor and even creating a hierarchical organization of floors.

Other than being a supporting base, a floor also act as the unifying entity that visually connects separate units in a single plane. Thus a floor acts as a Datum. Floor can be used as a medium of communication in spatial experience. It can depict spatial boundaries. It can take forms and incorporates symbolic meanings also.

3. Explain the attributes and significance of the element "WALL"?

The wall is a vertical plane, which defines an enclosure. One of its prime purposes is that of taking structural load of the roof. Walls form the main protective enclosure of a built form from within and a defensive barrier from outside. They are also the visual plane surfaces, which may be punctured, if needed, to permit light, air, view and entry inside the building.

The element wall has various role to play in architecture as follows:

- Walls for demarcating territory
- Wall for enclosing volume
- Wall for subdivision of space
- Wall as display and storage element
- Wall as protective barrier
- Wall as movement guide
- Wall as form giver and facade modulator
- Wall as communicator and encoder of messages

4. Explain the attributes and significance of the element "COLUMN"?

A column is essentially a slender, vertical supporting element, loaded from the top and transferring the load axially to the base.

A column has significant attributes and plays the following roles:

Centrality - A column takes on the properties of a point, and it assumes a centrality. Due to this, other elements which form a part of the ensemble gravitate towards the column, making it automatically referential, a notional centre. Eg: the Obelisk at St.Peter's square, Rome

Vertically - In principle, a point extruded upwards, the column assumes verticality and guides vision upwards from the horizontal plane, lending it an upward thrust and imparting dynamism to the space. Eg: Qutub Minar, Delhi

Column for space definition - A column can define a volume in a space. And also based on its arrangement columns can subdivide a main volume into many smaller ones. Also helps in defining the sub volumes. Eg: Minarets of Tajmahal

Column as movement guide - A series of column when placed along a line creates a imaginary plane; Setting up strong perspective and thus establishing direction, inviting movement along them. Eg: Colonnade of St.Peter's square, Rome

5. Explain the attributes and significance of the element "ROOF"?

Roof as spatial enclosure: The roof, canopy, ceiling provides an enclosing surface, which defines and limits interior space especially and demarcates the notions of in and out. The sense of containments is often complete with just a roof device overhead.

Roof as modulator of volume: The modulation of roof profile induces scale and character to the space. Modulations in the ceiling volume also help generate subspaces within a larger continuous space.

Roof as encoder of symbols: Being detached from the ground roof takes on an intangible metaphysical nature. It becomes a receptacle for symbolization and plastic decorations representing divine activity and metaphorical expressions.

Roof as image maker: The roof being the top most part of the edifice, forms the crown, the most conspicuous elements in the skyline of a city and easily recognizable from a far distance. The outer form of the roof therefore begins to lend a structure its identity, creating a distinct image. The outer form as well as its height and proportions therefore become critical.