

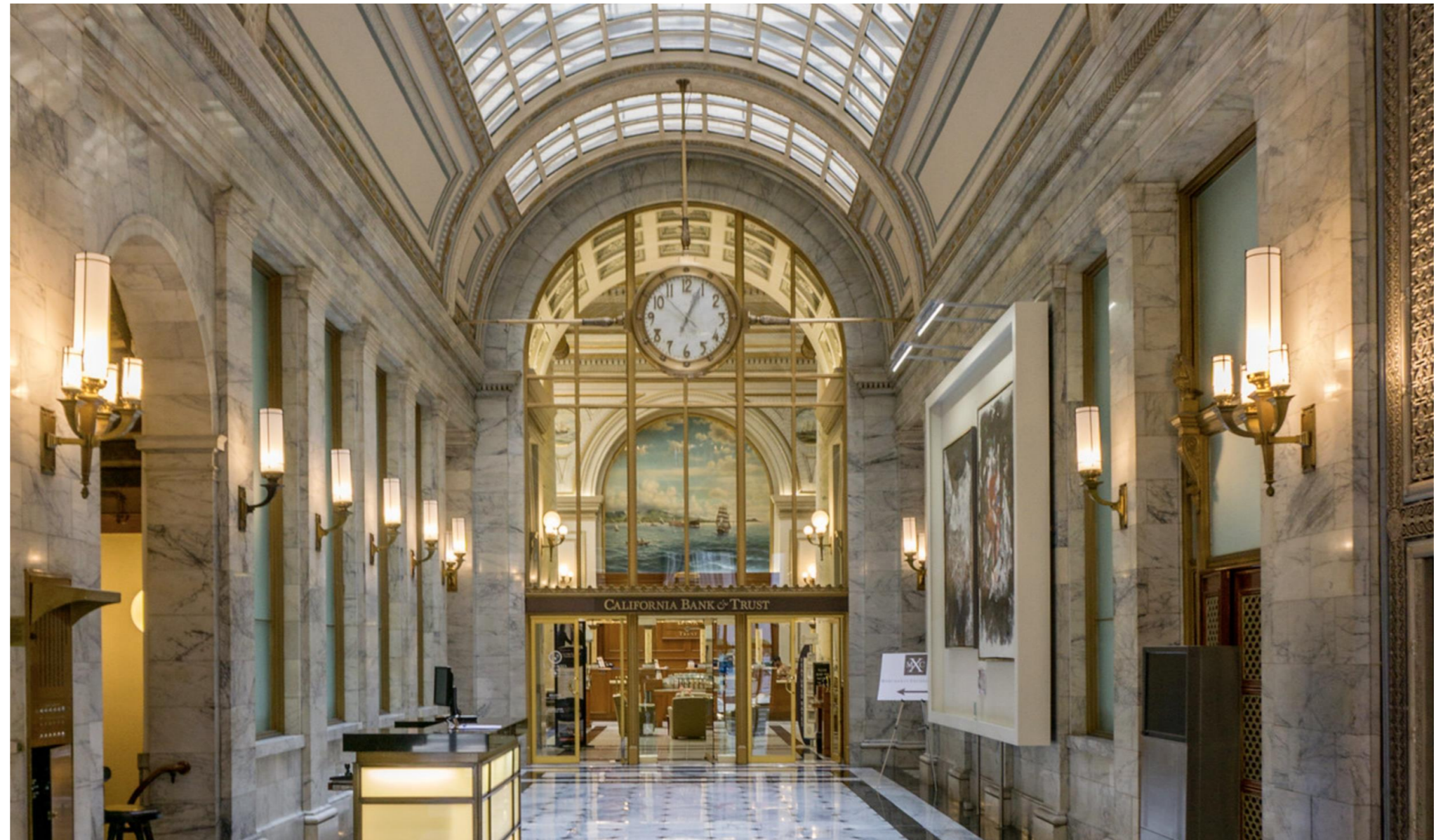
California Architectural
FOUNDATION

Introducing the Architecture of Julia Morgan



First of All: What is architecture?

Architecture is the art of designing buildings. So, for a one room building, you could have four walls, a ceiling and a floor and that would be a building. Add some elegant proportions, interesting volumes, and fill the space with light and shadow. Now you have architecture.



