DESIGN CLUB!

DAY 5 BEYOND BUILDINGS
Context in architecture refers to everything that a building interacts with or responds to. What do you see around this building?

Infrastructure describes the many ways a city is connected! Roads, bridges, power lines, and more!

City/Urban planning involves planning and controlling the growth, developments and improvements in a city or urban area.

Ward is a division or district of a city for administrative and representative purposes. Chicago has 50 wards.

Aldermen are elected representatives that serve wards. Chicago has 50 aldermen to represent its 50 wards.
WARM-UP

BEYOND BUILDINGS

Keeping a safe distance from people around you, take a walk around your block or look out your window, porch, or balcony. Make note of the things around each building you can see near your home.

• Are there plants? Trees?
• Where are the light poles?
• Are there any street or traffic signs that tell drivers where they are or what they can expect around the block?
• Any bus stops? Train stops? Other forms of public transit?
• How close or far apart are other buildings?
  Is your building taller or shorter than those around it?
  Does it look newer or does it look older?

All these things make up a building’s context, all the things around a building that make it a part of the block. Make a note of all these things for the final step.
STEP 5: PRESENT YOUR IDEAS TO OTHERS FOR FEEDBACK

By now, you’ve completed Steps 1–4 of the Design Process and the next step is Step 5—Present Your Ideas to Others for Feedback. This step is very important and it comes in two parts:

• Presentation
• Feedback

Before presenting your ideas, organize your thoughts and process for creating your building by answering some of the questions below:

• What is your building used for?
• How tall is it?
• What materials would you use to build it?
• What makes your building unique?
STEP 5: PRESENT YOUR IDEAS TO OTHERS FOR FEEDBACK

**Presentation:** Find a parent, sibling, or friend and present your build to them. It might be useful to bring some of your other sketches, and to show them the materials you worked with.

Describe the different steps of the Design Process and share the decisions you made along the way.
STEP 5: PRESENT YOUR IDEAS TO OTHERS FOR FEEDBACK

Feedback: Give your audience some time to think and process your presentation. Ask for help with the following questions and take notes when they respond!

- What are your thoughts on the overall design?
  - What about the materials?
- What parts of the design do you enjoy?
  - What makes them pleasing?
- What parts of the design could use some work?
  - What could be done to improve them?

The final step in asking for feedback is thanking your audience for their time and input!
STEP 6: IMPROVE YOUR DESIGN

Step 5 is an important part of the Design Process, and so is Step 6—Improve your design!

After receiving feedback, look over your notes. Think about the feedback that you would like to implement. What could you do to make it a part of your design? How would it fit in with your original design? How do you feel about this improvement?

- Sometimes the feedback at this stage will lead to drastic changes to your original design. Sometimes only small changes will be necessary. Every now and then, Step 6 takes us right back to Step 1 and that’s okay! It’s important for architects to be flexible and willing to make changes that will make the final design the best it can be. You’ve brought your design to life and after asking for feedback you can decide to make small changes, big changes, or even start over!
STEP 6: IMPROVE YOUR DESIGN

If you’re interested in building more, try adding context to your building by adding roads, signage, plants and trees, as well as other buildings. As you continue to explore architecture around your block, look out for all these parts that make a livable city like Chicago run.

Feel free to share your designs with the CAC as you experiment and practice designing with the Design Process!