

SPACE

**PLACE**

access ambience angle anticipation arc  
atmosphere boundary circulation  
colour connection context contrast  
construction decoration detail direction  
**SPACE** division edge elevation  
enclosure energy entrance exit façade  
focus form frame function  
**PLACE** grouping identity infill interface  
invitation juxtaposition landmark  
lettering level light link location mass  
materials meaning meeting point

**SPACE AND PLACE** is a research notebook that you can use to help you explore and understand the buildings and the built environment you experience.

**SPACE AND PLACE** provides a stimulus to looking, a framework for analysing and a vocabulary for appraising spaces and places in buildings and everyday townscapes.

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Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and the City

11 Mitchell Lane  
Glasgow  
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**This book tells you things and asks you questions to help you look and think about what you see.**

**Write and draw on the pages – Have fun!**

# LOCATION

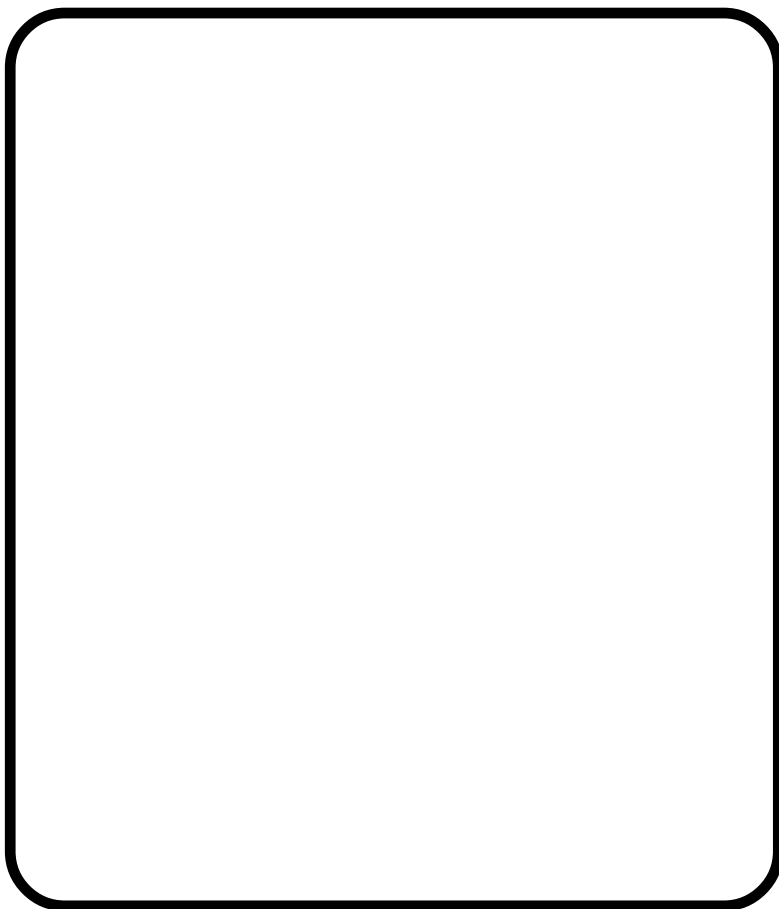
Look at where you are.

Sketch a map to pinpoint your **location**.

Include the buildings, streets, roads and pedestrian areas that are directly around you.

You could include a key.

**Draw your location map here**



# CONTEXT

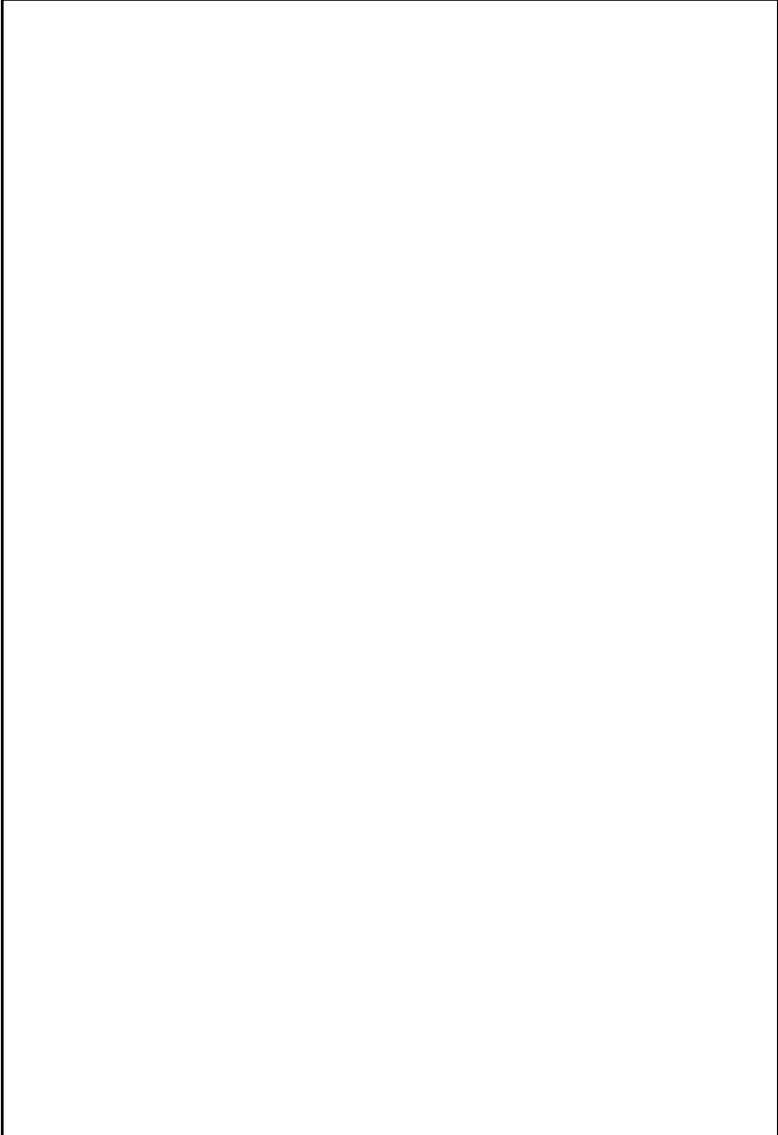
Look closely at the buildings around you.  
Can you see **old** or **new** buildings?

