

Position Paper 01: Can Architecture Change the World?

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Position Paper 01: ARCH 1110/Fall 20

Can Architecture Change the World?



Credit: NY architectural League

“Architecture has always been changing the world and has always been leading into changes. From the Bauhaus movement to the classical architecture to the Renaissance, architecture has always been the forerunner of change. The whole notion of architecture is about change and making things better. It’s the responsibility of the architect to explain, to make the developer its partner and to hold the hand of the people responsible for change in order to apply it. Architecture is the only art that affects relationships, people and towns; all the way from your time schedule to how efficient your working environment is, to how well you sleep at night. Architecture creates the centres of human civilization. The aim is to make the world your partner. Architecture is the only applied art to change how we perceive the world around us. It is the changing force in

Architecture is the only applied art to change how we perceive the world around us. It is the changing force in society.”

Sotiris Tsoulos-RMJM

“Architecture affects the way we live. Architecture grew from the human need for shelter, but now it’s a form of identity for culture. As the internet and new technology bring the world closer together, we’re finding more common ground between us. With cultures coming together, they are sharing not just design ideas but the concept of what design means. Architecture can be a platform to make cultures closer, and it is quite a powerful thing. That’s why we like to work on big projects and provide a space for people to come together.”

Tean Chee Ko-RMJM

INTRODUCTION:

For the first “position” paper of the semester, each student will undertake a **RESEARCH** project exploring how architecture can instigate positive change. Each student will begin the paper by describing why they specifically choose architecture to study and how they hope to promote positive change through this choice. This rather “personal” starting point must quickly evolve into a well-researched argument that aligns with or contests the views of prominent scholars within the disciplinary areas and issues the student seeks to describe. Assertions need to be clearly defined, such as why you think that the issue that was chosen is important and how architecture can specifically drive the forces of change necessary to address it. **This is not a paper about a particular building per se**, but should be about the future “agency” of the architect (YOURS!) as well as the power of the design skill set of the discipline you have entered. Can it can bring about positive change and what are the “contingent” issues that drew you to architecture related to this issue? More than likely this will be the first, or one of the first attempts by students to contemplate why they were drawn to architecture as well as initial thoughts on the issues that will guide their subsequent careers. Hopefully, in the future it will energize your designs, and inform your passion for architecture.

Assigned: 09.10.20 Due: 09.25.20 (by 5PM). Papers will be turned in on CANVAS in PDF format. (Late papers will be accepted only for one week after the deadline. **Please Note: 3 points deduction for projects submitted up to three days late/5 points for more than three days late. After one week past deadline submissions will not be accepted nor graded with the full percentage for the paper deducted from final grade. (10%)**)

Length/position paper: Minimum word count: **1000 words**/Maximum word count: **1250 words**

Format/Structure: Give an interesting title (Draw the reader in!). The paper’s central argument should then be broken into three parts:

Part 01: Why you chose architecture...

Within this section, the student will explain their reason for choosing architecture. **For instance: I have always liked**

buildings and aesthetics, but have been disappointed in much that I encounter today. I hope to contribute to positive change regarding this by/through architecture....

Part 02: What societal issues drew you to want to study architecture? What positive changes do you think architecture can bring to beginning to address these issues?

Outline the specific conditions that need to be met or changed for the necessary transformation to occur. **For instance: “Architecture has to create healthy places in a meaningful way. Its current attempts are just a “band aid” methodology and I would like to explore in my career how health issues can be become more important and integral to the design of the built environment....”**

Part 03: How can architecture change the world? (Why do you think architecture can address this issue and how specifically, do you think it can be affective?)

“Architecture can create healthy places in a meaningful way by focusing not only on buildings, but by also considering the connective systems of landscape between buildings. This will not only make urban environments more cohesive, but will promote more exercise to encourage a more healthy lifestyle. I feel if these specific systems are addressed....”

This is a research paper that needs to utilize **peer reviewed journals/books** (NO WIKIPEDIA OR GOOGLE) to legitimize your arguments. These types of articles may be accessed online, so you should begin your search on the Auraria Library website and look for online (e)texts or (e)resources. It is suggested that you consult a librarian for assistance. This can be done online through the Auraria Library website. Also, please carefully review this page – it is very helpful: <https://library.auraria.edu/news/2020/auraria-library-safe-return-plan> (<https://library.auraria.edu/news/2020/auraria-library-safe-return-plan>) for describing access to the library currently.

Each paper should have at least 3 articles referenced IN ADDITION to those assigned in class. Each paper should have a bibliography and references. You can use either “Chicago Manual of Style” or “MLA” for your “reference” form, but choose one and be consistent! There are two links below that will assist you in your citations. If you use images, please cite them as well.

