South Temple Styles

Note

Lesson 5: Buildings Begin with Basic Shapes provides experience in looking at building composition. This experience will be helpful as students explore the concept of style. You may wish to use Lesson 5 prior to Lesson 6, but it can also be taught without introductory activities.

Objectives

Students will:
- Explore the concept of architectural style.
- Represent an architectural style with their bodies.
- Identify the elements of seven different architectural styles.
- Design, name, and describe their own architectural style.

Student Instruction

1. Explain to students that just as there are different styles of clothing and haircuts, there are different styles of buildings. Building styles are called architectural styles.

2. Ask students to think of popular clothing styles at your school. Ask them to identify the different articles of clothing that make up these styles (e.g. different kinds of shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, socks, hats, jewelry, etc.).

3. Explain that different parts of a building work together to make an architectural style, just as pieces of clothes work together to make a clothing style. Show the overhead of Clue 14, The Generic House. Ask students to brainstorm a list of the different parts of a building that you can see from the outside (e.g. roof, walls, windows, doors, porch, foundation, decorations, etc.). Make a list of the parts on the board.

4. Show overhead of the South Temple Style Guide and pass out a copy of the guide to each student.

5. As a class, select one of the building parts from the list students brainstormed. Look at the part on each of the buildings shown in the style guide. Discuss the differences and similarities in how the part is used in each building. (For example, one building has many shapes and sizes of windows while another building has same size windows all in a row. Some buildings have steep, pointed roofs while other have nearly flat roofs.) Repeat exercise for another building part.
Student Activity/Product

Have students represent the different architectural styles with their bodies. Divide students into seven groups. Secretly assign each group a different style in the *South Temple Style Guide*. Explain that each group must find a way to use their bodies to represent their architectural style. Students should not try to recreate the drawing of the building in the style guide but rather select a feature, pattern, or impression that defines their style. (For example, students in the Queen Anne group could run around being busy since this is a busy style. Students in the Italian Renaissance group could do back bends to make arches—one of this style’s defining features.) Set some ground rules for safety, such as *No pyramids*. Tell each group to carefully read the description of their style in the style guide for ideas.

When the groups have decided how to represent their style, have each group perform their style for the rest of the class. The class guesses what style each group is representing. Students refer to the *South Temple Style Guide* to help them guess. After each group performs, class discusses questions in the style guide pertaining to the group’s style.

Ask students to design their own architectural style. Students draw a picture of a house in their style, name their style, and write a description of the important features of their style. Remind students to think about how they will use the building parts they brainstormed in their style. Also encourage them to incorporate some of the architectural elements mentioned in the *South Temple Style Guide*.

Tour Options

Walking Tour

- Take a walk on South Temple either before or after your Kearns Mansion Tour. The buildings in the *South Temple Style Guide* are located between 529 East and 955 East. You may not have the time or energy to see all of them.

- Have students bring their *South Temple Style Guide* on the walk. Look for the buildings in the style guide. Stop and discuss the different parts of the building that contribute to its style.

- Choose a building not on the style guide. Ask students to describe the parts of the building and make up a name for this style.

Driving Tour

- Prior to going on your tour of the Kearns Mansion, use a map to locate each of the buildings in the guide. Because the bus will pass buildings quickly, students need to know where to look for them.

- Ask your bus driver to drive South Temple between 500 East and 1000 East
before or after your Kearns Mansion Tour. (All of the buildings in the style guide are located between these streets.)

- Have students bring their *South Temple Style Guide* on the bus and look for the buildings listed in the guide.
- If possible, drive a longer stretch of South Temple and have students look for other buildings in the styles in the style guide.

**Extensions**

- Assign students to take a family member or friend on an architectural tour of South Temple. The students should prepare to be knowledgeable tour guides. They should plan the route of their tour and what they will say about each building. Students may wish to use some of the resources listed below for additional architectural and historical information.
- If your class has done *Lesson 5: Buildings Begin with Basic Shapes*, have students look for basic shapes in the buildings in the *South Temple Style Guide*. Divide students into seven groups and assign each group a style from the style guide. Ask each group to look for basic shapes in their style. After the groups have identified some shapes, tell them to choose the one shape that is most important in their style and explain why. Then have each group create a representation of their style using basic shapes. Students can cut out their own shapes or use the *Building Blocks* from *Lesson 5* and then glue them on another piece of paper.