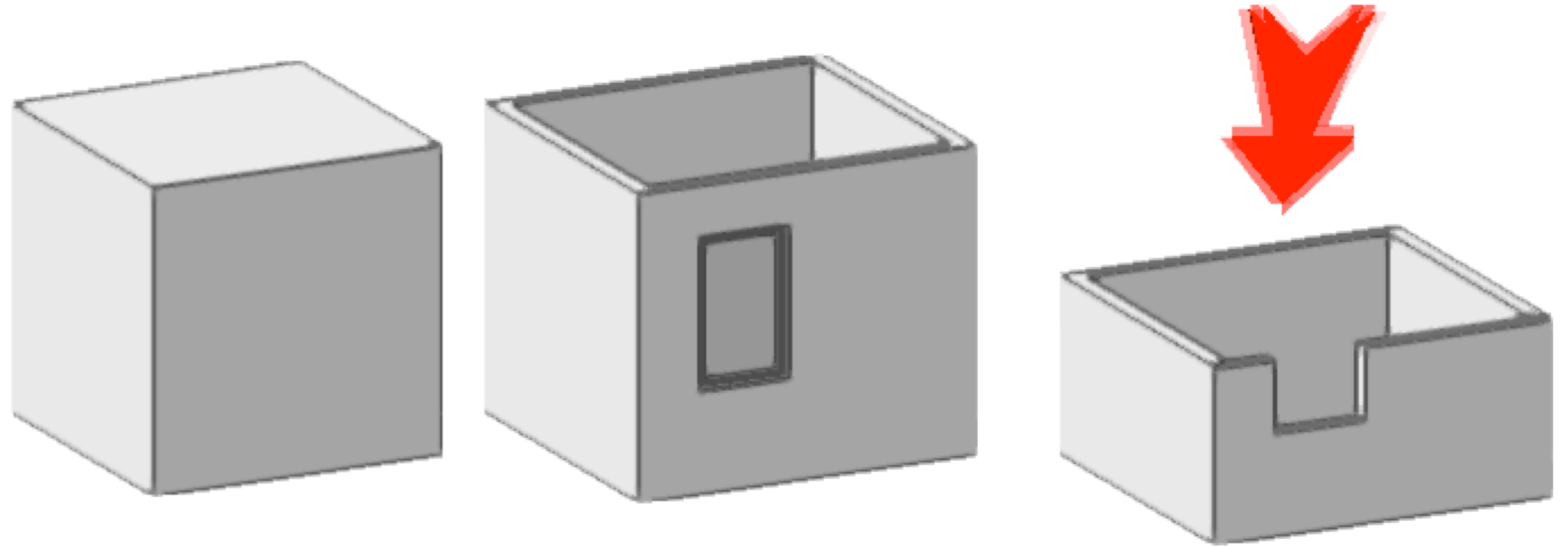
Why does Architecture matter?

Architecture makes a big difference in how things look and work. It can help us feel better, connect us to each other, and even help us do better in school. Good architecture is important for all parts of our lives.