What is **happening** in the streets?

What kinds of **buildings** are they?

What are people doing?

**Make a sketch of something that is happening in the area around you.**



# SURROUNDINGS

open..... closed  
busy ..... calm  
noisy ..... quiet  
colourful ..... drab  
clean ..... dirty  
exciting ..... boring  
inviting ..... threatening

add some more contrasts

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Make a note of the **contrasts** you can see around you.

# FORM

In the area around you, can you see interesting **shapes** and **forms**?

Where? On **buildings**? Up **high**? At **eye level**? **Low** down? On the **ground**?  
On **doors** and **windows**?

Any **faces** or **figures**?

Any other **sculptural** forms?

Any **animals** or **plant** forms?

Any other **natural forms**?

Any **lettering** forms?

sketch some examples of the forms that you can see.

# THE STREETScape

How do the buildings in the street fit together?

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Which buildings are new (**modern**) and which are old (**original**)?

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# OLD AND NEW

What are the **similarities** and what are the **differences** between the old and the new?

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Which do you prefer? Why?

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Do you think the old and new buildings work well together?

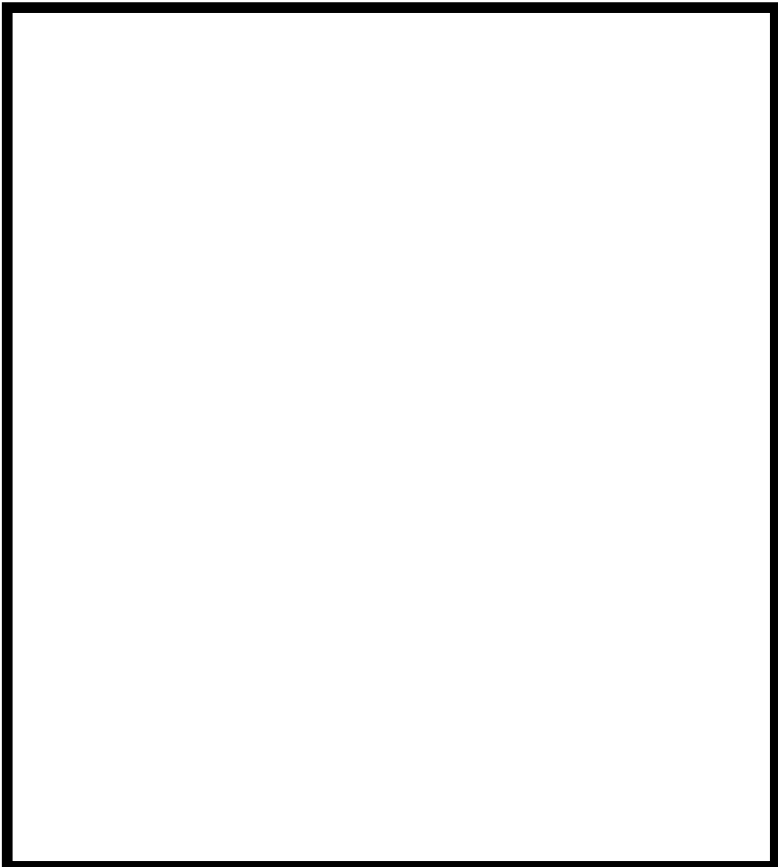
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# BUILDINGS

Choose one building that you find particularly interesting.