**Resources**

- Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss, 1988, *Utah’s Historic Architecture, 1847-1940*. Center for Architectural Studies, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Utah & Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Lester, Margaret, 1979, *Brigham Street*. Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Links**

- *Lesson 5: Buildings Begin with Basic Shapes*  Pre-Tour
- *Lesson 9: Craftsmanship in the Kearns Mansion*  Post-Tour
- *Lesson 14: Who’s Still Standing?*  Post-Tour
The Generic House
**NEOCLASSICAL STYLE**

David Keith Mansion, built 1900
529 East South Temple

Neoclassical buildings have a **balanced** look. Divide the Keith Mansion in half with a line starting at the top of roof and going to the ground. Each half is a mirror reflection of the other half!

What other buildings in the South Temple Style Guide have a balanced front?

Neoclassical buildings often look big and stately. The tall front porch of the Keith Mansion helps give it a massive appearance. The top of the porch is a triangle called a **pediment**. It is held up by posts called **columns**. Pediments can also be over windows and doors.

**ITALIAN RENAISSANCE STYLE**

Matthew Walker Mansion, built 1904
610 East South Temple

As you can guess from its name, the Italian Renaissance Style uses elements from Italian architecture. One of these Italian elements is the **arch**. The ancient Romans used arches in many of their buildings. The Walker Mansion has arches above the windows on the first floor and the front porch. Does your school have any arches?

The roofs of Italian Renaissance buildings are usually not very steep and covered with red tiles. Italian Renaissance buildings also often have **quoins**. Quoins are rectangles of stone, brick, or wood that accent a building’s corners, windows, or doors. Where do you see quoins on the Walker Mansion? What other buildings in the South Temple Style Guide have quoins?
QUEEN ANNE STYLE

Emmanuel Kahn House, built 1890
678 East South Temple

Queen Anne buildings are very “busy.” They have many details and decorations that catch your eye. Look at all the fancy wood carving on the porch of the Kahn House. Many people call this carving “gingerbread.” Where else do you see carvings or other decorations on the Kahn House?

Queen Anne buildings always have an unbalanced front. No matter how you try, you can’t draw a line dividing the Kahn house into two mirror halves. What other buildings in this Style Guide have an unbalanced front?

ENGLISH TUDOR STYLE

Morris R. Evans House, built 1911
701 East South Temple

English Tudor houses are meant to look like buildings constructed in England during the Middle Ages. They have steep, pointed roofs and tall, narrow windows.

English Tudor houses are often decorated with flat pieces of wood on top of stucco in geometric patterns. This type of decoration is called half-timbering. The Evans House has some beautiful half-timbering. Half-timbering is also a popular decoration on some modern houses. Have you seen any in your neighborhood?

Detective Work: Find out what the word “Tudor” refers to. You may find it in a history book or encyclopedia rather than the dictionary.
SHINGLE STYLE

George Downey House, built 1893
808 East South Temple

The Shingle Style gets its name from small pieces of wood called shingles. Many buildings have shingles on their roofs. Shingle Style buildings also have shingles covering most or all of their walls. The top half of the Downey House is covered with three patterns of shingles.

Shingle Style buildings also tend to have windows in many different sizes and shapes. What size and shape windows do you see on the Downey House?

The Shingle Style is a close “cousin” of the Queen Anne Style. Compare the Downey House with the Kahn House. How are they similar? How are they different?

PRAIRIE STYLE

Ladies Literary Club, built 1912
850 East South Temple

Prairie Style buildings have a horizontal feel. That is, they look like they are hugging the ground rather than reaching for the sky. Notice how the windows of the Ladies Literary Club are all lined up in a row and its roof is almost flat rather than steep and pointed. Is there anything else about this building that gives it a horizontal feel?

Prairie Style buildings don’t have many decorations. The motto of the Prairie Style might be, “Simple is best.” The main decoration on the Ladies Literary Club are simple red lines by the second-story windows.

Detective Work: The Prairie Style was developed by one of America’s most famous architects. Find out who he was. Why did he call this style “Prairie Style?” What famous buildings did he design?
AMERICAN FOURSQUARE

Walter S. Ellerbeck House,
built 1911
955 East South Temple

American Foursquare is more a shape than a style. Foursquare houses are shaped like a square box. They usually have four almost square rooms on each floor. It’s easy to see where this type of house gets its name!

Foursquare houses usually have a wide front porch and a roof that is not very steep. Often a dormer window sticks out of the roof in the center of the front of the house. Dormer windows are always in the roof rather than in the walls of a house.

What do you think the purpose of dormer windows is? What other houses in the South Temple Style Guide have dormer windows?