



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Construction Site Tour Worksheet Points for Investigation and Observation

To ACE Students:

Visiting a construction project in progress offers a first-hand opportunity to learn how designs are transformed into an actual structure. Be inquisitive. As you look about the work site, consider the following points for investigation. Take notes on this worksheet, make sketches, and compare your observations with other ACE students at the end of the tour or during the next ACE mentoring session.

1. What is the project under construction?
2. Describe its size (e.g., total number of square feet or stories).
3. Who is the owner? The lead architecture firm? The primary engineering firms? The general contractor?

What evidence do you see of on-site collaboration among the architects, engineers, and/or construction manager?

4. What is the project's stage of completion? How long will it take from ground breaking to move-in by the structure's occupants?

Is the project on schedule? If not, how far off schedule and for what reasons?

5. Ask the project architect/engineer/construction manager to identify the greatest design and construction challenges they have faced. What unexpected problems arose, and how were they solved?

6. What, if any, are the green or sustainable design features of the project? Which of these features do you observe? What will their environmental benefits be?

7. Identify as many types of work underway as you can (e.g., soil excavation, concrete pouring, framing, drywall mounting, etc.)

8. What safety precautions does the contractor take during the construction process? Has the project encountered any safety issues?

9. What safety features will the building have upon completion?

10. What are the building's primary structural materials (e.g., steel or wood frame, post-tensioned concrete beams)?

11. What kinds of equipment and tools did you see at the site? What was their function?

12. If the project is far enough along for you to notice its overall design or if you see the design drawings of the project, what is your personal assessment of the design?

13. Does the project fit into the context of its surroundings? How, or how not?