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Frank Lloyd Wright's designs were made to be of their surroundings. When designing for the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy, Wright considered the existing architecture in his design, while still maintaining his unique principles and aesthetic.

In this activity, you'll be working with three examples of architecture: Wright's Anderton Court Shop, designed in 1952 and built in Beverly Hills, California; Wright's 1953 design for the Masieri Memorial, student library, and dwelling for Venice Italy; and an example of classic Venetian buildings. Using a Venn diagram, you'll examine features that are characteristic of Wright's architecture and traditional Venetian architecture, and how Wright sought underlying patterns to design a building that was uniquely of his own creation while still respecting the history of the site.

1. Look at the Anderton Court Shop drawing. What are some of the most distinct features of this building? Try to notice repeated patterns, shapes, and design elements. Write those features in the Anderton Court Shop bubble.

2. Repeat step one with the Masieri Memorial and the example of Venetian buildings. Be sure to write the features in their spaces in the diagram.

3. Now, after finding the unique features of each building, try to find similarities among the buildings. Are there similarities between the Anderton Court Shop and the Masieri Memorial, between the Masieri Memorial and Venetian building, and between Anderton Court Shop and the Venetian building? Are there similarities among all three?

4. Now that you’ve completed the diagram, draw a building that includes features that are shared by all three of the buildings.