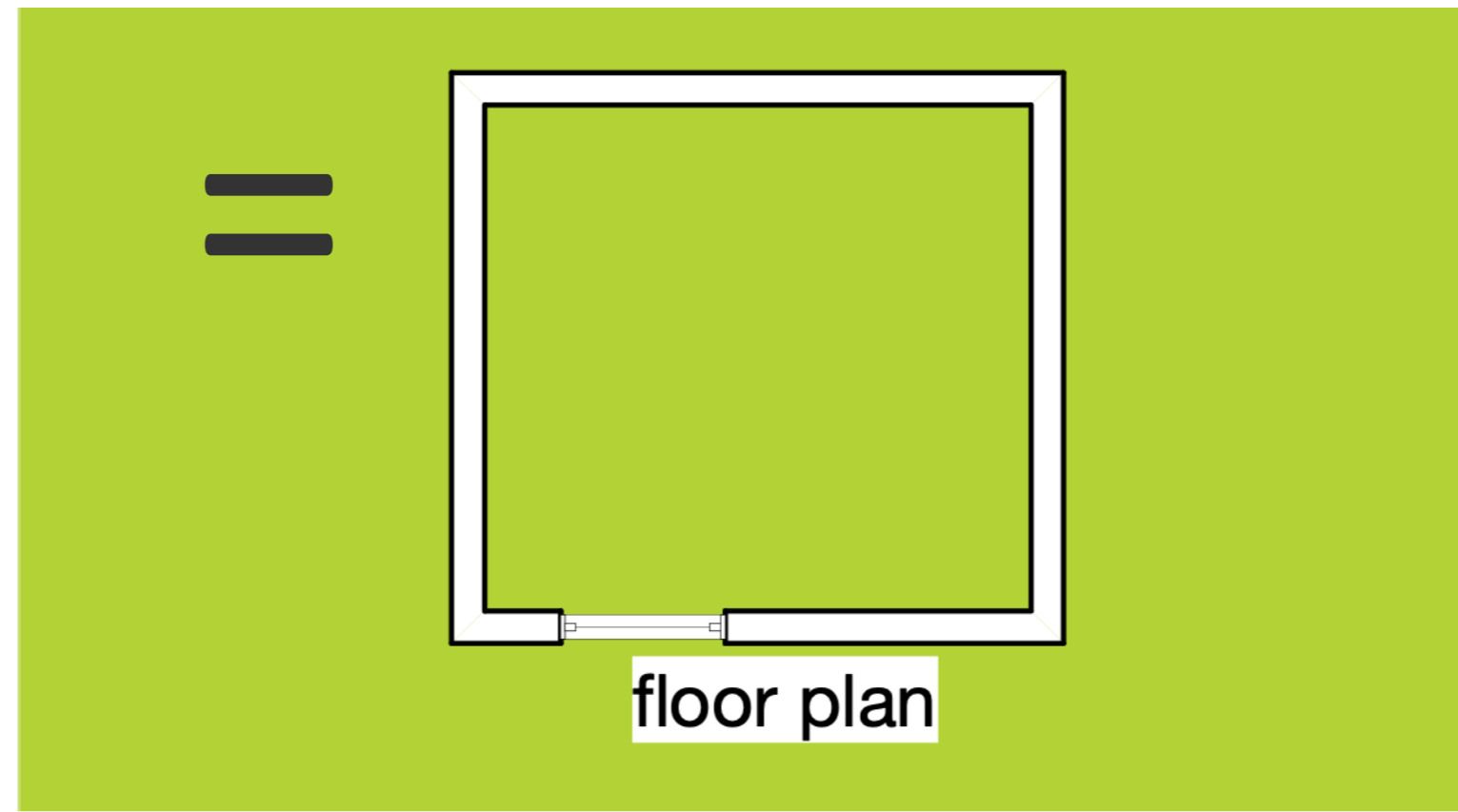


PLAN

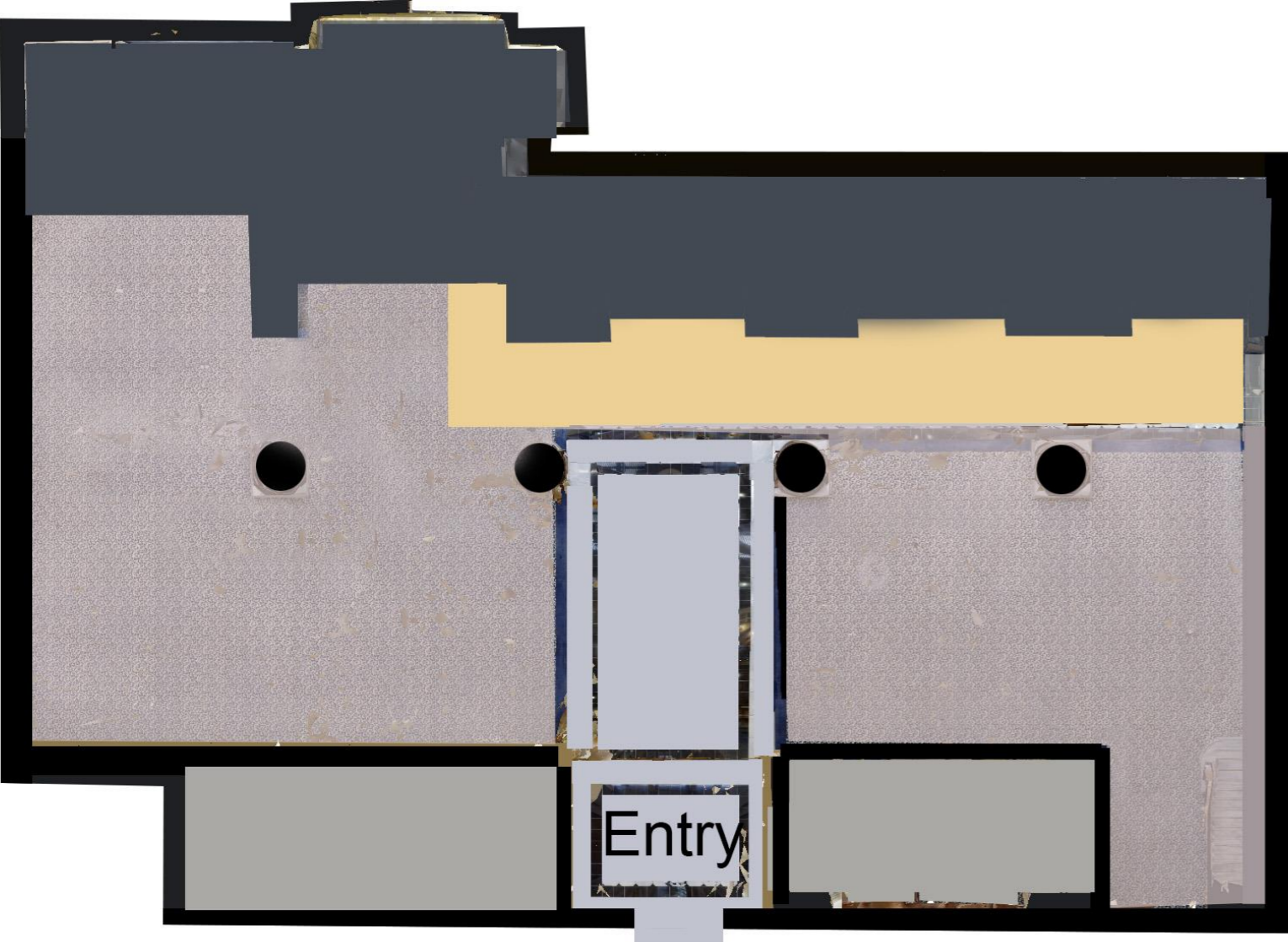
Architects often start their designs with a floor plan.



