

The Character Arc, the Human Life Cycle

The arch is a symbol of strength, but also of rise and fall. In stories, there are three types of character arcs, change, growth and fall. Thinking deeply about a storybook character's journey reveals a hidden lesson about the narratives that make us human. That's why a good story captures our attention. Oftentimes, a character starts off feeling certain, then an event triggers a massive shift.



photo credit: Pixababy

Adventure can be exciting, or scary, depending on how we perceive it. Naturally, the change arc and growth arc inspire more thrill; the fall arc stirs depression. The change arc tells us of a "hero's journey." The TV industry can make millions off of a hero. For example, science nerd Peter Parker becomes the superhero Spiderman. Jack "The Pumpkin King" Skellington in "The Nightmare Before Christmas" finds true happiness only after learning from his mistakes, which heavily impact Sally and their beloved Halloween Town.

The growth arc paves the way for the protagonist to overcome internal opposition and face external opposition. Mr. Darcy in 'Pride and Prejudice' seems like the perfect man (in terms of etiquette, finances and physical appearance), but his pride repels love from his life. Yes, he's handsome and comes across as mannerly in social situations (at times), but only through personal growth can he become a better version of himself. In the face of the witty, energetic Elizabeth Bennet, he develops into her ideal companion.

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Archi-fact:

Many people attend architectural school and decide to move on to other careers.

Along with musicians many actors also attended architecture school before pursuing their acting career.

Brad Pitt did not attend architecture school, however he does get an honorable mention here due to his interest in the art of architecture.

Iconic Building Of The Month

This month's Iconic Building is The Arc de Triomf in Barcelona, Spain.

The Arc de Triomf in Barcelona, Spain stands over 90 feet tall at the top of Passeig Lluís Companys. Architect Josep Vilaseca i Casanovas built it as the gateway to the 1888 Universal Exhibition in the capital of Catalonia. The arch was positioned at the end of Salû de Sant Joan, the boulevard which led to the exhibition grounds in the Parc de la Ciutadella. Covered with symbolic stone carvings and ceramic tiles, the monument is an expression of the city's history.

Vilaseca utilized classical style to represent the city honoring the provinces that participated in the exhibition. Vilaseca, who formed part of the Modernista movement, added contemporary touches. To balance the city's respect for tradition with its progressive ideals, the design is inspired by neo-Mudejar style, of Moorish origins, very popular in Spain during this time period. The architect chose red brick, instead of the typical sandstone or marble. Sculptural reliefs on one side exemplify agriculture and industry, on the other side commerce and art. The top showcases shields of the 49 Spanish provinces and the city's coat of arms.

The friezes depict the city welcoming the nations and presenting medals to exhibition participants. To this day, Barcelona welcomes many visitors who can easily find the arch just off the metro stop Arc de Triomf. It is also a short walk from the Parc.



Photo credit: Wikipedia



Photo credit: Wikipedia



Archi-Quote

As indicated in the Archi-Fact column, many people start out in architecture and move on to other careers. Brad Pitt did not attend architecture school. He actually attended the Missouri School of Journalism. His interest in architecture is well established and speaks of his interest in architecture often.

In an interview with the Telegraph back in 2008 he spoke of his interest in architecture by saying....“Whist acting is my career, architecture is my passion.”



photo credit: DoD News Features

The Character Arc, the Human Life Cycle

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The fall arc is appropriately deemed a tragedy. This rise and fall unravels the character to his or her very core. Shakespeare's Hamlet, for instance, desires to avenge his father's death, an obsession which leads him down an unfortunate path to lie and murder, haunted by his guilty conscience and finally to his own death by poisoned sword.

But here's the positive spin on the arc. While a storybook or screenplay often follows this path, our lives are more complex. We aren't characters in a story; we exist in a free-form world. Let's embark on the countless arcs in our lifetimes. Our stories carry on through the lives we touch, the conversations we have, the things we create. In the big picture outside of the book margins and television screens our lives are circular, and in some ways, never-ending.

"An arch consists of two weaknesses which, leaning one against the other, make a strength."

- Leonardo da Vinci

Archi-Speak

Can you find all these types of arches?

- Horseshoe Lancet Round
- Segmental Triangular

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

My house faces South and is about 1,000 square feet. We would like to install solar panels. How many do we need to supply the power we will need.

Allison G.

Allison,

This depends on how far North your house is and if you have central Air Conditioning, however about 26 panels should do the trick.

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.

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About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB
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.

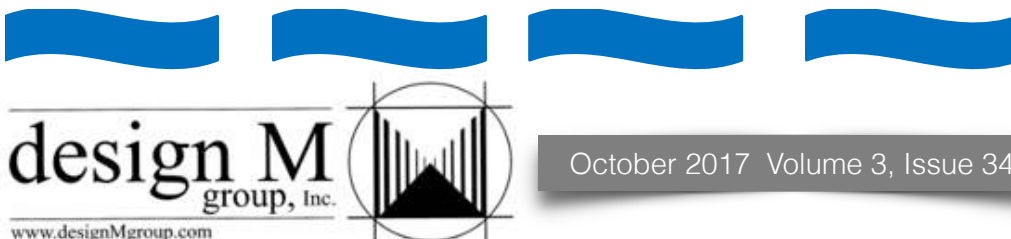
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Architects have a responsibility to our clients, community and the environment.

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