

# THINK SHEETS

ARC 308

Deliverable: a 1-2 page text-based PDF with embedded / appended images (about 500 words).

The purpose of a "Think Sheet" is to give form to your thoughts. By putting your thoughts to the page you are forced to edit, focus, and synthesize. A Think Sheet is an editorial essay. It combines specific information and an analysis w/r/t your own personal position on the social relevance of architecture.

The following criteria are applied in equal measure to evaluate your response:

TOPICAL	Does the Think Sheet address the prompt?
RELEVANT	Are the positions espoused in lecture and in the readings addressed? You may take a contrary position.
SPECIFIC	Have you used specific details about your chosen building to make your point? Have you developed your own analysis of the building?
CRAFTED	Mechanics (e.g. paragraph structure), proofing, and rudimentary elements of style are expected.
CRITICAL	Have you tied the details of your analysis to a position about the role of architecture in society?

Remember, "Think Sheets" are not reports. You will want to use specific observations (these don't have to be original, but make appropriate citations) about your building and relate them to your own critical position about the role of architecture in society.

The 500 word limit is important. It is difficult to write a short paper, but the task of editing gives force and clarity to your writing. You can use images and graphics smartly. Think about what your images are showing, how they relate to the flow of text. Explore the graphic arrangement of the page.

Lastly, don't forget that the Think Sheets account for a significant proportion of your grade! See the following page for writing prompts:

## PROMPTS:

**#1:** Thus far in class we have been discussing architectural form, its role in communicating something to us (both sensually and intellectually), and the inspiration for that form. Please describe **your chosen building** in terms of its **form**. You should include information from your own research, specific points from Rasmussen's *Experiencing Architecture*, as well as from topics covered in lectures. Include images if you like—I would recommend this; plans, sections and maps can be particularly useful, but make sure they deliberately support your point. Finally, this should not be an exercise in listing information. Be sure to take a critical stance—remember your values!

**#2:** In the second part of the course we have been discussing physical considerations in architecture—issues related to geography, topography, ecology, structure, materials, construction, and climate response. Please describe **your chosen building** in terms of its **physical considerations** using specific information from your readings and from images you have collected in your research. You should include specific points from Heschong's *Thermal Delight in Architecture* as well as from topics covered in lectures. Include images if you like—I would recommend this; plans, sections and maps can be particularly useful, but make sure they deliberately support your point. Finally, this should not be an exercise in listing information. Be sure to take a critical stance—remember your values!

**#3a:** In this final section of the course we have been discussing human factors in architecture—issues related to the designation and organization of uses, architectural determinism, humanism, and the meaning conveyed by buildings. Please describe **your chosen building** with respect to **human factors**. You should include specific points from your own research, from Moore, Lyndon, and Allen's *The Place of Houses* as well as from topics covered in lectures. Include images if you like—I would recommend this; plans, sections and maps can be particularly useful, but make sure they deliberately support your point. Finally, this should not be an exercise in listing information. Be sure to take a critical stance—remember your values!

— or —

**#3b:** How has your attitude toward architecture changed over the course of the semester? What are your architectural values now? I do not recommend choosing this option unless you are writing from a place of conviction. It may be that you strongly feel two ostensibly opposed things—this is fine, possibly better. Explore the tension. But there is little less inspiring than a weak op-ed.