



# THEORIES OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND PHILOSOPHY OF ARCHITECTURE

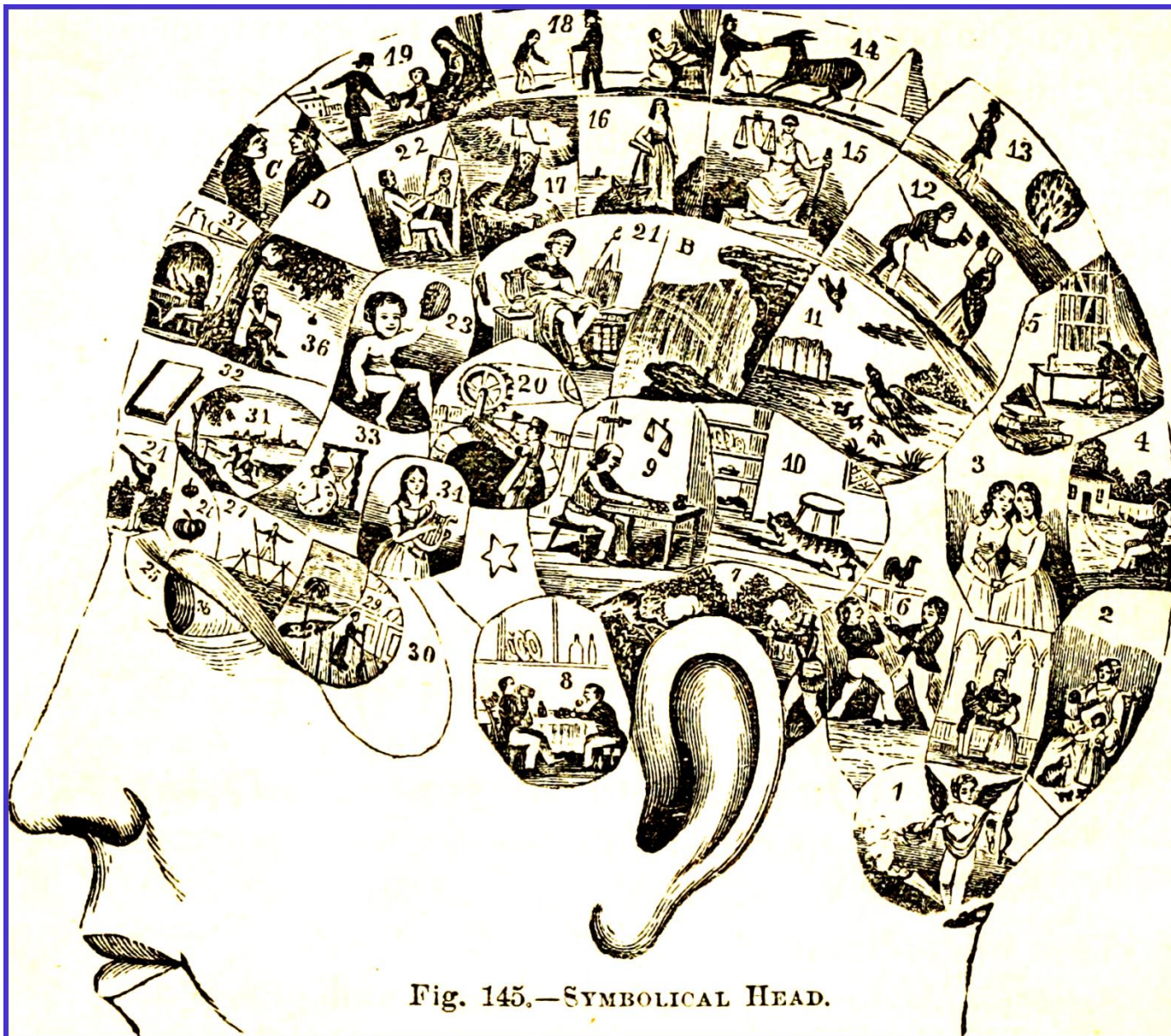
## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**Main definitions and basics:  
Meaning of Theory/ Theorists/ Craft & Design  
/Design by Choice/ Creativity**

*Lecturer: Asmaa Sadeq Abdulkareem*

# Meaning of “Theory”

- The word 'theory' comes from the Latin word “theoria”, in turn adopted from the Greek word “theoros”, which means 'spectator'.
- Theory is as a conception or **mental** scheme of something to be done, or of the method of doing it, and a **systematic statement of rules or principles to be followed**.
- Theory is a supposition or a **system of ideas** intended to explain something, especially one based on **general principles** independent of the thing to be explained.