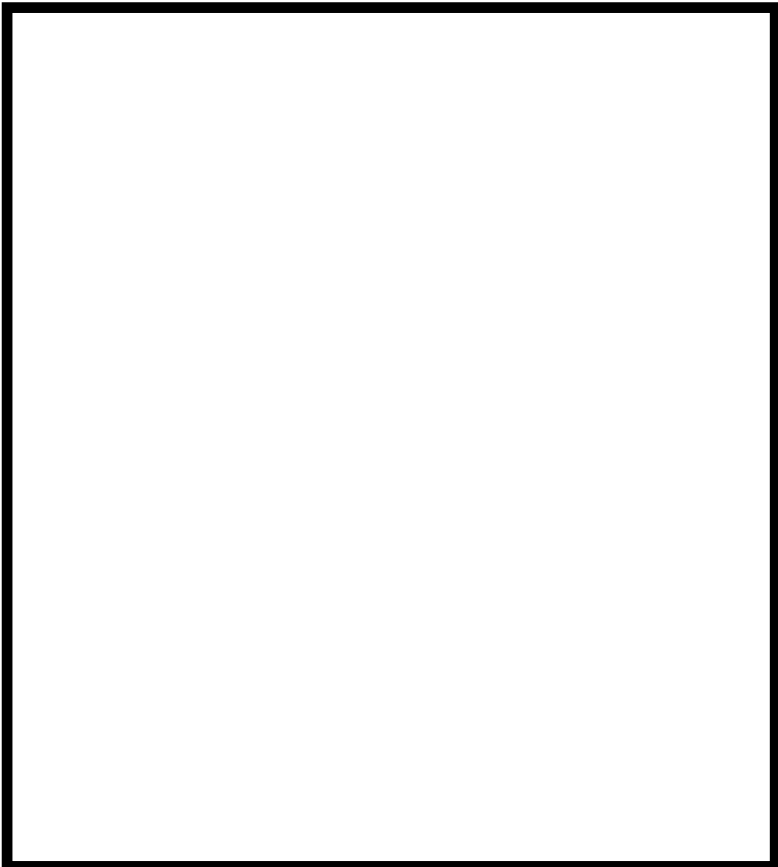
Make a sketch of the front (façade) of the building.



# ELEVATION

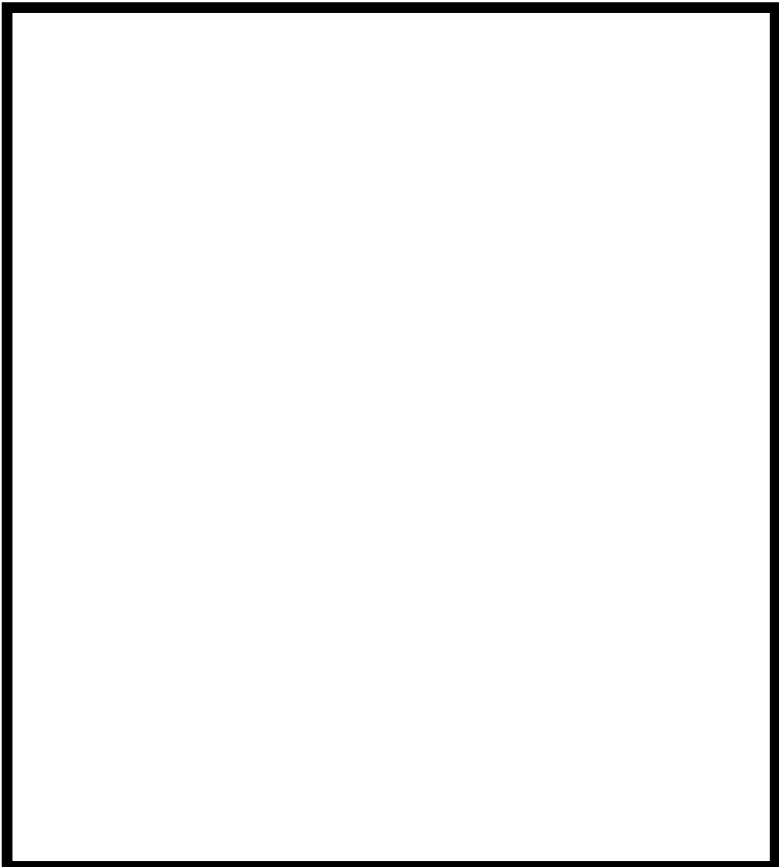
An elevation is a drawing of one side of a building.

Can you see an elevation of the building?  
Make a sketch of the elevation if you can.



# ACCESS

Look at the entrances to buildings.  
Pick an entrance and make a sketch of it.



# ACCESS

What kind of building is it?

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What do you think happens inside?

---

What is your opinion of the entrance?

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How do you know where to go when you are inside the building?

