

Architecture

Year 3

This unit builds on knowledge of architecture that children have gained in year 1. It starts by revising what architecture means and what an architect does and goes onto an in-depth study of the Parthenon. This study allows consideration of the importance of this building both in its influence on architectural design throughout history (shown in the design of parts of St Paul's Cathedral) and by its own chequered history, with particular reference to the debate surrounding the Parthenon marbles which currently reside in the British Museum. The children debate whether the marbles should stay in the British Museum or should be returned to Athens as well as considering the symmetrical design of the building and the sculptures which adorn it. They spend three lessons designing and making sculptures in relief, developing their own knowledge of working with clay. The question of the restitution of artifacts from Western museums to their country of origin is considered again in year 5 in relation to the Benin bronzes.

Study of the Parthenon contrasts with focus on the work of Gaudi, who the children study for three lessons. They learn how his designs were influenced by nature and were extraordinary for their time because of his use of curved lines and organic shapes. They also look at architectural features, first considered in year 1, such as Gaudi's use of towers, stained-glass windows and mosaics. They design and create their own mosaics using tissue paper.