

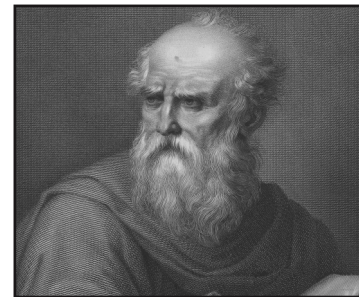
# ARCHITECTURE LESSON 1: VITRUVIAN IDEALS

## OAKWOOD FLL

### Who was Vitruvius?

Vitruvius was a Roman architect who lived more than 2000 years ago. Architects design and change buildings and public spaces.

Vitruvius is famous because he wrote some of the earliest books about architecture. The things he wrote about are still used to design buildings today.



### What are the Vitruvian Ideals?

Ideals are ideas of how something would be if it were perfect. Vitruvius said that, ideally, buildings should be **strong**, **useful**, and **beautiful**. These are the Vitruvian Ideals.

We looked at the Oakwood Campus Expansion to better understand architectural ideals.



#### Strong

Buildings need to be strong enough to survive ordinary use, time, and wear and tear. We expect buildings to help protect us against dangers like earthquakes, floods, fires, and extreme weather. Architects and structural engineers work to make buildings strong.

#### Useful

Buildings are constructed to be used. It is important that the buildings' designs are appropriate for their intended uses. Floor plans, entrances and exits, power, and other aspects of building design need to be carefully considered by architects.



#### Beautiful

The best buildings are beautiful. A building that looks nice is a more enjoyable place to work or go to school. They're even nicer to pass in our car or see when walking by. This also includes the landscape and other surroundings of a building.

### What are some other architectural ideals?

Vitruvius wrote about many others; and there's other, newer ideals. Architectural ideals include:

- **Economy & Affordability.** There's limits to how much money and resources can be spent.
- **Sustainability & Environment.** It's important to protect the **natural** environment, and also to reduce other environmental impacts like traffic and noise.
- **Consistency** with surrounding buildings, landscape, history, and other land uses.
- **Accessibility.** Buildings should be usable by everyone— including people who cannot climb stairs or have other disabilities.

### Why is this important in FIRST LEGO League?

The CITY SHAPER innovation challenge this year asks us to **identify** a problem with a building or public space in our community, **design** a solution, and **refine** our solution by sharing it with others.

Thinking about architectural ideals may help us think of good project ideas! As part of getting ready for the challenge, we will be talking about architecture and building at many of our meetings.