

**ARC 1015**  
**Fall 2020**  
***Why Architecture Matters***

*Directions: Complete the reading assignment from Why Architecture Matters (Paul Goldberger) listed below. Answer the questions on this page prior to the next class meeting.*

**Introduction & Ch. 1, "Meaning, Culture, Symbol" (pp. i-xvii & 1-26) 31**

In his introduction, Goldberger explains several ways in which architecture goes "beyond the practical" function of merely sheltering us from the elements. Name three of them here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Where have you experienced one of these phenomena (from the list above) in person? Explain.

What is "vernacular"? What is the value of studying it, according to Goldberger?

Choose one of these buildings and explain how Goldberger uses it to make the bigger point of this chapter: Sydney Opera House, German Pavilion in Barcelona, Johnson Wax.

Think about the building you posted in the "What Matters?" assignment on Blackboard. To what extent does it fulfill Vitruvius' criteria (p. 7)? How does it fulfill the cultural ideals described later in the chapter?

## **Group Discussion**

*Directions: Each week, two designated people in your discussion group will lead your conversation (either online or face-to-face) based on the questions below. You are not bound to answering only these questions (indeed, it's great to go beyond them); they are just a basis to begin your conversation.*

Goldberger says that both *buildings* and *architecture* matter (pp. 2-3). If you accept his premise dividing built structures like this, do you agree that "buildings" and "architecture" are equally important? Why or why not?

Review the discussion of architecture's capacity for cultural expression and to "serve as a unifying social force" (pp.16-26). Each person in the group should explain the degree to which the building they posted in the "What Matters?" assignment fulfills this goal.

Which of the three "beyond the practical" accomplishments of architecture (discussed in the introduction) is most compelling, important, or interesting? Why?

*Take time to see if anyone in the group had remaining questions to pose or answer, need for clarification, or general commentary on the week's lessons.*