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# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

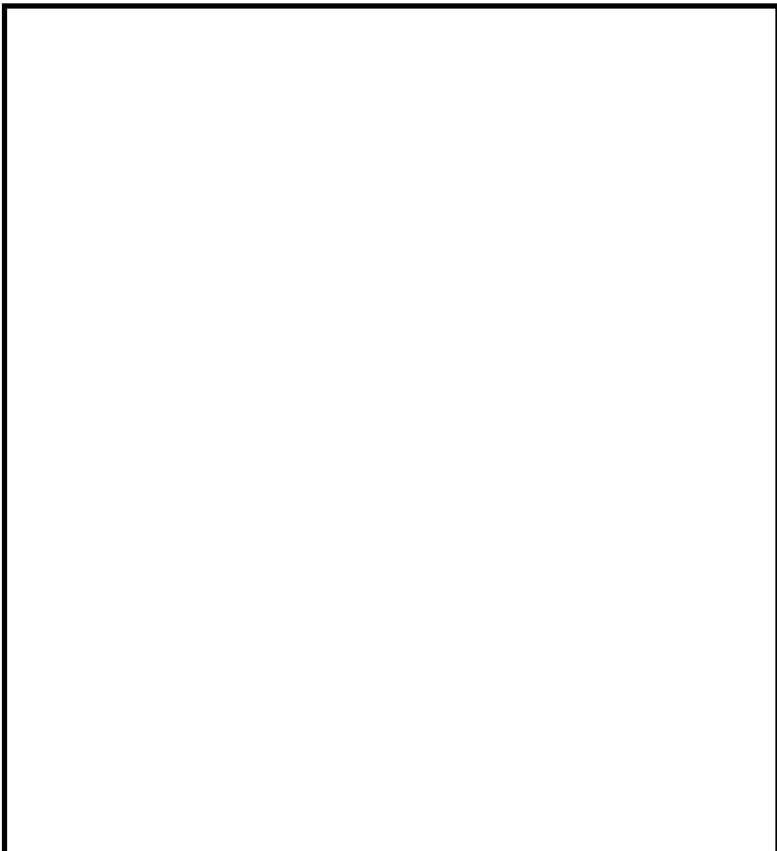
What are your first impressions when you go into the building?

Write some words on this page, which describe your impressions and feelings.

# PLAN

A plan shows the dimensions of spaces and the position of walls, windows, stairs and objects.


Make a plan of one floor of the building you are in in the space below



# LEVELS

How can  
you go  
from  
one floor  
to another?

What  
connects  
the different  
levels?

Going up  
  
Going down

Can you make a drawing that shows different levels in your building?

**COME IN!**

**outside / inside**

**here / there**

**entrance / exit**

**threshold**

**interface**

**transition**

Draw a sketch plan to show how spaces are separated.

What are the divisions or barriers between them?

Are these **physical? visual? psychological?**

# FOCAL POINT

While you are standing in a space.....

RELAX. BREATHE IN. BREATHE OUT SLOWLY.

LOOK SLOWLY TO THE RIGHT AND TO THE LEFT.

DO NOT LOOK AT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.

DO IT AGAIN. DO IT AGAIN. AND AGAIN.

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR EYE WANTS TO  
STOP?

WHAT CREATES AN INTERESTING **FOCUS**?

WHAT ARE THE **FOCAL POINTS** IN THE SPACE?

Make a quick sketch to show how the space is organised. Identify focal points. Are there any interesting shapes, forms, colours, textures, lighting?

# **S P A C E**

**boundary**

**barrier**

**division**

**edge**

**enclosure**

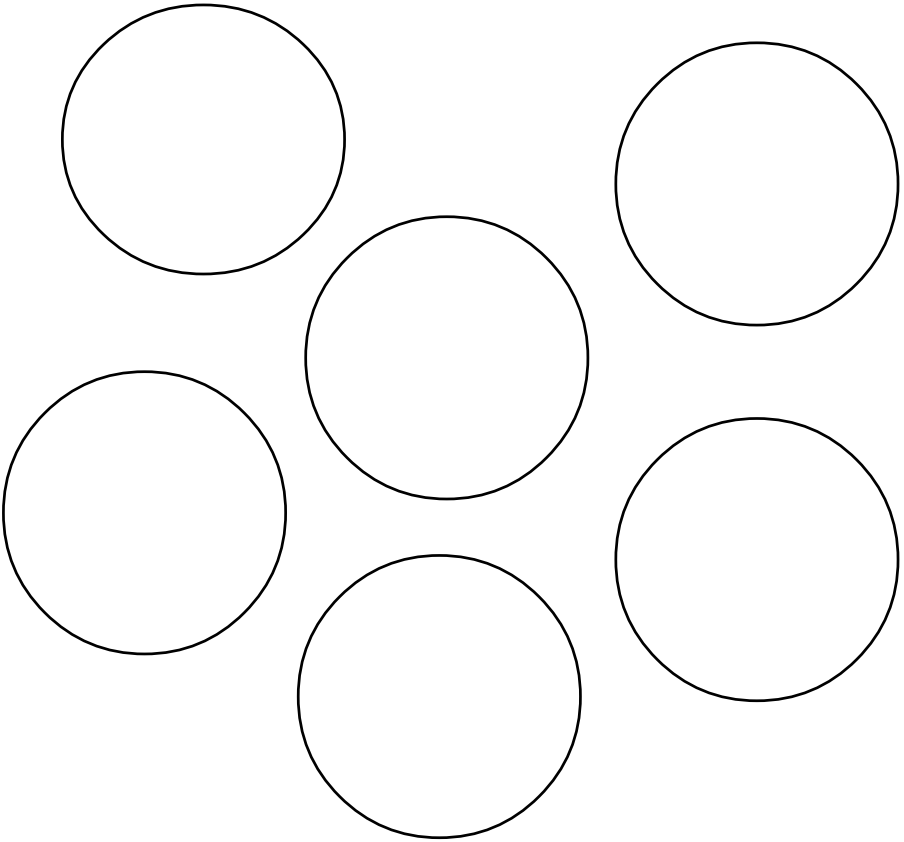
**scale**

**volume**

**void**

Choose a space. Make a sketch, a plan or diagram to show the key elements in the space. Annotate these.

