



BUILDINGS & PUBLIC SPACES



COST OF LAND

MODERN ARCHITECTURE & URBAN CHALLENGES

POPULATION

At first glance, building styles in Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand appear very different from each other. But, in fact, similar types of buildings and public spaces can be found throughout the region.

- The populations of many cities in Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand are growing rapidly. To make room for housing that can accommodate these growing populations, many traditional buildings and open spaces are under threat of demolition and development.
- In the centre of many cities, the high cost of land means that modern office buildings are often multi-storey. There is a huge difference in size between new office towers and a city's smaller older buildings.
- Offices are often above shops in the main streets. The offices of most small and medium-sized businesses are simple spaces with practical furniture.
- Southeast Asian architects are exploring ways to design buildings that are comfortable in hot and humid climates and use less energy.
- In a tropical climate, it is often nicer for buildings to have good flow between the inside and outdoors. Indoor-outdoor spaces and the use of vegetation and external screening are becoming more important in tropical buildings. The National Library of Singapore is a recent example: its surface is covered with shades to deflect the sun and encourage cross-ventilation.
- Drawing on this experience, Southeast Asian architects are becoming more influential globally.
- Although Australian and New Zealand architecture has generally developed along Western lines, these designs have been influenced by the local climate and available materials. Many buildings in Australia and New Zealand are constructed with wood rather than traditional European brick, because timber is more easily accessible and suited to the climate. As in Southeast Asia, many modern buildings in Australia and New Zealand incorporate outdoor spaces.

...and you?

"My favourite building is Monas. It is the symbol of my city. Monas was the tallest building structure in Indonesia and has a unique design. The Monas complex also has a very nice, big park, where we can see many deer."

Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia

"Greenbelt is a mall complex with open spaces and a chapel. Serendra is a complex of low-rise buildings which have stores and restaurants, as well as lots of open areas for walking, playing, walking the dogs, etc. There are also fountains."

Angela, 16, F, Philippines

HOW DOES LACK OF SPACE AFFECT THE USE AND DESIGN OF BUILDINGS?



SCHOOLS

- Schools vary in age and size across the region. There are also colleges, technical institutions and universities.
- A small rural school might be a single-room building, whereas a large city school will have classrooms and other facilities for hundreds or thousands of students.



...and you?

"We have a big spacious campus, separated by blocks which are interlinked with a nice green lawn on the third floor. Buildings are modern. Classrooms are designed to fit 25 students with five tables to facilitate five study groups, a whiteboard, one facilitator's table and wireless technology for laptops/projectors."

Ranjini, 17, F, Singapore

"At Girls' High School, the oldest school building is over 100 years old, while the Millennium Block was completed in 2000. A whiteboard or 'smart-board' stands at the front of approximately half the classes. Desks, made of wood or plastic, are arranged in rows or groups depending on the subject and teaching style. There are usually between 20-30 students per class."

Madeline, 16, F, New Zealand

"My school has more than 1000 students; it has a big front yard with a garden on the side. There is a statue of Mr. Phan Chu Trinh (a Vietnamese hero). The school has a building for labs (physics, biology and chemistry) and rooms for painting and learning music. There is a football field and another field to play badminton in the back of the school."

Anh, 15, M, Vietnam

"I go to Pre-engineering school with over 2,000 students. There are 10 modern buildings with air-conditioning. The grounds are big."

Garn, 16, M, Thailand

WHAT SIMILARITIES
CAN YOU FIND BETWEEN
THESE SCHOOLS?

HOW IS YOUR SCHOOL
THE SAME/DIFFERENT?

RELIGIOUS & TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

- Religious buildings in the region include mosques, churches, temples and pagodas.
- Mosques (*masjid* in Malay and Indonesian) have slim tower-like *minarets* which used to be climbed by the *muezzin* (person who leads the prayer) to call Muslims to prayer. This call is now done with a loudspeaker.
- The most prominent building of a Buddhist temple complex (*wat* in Thai, Lao and Khmer, *chua* in Vietnamese) is the assembly hall, with its layered gable roof and *chofa* (sky tassels) attached to the tops of the gable-ends.
- Churches (*simbahan* in Tagalog, *gereja* in Indonesian) can be recognised by their steeple (tower) where traditionally bells are rung to call Christian worshippers to services.
- The Hindu temples, or *pura*, of the Balinese (the only indigenous Southeast Asian Hindus) are complexes of buildings within walled compounds, entered through a *candi bentar* (split gateway). The *meru*, a tower of tiered thatched roofs, is very distinctive.

