

# Architecture and the Curriculum

Teachers who took part in a training day in September 2007 came up with the following ideas to explore in the classroom. Try them, amend them, develop them and enjoy them!

## Focus on your School

- What do pupils like about it?
- What works?
- What doesn't?
- If you know you will be getting a new/refurbished school in the future, how would your pupils design it?
- Design a new entrance - look at security, aesthetics, accessibility, a sense of arrival

## Style Jumble

- Create a collage using images of buildings old and new to create unusual and surprising combinations

## Random Build

- Provide pupils with a limited number of materials (e.g. glue, pins, card, tape, cellophane, found objects) and ask them to create an installation or architectural model using those materials.

## Roofs

- Link to technology and ask pupils to create a building/structure that will keep people dry

## Doors and Windows

- Sorting and grouping, designs over time, design your own, written descriptions, observational drawings

## Places

- Ask pupils to explore the school grounds and identify places:
  - That encourage you to be quiet
  - That are noisy/social
  - That they would like to change
  - That they would like to stay the same
- Design a quiet place to listen/look/reflect/dream

## Maths

- Use architecture as a means to investigate pattern, height, area, height, estimation, volume

## Science

- Examine the properties of materials used in buildings
- Set a challenge to design the strongest bridge
- Materials and sound

## Churches

- Look at churches and design a contemporary church - how does a modern church serve its community differently to those of the past?

## Geography

- How could your street be improved? Look at roads, gardens, open spaces, shops, nature...

## Windmills

- Use as a means to focus on the weather, forces, sociology, engineering...

## Natural Environment

- How does the built environment interact with the natural landscape?

## Citizenship

- Investigate the needs of the local community - are they being met by the way the buildings, places and spaces have been planned?

## **Shops**

- Looking at different types of shop, their purpose, their design and their impact on the communities they serve

## **Other Cultures**

- Examine the architecture of another place. How is it similar to British architecture? How is it different? What does this reveal about different cultures?

## **Transport**

- Look into the way people travel around the local area. How could more cycle routes be incorporated?

## **Safety**

- How is the local area made safe? How could the way buildings and spaces are planned and built have an impact on this?

## **Observation**

- Explore a building, collecting drawings and photographs of details of the building that reveal something about it

## **Redesign**

- Redesign a building that pupils are already familiar with - make sure to discuss why it should be redesigned

## **Visit Places**

- Visit an interesting building in the local area - jot down words and phrases in response to the building. Use these reactions as a stimulus to write a poem back in school.

## **Photography**

- Give pupils digital/disposable cameras. Ask them to take photographs of images that they love or hate and create a class collage of photos back in school.

## **Involve the local community**

- Examine a local area undergoing regeneration - what would all those who will be affected by the work like to see happening?