

Learning from Architecture

The key activity in this section is Activity 2: An Architectural Walk

At the heart of this curriculum lies the visit to the Roedde House Museum. The building itself, its architectural features and details are the focus of the tour. The lessons in this section are classroom based and increase student interest and awareness when visiting the house.

Questions for consideration for the preservation of historic buildings:

- How does a house built in 1893 differ from homes today?
- What materials were used?
- What rooms were provided and for what purposes?
- How can learning about the house help us understand the lives of the people at that time?
- Why was the house designed this way?
- What constraints in terms of raw materials, technologies, fashion and personal taste did the architect take into consideration?

Most students will have little, if any, understanding of what architecture is or what architects do. This series of lesson plans encourages them to think of the decisions that must be made prior to the actual start of construction and the personal, technological and economic constraints that determine the design. They draw their own home from memory and from observation, which helps them to focus on the details of buildings. A focus on the architecture of the Roedde House Museum is part of the field trip activities. A concluding Architectural Walk in their own neighbourhood expands their architectural vocabulary.

You might check first to see if any students have parents or relatives who are architects and who might be willing to speak to the class about their job.