Children’s Walking Tours developed by the Boston Society for Architecture are self-guided, hands-on experiences for youth in grades kindergarten to 6th grade. Although the tours highlight the architecture, urban design, and built environment of a neighborhood they are not history tours with facts and figures. Children will draw, measure, count, make rubbings, and find various architectural elements along the way. They will actively engage in the neighborhood through close observation and critical thinking. Children will note changes over time, develop vocabulary to describe building elements, and experience how it feels to be a building.

Families are encouraged to take the tour in person, but Google Street View links are provided at each location for a virtual experience. Tour routes are in city neighborhoods. Street crossings are shown at crosswalks. Please supervise your children at all times and be safe.

Looking for another way to tour the city, on the streets or from your home? Check out the AIA Guide to Boston, an iPhone app that brings the buildings, neighborhoods, and Boston architects to life. Download for a small fee.

The Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) is a chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and a community nonprofit. We are a community committed to improving the quality of life for everyone through architecture and design. The BSA brings leadership about the built environment to New England’s design profession and to communities throughout Greater Boston. By hosting professional and youth design education programs, fostering community engagement and membership networks, and initiating civic transformation, the BSA is making this a region where architects thrive and communities flourish.
Today, you will be exploring the Charlestown neighborhood [start at 50 W School Street]. Use the map below to guide your tour. The location numbers on the map below correspond to ☀️ numbers on pages that follow. At each location, try the 🌟 activity.
Look closely at the school building [50 W School Street]. Do you think your school was built at the same time as the houses across the street?

Why do you think so?

As you walk along Bartlett Street, find as many architectural elements as you can. When you find them, check the box in the lower left corner.

Flat Roof

Gable Roof

Mansard Roof

Bay

Eaves

Bracket

Dentils

Cornice

Cupola

Roof Shingles

Stone

Clapboard

How many houses can you find that are exactly 1/2 of a building?
MONUMENT SQUARE [NORTH]

Find a building that was built for a different use than it is being used for now. Write its name here: ________________________________

How can you tell? _______________________________________________________________________________________

Do you know why this square is called Monument Square? _______________________________________________________

Buildings have faces just like people. Architects call them facades. Many of the buildings in Boston have symmetrical facades; that means that if you drew a line down the middle, it would be equal on both sides.

Can you find a symmetrical building? ________________________________________________________________________

Can you find an asymmetrical one? ________________________________________________________________________

Is your body symmetrical? ________________________________________________________________________________

Can you make your body asymmetrical? ____________________________________________________________________
Look closely at the red and blue houses across the street [45 + 47 Monument Square]. List three things that are the same and three things that are different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMILARITIES (SAME)</th>
<th>DIFFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find the following architectural elements. When you find them, check the box in the lower left corner.

- GABLE DORMER
- GAMBREL ROOF
- CITY SKYLINE
- QUOINS

Architects call the parts that hold a building up structure. Find the following structural elements and then try them out with as partner. By making the structure’s shapes, you can begin to learn how they work.

- KEYSSTONE
- ARCH
- COLUMN
**MONUMENT AVENUE**

As you **walk** along Monument Ave., **count** the boot scrapers and bay windows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of <strong>boot scrapers</strong> on one side of the street</th>
<th># of <strong>bay windows</strong> on one side of the street</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Why do you think** these buildings have boot scrapers?

**Why do you think** these buildings have bay windows?
List three different building materials. I see buildings made out of...

List as many different building types that you see. I see buildings where people...

Do you see a building that was built within the past 20 years? How can you tell?

6. **CHARLESTOWN SAVINGS BANK**

Buildings have **details** to make them beautiful. **Look** closely at the Charlestown 5-Cent Savings Bank Building [1 Thompson Square]. **Can** you find the **animals** living in the column capitals? **List** three different animals.

\[1\]
\[2\]
\[3\]

\[COLUMN\]
\[COLUMN CAPITAL\]

7. **GREEN STREET**

As you walk back to where you began, try to find more **architectural elements**. When you find them, **check** the box in the lower left corner.

- **PORCH**
- **PEDIMENT/THRESHOLD**
- **GOTHIC ARCH**
- **FANLIGHT**
- **STAINED GLASS**
- **ROUND**
- **BALCONY**
- **AWNING**