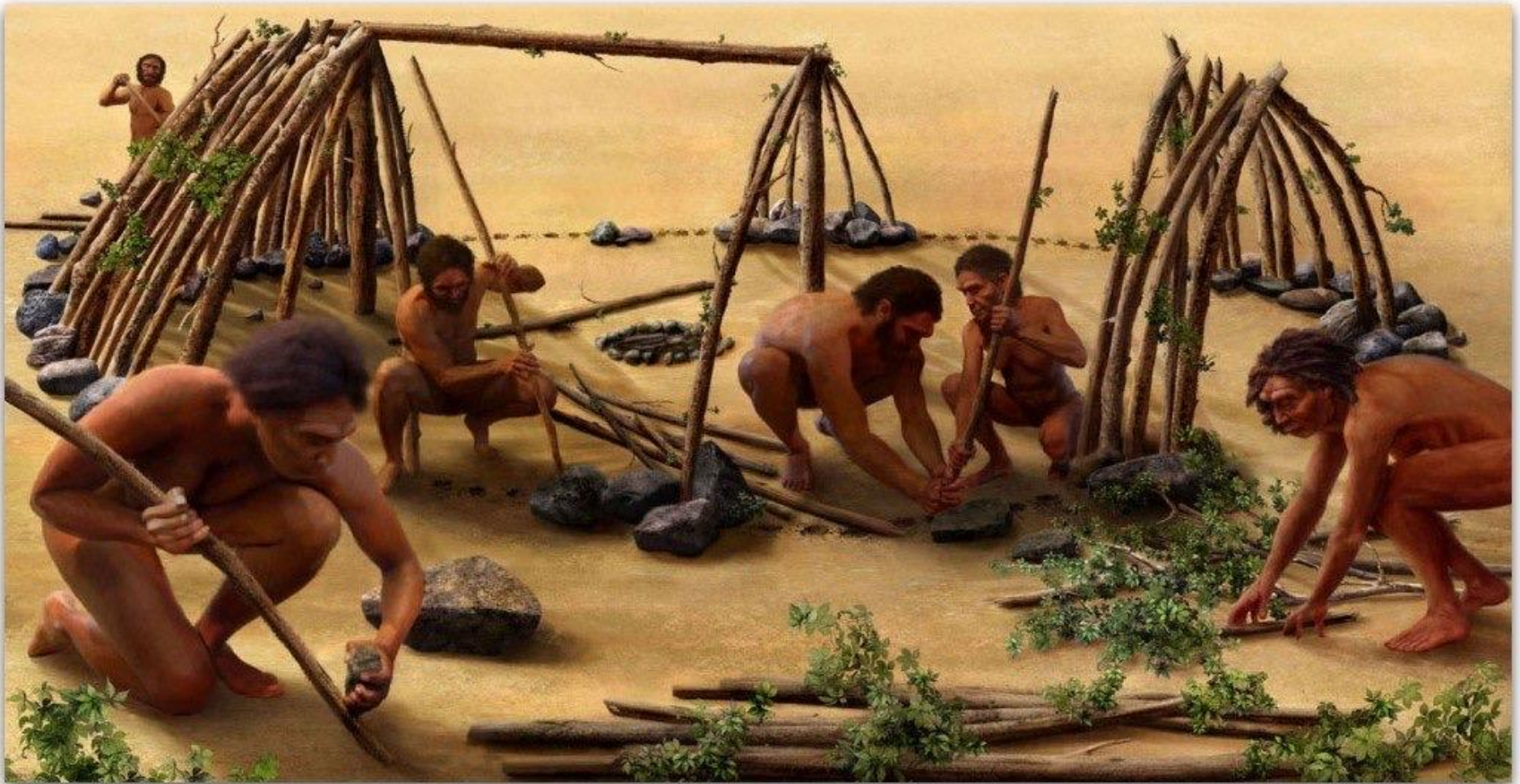


Lecture 1: Cultural Origins of Architecture



Introduction

People think of architecture as shelter, but it is much more than that. We see that shelters are different from a region to another, form a way of life to another, and so on.

Architecture, therefore, is a representative for culture just like language.



