



Introduction

Option C, “Buildings through History”, traces the evolution of building designs and building techniques throughout history. When the module is completed, students will have an understanding of building methods, materials, structural systems and design ideas used in buildings through the ages. Each student will also have assembled profiles of the characteristics of different architectural styles.

“Buildings through History” presents students with a number of questions for investigation and discussion.

- How do we select and shape the materials used in building?
- How have building methods evolved through the ages?
- How has the design of buildings developed through history?
- How are buildings portrayed in drawings and paintings?
- How and why should we preserve our architectural heritage?

Throughout the module, students are presented with a variety of learning and problem-solving experiences, practical and written. Through these they are given access to some of the concepts and terminology used in the design and construction of both simple and sophisticated building types. They are led towards a greater understanding and appreciation of their architectural heritage, the buildings they use today and the possibilities in building for the future.

The Option consists of ten lessons which run in sequence. While each lesson has a structured format, it is open to modification at the discretion of the teacher and/or the request of the students. To help develop additional lines of enquiry, a list of Cross-Curricular Connections is provided at the end of each lesson.

Teachers should note the content of each lesson and make the necessary preparations in advance. Lesson 8, in which the class undertakes a field trip to a building of historical interest in their community, will require considerable advance planning. (Suggestions and recommendations are provided in Lesson 8.)

Selected publications which provide a wealth of information on the topics covered by this module can be found in the ‘References’ section