

IS ARCHITECTURE A FORM OF ART?

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ABSTRACT

Most definitions describe architecture as “A form of Art.” As Dan Rice, an American entertainer said ‘There are three forms of visual art: Painting the art to look at; Sculpture the art you can walk around, and Architecture the art you can walk through’, we’ll be dealing with the 3rd form. Most research papers suggest art as the generator of architecture, this paper unfolds to answer the complex question whether architecture is a form of art or not. It goes about dealing with basic questions like what is architecture and what is art. Then portrays the relationship between art and architecture; their similarities and separation. Elements used to create a structure like mathematics, physics, creativity, etc are stated. A question “Does the creative process outweigh the other elements?” is raised and answered. A study showing how most successful architects are artists is put forth giving examples from history. Finally, a conclusion is made that architecture indeed is a form of art, art being its generator and backbone.

Keywords: Architecture, Art, Creativity.

INTRODUCTION

Everybody has a distinct identity that defines their particular personality. The same tends to be true of professions. However, despite attempts to separate them, two well-known professions—art and architecture—have remained inseparable from the beginning of time. Even though the majority of architecture prioritises function over form, great architecture combines form and function to create spaces that are not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. People can understand the significance of art through telling stories about it, being emotionally involved, or both. Art reflects the imagination and inventiveness of the creator. In addition to doing the same thing, good architecture must also fulfil the fundamental needs of a safe and functional building as well as a one that’s visually pleasing. Architects are ultimately artists who experience the environment they envision for us in many different ways before finding the ideal formula that becomes a concrete and sustainable structure.

The role of art in architecture is important because buildings embody the spirit of determination and creativity that comes from the collective effort and imagination of our species. The objective of the architects is to create a permanent structure that would connect several periods of the history of the city. Without art and imagination, it is quite impossible to create a building as ART IS THE GENERATOR OF ARCHITECTURE. So, is it safe to call “Architecture a form of art?”. Let’s find out.

What is Architecture?

Architecture is a concept or an idea that has been physically realised. This concept may relate to building design, human usage of a building or how a building fits into physical or social landscape. Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings. The description of architecture is very broad but the main is... there is no architecture without art.

What is Art?

Art is a visible object or experience that has been purposely made through the expression of talent or creativity. It is also referred to as visual art to separate it from other art disciplines. The term ‘art’ includes a variety of forms like photography, installation, architecture, designing, sculpture making, painting, etc.

Art enables architects to be highly imaginative in their thinking. Artists that are architects create a space that not only serves a purpose but exists to convey an idea or evoke an emotion. For example, ‘Libeskind’s design “between the lines” of the Holocaust Tower of the Jewish Museum in Berlin evoked feelings of captivity, isolation and hopelessness because only the faint sounds of the outside world can be heard behind the massive concrete walls; quite accurate because that is how you must feel when you leave the history of Berlin.

Art in Architecture

Architecture is a field that has been studied extensively by scholars and architects, who have sought to understand its place in the larger context of art and design.

One of the earliest and most influential explorations of architecture as art was by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, who argued in his Critique of Judgment that architecture represents a unique form of art that is distinct from other forms such as painting and sculpture (Kant 46). This idea has been further developed by later scholars such as Nikolaus Pevsner, who argued that architecture is a form of art that is rooted in its function and purpose, and that it should be judged based on how well it fulfils these functions (Pevsner 14).

Other scholars have focused on the aesthetic qualities of architecture, such as the use of

symmetry, proportion, and ornamentation. For example, the American architect Louis Sullivan argued that "form follows function" in architecture, meaning that the design of a building should be dictated by its intended use rather than by purely aesthetic considerations (Sullivan 8). However, Sullivan also recognized the importance of ornamentation and decoration in architecture, which he saw as a way of expressing the beauty and dignity of the building's purpose (Sullivan 12).

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the cultural and social significance of architecture, particularly in the context of globalization and urbanization. Scholars such as Saskia Sassen have argued that architecture is a key element in the construction of global cities, which are characterized by their diversity and complexity (Sassen 23). This has led to a renewed focus on the role of architects in creating socially and culturally responsible buildings that are sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the people who use them.

In conclusion, architecture is a complex and multifaceted form of art that has been studied and debated by scholars and architects for centuries. By exploring its aesthetic, functional, and cultural dimensions, we can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which architecture reflects and shapes our world.