- Theories are varied, such as scientific , humanistic, mathematical, social, psychological, ...etc.

Example: *Darwin's theory of evolution, Gestalt theory, Psychoanalysis theory, Relativity theory.....*

The attention and awareness of the importance of the word “Theory” has increased since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and specially in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*A graph showing the frequency of mentioning the word “Theory” in references.*

- Awareness of theories is related with spread of education and schools.

# Why do we study theory?

- Theory shows us the path that our ideas lead to. It helps us reach our goals and saves time, money and thinking. To get to the result we seek; theorizing tries to free us from trial and error, and give us suggested opinions or rules. Good practice depends on the correct understanding of theory.

TRIAL AND ~~ERROR~~



- Do you know other reasons for studying theory??

# Architectural Theory

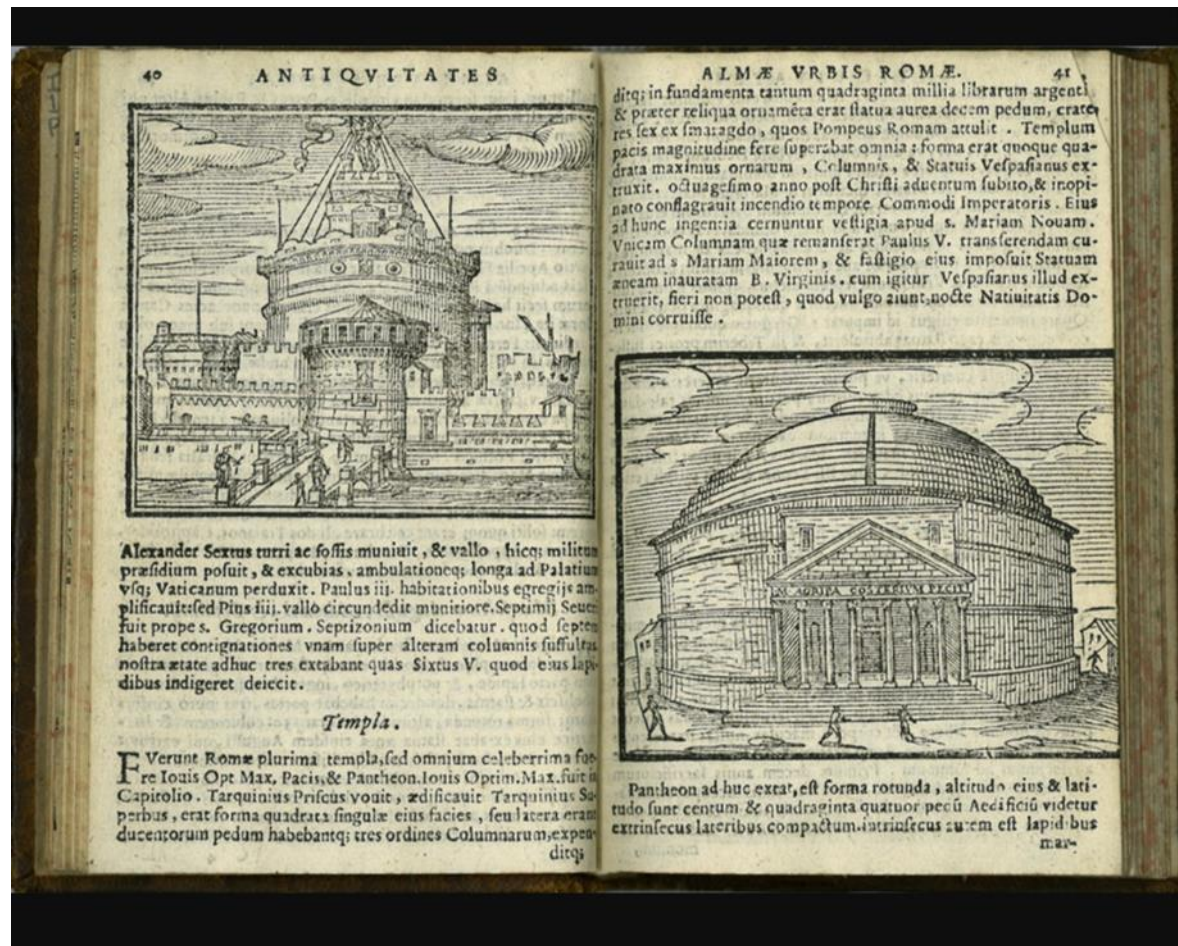
- Architectural theory is considered to be the act of thinking, discussing, or most importantly writing about architecture.
- When we study architectural theory, we find different levels of knowledge and writings. It could be a solid clear “Theory” that has many applications and rules, or we can see “Thoughts” that are individual opinions. We can observe discussions and arguments to prove or disprove a point of view. The theorist succeeds when he is able to convince people by his clear, logical opinions.