Chicago Manual of style:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmso_formatting_and_style_guide/

(https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmso_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition/)

MLA Formatting and Style Guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_g

It cannot be stressed enough the importance of references. If a paper is not referenced properly, it is technically plagiarism, so please take your references seriously! I am adding the plagiarism statement from the syllabus below. PLEASE REVIEW! Suspected cases of plagiarism will be forwarded to the Department Chair of Architecture and the Associate Dean for CAP.

“Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person’s work into yours requires appropriate identifications and acknowledgement. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted: word-for-word copying of another person’s ideas or words; the “mosaic” (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another’s work); the “paraphrase” (the rewriting of another’s work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing sources); submission of another’s work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes. All assigned work, including drawings and models must be the individual product of each student. Collaborative work must be credited to all participants.”

Grading Rubric:

Excellent (90-100%): Position Paper is extremely well organized (follows structure described above). Clearly and **creatively** describes issue/issues that need to be addressed broadly. Describes succinctly and precisely point by point steps that should be taken to properly address/operationalize tenets of the manifesto. Explains in an organized and clearly articulated fashion the potential outcome if these steps are undertaken. Sentence structure is excellent, writing style clear and articulate. Manifesto’s argument is made in a highly engaging and creatively unique manner. (It should incite empathy or “move” the reader.) No punctuation errors/sentence structure issues at all.

High Pass (80-89%): “Position Paper” is well organized (follows structure described above). It describes a potentially relevant topic founded on a clear/sound argument. For the most part, clearly and **creatively** describes an issue or issues that need to be addressed broadly. Describes pretty succinctly and precisely point by point steps that should be taken to properly address/operationalize tenets of manifesto. Explains in an organized and clearly articulated fashion the potential outcome if these steps are undertaken. Sentence structure is for the most part excellent, writing style is fairly clear and articulate. Manifesto’s argument is made in an engaging manner, but may not incite as much empathy or “move” the reader as with the “excellent” paper. Has the “rare” punctuation error or sentence structure issue. Meets word count criteria.

Pass (70-79%): “Position Paper” is overall fairly organized, but may have instances where there is confusion (follows structure described above for the most part, but lapses in places). It describes a topic that is not that relevant and the argument backing it up is not particularly articulate nor is it very engaging. Clearly (but not **creatively or innovatively**)

describes issue/issues that need to be addressed broadly. Describes in a somewhat clear fashion the point by point steps that should be taken to properly address/operationalize tenets of manifesto. Explains in a less organized or articulate fashion the potential outcome if these steps are undertaken. Sentence structure is fair, writing style might be slightly confused and less articulate than categories of high pass or excellent. Manifesto's argument is made (for the most part), but not in an engaging manner. Incites very little empathy or doesn't "move" the reader at all. Has many cases of punctuation errors or sentence structure issues. In short, project was completed, but lacks creativity or passion. Still meets word count criteria.

Low Pass (60-69%): *"Position Paper" is not organized, and is confused in places. (Does not follow structure described above). It describes a topic that is not at all relevant to architecture and the argument backing it up is neither clearly articulated nor is it that engaging. Attempts to clearly describe issue/issues that need to be addressed broadly, but falls short. Describes the point by point steps that should be taken to properly address/operationalize tenets of manifesto, but these seem muddled, suspect, and not properly thought out. Explanation is not organized and the potential outcome if these steps are undertaken is confused and obscure at best. Sentence structure is confused, writing style is not articulate, muddled. Manifesto's argument is not made. Incites no empathy or enthusiasm in the reader at all. Has consistent issues of punctuation errors or sentence structure problems. In short, project was completed, but just "barely. May not/does not meet word count criteria.*

Fail (59% or below): *Position Paper is confused at best (does not follow structure described above). Topic is not relevant to architecture and the argument backing it up is neither clearly articulated nor is it at all engaging. No or little attempt to describe issue/issues needing to be addressed. The point by point steps that should be taken to properly address/operationalize tenets of manifesto are muddled, suspect, and are not worked out at all. Explanation is not organized and the potential outcome if these steps are undertaken is confused and obscure. Sentence structure is confused, writing style is confusing and argument seems incomplete. Manifesto's argument is not made nor is there any sign of an underlying argument. Incites no empathy, enthusiasm and reader is left questioning why they read this at all. "Messy" with a multitude of punctuation errors or sentence structure problems. In short, project was not really completed, and no real effort has been shown. May not/does not meet word count criteria. In short, the assignment is poorly executed with little or no care expressed.*

Late submission: point and a half for each late day.

Points 10

Submitting a file upload

File Types pdf

Turnitin Turnitin has been enabled for this assignment.

Due	For	Available from	Until
Sep 25 at 5pm	4 students	Sep 25 at 1pm	Oct 9 at 8pm
Sep 25 at 5pm	Everyone else	Sep 9 at 12am	Oct 2 at 8pm

+ [Rubric](#)