

# MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT Do buildings make the neighbourhood?

# STUDENT WORKSHEET

Your local neighbourhood has lots of buildings in it. In this activity you will think about some of the buildings in your neighbourhood and look at how they are used and help create a sense of community.



# ON YOUR OWN

Start by thinking about where you live.

Here are some questions to help:

- What type of building do you live in?
- From what materials is it constructed?
- How many rooms does it have and what are they made of?
- What fixtures and fittings are in each room (for example a bedroom could have built in wardrobes or a kitchen could have cupboards and a cook top)?
- Where do you spend most of your time and why?
- What about your home feels familiar to you? What makes you feel 'at home'?

Draw a picture, plan or diagram of your home and write a response to the following: 'I feel at home here because ...'



# WITH YOUR GROUP

When working in a group, allocate a note taker and a speaker to report on your group's findings.

Discuss other types of buildings and infrastructure in your neighbourhood and make a list. The images below will assist you.













## **DISCUSS**

Discuss with your group which of the buildings and infrastructure on your list you make most use of. While discussing, think about and try to answer the following questions:

- What is it about these buildings that makes you feel connected to them?
- What is it about the design and materials used that helps them to feel familiar?
- In what ways do you think the feeling of familiarity is enhanced by building design?

Don't forget to take some notes on the answers to these questions so you can share your thoughts with the class and be prepared for the next task.





Select a building or construction from the list made in your group discussion that you feel most familiar with. If possible, take some time to visit your selection, otherwise look it up on the Internet or try to picture it in your mind's eye.

Create a note taking framework like the one below to help you to record your observations.

#### Building/construction name Warwick Recreation Centre

#### Location

Corner Wanneroo Road and Beach Road, Warwick

To provide a place for people in the local area to exercise and play sport, individually and together.

#### Observations

Feature	Materials	Purpose	How does the feature achieve its purpose?	Images or links
Exterior	Brick and steel with	Provides a boundary for the	It's easy to see what the building is used	include any photographs you
	neon signage.	building. Signage tells people	for. It looks attractive and blends with	have or links to images.
		what the building is for.	the natural environment around it.	
car park	Bitumen, paint for	Provides a place for visitors to	Provides plenty of parking for peak	include any photographs you
	markings.	park. Provides ease of access	usage times.	have or links to images.
		from surrounding roads and is	Makes for easy access to the main	
		close to the main entry.	entrance.	
Entry/foyer	Brick, glass, steel.	To provide a welcoming place for	The foyer is brightly lit, using a lot of	include any photographs you
		visitors where they can find	natural light, and inviting. It is easy	have or links to images.
		information about activities and	to find the reception desk and find your	
		facilities in the rec centre.	way into the main part of the building.	



Once you have completed your observations, think about how the materials and design of the construction help you to feel familiar with it.



# RESEARCH

Use the internet to research roles in the construction industry that you think might be focused on creating the sense of familiarity that you have with your selected construction. The list at this link is a good place to start: https://ctf.wa.gov.au/careers/.

When you have a list of jobs and you feel like you have a good understanding of what people in these jobs do, it's your turn to be the boss and create a job statement that you think will attract people with the right skills.

Include the following in your job description:

- Job title.
- Role statement the main parts of the job and what the person doing the job is expected to achieve.
- Skills required.
- Qualifications.



### WITH YOUR GROUP

Share your job description with your group and exchange ideas on the roles you have discovered in your research.

Focus on information that will help your group's speaker share with the class your thoughts on why building design is important when creating neighbourhoods.

When you visit the Construction Futures Centre you will find further information on the roles you have researched.

