

Curriculum Materials: Connecting Cultures in Architecture

Curriculum Summary	
Title	Connecting Cultures in Architecture
Photo/Images of Art to Use	<p>Socorro Court House Leon Trouset 1885 Oil on canvas 3246.23P</p> <p>Laying Vigas Manville Chapman Circa 1942 Tempera on board 753.23P</p>
Content Areas	Visual Arts and Social Studies
Subject	Social Studies, Architecture
Grade Level/Age	10th-12th
Resource Materials (Downloadable)	Images, Text
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand connections between architectural styles and the cultures that created them. • Demonstrate an understanding of how different cultures may influence each other's architecture to create something new.
Key Skills	<p>The student will be able to articulate the relationship between architectural styles and the cultures that created them. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of how different cultures may influence each other's architectural styles to create something new and yet representative of each culture.</p> <p>This will be demonstrated through a final project that requires the student to research at least two different architectural styles from different time periods or geographical locations, compile and understand certain information about those styles and the culture that created them, and then synthesize that information to create an artistic representation of how those cultures could combine their architecture to create something that was representative of both.</p>

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Lesson Plan	Included in curriculum; available as a separate download
Cross-Curricular Connections	History, Design, Social Studies
Essential Questions	How is information communicated and understood visually?
Classroom Materials Needed for Lesson Plan	Included images, examples of advertising media, any images from the New Mexico Museum of Art's online collection
Academic Vocabulary	Design, culture, influence

Summary:

Much of the architecture of New Mexico is influenced by multiple cultures, the result of which is something that we may think of as uniquely New Mexican. One of New Mexico's signature styles of architecture, Spanish Pueblo Revival, is a combination of Pueblo architecture and Spanish influences. Students living anywhere in the state can see different styles of architecture in their local schools, civic buildings, and main streets. These physical expressions of cultural values and aesthetics and our understanding of them serve to help us understand the cultural history of New Mexico and its connections to the rest of the world.

Content:

Spanish Pueblo Revival, sometimes referred to as Santa Fe Style architecture, helped define the visual character of Santa Fe and New Mexico starting in the early twentieth century. The New Mexico Museum of Art's 1917 historic Plaza Building, designed by Isaac Hamilton Rapp, is often cited as the building that helped to define the style. The style draws inspiration from traditional Pueblo construction as well as Spanish influences. In particular, the style pulls heavily from the design of Spanish mission churches built on Pueblos in the region. The mission church at Acoma Pueblo is regularly noted as the greatest influence on the museum's architecture. This style of building draws elements from both Pueblo and Spanish cultures. Adobe itself, for example, is a traditional building material in both the American Southwest and in Spain, although how it was used varied greatly.

Interior Features

Vigas - Large wooden beams used to support a flat roof in traditional adobe construction are called *vigas*. In modern Pueblo Revival architecture, vigas may be decorative or functional. Vigas are stripped logs such as those in the Beauregard Gallery or beams, such as those found in the Women's Board Room. The projection of vigas through the exterior wall of a building is a common trait of Pueblo Revival architecture. The vigas in the auditorium came from California, and it was hoped that time curing in salt air would help to preserve the wood.

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Latillas - Formed by using either strips of woods or peeled branches, *latillas* can be found resting on top of vigas and form the foundation of a roof. Wooden strip or plank latillas can be found in the upstairs galleries and our lobby, while examples of latillas made from branches can be seen in our courtyard or Saint Francis Auditorium.

Corbels - *Corbels* are support structures for vigas that extend from the walls. They are often carved and serve both a functional and decorative role.

Exterior Features

Spanish Pueblo Revival walls borrow the look and feel of traditional Pueblo construction. Adobe is made from a mix of earth and organic materials such as straw. Because of this, traditional adobe walls are subject to erosion from wind and rain, which causes them to take on a rounded appearance. Regimented adobe bricks that have been dried in the sun are a common staple of more modern adobe construction that was brought to the region by the Spanish. These bricks, which are used to form walls, are held together using adobe mud plaster as a mortar. The walls are then often coated over with a layer of more mud plaster to form the smooth surface of the wall. This outer coating of adobe erodes over time and must be renewed periodically. The roofs of Spanish Pueblo Revival buildings are flat and frequently stepped, giving a building the appearance of being formed from various sized blocks that have been placed next to one another. The walls tend to slope inwards toward the top and extend beyond the roofline to form irregular parapets. These roof and wall features can be easily spotted in traditional Pueblo architecture. The Spanish influence in Santa Fe Style Architecture can often be seen in the layout of a building or a city. Early Spanish settlements were based on design guidelines found in the Laws of the Indies, approved by the Spanish Crown. A central plaza was to be the starting point for a city design and rules governed which institutions, such as the Church, Government, or businesses had first choice regarding proximity to that plaza. Guidelines were also given for the layout of courtyard homes. These buildings consisted of lines of rooms surrounding and opening into a central courtyard that had a single exterior opening. The Spanish Colonial Mission form was also used in the construction of mission churches throughout the territory. This consisted of a church form with a connecting residential section that resembled a courtyard house. The New Mexico Museum of Art's historic building is an example of this kind of Spanish design.