***A place is a  
space claimed by  
feelings...***



Put expressions on the circles to show how you feel in different areas of the building. Write the areas underneath each expression.

# SPACE OR PLACE?

Write down a list of the spaces and places in the building you visited

- Entrance foyer
- Staircase
- Lift
- Toilet
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

Write down how they made you feel.

Make a sketch of your favourite place in the building.  
Why do you like it?

# AMBIENCE

How does it **feel** in different spaces?  
inviting? frightening? exciting?  
stimulating? confusing?

What kind of **atmosphere** is there?  
happy? busy? relaxed? businesslike?  
efficient? quiet? Anything else?

What **moods** are created in different  
spaces? How is this done?

Does the building **remind** you of any  
other places?

Make up a short poem to suggest a particular mood or feeling that you were aware of in the building.

# FUNCTION

What happens in the building?

What is the building used for?

Cross out words that do not apply.

Add some more.

**argument art architecture buying business  
communicating comparing cooking design  
display discussion debate dancing design  
eating education entertainment exhibition  
exploring information interpreting  
investigating jokes learning looking  
making meetings parties playing  
presentations reading researching seeing  
showing sitting socialising sports  
sunbathing talking thinking valuing  
viewing waiting walking wandering  
wanting welcoming wondering**

Draw and label the different activities that happen in the spaces you have explored. What are people doing?

# CIRCULATION

**access**

**movement**

**rest**

**direction**

**routes**

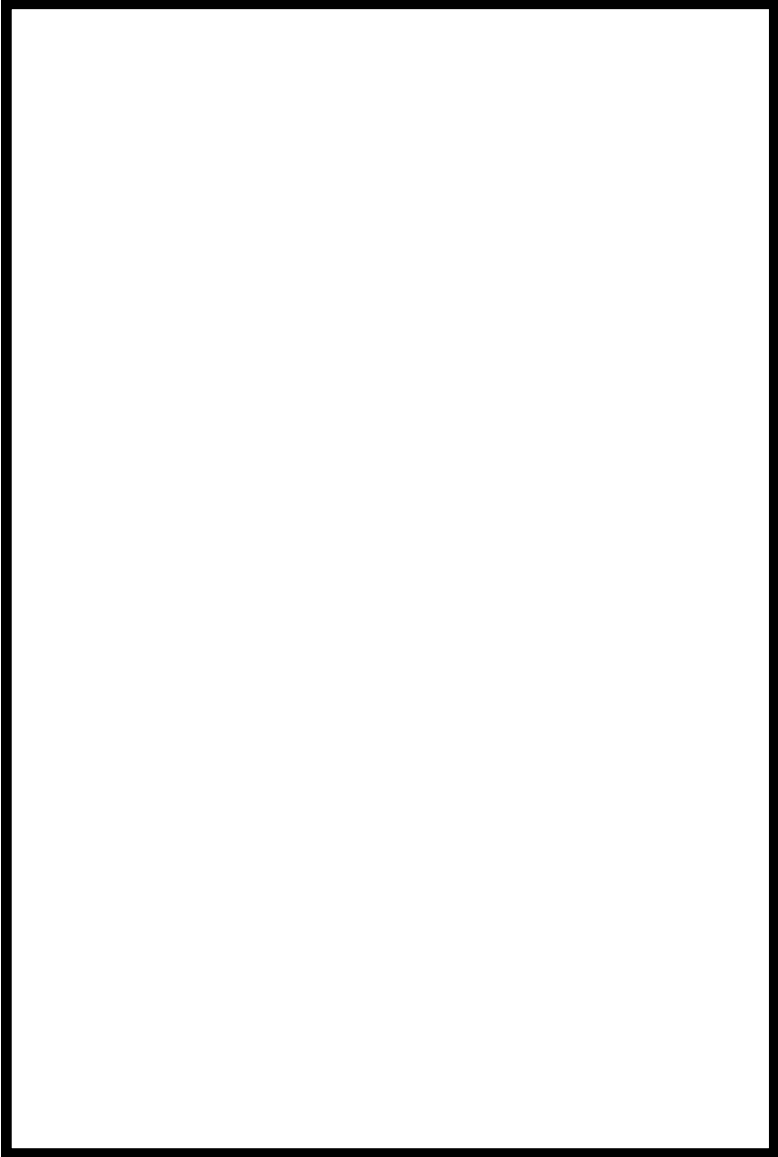
**meeting points**

**vantage points, 'lookouts'**

**links, 'bridges' and 'ladders'**

What are the different ways you can move around the building?

What features do you notice that makes movement around the building safe?