...and you?

"The mosques are typical of Islamic architecture with minarets and dome. Solemnisation of akad nikah (marriage) and funeral rites can be conducted here, as well as religious classes. Apart from the mosques/suraus, there are Chinese and Hindu temples and churches with their own distinctive architecture."

Nuraini, 17, F, Malaysia

"St Joseph's church is quite large and hexagonal, which is unusual for a Catholic church. The pews (bench seats) are arranged so that everyone in the congregation can see the priest. At the back of the church are the confessional and a separate chapel/prayer room."

Molly, 15, F, New Zealand

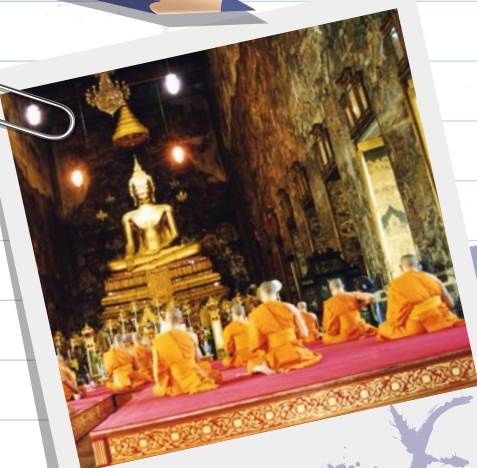
"Masjid Alkaff has whitewashed walls, a dome, minaret and is four storeys high. There's also a canteen within the compound. I go to the masjid for prayers and to congregate with friends."

Syukri, 15, M, Singapore

"The church is a two-storey office building that was turned into a church."

Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia

CHOOSE A RELIGIOUS BUILDING YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INTO. LIST SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE BUILDING (USE THE FACTS AND QUOTES).





BAHNAR RONG

CULTURE & RECREATION



- Traditional Southeast Asian villages often have a central meeting house. Sometimes, like the Malukan *baileo* in Eastern Indonesia, this is a simple pavilion shaped like the surrounding houses, but larger.
- In other traditional communities, such buildings can be quite elaborate. For instance, the Bahnar rong found in Vietnam has a steeply pitched thatched roof in the shape of an axe-head that can be up to 18 metres high.
- In New Zealand the Māori *wharenui* (meeting house) is situated within the marae (the traditional community gathering space). The wharenui is usually a gable-roofed structure with one door and one window in front, both opening onto a *mahau* (entrance porch) and facing the communal open space of the marae.
- Cinemas are very popular all over the region.
- Special buildings, such as galleries, museums and libraries, provide public access to cultural or historical artifacts and knowledge, often without charge or at a minimal cost.
- Sporting arenas vary from simple spaces where people meet and have fun, such as a village *sepak takraw* court (a popular Southeast Asian ball sport), to large building complexes or huge stadiums.
- A city's major sporting complexes are often amongst its largest public spaces, where thousands of spectators can watch sports and support their teams.

WHICH OF THESE
BUILDINGS ARE FOUND
WHERE YOU LIVE?

...and you?

"The Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra is the biggest sporting venue in the area. There are a lot of seats and people play basketball and other sports there. They also host concerts. Pink is playing there soon."

Sian, 19, F, Australia

"Bedok Stadium has a gym, courts for basketball, badminton and street soccer. There is also a specialized building for the Silat Federation (a Malay martial art). Bedok Stadium is the venue for the school's annual sports day."

Syukri, 15, M, Singapore

WHARENUI

...and you?

"There are several good cinemas in my district. They all have good facilities and show new Indonesian, Indian and Hollywood movies. I often go to these cinemas with my friends."

Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia

"There are three galleries in New Plymouth. Puke Ariki is more of a museum with changing exhibitions that I go to quite often. The Govett Brewster gallery is a public gallery specialising in contemporary art. Tart (Taranaki Art) is a showcase for artists from the Taranaki province, where they sell their work."

Maddy, 16, F, New Zealand

"The National Museum is a white colonial building. I was there for a school trip to view the Christian Lacroix exhibition"

Ranjini, 17, F, Singapore

"We have one art gallery which is really lovely. It is a massive building and is really well designed. It is quite eye-catching, not just brick and square like a lot of the others. The National Museum is one of the most well-known icons of Canberra. It is a very modern design and quite colourful."

Sian, 19, F, Australia

...and you?

"The art gallery is an old, circular two-storey building. The 1st floor is for photo galleries, and the 2nd for learning dancing and singing. The navy museum resembles a white boat."

Trang, 16, F, Vietnam

"The National Library is newly built with eight floors. It has an interesting pod-like viewing deck on the top floor with a panoramic view of the city. I usually go to the library to read comics."

Syukri 15, M, Singapore

WHAT CULTURAL AND
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
ARE AVAILABLE WHERE
YOU LIVE?





SUPERMARKET

SHOPS & MARKETS

- Shops, markets and malls are common in cities and towns.
- "Wet markets" in Southeast Asia sell vegetables and fruit, dry grains and spices, animals (both living and cut up as meat) and fish.
- Some markets have permanent sites; others may change location depending on the day of the week.
- Traditionally, many people in Southeast Asia do not have refrigerators, so shopping at the wet market is part of daily life.
- In Australia and New Zealand there are also food markets either in permanent market halls or on the street on a particular day of the week.
- The modern equivalent of the market is the supermarket – a weatherproof, air-conditioned building where local and imported, fresh and packaged foods and household items are sold.
- In some areas supermarkets have taken the place of traditional markets.
- Some specialised supermarkets, such as those in multicultural suburbs of Australia, sell food and goods from the countries and cultures of migrants.
- In some places, stallholders and food vendors have their businesses on the footpath/sidewalk, causing pedestrians to walk on the edge of the road.

...and you?

"The dairy is a typical small New Zealand shop that sells groceries, particularly impulse purchases, in mainly residential areas. I go twice a week just to see who's around."

Taimus, 17, M, New Zealand

"There are several minimarkets near my home. If I need to buy things for my school assignments, I often go to one of these."

Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia

"The shops are found in either 2 or 3 storey linked buildings and the supermarkets are in shopping malls. This gives me an opportunity to hang out at the malls."

Nuraini, 17, F, Malaysia



WHERE DO YOU
SHOP FOR FOOD?

WHAT ARE THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
A WET MARKET
AND A SUPERMARKET?



PARKS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

- Most cities have public spaces such as parks, squares and gardens that everyone can enjoy.
- All over the region, families picnic in public parks when the weather is good.
- The beach is a popular place for recreation. While sunbathing is more common for Australians and New Zealanders, walking, swimming and fishing along the seashore are also popular in Southeast Asia.
- The region's tropical and sub-tropical beaches attract tourists from all over the world.



WHAT ACTIVITIES
CAN PEOPLE DO
AT THESE PARKS?

WHICH ONE IS MOST
SIMILAR TO A PARK
NEAR YOU?

...and you?

"Puke Ariki Landing is a nice big grassy area between the museum and Centre City mall, close to the Coastal Walkway. It's my favourite place because lots of teenagers hang out ... Japanese architecture scattered around the park refers to New Plymouth's sister-city relationship with Nakashima in Japan."

Molly, 15, F, New Zealand

"There is a lake garden located about 8 kilometres away with jogging tracks. It is a man-made lake where you can see people fishing in the evening and especially on the weekends."

Nuraini, 17, F, Malaysia

"Civic area is a good, social place. I like the cafe strip and cultural feel of it. I like being able to eat and drink outside."

Sian, 19, F, Australia

"There are no public squares near my neighbourhood. The biggest open space in my city is Lapangan Merdeka (Independence Square), which is located not far from the Presidential Palace."

Riska, 17, F, Indonesia