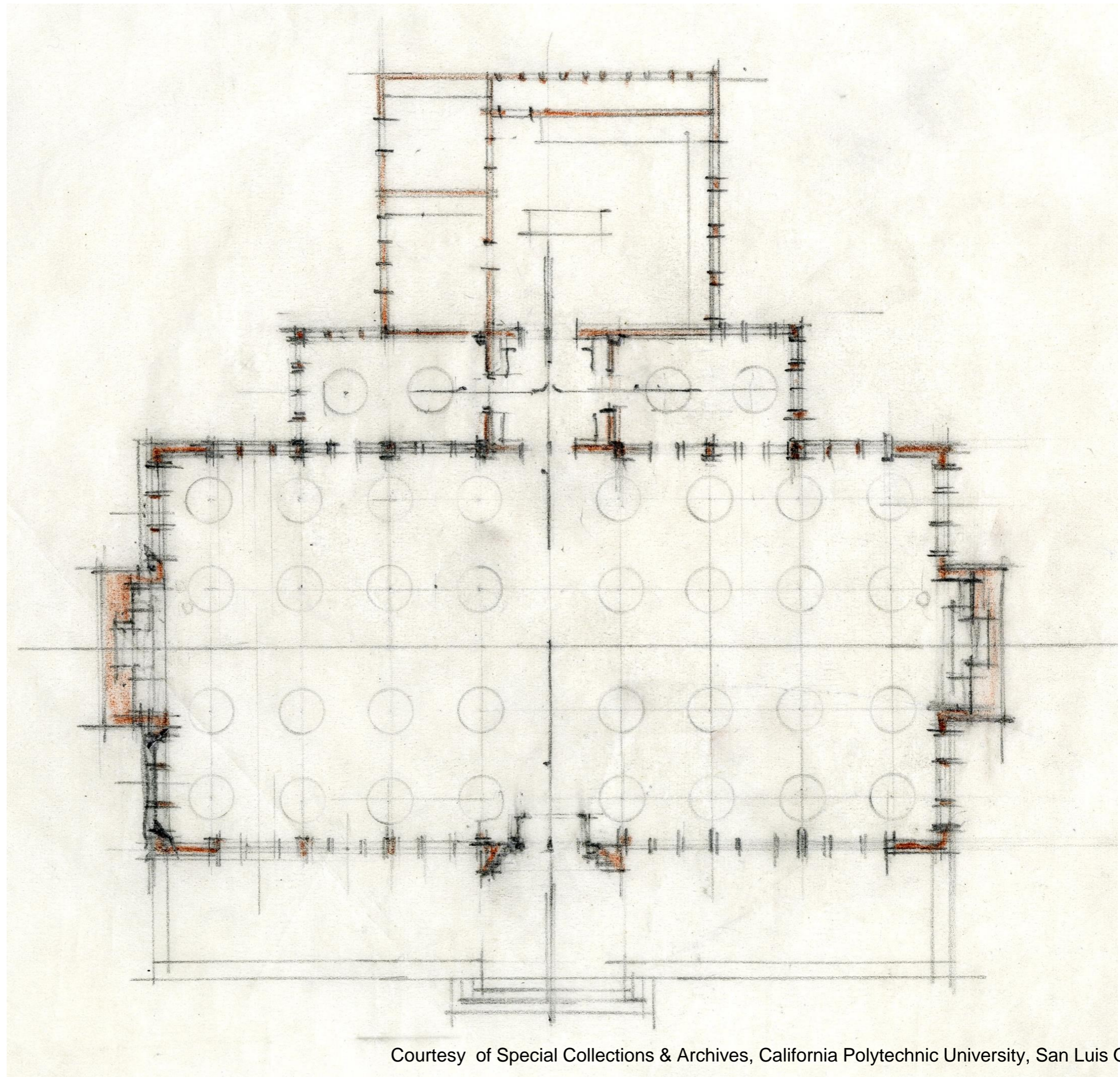
A floor plan looks straight down, like a bird's eye view, but from about 3 feet off the ground.



Here is a floor plan of the Merchant's Exchange Building.



Here is Julia Morgan's plan of the The Crocker Dining Hall.



Who was Julia Morgan?

Julia Morgan was born in 1872 and died in 1957. She was an architect who understood both structure and beauty. She designed more than 800 buildings. She received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering at UC Berkeley, then went on to become the first female to graduate in architecture from the Ecole des Beaux Art. She was the first woman licensed in architecture in the State of California.



Photo Courtesy of Special Collections & Archives,
California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

At the Ecole, Julia received a classical architectural training. Her buildings are beautifully proportioned and also very liveable. What is classical training? What was the “Ecole des Beaux Arts” in Paris teaching?