**Draw some different ways in which you can circulate around the building.**

# **LOOK UP**

**at the ceiling  
at the roof spaces  
at the sky**

**What can you see?**

# LOOK DOWN

**Choose a good spot. Draw a picture that shows what you see when you look down at your shoes.**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

**Scale**

Draw one person in a small space or a lot of people in a large space.

# STRUCTURE

Look at two-dimensional **shapes** and three-dimensional **forms**.

How does the building stand up?

How is it **constructed**?

Is it the same in the new and old parts?

Look for **frames, supports, suspension**.

What gives **strength** to the **structure**?

What materials are **strong** and **heavy**?

What materials are **strong** yet **light**?

Sketch some of the supporting structures and supports in the building. Can you identify what materials they are made from?

# SHAPE

## GEOMETRIC

**symmetric**

**asymmetric**

**REGULAR**

**irregular**

Draw three different geometric shapes that you find in the building. What are they? Label them. Draw the outline of a person beside them to show their size.

**POSITIVE**

NEGATIVE

**SOLID**

VOID

Draw a sketch of people silhouetted against the windows

# AIR, HEAT

How is the building **heated**?

What kinds of **ventilation systems** are in use?

What is **energy** needed for in this building?

What contributes to **energy conservation**?

Identify anything that influences energy conservation

# LIGHT

Light levels change as you travel through buildings. Some spaces are **dark** and some are **light** and some are very **bright**. Why? What kinds of artificial light can you find?

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Can you find light that is **diffused**?

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How is **directional** light used?

---

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# LIGHT

Can you find any objects that are made from **translucent** materials?

---

Can you find any objects that are made from **transparent** materials?

---

What is the difference between **transparent** and **translucent**?

---

Is **neon** light used? If so in what way?

---

# COLOUR

What **palette** of colours is used in the building?

.....sky-blue.... poppy-red.....sunshine-yellow....blood-orange.....  
.....grass-green.....earth-brown.....slate-grey.....snow-white.....

Make up names for very **bright** colours you find.

Make up names for very **dull** or **muted** colours you find.

Which colours look good together?

What do different colours suggest to you?

Cut out some pieces of paper from magazines, different colours and shades, to show your favourite colour palette.

# MATERIALS

Find things that are made from these materials

**glass**

**metal**

**stone**

**ceramic**

**wood**

**plastic**

Can you find any other materials?

Make a drawing to show an interesting use of a particular material. Annotate it to explain your choice

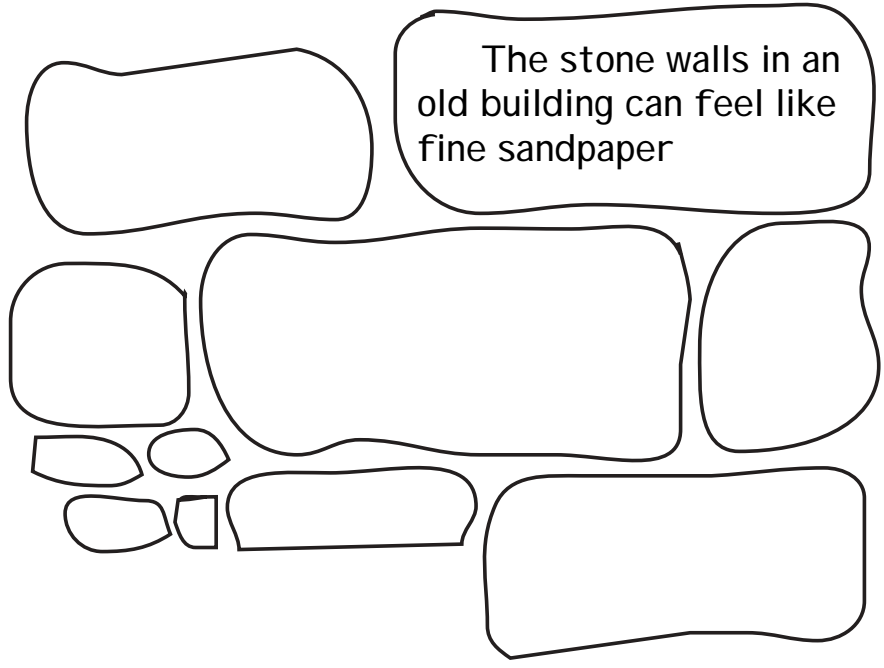
# TEXTURE

Run your hand gently along different **surfaces**. How do they feel? Rough? Smooth? Cold? Warm? Ribbed? Bumpy?

Can you think of any words to describe the **qualities** of the **textures** you discover?

On the next page, write down the name of **materials** you have touched and your description of them.

**This exercise is only for people with clean hands!**



The stone walls in an old building can feel like fine sandpaper

# DECORATION

Can you find any **decorative** features?

What is the purpose of **decoration**?

Can you find any **patterns** based on repetition of shapes?

Record a pattern based on a series of repeated shapes.