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Similarities and separation between Art and Architecture

According to composer Neil Rolnick, the similarities between architecture and art may begin with the fact that both rely on a structure that may not be visible before the work is finished. Both art and architecture are simultaneously emotive and expressive. However, whether or not the intended audience will enjoy that it is determined by its structure while the separation between the two can be explained as experience versus function. Whereas art is about the experience and how it makes a person feel, architecture is like an answer to a problem. For example, art will create a bed that is aesthetic and will cause a person to choose it because of its

beauty and comfort whereas architecture would create a bed that is sturdy and performs well. Art and architecture both need emotions and certain level of understanding towards the subject. Both can have expressions of the creator and both can add to certain psychological change in environment even if they do exist in physical form.

Architecture is a form of art where the artist tries to incorporate his or her imaginative and creative skills to create a space or surrounding which brings a positive and pleasing impact on the user's soul.

Elements used to create a structure

- CREATIVE SKILLS
- NUMERICAL KNOWLEDGE
- LEGAL KNOWLEDGE
- DESIGN SKILLS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- ARTISTIC SKILLS
- PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS
- VISUALIZING SKILLS

The creative, visualizing and artistic skills mentioned above,

'DO THEY OUTWEIGH THE OTHERS?'

Yes, because without visualising one cannot create anything be it in art or architecture, without artistic and creative skills how can we expect an architect to draw a unique structure with a story and feel to it. If an architect doesn't possess these skills, then it will leave the world to similar buildings with a basic architecture. It was the creative minds of the architects of Hagia Sophia, Taj Mahal, Burj Khalifa, Sydney Opera, Eiffel Tower, etc. that gave the world structures to be awed by. This shows **HOW IMPORTANT CREATIVITY IS IN ARCHITECTURE.**

Architecture relies on being creative in both simple and complex ways. For example, manipulating light or using recycled material can be a strategy that reflects a creative design process. In addition to physical presence, the effect of creativity is also produced through an ambience or an environment.

Most successful architects are artists

The names Gaudi, Michelangelo and Calatrava aren't new to architects; however, another commonality amongst these great minds is their affection for painting, the genius in art that these great intellects share and the genius we ought to celebrate.

Recognised for his masterpieces like the St. Peter's square in Vatican city, Palazzo Montecitorio and the fountain of four rivers, Italy; Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini is an architect not only famous for his architecture but also for his paintings and sculptures. Another famous architect widely known for his frescoes he painted, gave life to rough sketches of buildings as well as flat surfaces of architecture through his exceptional art work. At last Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni, an Italian sculptor, one of the greatest painters and an architect. With famous works in art to architectural commissions like the Laurentian library, Farnese palace, etc; his legacy lives on through his art and envisioned architecture.

These names have a prominent place in both the professions highlighting the necessity of an artistic mind in an architect to be successful and recognized through generations.

Discussion

Yes, architecture is indeed a form of art. Art and architecture are two things that cannot be separated since they are inextricably linked. According to Smith (2003), "architecture in its individual and urban form is a macro source of aesthetic and symbolic experience." It is an inescapable art form." According to Berkus (2000), "art and architecture constantly draw viewers back to fundamental forms, the building blocks of visual vocabulary." The significance of these fundamental forms is never exhausted--they are brimming with possibilities in new configurations to investigate. Architects and artists both contribute to the evolution of civilization by abstracting from the past. True original work involves rethinking familiar traditions in ways that are meaningful to people today. The most impactful works not only remain as period or genre legacies or style, but become emblems that connect one era to the next, providing a sense of artistic persistence and continuity,"

The discussion over the relevance of art to architecture cannot be overstated; nonetheless, it is dependent on the discussants' experience, how immersed they are in either or both areas, and the perspective from which the arguments are regarded.

Artists can become good architects, while architects cannot always become fine artists. However, as supported by Sukhatme (2013), this paper concludes by encouraging architects and would-be architects to have a good and deep understanding of art, as this singular phenomenon can make them better architects. "It is expected that visual designers have a solid foundation of art

knowledge while they work experiment". This is obvious in the works of architects such as Zaha Hadid, Santiago Calatrava and Frank Gehry, to name a few, whose architectural works are extraordinary and may also be considered works of art. When we question, "Is architecture art?" we must consider the numerous concepts required to develop a building. Even the initial phase, the design element, is primarily an aesthetic endeavour. A building must first be conceptualised and then captured on paper before it can be built - all of this is artistic in nature. Art, like everything else, is in the eye of the beholder, and it depends not only on who views it, but also on the intention of the person who produced it. Every principle offers examples of those who just meet the standards and those who elevate the discipline by bringing something unique, creative, and meaningful to the mix.

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