

## Explanation **Object Characteristics**

The four kinds of object characteristics are:

**user characteristics**  
**type characteristics**  
**purpose characteristics**  
**inherent characteristics.**

### **User characteristics**

tell us for whom or what (people, special groups of people, plants, animals or artifacts) an object is designed, e.g.

People:

tenants -> block of flats

Special groups of people:

handicapped -> workshop

elderly people -> old people's home

small children -> kindergarten

Animals:

horses -> stable

Plants:

orchids -> greenhouse

Artifacts:

paintings -> gallery.

The user characteristics for an object to be designed result on the one hand from the analysis of the **Project Task**, and on the other hand from the data contained in the **Data List** compiled in **project module B 2**.

### **Type characteristics**

provide information pertaining, to the type of an object, i.e. on the type group to which the particular object belongs, and with which it has fundamental characteristics in common, defining, it as, for instance, a „building“, „outdoor construction“ or „interior space“, and information on its special type or use where applicable.

Examples:

The type group of „buildings“<sup>1</sup> comprises, for instance:

Residential buildings (e.g. detached houses, terraced houses, halls of residence, old people's homes)

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<sup>1</sup> „Buildings are independently usable, roofed constructions, erected for the long term, which can be entered by people and are suitable or intended to protect people, animals or artifacts...“ (Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden (ed.): Systematische Verzeichnisse Systematik der Bauwerke, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden 1978)

Non-residential buildings (e.g. hospitals, barracks, office buildings, agricultural buildings, hotels, public houses, university buildings, museums, theatres, opera houses, sports buildings, school buildings, nurseries, churches, community centres, monasteries, garage buildings, petrol stations, slaughterhouses, parliament buildings, factories, buildings for accommodation of animals or plants).

The type group of „buildings of special types or use" comprises, for instance:

Skyscrapers

Commercial buildings (e.g. department stores, shopping centres, cash & carry markets)

Assembly buildings (e.g. cinemas, theatres, concert halls, conference centres, circus facilities, large auditoriums)

Restaurants, public houses and inns

Entertainment facilities (e.g. slot machine arcades)

Office and administration buildings

Hospitals, nursing homes, maternity homes

Schools and sports facilities (e.g. rifle ranges)

The type group of „interior spaces" comprises for instance:

Accommodation spaces (e.g. living rooms and bedrooms, kitchens, housework rooms, workrooms such as offices, shops and salesrooms, workshops, public houses and assembly rooms, classrooms, hospital rooms, sports and playrooms, DIY and hobby rooms)

Non-accommodation spaces (e.g. halls, stairwells, washrooms and lavatories, pantries and boxrooms, laundries, garages, boiler rooms, storerooms)

The type group of „interior spaces of special types or use" comprises for instance:

Spaces covering large areas (e.g. exhibition and trade fair halls, warehouses)

Spaces with high risks of fire or explosion (e.g. paint spraying shops, explosive stores)

### **Purpose characteristics**

provide information on the purposes to be served by the object.

In relation to the object „building", a distinction is made between two groups of purposes:

- a) *General* purposes,
- b) *Specific* purposes.

ad a)

According to the definition of the concept „building“ all buildings are used for a *general* purpose, i.e. „to protect people, animals or artifacts“.

ad b)

Above and beyond this, each „building“ also serves *specific* purposes, which characterize each individual building.

Examples:

A motorway service station serves *in general* to protect people, animals or artifacts, and *specifically* to provide supplies for road users and their vehicles.

A kindergarten serves *in general* to protect people, animals or artifacts, and *specifically* to provide care, stimulation and education to children aged between three and five.

### **Inherent characteristics**

tell us something about the external and/or internal appearance of an object as the bearer of a „message“ with which the owner or user identifies himself.

Examples:

Image projection by a public client: „Democratic building with values such as freedom, openness, accessibility, coming together and tolerance“ (Prof. Dr. Rita Suessmuth, President of the German Parliament, on the late Parliament building in Bonn)

Image projection by a corporation: Corporate identity expressed by a „typical“ colour or symbol, logo, or the building as an advertising medium.

Image projection by a private client: „A palace for Emperors and Kings who visited him; a massive monument to himself and the economic power of the company“ (Alfred Krupp, „Villa Krupp“, the former private residence in Essen of the Krupp family who, in the late eighteenth century, owned the largest factory in the world).