

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Newnham Architecture Essay Prize 2016-17

The Newnham Architecture Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth). It is designed to give students the opportunity to think analytically and creatively about the architecture around them, and aims to encourage girls to think of Architecture as a fun and interesting subject to study. This prize may be of particular interest to those considering studying Architecture, or currently studying Art, Graphic Design, History of Art, Mathematics or Physics, but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects.

Entrants are invited to submit a response to the question overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions but excluding words in diagrams). Submissions may be either A4 or A3 in size, and both portrait and landscape orientation will be accepted. Submissions should not exceed eight pages in total. All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **five** entries may be submitted per school.

Good essays will present a clear argument using specific examples, but beyond this many different approaches are welcome.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here:
<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/>

The **cover sheet** should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

For the Architecture Prize, hard copies of submissions will also be required. Entrants should submit a printed copy, **accompanied by the cover sheet**, to:

Schools Liaison Officer
Newnham College
Cambridge
CB3 9DF

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The deadline for receipt is **12pm on Friday 3rd March 2017**. Faxes will **not** be accepted. Please note that the essays will not be returned, so students may wish to retain a copy for themselves. If students (or schools/colleges) would like receipt of the essay(s) to be acknowledged, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope or postcard.

For any queries not answered here, please contact Sophie Parry (Schools Liaison Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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The Newnham Architecture Essay Prize 2016-17 Question

Choose a building you have visited and that you love and write a description of it, analysing why you like it.

You could consider points such as

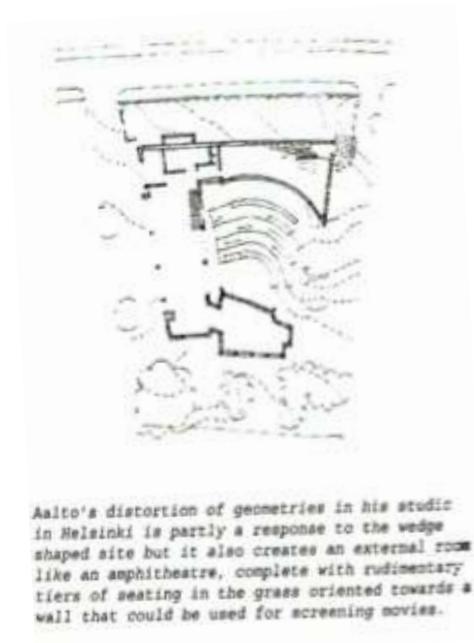
- What does the building look like from the outside?
- What is it like to be inside? How does it make you feel?
- What is the quality of light?
- What is it made of?
- How does it relate to its setting?

This is not an exhaustive list!

Feel free to use illustrations: diagrams and sketches are usually very useful – more so than photographs.

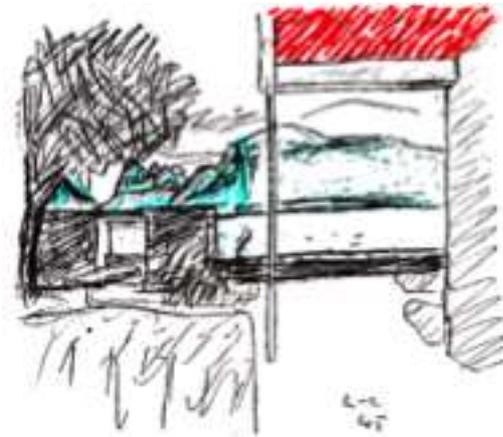
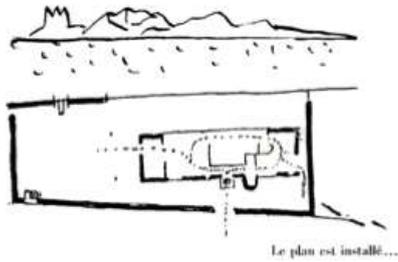
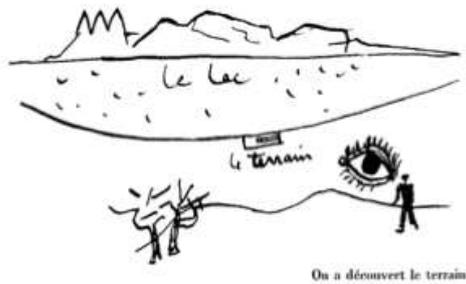
To give you an idea of how different people have gone about describing and analysing buildings or groups of buildings here are some examples:

Simon Unwin on Alvar Aalto's Helsinki studio:



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Le Corbusier describing a little house he designed for his mother on the shore of Lake Geneva:



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Peter Zumthor, architect and teacher, describing a small house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright:

3 She had seen a small house by Frank Lloyd Wright that made a great impression on her, said H. Its rooms were so small and intimate, the ceilings so low. There was a tiny library with special lighting and a lot of decorative architectural elements, and the whole house made a strong horizontal impression which she had never experienced before. The old lady was still living there. There was no need for me to go and see the house. I thought, I knew just what she meant, and I knew the feeling of "home" that she described.

References:

Analysing Architecture by Simon Unwin
La Petite Maison by Le Corbusier
Thinking Architecture by Peter Zumthor

You might like to read:

Experiencing Architecture by Steen Eiler Rasmussen
Analysing Architecture by Simon Unwin
A Pattern Language by Christopher Alexander et al