

Levels

&

Utilitas, firmitas, venustas

“Utilitas, firmitas, venustas”
“Utility, construction, beauty”



Source: <http://www.alviarmani.com/why/images/marco-pollio.jpg>

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio

utilitas, firmitas, venustas

where does it come from?

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio was one of the famous Roman architects. He had published his famous **treatise**: “*Ten Book of architectre*” in the early 1st century BC.

In his work, he discussed the problems relating to theory of architecture. His greatest achievement was his approach to problems of architecture, comprised the rules of shaping it within the three terms: **utilitas, firmitas, venustas** .

Interpreted today as: *function, construction/form, beauty*

Moreover, the beauty started to be considered and seen as an esthetic aspect of an architectural environment already which, in fact did not only turn architects into engineers. It also means a continuous effort to create an environment that perfectly fits to the one's needs and demands being combined together with interior design and its details. In fact, that all makes architects being in the same time the artists who create the art.

a house (hous)

n. pl. hous·es (hou'zīz, -sīz)



Source: <http://www.rangkep.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/pink-house.jpg>

VS.



Source: <http://www.descroll.com/wp-content/uploads/0104-475x184.jpg>

These two simple houses basically have the same function understood as utilitas, various forms as firmitas and different esthetic perception as venustas.

ARCHITECTURE

Over the course of history

science **art**, and **entertainment** (art theoretician L.B.Alberti, 15th century),
art of beauty (painter, sculptor, architect, art historian G.Vasari, 16th century),
esthetical experience (art historian J.J.Winckelmann,18th century),
construction **decoration** (architect G.G.Scott, 19th century),
synthesis of thinking and technical processes,
creative action and its form in space (philosopher G.W.F.Hegel, 18th/19th century),
art of shaping space (art historian A.Schmarsow, 19th century),
social **art** (esthete and psychologist M.Dessoir, 20th century),
abstract **art** of time-and-space (architect Le Corbusier, 20th century)

Architecture

Over the course of history has been defined in a various ways, but still the art base is the same. Mainly the art is created by the artists, they creat that a pieace of the art because of the message carried by it self. It is an expression of a man. It is a message for an observer with his/her own feelings, emotions, opinions. Understood by everybody in a different way.

architectural environment

architecture + environment + levels



Source: <http://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/03/f2/d9/28/overly-steep-wheelchair.jpg>



Source: <http://wheelchairassistance.com/wheelchair-ramp/8.jpg>



Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brookings_Oregon_accessible_coast_ramp_boardwalk.jpg

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Architectural environment

Next, the formula understood as architecture and environment + different heights of levels since nothing is perfectly flat. The question here is: How to solve this? Vitruvius' approach applied in this case creates from this issue some 3 ways that are being continuously used within each particular attribute as surrounding environment is persistently changing, conditions are becoming different and therefore every case needs architect's individual approach.

architectural environment

architecture + environment + levels



Source: <http://designyoutrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/smart-ideas-cities-feel-desain-2.jpg>



Source: http://static.dezeen.com/uploads/2012/11/dezeen_Habitat-by-Shine-Architecture-and-TA-Arquitectura_ss_2.jpg



Source: http://www.architectuurhaarlem.nl/sites/default/files/filefield_images/field_afbeeldingen/20Selvika-juni12-05.jpg

utilitas

firmitas

venustas

Every interference of an architect into any environment should be a complex of these three attributes incorporated in one final design.

equal = diversity



Source: http://www.designoneinteriors.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/cid_1820069.jpg



Source: http://lh5.ggpht.com/-v8m-tWNUl_w/Ukmny1QgYII/AAAAAAAAASV4/hMc_X4Z3y0/s1024/410157666_77ade60a6b_b.jpg



Source: <http://danudin.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/stairs-ramp-path.jpg>

One complex design with three integrated attributes.

It is a huge challenge to make 100% accessible space. In fact, it is almost impossible to create it since the following formula holds: equal = diversity.

References

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Thank you
for your
attention