# Theorists: Marcus **Vitruvius** Pollio

## The author of “De architectura”

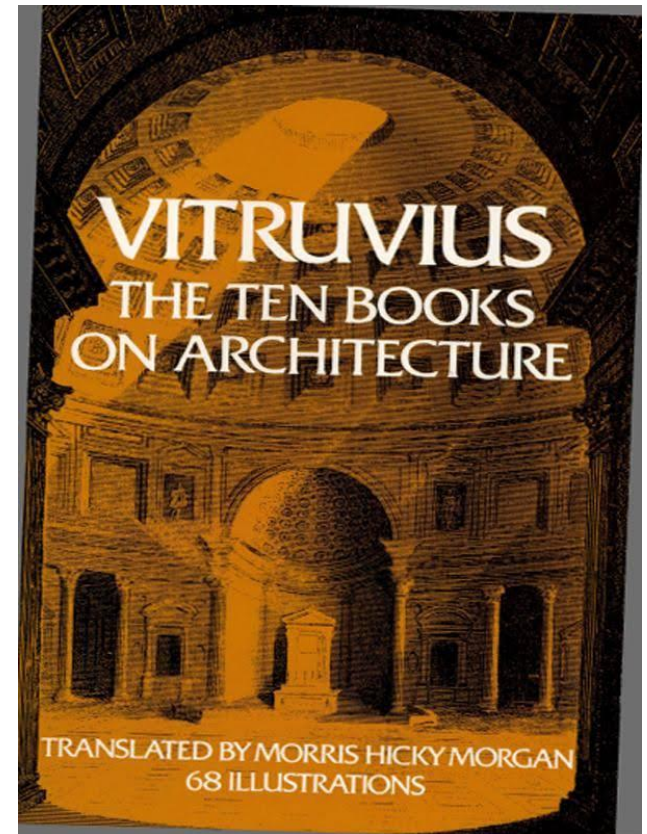
(The Ten Books on Architecture)



