

The backdrop to all my research into architecture has been the human impact of environmental design and its relation to climate change. As shown in 'Cities for a Small Planet', the Modern Compact City can help to combat many of these issues. Using this model, the distance between nodes is reduced, making public transport easier to control and fund whilst decreasing the emissions produced. As architects, the goal is to redesign areas, produce mixed use buildings and to condense a city into smaller areas; reducing the sprawl of the city and repurposing brownfield sites. The mathematical modelling I have learnt at A-Level could be applied to the flow of a city, residential interaction, and urban design. The social proximity effect shows how factors interact with one another to affect the flow. To begin changing the way we live we must begin at the root: our environment. Transport and zones of space affect our travel, the aesthetic components of design affect our mental health, and the people we associate with, or live with, affect our habits. These areas of both urban and environmental design have fuelled most of my research and I would like to further these studies at university.

A-Level Physics has given me a good foundation in applying theoretical maths to real-life situations. I have developed practical skills which I applied to architectural surveying, particularly understanding percentage error in measurements. I learnt how to survey a site during my work experience. Working with such precision and learning how to use new equipment to sketch a site was an enjoyable process. Seeing measurements become plans and plans come to fruition was very gratifying.

Throughout my architectural research I have grown to further understand the complexities that come with a seemingly straightforward design task. By reading 'Experiencing Architecture' I saw how each element works to improve the space; considerations of acoustics, proportion, context, materials, rhythm, lighting, and space. Rasmussen presented ideas that I had already begun to consider such as how the quantity of light affects the quality of the room. He also discussed how the architect can use different qualities of light to shift the atmosphere of a space. Similarly, in Mike Creed's installation 'The lights going on and off' he controlled the atmosphere of the room and the way the viewers interacted with the space. With just the small skylights, the room was light and airy, but without this superior, natural light, the space will have a dingy atmosphere regardless of the quality of the design. Often when analysing artwork I draw on my analytical skills from English A-Level. For instance, this piece put me in mind of a memorable quotation I'd read from Milton's Paradise Lost: "No Light, but rather darkness visible"

Reading 'Delinquent Visionaries' gave me an insight into the thought process behind architectural design. With this book I formed my own opinions on these controversial architects. I furthered my understanding of the profession by watching videos created by practicing architects. Listening to the podcast, 'Architecture, Design and Photography' I appreciated their discussion surrounding their influences and their process for collaborating with clients. Hearing their insights inspired me to further improve my verbal communication, so I volunteered with a low ability reading group. I was able to convey the understanding I'd developed in my English A-Level to help improve their literacy and public speaking skills. Another way in which I have improved my communication is by engaging with my church community which covers a large range of ages and ethnicities.

Studying Architecture will engage my spatial awareness and creativity within the constraints of the physical world. I am looking forward to further researching the ways in which buildings

respond to their context and clientele, especially how we can use architecture to combat climate change.