

Architecture Now: *New Trends, Recent Triumphs and a Few More Terrible Ideas*
OLLI Fall 2026, Week Three: **Power Structures (and the inverse)**

Goals

1. Consider some examples of architectural superlatives
2. Ponder why “most” is so appealing
3. Consider some of today’s tough housing issues (and the relationship to power)
4. Develop more vocabulary (resource intentions and responsibilities, social equity)

Questions

Part 1

Why is “most” so appealing?

To what extent do superlatives matter in contemporary architecture?

How do we balance resources, technologies, & contexts in making architecture that matters to humankind?

Part 2

Is there a right size for dwelling?

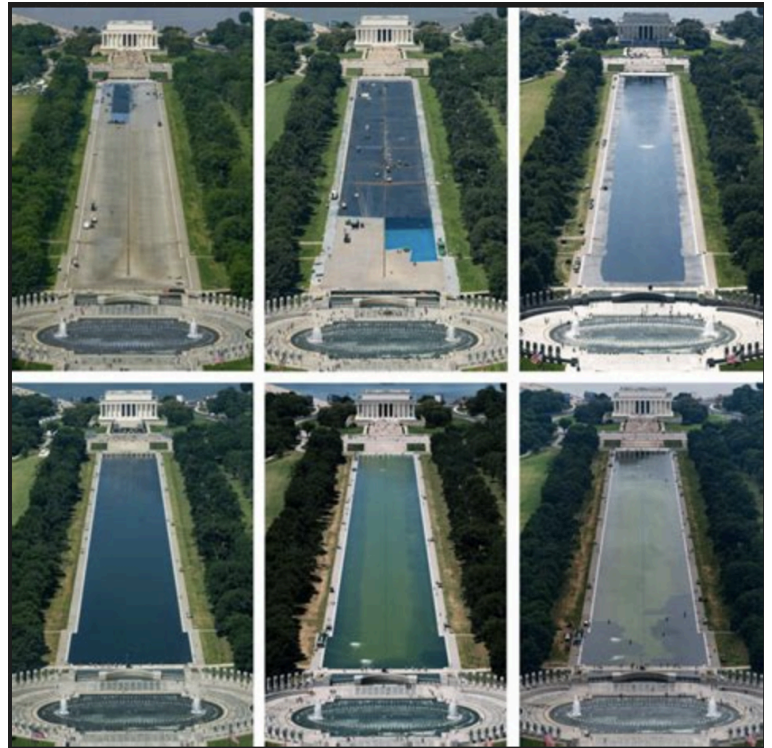
What factors do/should affect right size?

How should people with low income dwell?

What should we do about homelessness close to home?

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Vocabulary

Commodity, Firmness, Delight, Program, Context, Form, Material, Dwelling, Vernacular

Resource: intention and responsibility (in architecture)

Social equity (in architecture)

Websites

<https://archinect.com/>

<https://www.dezeen.com/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/citylab>

<https://www.treehugger.com/>

<https://shrinkthatfootprint.com/>

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2025-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

(US homelessness report from January 2025, published May 2026)

Community design center examples

<https://www.civicdesigncenter.org/>

(Nashville-based)

<https://www.bcworkshop.org/>

(Texas-based)

<https://www.lbcdesigncenter.org/>

(Long Beach, CA)