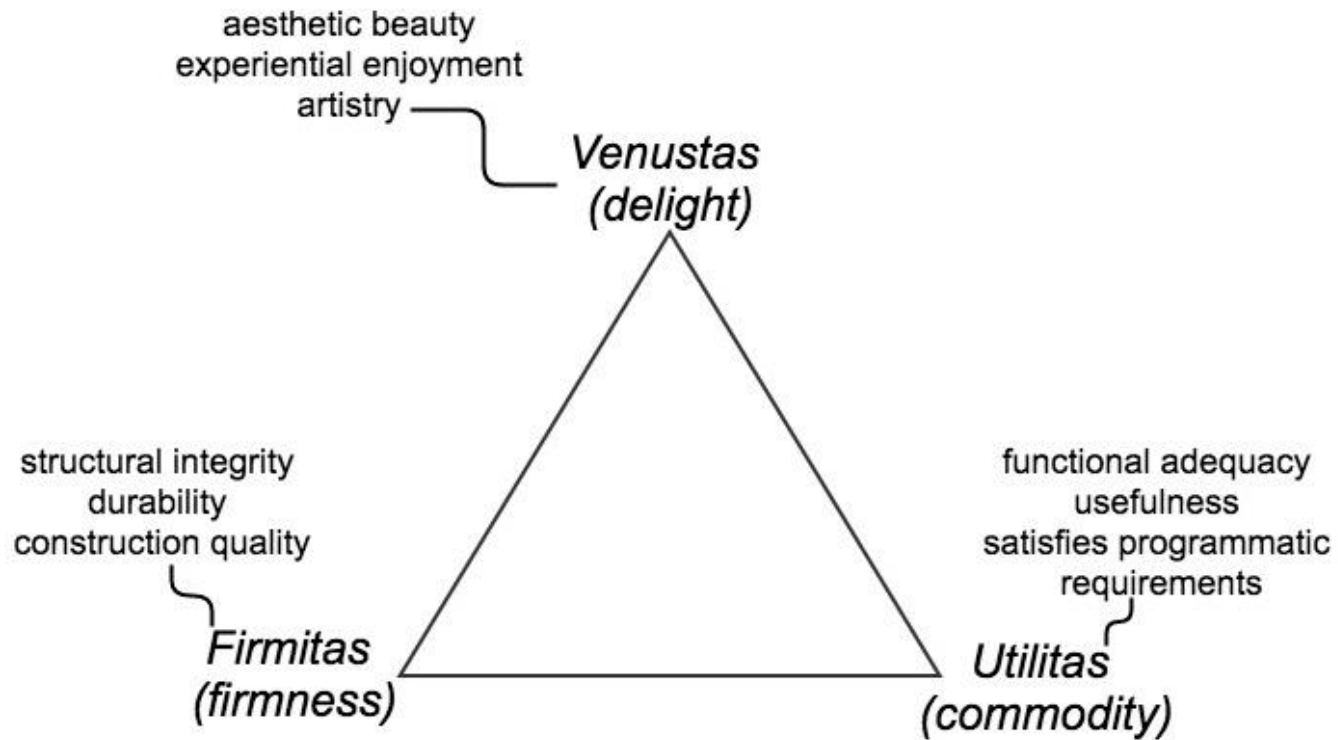
The subjects of Vitruvius Ten Books are:

Landscape architecture, Construction materials, Temples, Public places, Private dwellings, Finishes and colors, Water supply, Sundials and clocks, Mechanical engineering.

Vitruvius suggested the five fundamental principles of design: (Order, Eurhythmy, Symmetry, Propriety and Economy).







# Meaning of Design

- Design: The creation and organization of formal elements in the work of art.
- Design Process: A purposeful activity aims to change an existing situation into a future preferred state.



**Craft, Design, and Creativity.**

- Craft: An activity involving **skill** in making things by **hand**.





- Man used crafts to produce products that he always needed...
- Accumulation of experience led to the accuracy, high quality, and beauty of products.



