What is an Architectural Section?

Worksheet

A section is a vertical cut drawing through a building showing internal heights, floor levels, structural depth, and roof profile - the vertical counterpart to a floor plan's horizontal view.

Questions

1. What is an architectural section?

A) A horizontal top-down drawing
B) A vertical cut drawing through a building
C) An exterior 3D rendering
D) A furniture layout diagram

2. What information does a section reveal that a plan does not?

A) Room square footage
B) Vertical relationships like ceiling height and roof pitch
C) Door swing direction
D) North orientation

3. How is a section's cutting plane typically indicated on the plan?

A) A dashed circle
B) A bold line with directional arrows
C) A colored dot
D) It is never shown on the plan

4. Why should sections, plans, and elevations be read together?

A) They are identical drawings
B) Each reveals different information needed to fully understand the design
C) Only sections matter for construction
D) Elevations replace the need for sections

5. How do you determine ceiling height from a section drawing?

6. How do you identify a mezzanine level in a section?

7. How do you read a roof pitch from a section?

8. Define: What is an architectural section?

9. Define: What does a section show that a floor plan cannot?

10. Define: How is the section's cutting plane marked on a floor plan?

Answer Key

1. B) A vertical cut drawing through a building - A section is a vertical cut that reveals internal heights and construction, unlike a plan's horizontal view.

2. B) Vertical relationships like ceiling height and roof pitch - Sections show vertical information - heights, pitches, and level changes - that a horizontal plan cannot show.

3. B) A bold line with directional arrows - A bold cutting-plane line with arrows on the plan shows exactly where and in which direction the section is cut.

4. B) Each reveals different information needed to fully understand the design - Plans, sections, and elevations each show unique information; together they fully describe a building's design.

5. Locate the finished floor line and the underside of the ceiling/roof structure Read the vertical dimension string between the two lines Confirm units and scale match the rest of the drawing set, e.g. 2.7 m clear height

6. Look for a partial floor plane that does not span the full building width Check the vertical dimension between the mezzanine floor and the level below and above Cross-reference with the plan to see the mezzanine's horizontal extent

7. Find the roof slope line drawn between the ridge and the eave Measure the vertical rise over a fixed horizontal run, e.g. rise of 4 over a run of 12 Express it as a ratio or angle, e.g. a 4:12 roof pitch

8. A vertical cut drawing through a building showing internal heights, floor levels, and construction assembly.

9. Vertical relationships - ceiling heights, roof pitch, stair runs, and floor-to-floor dimensions.

10. As a bold line with arrows indicating the direction of view, usually labeled with a letter (e.g. Section A-A).