Architecture SHAPES Our World

Grades K-3
Goals of the lesson plan:

1. Reason with shapes and their attributes
2. Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.

Look around! Architecture is made up of shapes like squares, rectangles, circles, and more. When Frank Lloyd Wright was a child, he played with Froebel Blocks, and when he became an architect he said he “could still feel the blocks” in his hands. If you look at the Martin House, you can see the different geometric shapes he was thinking of when he was designing this Prairie Style home.

What shapes can you find in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Martin House?

Part I

You can do this at your house, too! Look around at your house, and see if you can find shapes in the architecture that surrounds you. Use the Shape Sheet included with the lesson to help. Practice drawing the shapes you find in the corresponding boxes.

Note to parents: If your child is learning letters, say the spaces out loud (For example, “kitchen”) and see if your child can find the box for which it corresponds.
Part II

After you have found the shapes in your own house, you can design your own building! Use paper you have at home - construction paper or white computer paper will do.

- Cut out different shapes like circles, squares, rectangles, crescents, parallelograms, or whichever shapes you like. You can easily cut out one shape then use it to stencil more.
- Use colored construction paper or crayons to color your shapes in *before* you cut them.
- Paste your cut out shapes onto a piece of paper to create your own 2D architecture
- Design a house, a hospital, a shelter for an animal, or a school.
- Be creative with your colors. Use crayons to add to your picture.
- Draw a landscape, people, cars, or a sunset.

*Note to parents:* If you have access to a ruler, *this will help make the sides of the shapes they are cutting straighter.* If you have very young kids, consider cutting out the shapes yourself and having them choose which ones to use *before* gluing.

Extra challenge?

Go for a walk outside in your neighborhood and see if you can find even more shapes!

Learn more about architect Frank Lloyd Wright with online research.
Vocabulary

Architecture  Froebel blocks  Shapes
Architect  Geometric  Prairie style

Materials

Construction paper
Pre-cut shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle, and more)
Scissors
Glue
Markers, crayons to add drawings
Images of local architecture for inspiration (optional)
SHAPE SHEET

Living room

Kitchen

Dining room

Bedroom

You choose a room!