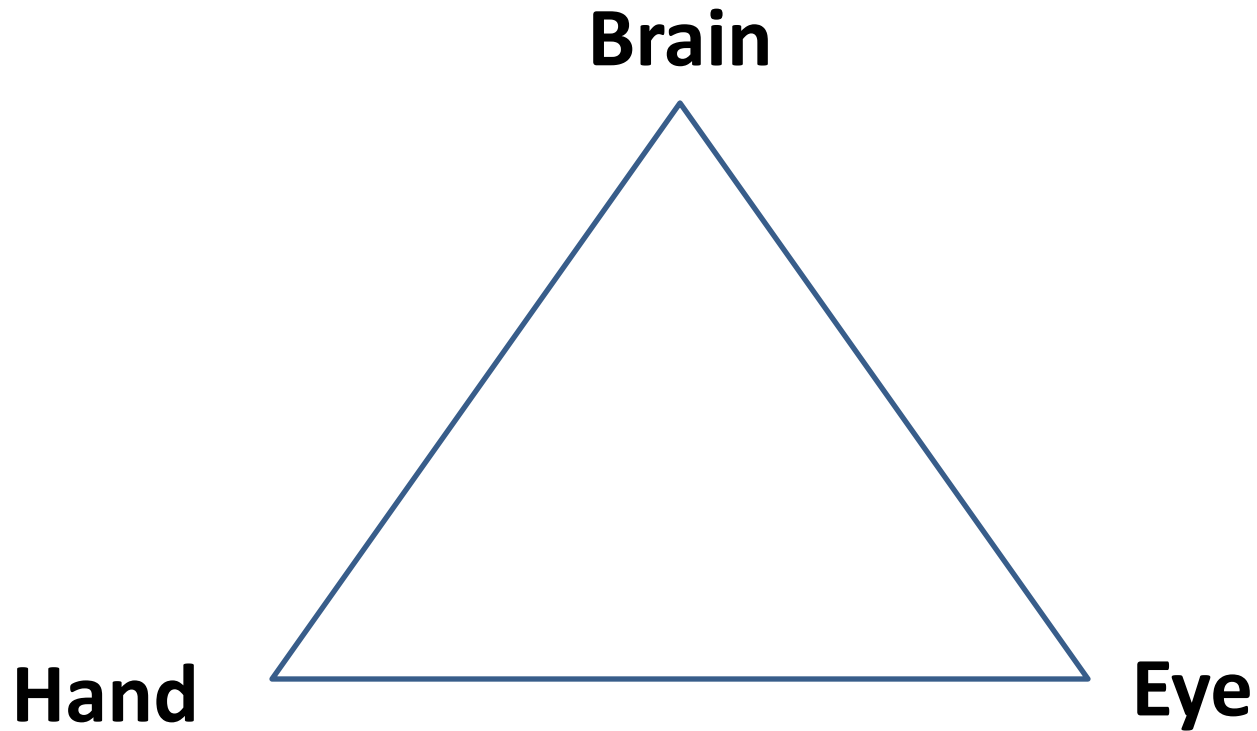


- Craftsmanship is an inherited knowledge and practice, from fathers to sons, and from masters to workers.
- Production depends on repetition of practice.
- Crafts are part of the cultural heritage of countries and societies.

*Think of the following:*

*Is this craftsmanship considered as work of Art? Or is it work of Industry?*

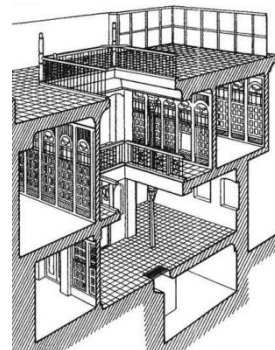




**To master a craft there must be a coordination  
between these three parts...**

**Is the act of building Traditional  
architecture an act of Craft or Design?**





tion perspective of courtyard house  
ahdad



# Creativity

- The ability to transcend traditional ideas, patterns, or relationships and to initiate meaningful new ideas, forms, or interpretations.





# Is the act of building in our recent architecture an act of Craft or Design?



**Is the act of design that you will do in your graduation project would be considered as an act of Craft or Design?**



# **Design by Choice**



Industrial Designed Products.

- One of the main decisions that the architect usually does in his work is choosing the suitable product for his design.
- Man did that act from choosing the suitable place or cave as a shelter, or choosing the best material for his weapon.
- Searching for the best choice and selecting it is a intellectual act, that includes comparing between choices and predicting their suitability.

*Think of the following:*

*Is design by choice easier today  
or in the past? Why?*



Theory answers the question (How?)  
as well as it answers the questions  
(Why?) and (What?).

*Search for other definitions of the basic terms that have  
been discussed in this lecture...*