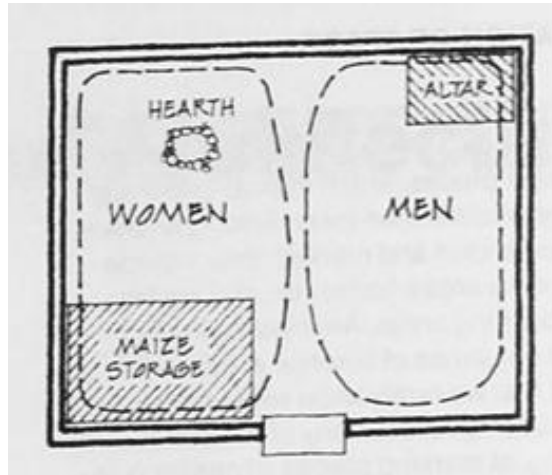
Indian Shelter



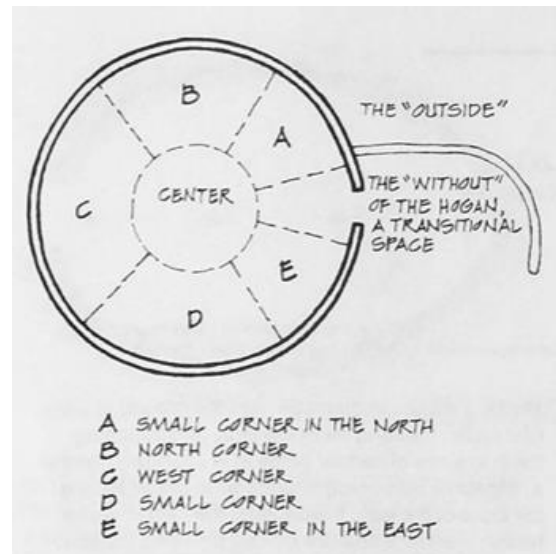
Eskimo Shelter

Differentiation of Space

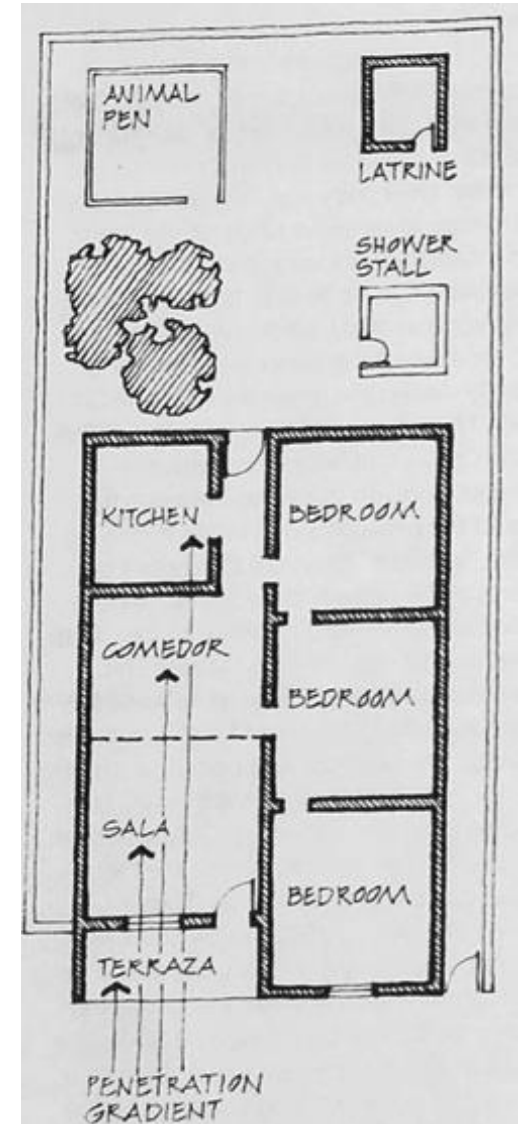
Humans marked their places with paintings and engravings and put barriers between inside and outside, public and private, male and female.



