

READ-ARCH Baseline Assessment questions (SPRING 2016)

Passage: "Firmness" pp. 19-22

Comprehension

1. How does a building stand up?
2. Define "physical structure" and "perceptual structure."
3. What does the author mean by "tension" in regard to the way we view buildings and their structure?
4. What is the author's main point about the structure and architecture? Provide evidence from the text.

Analysis

5. What concept of structure does the author use the photograph of the Temple of Poseidon to illustrate? Is this an example of physical structure or perceptual structure?
6. What point is the author making by contrasting the Egyptian pyramids and the Shapero Hall of Pharmacy at Wayne State University?

7. Which building in the passage is an example of an expression of weight acting on buildings?

Context

8. The author's comparison of the Lever House and the New York Racquet and Tennis Club would be analogous to New York's Grand Central Station and what other New York building. (There can be more than 1 correct answer)
9. From your experience or observation, describe an example of how empathy affects one's perception of architecture.

Evaluation

10. Based on the examples in the text and your observation, how are the structures of major architectural works before mid-twentieth century different from those that are built nowadays? Also explain what could have contributed to this difference.