The Beaux Art style was:

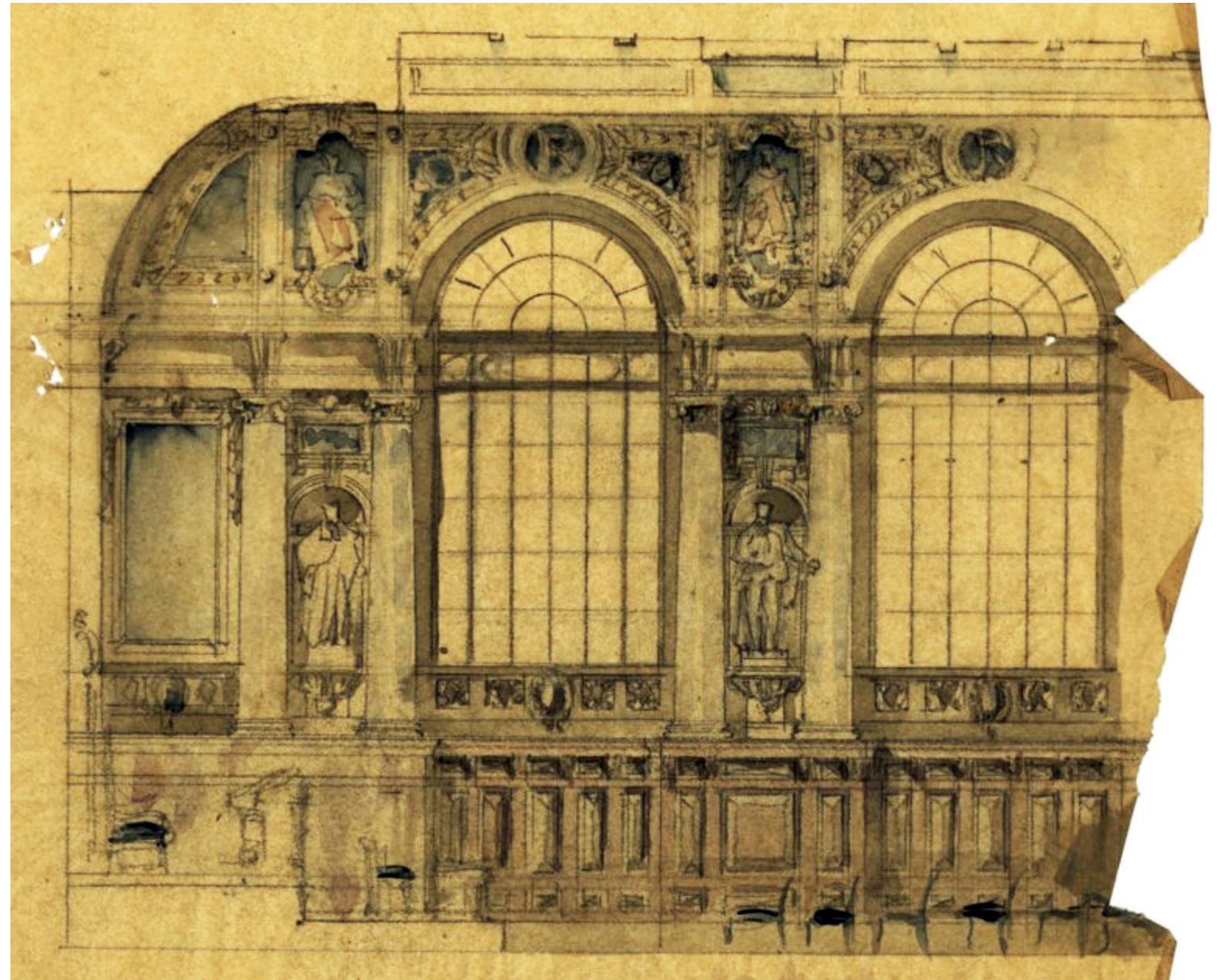
Classical Proportions

Symmetrical