# DETAILS

light switches, door handles, lift controls, window catches, joints, hinges,

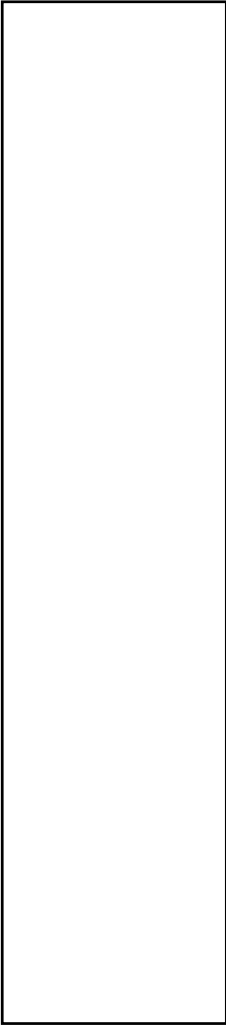
## FAR, NEAR, REALLY CLOSE

**FAR:** Draw it from a distance, showing what is around it.

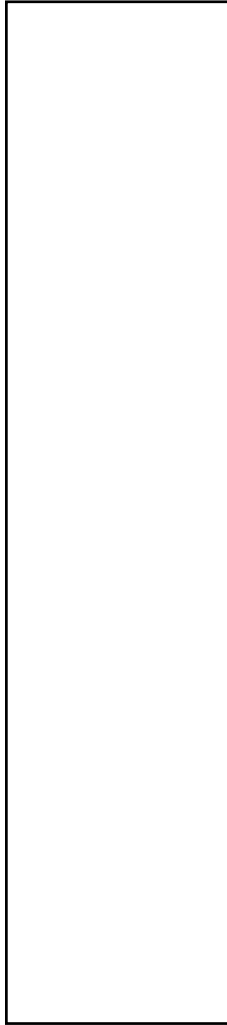
**NEARER:** Draw the detail.

**GET CLOSER:** Draw it up close.

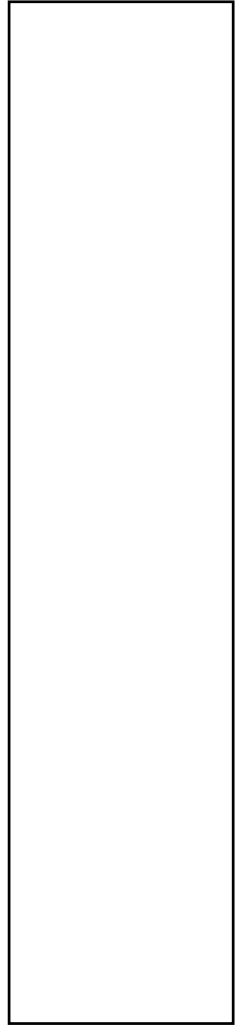
**VERY CLOSE:** Draw a bit you observe very carefully



Far away



closer



really close

Make a series of drawings to show what happens when you go close, closer and really close to a detail..

# SIGNS and SYMBOLS

What is a **logo**? Is it a **sign** or a **symbol**?

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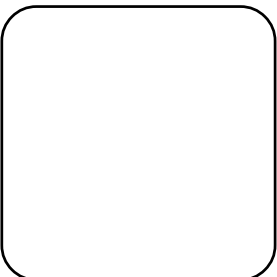
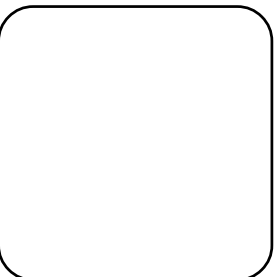
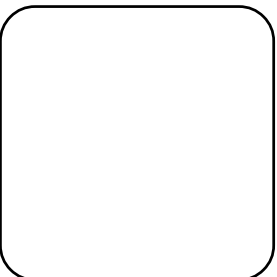
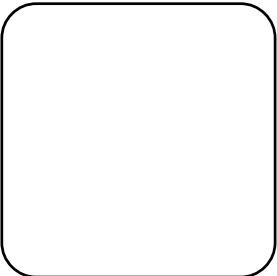
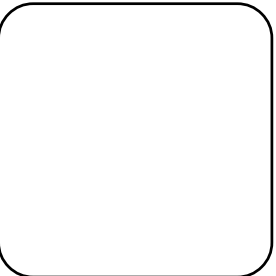
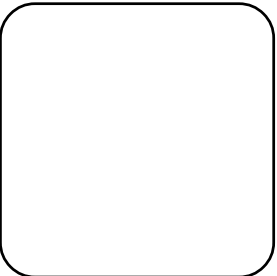
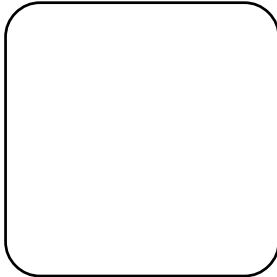
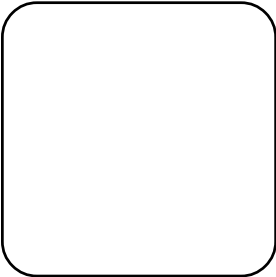
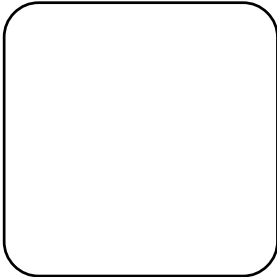
On the opposite page draw some of the **symbols** you have found. What do they **represent**?