Separation in Maya House



Separation of Space in Navajo Hogan

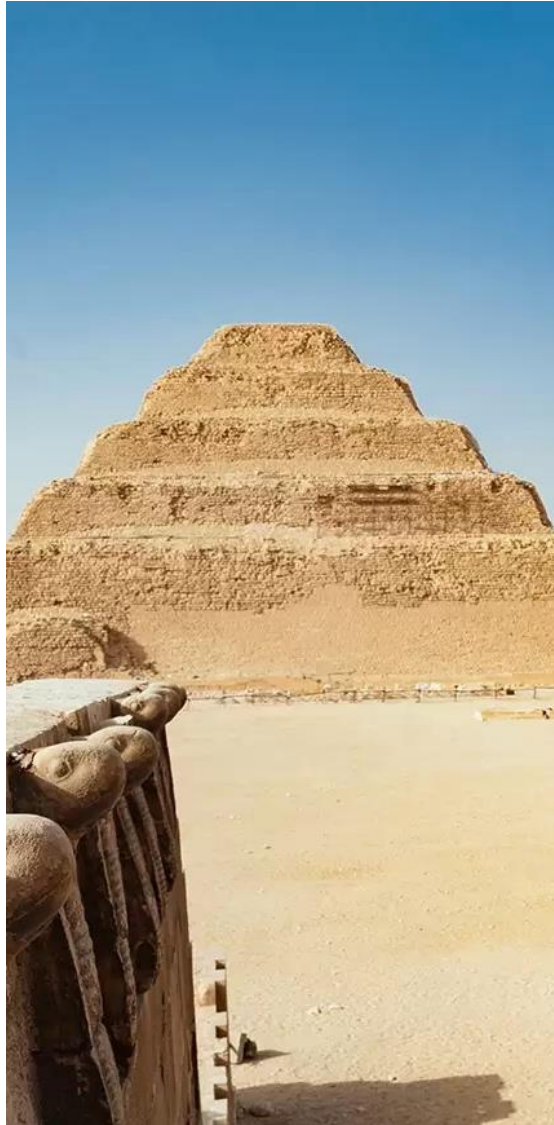


Plan of Square House, Columbia

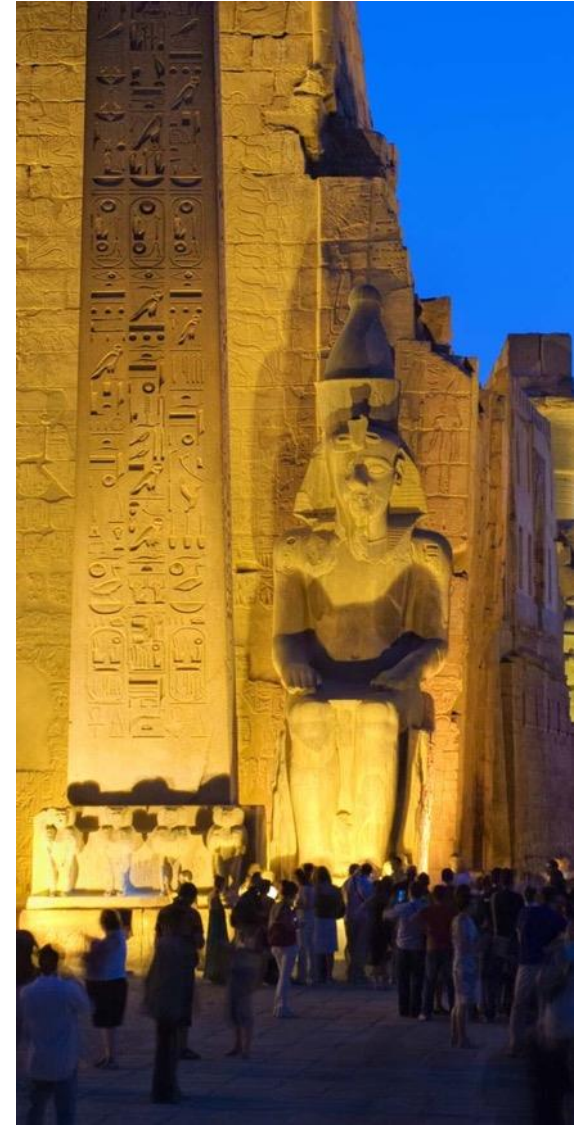
What is Architecture?

Architecture can be thought of as any construction that changes the built environment according to certain way or order.

The human mind often is concerned with order and classification, that's why people built their buildings with care and determination.



Stepped pyramid of Sakkara



Luxor Temple

Organization of the Environment

Organizing the environment means organizing Space, time, meaning, and communication.



Space organization, Living Interior



Time Organization, Event Space



Meaning organization, Buckingham Palace

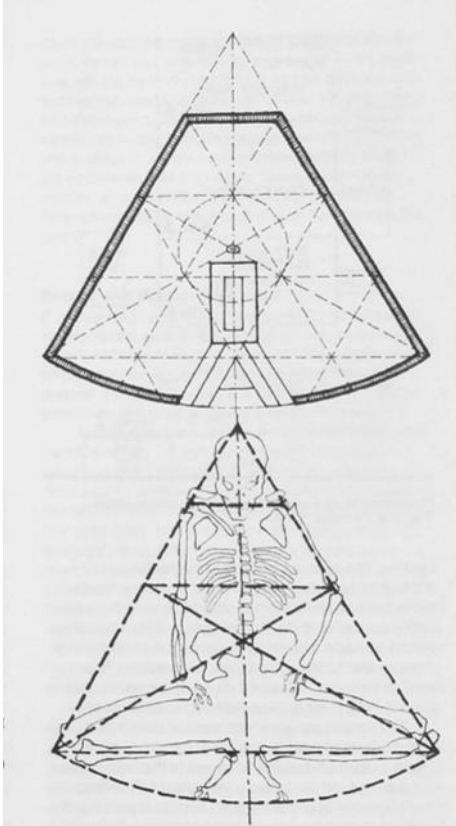


Organizing Communication, Banking Hall

Ordering Systems

Order may not only be geometric and physical, the same shape, to stress the idea of unity. It may also represent Idea.