Formal & Orderly

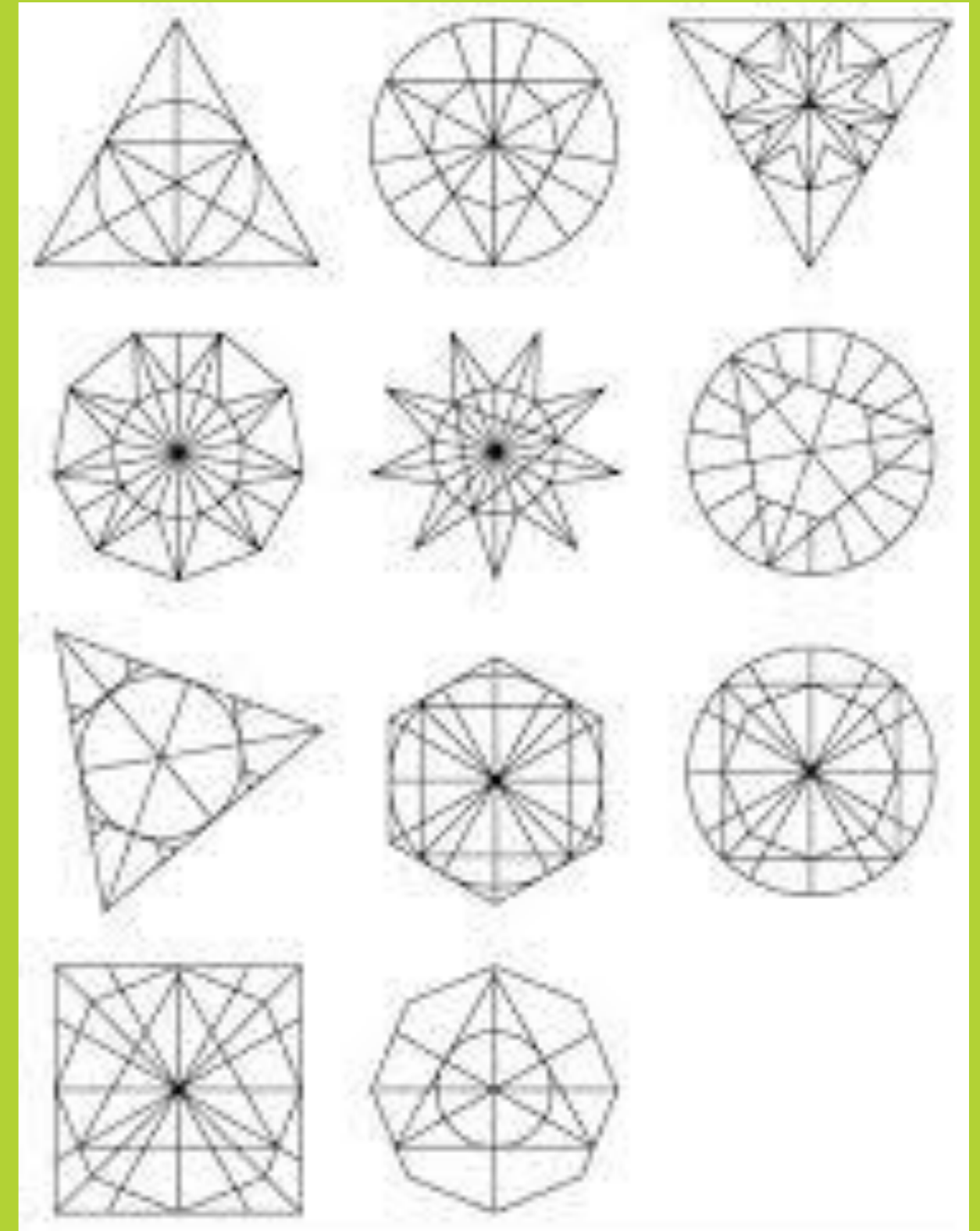
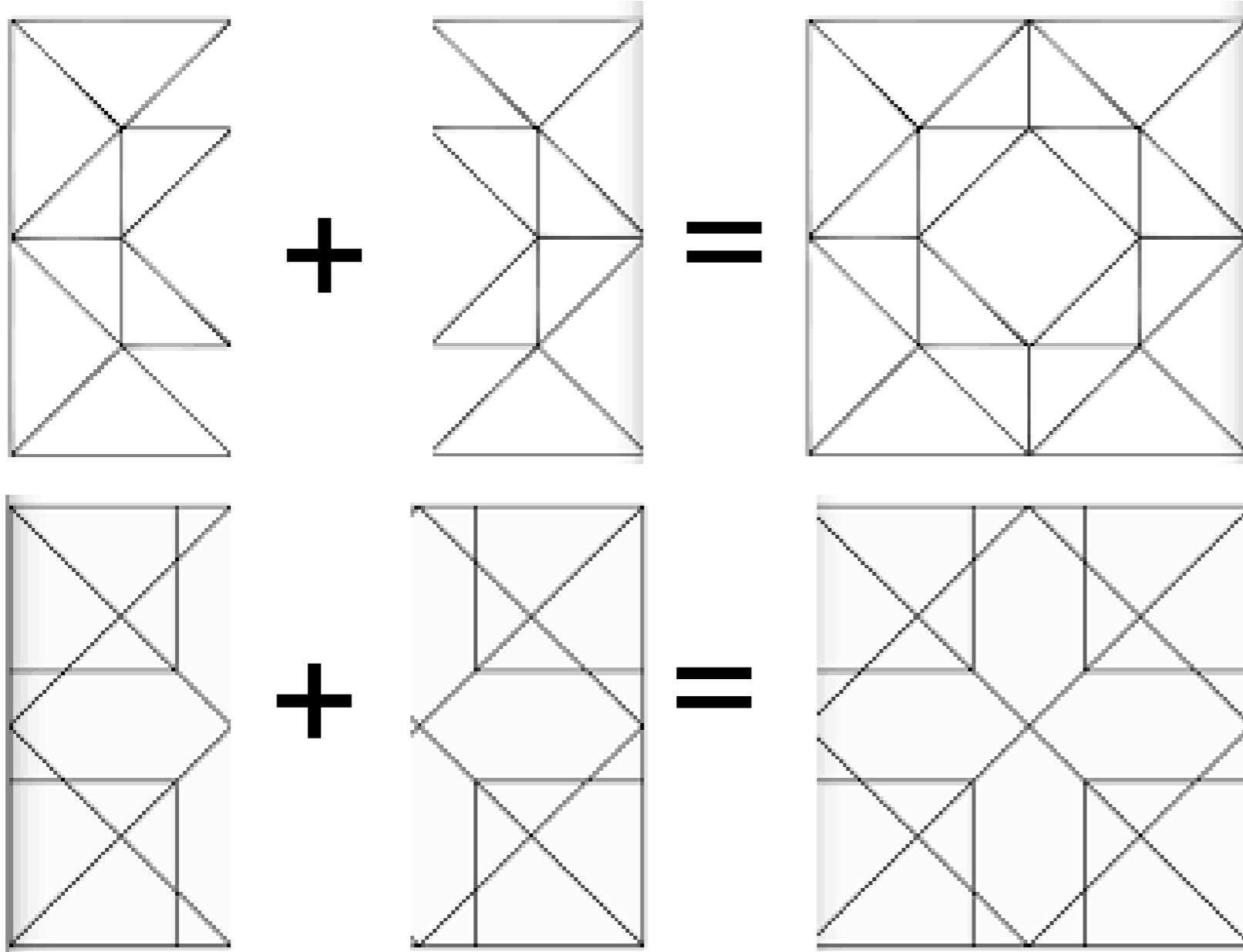
Decorative

