

Hello Architecture!



BORLÄNGE



Architecture, what is that?

Architecture is a word that may seem complicated, but it really only means that something is built in a well-thought-out way. What is being built can be a chair or a kitchen. Or a house. A park. Or even an entire city.

When it is to be built, you should think about what it should be used for and where it should be. A chair should perhaps be able to be stacked and stand on high. A kitchen that is to be in a preschool may need to have several stoves. A house that is to stand in water must stand on piles. And a city like Borlänge, which has many children, needs good bicycle paths and fun playgrounds.

Several investigations and many tests may be needed before starting construction. It will be like a map of how it should work. After that, you come up with various clever solutions. To help, to tell about ideas, you can use a picture, a drawing or a model. You can, for example, draw on paper or on the computer. Or you can paint in sand. You can also build in clay, plaster, fabric, wood or paper. Then you build it for real, but bigger.

How does a place feel?

You have architecture around you, all the time. It affects you and therefore it is important. It is important for you, your family, your friends and everyone else to feel good. Your school should have such an architecture that allows you to go to school and be safe, meet friends and learn things. If not, you should tell. Children and young people have the right to say something that affects them. All the environment that you have around you affects you.

When you are thinking about and talking about architecture, you can try to put into words how you feel about the place. Use all the senses. Smell, taste, sight, hearing and touch. Architecture is felt throughout the body.

When you build something, it matters where you build it. The place may be on a major road or next to a forest. Maybe there is plenty of sun or it is windy. It might snow a lot. These are things that are important to know when building. Then you can take advantage of the sun. And protect yourself from the wind. Build a hill, so that it is possible to go sledding in the winter.





How many children learned math in your classroom?

It is rare for someone to build alone. To build a school, for example, requires several hundred people. Many people are helped. Some decide that a school will be built, some plan where it will be built, some draw the school, and some build it. It works a bit like an anthill, everyone carries their straws and is equally important.

And most of what we live in, houses, schools, parks and roads, someone has built a long time ago. Fortunately, we do not have to start all the time. Therefore, we must be afraid of what has already been built.

It can be fun to think about what it looked like in Borlänge then, in the past. Which children have attended your school, before you? Which children will play in the schoolyard when your class is over?



A tree house that carries

In the forest there are very good building materials. With just a few branches against a trunk, you get a windbreak. If you have a little more time, you can build a hut in a tree. When you build, you learn something called strength, by feeling with your whole body whether the hut will remain or collapse. Strength also sounds more complicated than it is. You know a lot about strength already, but you do not think that you can. And the best part is that the more huts you build, the better you will be in terms of strength.

Tree branches are good building materials because they become soil again and not pollution. The animals in the forest feel well, and so do you. But there are several materials to build with. Cardboard can be used if you want to build quickly and easily. Burnt clay, it is called brick, takes longer, but will also last longer. All materials are needed for different purposes. Some materials keep us warm, such as material can be used in a wall in your bedroom. Other materials should be good at letting in light, such as glass, for example in to your classroom.

You do not build alone

In Sweden, we have representative democracy. Difficult word again! This means that we decide who will decide. The idea is that everyone, including children, should be able to participate and influence what society should look like. Those who decide are called politicians and they want to know what you need and what you think. Because even if they have also been children, it is important that those who are children right now, can tell and be involved. The Convention on the Rights of Children states that all children have the right to have their voices heard in all matters affecting them. And you remember, right? Everything that is built around you and your friends affects you. It is you who know best what it is like to go to your school and it is you who know best how it works to get there. And it is you who know best where you feel safe. You are the one who knows best where you sleep most comfortably. So no one can build a school themselves. It is exactly the same with a society. But then it is instead democracy that is to be built. No one can build a society themselves. Many people helps. The best thing you can practice as an architect is a word called empathy. This means that you are good at understanding the situation of others. It is very important when you have to think of those clever solutions, which make the school, and society, work well.





Children, animals and nature – same ecosystem!

Another important thing with architecture, is to understand that everything is connected. You can not just think about yourself. People can not just think about themselves. If there are no bees, we will not get any food, strange? But that's because everything is connected, in one cycle. It's called an ecosystem and you may have already read about it in school? There was probably no one who mentioned architecture then, but for architecture it is very important to know how nature works, otherwise there will be no good architecture. When we build Borlänge, we are careful to ensure that the animals have food and the opportunity to move. The plants are their food, so then we make sure that the plants also feel good. Just like children, bumblebees should be close to a park, for example. Borlänge is built with good houses, but Borlänge is also built so that we get fresh air and clean water. That is also architecture. In Sweden, there is something called "the right of public access". It is perhaps the best architecture we have. The right of public access means that we can move in nature, even if we do not own it. It allows us to learn to respect and to take care of our earth.

This brochure is about how to build the best tree house, the funniest ski slope, about taking care of your friends and about the similarities between you and a bumblebee. This brochure is about architecture.



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