

QUIZ II – Exemplary Responses

QUIZ A

Question 2

The theory of Type is that architecture has an origin or a basic form that persists through every variation. Laugier believed that the type originated from nature, that architecture, just like humanity, is a natural thing. He considered the original form of architecture to be that of the primitive hut. From there the Greeks and Romans of antiquity used that form to make their temples, and from there all architecture has followed that type and origin.

Question 8

This is a close-up of a structure in the beaux-arts style. The style celebrates and incorporates motifs and decoration from antiquity but also incorporates decorations popular in more contemporary styles as well, such as the baroque. At the bottom, we can see composite columns with the volutes and acanthus leaves. At the top of the cornice, there are antefixes with different busts with festoons and a boss in between them. Under the cornice, there are dentils as well as lion-shaped grotesques. I am assuming they are not functional gargoyles.

QUIZ B

Question 1.

As we discussed in class, many depictions of architecture are meant to display the idea behind the form and not intended to be built. On the left, we have an architectural fantasy from Boullée. As discussed in class, Boullée was heavily influenced by Burke's idea of the Sublime. The massive proportions of the building invoke a terror that makes the viewer feel quite small and insignificant, and that is a type of beauty. Boullée's aesthetic also has a lot of hard contrasts with gloomy skies that aid in driving the idea of the sublime. On the right, is a depiction of ruins in nature, which is key in the Picturesque Movement. Also driving the idea of the Sublime, in the right, the Sublime is not depicted as the building itself but rather the nature that has taken over and left ruins. As Prof Han lectured, Price drove this idea that nature is violent, and embodies the Sublime, while the architecture we create is the delicate beauty within the landscape.

Question 8.

The building in the background is built in the Beaux Arts style. As Prof Han mentioned in class, typical Beaux Art features include a flat roof, a mixture of classical motifs, arcuated windows, symmetry, and a heavy use of sculptural accents/neoclassical details. This building has many neoclassical details that have been plastered on the façade. Within the sculptural accents, we see many festoons, cartouches, agrafes, and pilasters.

QUIZ C

Question 3:

Both are of the sublime with the left being a dramatic rendition as one would see with Uvedale price. On the left the photo shows these seemingly disorderly accidents of nature. However, on the right the idea here is to overwhelm us with scale and to show the appeal and exhilaration of the architectural work. This is not something stands but it is something that is a concept. The lack of coloring used to show this almost extreme nature and an attempt to scientifically understand aspects of beauty.

When looking at both of these pictures we see reference to neoclassical elements. The old ruins on the left have their neoclassical motifs of a “once grand” structure that has its references to antiquity. On the right we have a classical symmetric representation with large stairs and a grand appearance showing its classical origins. Both of these photos also show distance from antiquity whether it be through the integration of overgrown nature and picturesque imagery. It is important to understand that they are representation of architectural concepts which shows a deeper meaning than simply showing the plans of something before it is to be built.

Question 9:

Photo on the left is of suprematism. The photo on the right is of Russian constructivism. The photo on the left shows the importance of being obsessed and exploring the absolute minimum which is how the art itself could be appreciated. The photo on the right is of Tatlin’s Tower which was Russia’s own Eiffel tower that was planning to show off the technological capability of Russia. These photos show the importance of the ideas of art and not always the importance of a finished project as it is understood that Tatlin’s Tower was never actually constructed. They also show a difference with suprematism not being obsessed about the materials and focusing more on the concept and idea but constructivism focusing on the materials as Tatlin’s tower was to be made from iron, glass, and steel, which were all relatively new technologies to be incorporated within architecture.

QUIZ D

Question 1

This work is during the period of Art Nouveau as there is a lot of focus on the utilization of cast iron with many curves and arched windows. The building presents a combination of 2d and 3D visuals due to the complex design created by the cast iron. The many application to the exterior of the building further drives the Art Nouveau values by its protruding windows and iron mesh. Also, many filigrees are present as they are attached to the top of the tallest row of windows as well to drive the idea of adding ornamental openwork of delicate or intricate design to buildings.

Question 8

This comparison is architecturally relevant because the image on the left is from the period of Suprematism which led to the period where the second image was created (Russian constructivism). The first image could be of Malevich, but its significance is how the painting was motivated by ideals of exploring the absolute minimum of art through simple geometric shapes. There was no embrace of the intrication of material or scale. After this movement led into the period of Russian constructivism, the structure in the second image was created as a political response to France’s Eiffel Tower. Tatlin’s tower is the most significant structure from this period and features a complex design utilizing a double helix with separate volumes rotating on a vertical axis. This contrast between each movement’s aspiration for radically simple or complex forms amongst graphics and buildings is very interesting as these movements were very closely related.