This is the basis of Julia Morgan’s training.

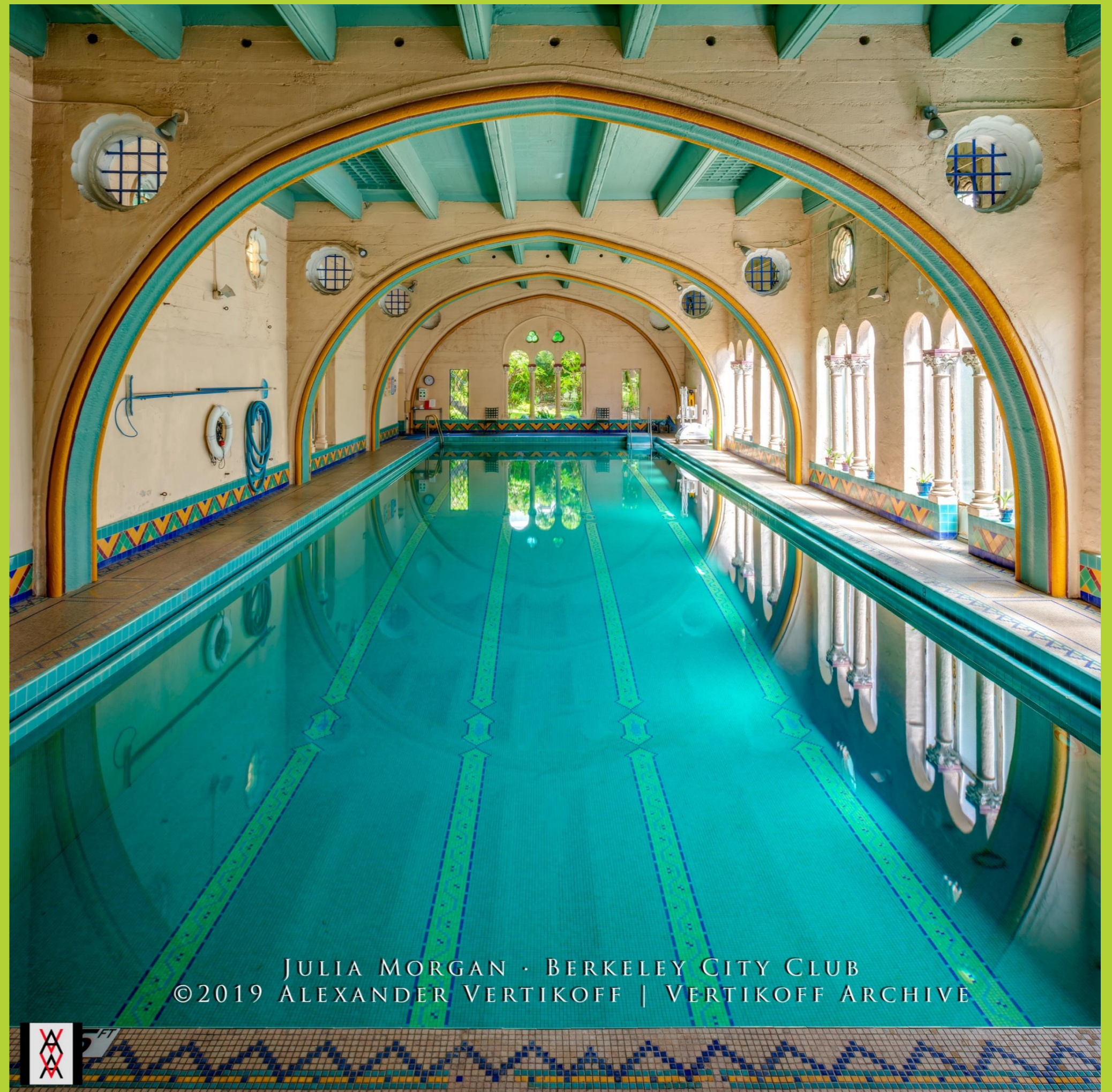


Drawing by Julia Morgan at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, 1902
Photo Courtesy of California Polytechnic University Special Collections

What is symmetry?
Symmetry is like a mirror.



