

Every obstacle in life has a design solution.

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Natural Shapes

Natural shapes or as some say the basic shapes are known to all. Even the child's toy uses the three basic shapes to teach children similarities. The child's toy I write of is the one where then child has to place a circular block in a circular hole, a triangular block into a triangular hole and a square block in a square hole. There is even an adult saying about putting the square peg in the square hole. So, we have established that the three basic shapes are the circle, the triangle and the square. From these shapes all other shapes can be created. Why the term "natural" shapes is used is a mystery to me even after doing the research for this article. Of course, the circle is found in nature, see the earth or any other planet as a start. However, the square is only found in occasional rock formations or very unique wave patterns. The triangle is found in almost all crystal structures.

Art Credit:
Design M Group, Inc



The next level of shapes such as an ellipse, rectangle, trapezoid or pentagon are also found in nature in rare instances. This month we will look at one instance where the pentagon is found in nature. I just happen to stumble across it while walking through the National Botanical Garden just steps from the Capitol in Washington DC. Of course, while driving around Washington DC many times one has to drive by the largest building in the world which is the United States Defense Department headquarters which is named the Pentagon. This building is the Iconic Building of the Month because of what I found in the Botanical Garden, not as glorification to the military, basically there is no political statement in this newsletter.

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We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...
"The 10 Advantages of Design Build"



Download it here and share it with

Archi-fact.

The Pentagon was constructed in 16 months and construction started less than three (3) months before Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into World War II. The cost of constructing the Pentagon was eighty three (\$83,000,000.00) dollars which in 2018 dollars is equivalent to 1.2 billion dollars after accounting for inflation over the last 70 years.

Iconic Building Of The Month

The Pentagon is the headquarters building of the United States Department of Defense. As a symbol of the U.S. military, the phrase *The Pentagon* is also often used as a metonym for the Department of Defense and its leadership.

Located in Arlington County, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., the building was designed by American architect George Bergstrom. Ground was broken on September 11, 1941, and the building was dedicated on January 15, 1943. The Pentagon is the world's largest office building, with about 6,500,000 square feet of space, of which 3,700,000 square feet are used as offices.

Some 23,000 military and civilian employees, and another 3,000 non-defense support personnel, work in the



Pentagon. It has five sides, five floors above ground, two basement levels, and five ring corridors per floor with a total of 17.5 miles of corridors. The central five-acre pentagonal plaza is nicknamed "ground zero" on the presumption that it would be a prime target in a nuclear war. In total some 26,000 military personnel and civilians work there.

The architectural style of the design is called Stripped Classicism. The Pentagon is listed on the National Register of



*Photo Credits:
The United States Department of Defense*

Archi-Quote

"I call architecture frozen music."

Johann von Goethe, a German writer & statesman, 1749-1832. His works include: 4 novels; epic & lyric poetry; prose & verse dramas; memoirs; an autobiography; literary and aesthetic criticism; & treatises on botany, anatomy & color. In addition, numerous literary & scientific fragments, more than 10,000 letters, & nearly 3,000 drawings by him have survived.

Natural Shapes

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Back to the naturally found pentagon. *Abroma augustum*, sometimes written *Abroma augusta*, its common name is Cotton Abroma however it is commonly referred to as Devil's cotton. It has dark red flowers with a characteristic and unusual appearance. It is widely distributed in Asia. It was previously thought to grow in north Queensland, but the most recent survey did not find it.

The leaves and stems are covered with soft bristly hairs that are very irritating to the touch. The bark yields a jute-like fiber. In the greenhouse, plants bloom from late spring to early summer. Dark maroon flowers are formed in terminal panicles. Individual flowers are up to 3 inches across. It is a large, spreading shrub or small tree sometimes growing up to 33 feet tall, but more generally 3 to 12 feet tall when in cultivation. The plant provides a high-quality fiber that is mainly used locally. It also has local medicinal uses. Often harvested from the wild, it is also sometimes cultivated in tropical areas as a fiber crop and is sometimes grown as an ornamental bush.



Photo Credit: Design M Group, inc.

Archi-Speaks

Can you find these words?

CIRCLE SQUARE TRIANGLE
PENTAGON ELIPSE

M	N	P	O	F	Y	E	P	W	Q	A	A	Z	E	E
R	M	S	A	L	P	E	I	L	M	U	H	O	S	O
L	S	D	L	E	N	O	T	L	W	Q	F	G	P	I
E	E	D	Y	T	Y	M	Y	L	U	Y	X	B	I	W
C	M	R	A	G	P	H	E	T	P	D	G	W	L	S
T	V	G	A	C	G	S	E	L	C	R	I	C	E	M
Y	O	O	O	U	S	Y	S	T	S	V	E	O	C	G
N	N	Z	O	S	Q	U	M	R	H	A	R	V	M	W
A	E	I	B	P	G	S	D	I	W	R	W	Y	P	H
V	B	Q	L	T	B	K	X	A	M	D	X	R	M	G
H	L	T	E	T	Q	R	E	N	R	D	J	K	B	D
I	F	C	A	W	X	B	A	G	M	U	O	K	X	E
V	P	Q	B	H	F	V	P	L	R	H	D	G	Z	W
F	W	X	Y	X	G	L	K	E	J	S	Y	L	T	D
B	D	T	E	G	F	Y	O	I	F	P	D	M	S	R

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month's question is...**

Does having an EARTH CENTRIC view diminish the value of human beings?

Sam G.

Sam,

Quite the contrary. Since humans are of the earth by valuing the earth and all living things on the earth we raise the value of humans as the only creature in the history of the earth who have the basic understanding and ability to protect the earth. I would argue that if you are religious, you also have a responsibility to God to protect the earth and all living creatures as God made them all and the planet.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com, and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

Want to speak with the Architect

Do you have questions but do not know where to start?

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About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

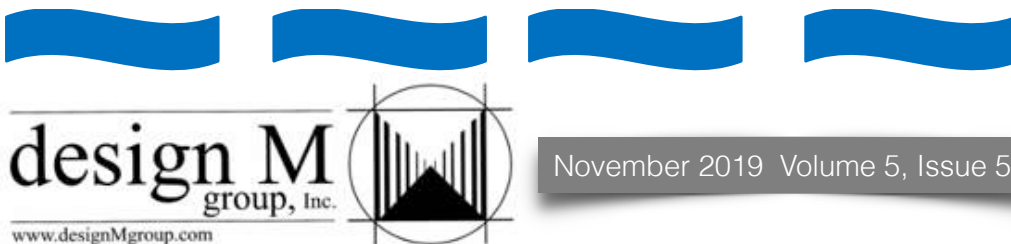
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