

Learning from Architecture: Architecture as Object⁴

Our earliest learning experiences involve direct interaction with objects—we see, touch, taste, smell, and hear them and use what we have learned to formulate our understanding of the world. However, within a short time, our language abilities take off and take precedence. We're talking, reading, and writing and for many of us, our perceptual skills go untried for years and rarely achieve the sophistication of our verbal skills.

However, almost everyone likes to learn from directly interacting with an object and coming up with our own ideas about them. It's fun because it is participatory and can take us in many different directions. Even something simple like rubber bands can engage our attention and get us thinking as the following exercise demonstrates.

⁴ Adapted from "Learning from Objects" in Voris, Sedzielarz, and Blackman.