Although Julia Morgan was true to the roots of her training, often using classical proportion and formal arrangements, her architecture was varied, and included Arts & Crafts and Spanish styles.



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Arts and Crafts Style

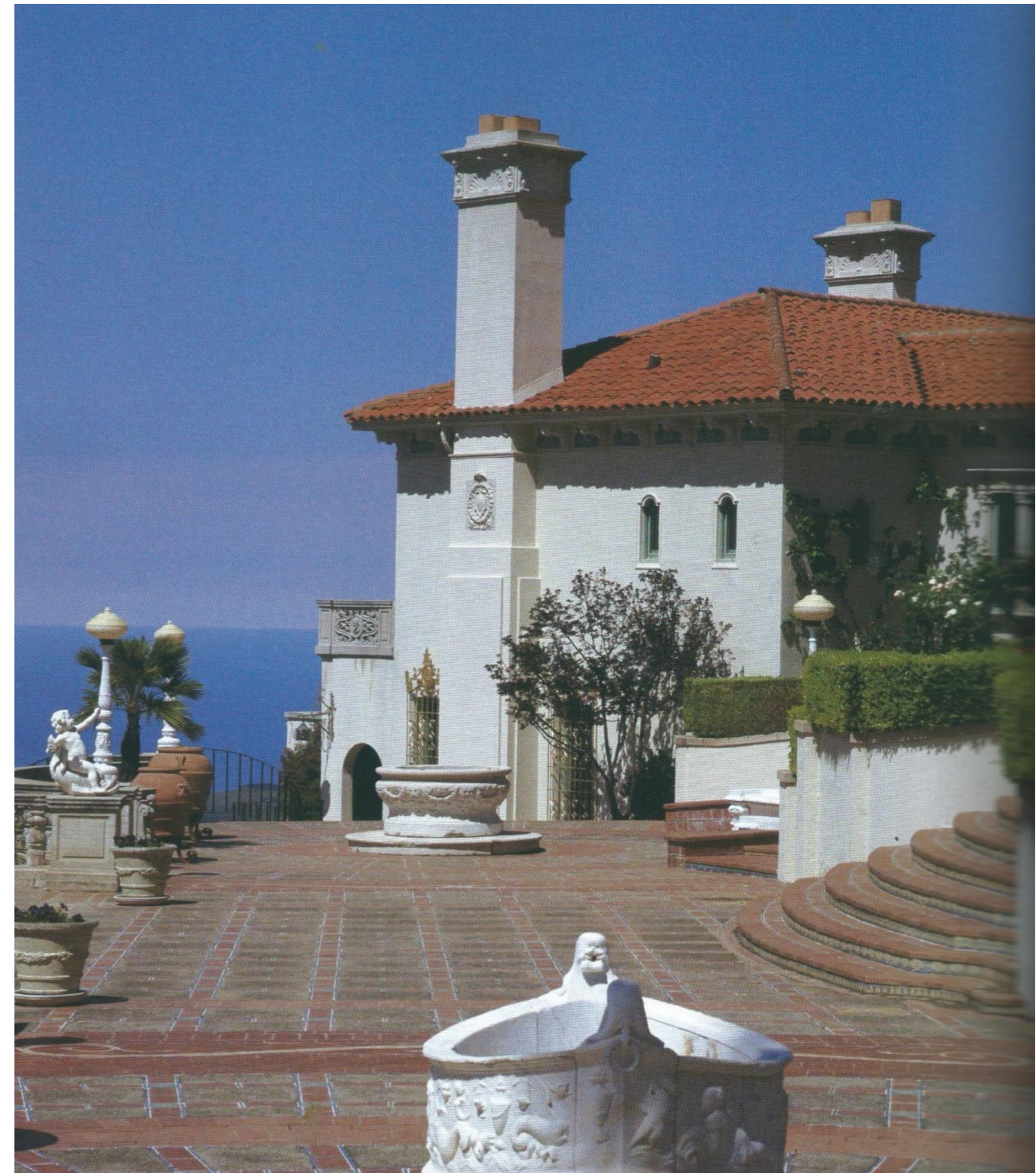


Photo Copyright: MonicaLeeRecrafter

She designed her first building in 1903 before she opened her own office in 1904. It was a bell tower on the Mills College Campus. She designed it out of a new material, reinforced concrete. With this material, she could pour the concrete into a mold and be done- no bricks or sticks!



That building withstood
the 1906 earthquake,
when so many other
buildings fell down.
Because of this, she
was in high demand
after the earthquake.
The Bell tower at Mills
College is still standing
today, 120 years later.



Now it's
your turn:
Build a Bell
Tower!



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