What **signage** helps you find your way around the building?

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# MY SIGNS and SYMBOLS



# ART

Is there anything in the building that you think is art?

Look at:

**GLASS**

**METALWORK**

**OBJECTS**

**DISPLAYS**

Where else can you find art?

What do you think makes something into an art work?

Why is it important to have art in a building?

Make a drawing of the artwork you have chosen.  
What is it? Where is it? What is the name of the artist?

# CONTRASTS

Is the building **old**, **new** or a **combination** of both?

Can you identify parts of the **original** building?

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Can you identify where the **new** parts of the building have been added on?

---

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# CONTRASTS

**old** new

**dark** light

**bright** dull

**shiny** matt

**verical** horizontal

**high** low

**regular**

irregUlar

**large** small

**symmetrical**

*asymmetrical*

rough smooth

**balanced** *imbalanced*

Can you find more?

# MESSAGES, MEANINGS

Does your building have a name?  
If so, what does it mean?

Can you identify any parts of the building, old or new that have a **message** or **meaning**?

# VIEW

Look at the **view** through a window in the building.

What stands out in the **panorama**?

What are interesting **silhouettes** in the **vista** before you?

Are there any **landmarks** that you recognise.

Draw interesting parts of the **skyline** on the next few pages.

Start your skyline drawing on this page.

Continue your skyline drawing on this page.

When you leave the building, think about the **S T R U C T U R E S , SPACES**, and **PEOPLE** in other buildings and how they create the **T O W N S C A P E .**

# **BUILDING APPRAISAL**

Use these headings to make a framework to investigate other buildings. What questions will you ask?  
What do you want to find out?

**Location**

**Surroundings**

**Structure**

**Materials**

**Plan, elevation, section**

**Space and Place**

**Public and private spaces**

**Access and circulation**

**Scale**

**Heating and ventilation**

**Light**

**Colour**

**Decoration**

**Contrasts**

**Views**

# **YOUR HOME**

**Make your own book about your home.**

**Use some of the ideas you have found in this book.**

**Do some sketches and drawings.**

**Perhaps include some photographs and comments by your family.**

**Make a plan of the different spaces.**

**How has your family designed and decorated your home?**

# **YOUR SCHOOL**

**When you are at your school, look again at the buildings and the grounds.**

**Use the headings that you find on pages 73 - 74 to investigate the school building.**

**Use the headings on pages 77 -78 to help you explore your school grounds.**

**Discuss with your teacher how you can work out a framework for appraisal.**

**Think about ideas for improvement.**

# LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL

## CONTEXT

How do the school grounds fit in with the surroundings?

## LAYOUT

How does the layout of the grounds take account of access and circulation, provide for recreation, access, circulation and parking?

## SENSORY QUALITIES

What variety of colour, textures, patterns, sounds and smells is there? What variety of materials is used?

## SPACE

What variety in size, scale and shape of spaces is there? How is space enclosed and divided? Are spaces enclosed or open? How are spaces used? How does a space seem to change as you move through it?

## **MICROCLIMATE**

What shelter is there from the sun, wind and rain?

What are problems of air and noise pollution?

## **ACCESS, CIRCULATION**

What are the routes into and around the site?

Is there any special provision for those with disabilities?

## **LANDFORMS, SOILS**

Are there any changes of level, terraces, steps, mounds?

## **SOFT LANDSCAPING**

What kind of planting is there? Hedges, trees, shrubs, grass, flowers? What kinds of seasonal change?

## **HARD LANDSCAPING**

What kinds of surfaces and site furniture are used?

How does the design of the grounds address safety, play and sports, recreation, relaxation and social activities?

# NEIGHBOURHOOD

**What places in your neighbourhood have a particular identity?**

**What is special about these places?**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Draw your favourite place in your neighbourhood.

# TOWNSCAPE

On these two pages, draw some buildings, places,

landscapes or streetscapes from your imagination.

# **TOPOPHILIA**

**What makes you love a place?**

**What makes you sick of the sight of it?**

**What is special about living where you do?**

Make a drawing or stick in a photograph of a place where you would like to live.

When you have filled the book with sketches, drawings, plans or diagrams, please complete the book by drawing a self-portrait. Sign and date your work.

# **TELL US!**

**Did you enjoy using this book?  
Did you find it interesting?**

**Let us know by doing a drawing on a postcard and writing a few words to explain. Don't forget to put your name and age.**

**Please send your ideas to:  
The Lighthouse  
11 Mitchell Lane  
Glasgow G1 3NU**

**Or bring them in to us when you visit!**

mood movement node palette  
panorama pattern people plan positive  
private projection public route scale  
section sign signage silhouette size  
screen shape skyline sign solid **SPACE**  
**PLACE** structure support surface  
suspension symbol texture threshold  
topophilia townscape transition  
transparency use view vista void  
ventilation volume