

Fitting in

Overview

You are a city planner in charge of determining the best location for a new downtown building. Students will explore concepts related to preservation and materials. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the preservation of city skylines and complementary structures that meet historical guidelines.

Scenario

You are a city planner in charge of determining the best location for a new downtown apartment building. The city block where the new structure will be located is in the historic district of a major city. The mayor is worried about how the new building will look from all angles as you enter the city. The restaurant owner next door is worried about how your building will complement hers. You will need to take their concerns into consideration when choosing the location, design, and shape of the building.

Driving questions

The driving questions were developed to encourage you to explore the current realities of communities and individuals to be served. The questions will aid you in developing empathy to understand how others might be feeling about a problem, circumstance, or situation.

1. What shapes of a structure can fit within the context of the city block?
2. What information is needed to plot the structure's new layout?
3. What regulations will limit the design and structure allowed in the historic district?
4. What materials need to be used to keep the historical context of the neighboring buildings?
5. How will your building enhance the skyline views of the city?
6. What design elements would detract from the skyline views of the city?
7. What will the map of the new city block look like?

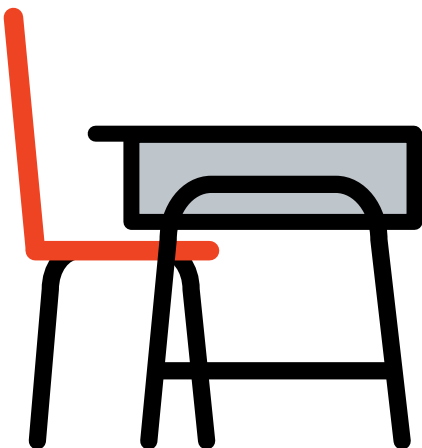


Understanding,
Research, Define,
and Ideation
(U-RDI)

Understanding

Understanding is the process of gathering information to inform what you need to know about a topic. The use of a graphic organizer can help you analyze two aspects of a problem. We are suggesting a T-Chart to explore your “know” and “need to know”.

Know	Need to know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a city planner. • You are in charge of determining the best location for a new downtown apartment building. • The new structure will be on a city block that is located in the historic district of a major city. • The mayor is worried about how the new structure will look from all angles as you enter the city. • The restaurant owner next door is worried about how your building will complement hers. • You will need to take the mayor’s and the restaurant owner’s concerns into consideration. • You will choose the location, design, and shape of the new building. 	



Research

Research is the process of examining as much data as possible to have an informed idea for your problem.

Problem specific resources

- [AIA - Designing for Equitable Communities](#)
- [10 Key Components for Building Healthy, Equitable Communities](#)
- [EPA - Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities](#)
- [Tips for Connecting Learners to their Community](#)
- [The 7 Universal Design Principles](#)
- [Engaging Everyone](#)
- [Designing More Equitable Cities](#)
- [Simple Machines Article](#)

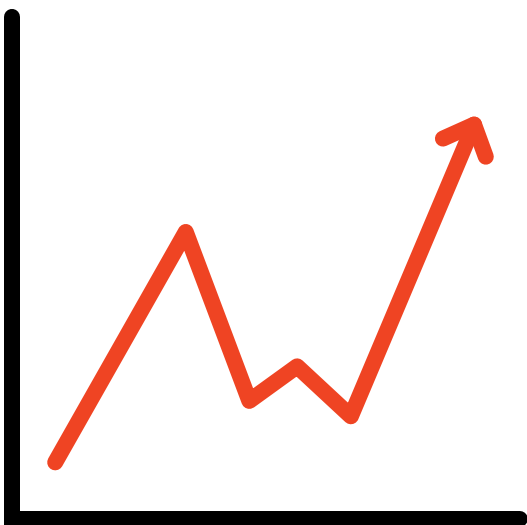
Hands-on activity

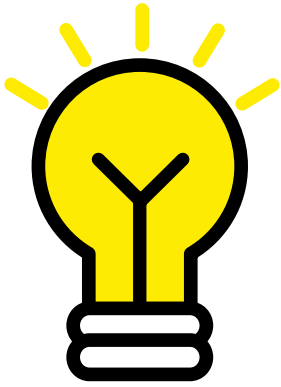
- [Simple Machines Activities](#)

Define your problem using empathy

Architects work to define problems before coming up with a solution. They use empathy in defining a problem. This allows them to define a problem using multiple perspectives.

Now that your research is done, define your problem!





Ideation

During ideation you will develop as many possible solutions as possible to the problem base on your defined problem. Do not limit your solutions!

Once you have listed all your possible solutions in the box below, cross out those that are extreme or refine them to be more practical.

Possible solutions: