

Exploring Skylines

Architecture Gallery Activity

Teacher's Information

Room 128



Photo realisation of
London's future skyline
Hayes Davidson

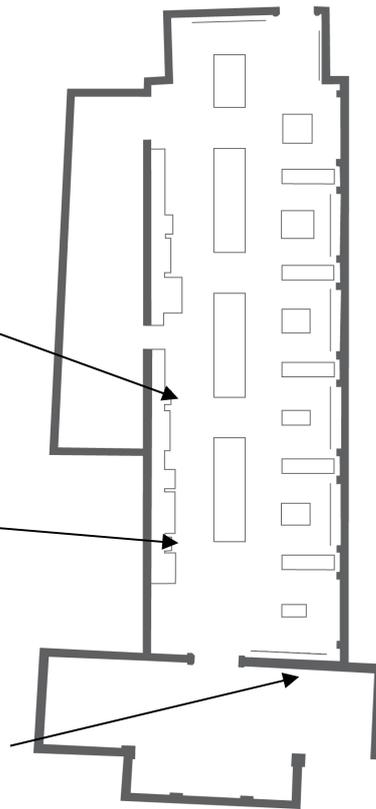
Model of a contemporary iconic building

30, St Mary Axe, Foster and
Partners, built 2001-3,
Lent by Foster & Partners
V&A: LOAN:FOSTER.1-2003



Drawing of an historic iconic building

St Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher
Wren V&A: E.1195-1931



The objects

The architecture gallery displays models, drawings and fragments of buildings. The models and drawings reveal the design process an architect uses to design and build buildings. The focus of the student activity sheet is to explore the models. Models are miniature three dimensional representations of a building or structure and they are made by architects to communicate their design ideas. Some are sketch models that help the architect develop their ideas and others are presentation models to show a client what the finished building or a part of it would look like. Some might only show part of a building, such as a roof.

Exploring skylines

Individual buildings, their design, structure and materials, when combined create an important aspect of a city's visual identity, its skyline. A skyline is the

outline formed by the profile of a collection of buildings against the sky on a horizon. The outline shape of some buildings has become iconic as they have become universally recognised and contribute towards the identity of a place. Iconic buildings featured in this gallery include Sydney Opera House, The Gherkin and the Houses of Parliament. Architects design buildings. The style of buildings they create contribute towards the 'look' and identity of our cities and places. Two famous architects who have shaped London's skyline are Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Norman Foster.

Themes to explore

What makes an interesting skyline?

Why are some buildings more iconic than others?

Do you prefer contemporary and or historical designs for buildings?

Would you choose a high-rise or low-rise skyline, or a mixture?

Which models in the gallery have interesting shapes or outlines?

Student activities

Explore the shapes of the different models and create a skyline.

Use the extension activity sheet to research one model in more depth.

At school Create an imaginary city skyline inspired by the architecture collections at the V&A. Work collaboratively to create a panorama featuring historical and contemporary structures, fragments, and details.