Houses at Lepenski Vir take the same shape of the human skeleton in a certain position to make the relation between the human and the architecture. The whole settlement also takes



House and Settlement of Lepenski Vir

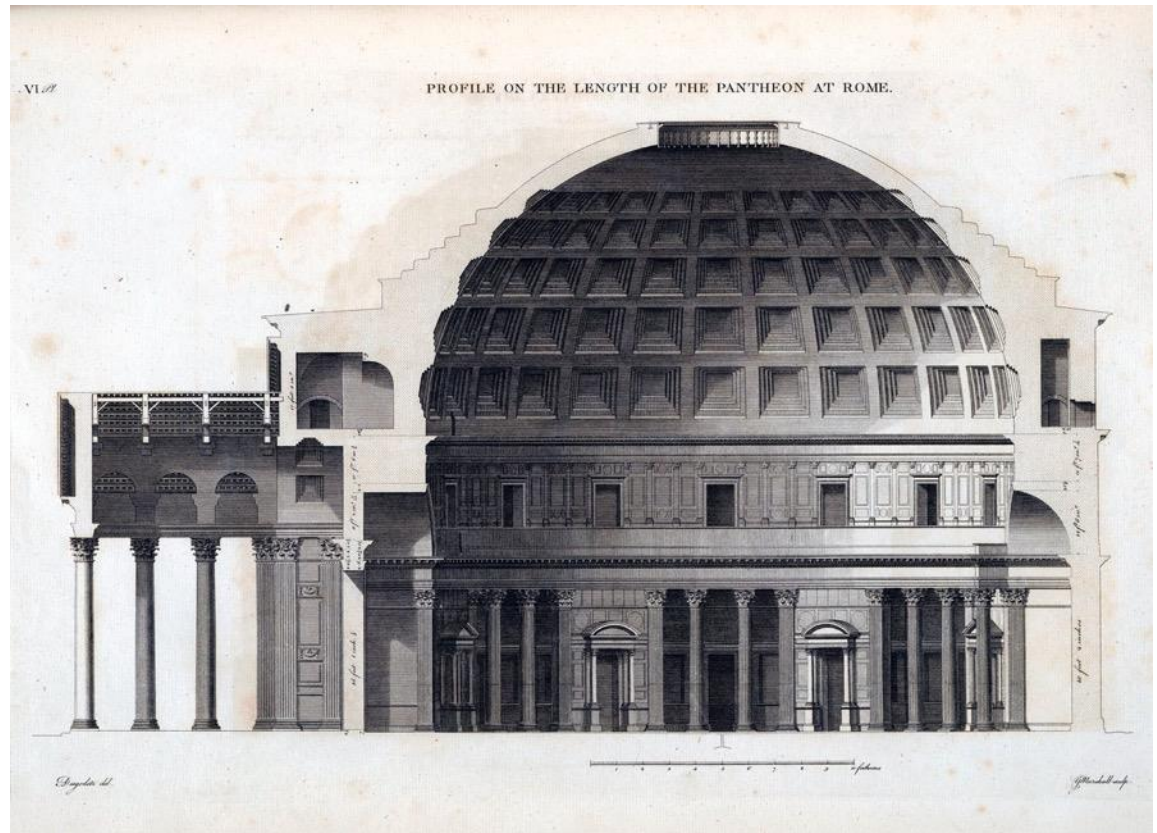


Lepenski Vir Museum, Serbia

The purpose of Architecture

As mentioned, the purpose of architecture may go beyond the shelter.

- It can provide setting for certain activities, and remind people of what these activities are.
- Signify power, status or privacy.
- Support cosmological belief.
- Communicate information.
- Establish individual or group identity.
- Express values and culture.
- Separate domains & differentiate between places.



*The Hadrian Pantheon in Rome. An expression of the cosmos through architecture, light, and sculpture. **God is watching and protecting Rome.***

Cross Cultural and Historical Lessons

Why study primitive examples of architecture is important?

Because vernacular architecture and ancient structures represent the human behavior more broadly and instinctively.



Dome of the Rock interior



Column detail, Dome of the Rock

References

Snyder & Catanese, Introduction to
Architecture, McGraw Hill, 1979

Websites:

All images are from the internet, and used for
demonstration purposes.