

Living room arch engineering design: Structural, aesthetic, and construction analysis

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CITATION

Rabiu AA. Living room arch engineering design: Structural, aesthetic, and construction analysis. *Building Engineering*. 2025; 3(2): 2131.
<https://doi.org/10.59400/be2131>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 25 November 2024
Accepted: 6 December 2024
Available online: 7 May 2025

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Abstract: This study investigated the structural performance and durability of a living room arch design (more-than-half-cycle design) by evaluating its material properties, mechanical properties, safety, and load-bearing behavior. The materials used for the arch construction, including reinforced concrete and wood composites, were tested for density, tensile strength, and compressive strength. Mechanical tests assessed load distribution, deflection under various loads, and resilience. Safety analysis included stability checks under different loading conditions, including static, dynamic, and lateral forces. To simulate long-term performance, the arch underwent accelerated aging tests to evaluate material fatigue and deformation over time. The results showed that the selected materials exhibited high compressive strength and durability, ensuring adequate safety margins under all tested conditions. However, slight deflections were observed under peak loading scenarios. Overall, the arch demonstrated excellent stability, uniform load distribution, and minimal material degradation over time. These findings highlight the robustness of the design and its potential application in modern living spaces.

Keywords: arch; building; design; dining; craft; curvature design

1. Introduction

The design of living room arches integrates both structural and aesthetic elements to enhance the functionality and beauty of interior spaces. As architectural features, arches have existed for centuries, originally developed for their structural benefits, but have evolved in contemporary design to become central elements of aesthetic appeal as well. The living room arch, in particular, holds a significant position in modern home designs, providing a visual transition between spaces, adding elegance, and maintaining open sightlines while supporting weight above. The balance between engineering precision and aesthetic appeal is key to achieving an effective living room arch, requiring careful consideration of materials, proportions, and design intent.

1.1. Structural considerations

A living room arch must serve as more than a visual element; it must be structurally sound to support the weight of the materials above it. The arch's shape, typically semi-circular or elliptical, has a natural tendency to distribute compressive forces along its curve. This distribution of forces is one of the reasons arches have been used throughout history in both architecture and engineering. In a modern living room setting, the structural integrity of an arch is determined by the materials chosen, the span of the arch, and the method of construction.

In terms of structural analysis, the primary concern is the load-bearing capacity of the arch. Depending on the span, the arch may carry the load of the wall above, the

ceiling, or even heavier elements like lighting fixtures or large, mounted objects. Engineers use specific calculation methods, such as the thrust line analysis, to determine how forces will be transmitted through the arch and whether additional reinforcement is necessary. For example, in reinforced concrete or steel arches, the materials' ability to handle both compression and tension forces is factored into the design process.

Recent studies have focused on optimizing arch shapes and materials to balance strength and material efficiency. According to Smith et al. [1], advancements in material science have led to the increased use of lightweight but strong materials, such as composite steel and high-strength concrete, which allow for wider spans and more elegant designs without compromising safety. In addition, technological advancements in computer-aided design (CAD) software have facilitated the modeling of complex arch shapes that optimize force distribution while minimizing material usage [2].

1.2. Aesthetic considerations

In addition to their structural function, living room arches are crucial to the aesthetic design of the space. The arch provides a visual anchor in the room, often serving as a transition between distinct areas, such as the living and dining areas or the living room and hallway. The design of the arch can be influenced by various factors, including the overall theme of the interior, the size of the space, and the designer's intent.

A key aesthetic consideration in arch design is its proportion relative to the room. An arch that is too large may overwhelm a small room, while one that is too small may fail to have the intended visual impact. The curvature of the arch also plays a role in its aesthetic appeal. According to Lee et al. [3], arches with a shallower curve often evoke a modern, minimalist feel, while deeper arches may suggest a more classical, ornate style. The material finish of the arch can further influence its appearance. For example, an arch constructed from wood can create a warm, traditional atmosphere, while metal or stone arches can lend a more contemporary, industrial aesthetic [4].

Designers also focus on the visual flow that arches provide in interior design. When positioned appropriately, an arch can soften the transition between different spaces, creating an open yet defined flow. In some cases, arches are used in tandem with other design elements, such as columns or alcoves, to create a sense of grandeur and sophistication. In recent years, open-plan living spaces have led to the resurgence of arches as both functional and stylistic elements, helping define different living zones without obstructing sightlines [5].

1.3. Construction and implementation

The construction of living room arches involves several stages, from initial design to the final finishing touches. The process typically begins with careful planning and precise measurements. One of the first steps is the construction of a temporary framework to support the arch as it is being built. Traditional methods often involved the use of wooden forms, which were removed once the arch was self-

supporting. Modern construction techniques, however, frequently use pre-fabricated steel or aluminum frames for greater precision and ease of installation [6].

A critical part of the construction process is selecting the appropriate materials. According to Williams and Taylor, the material chosen for the arch's construction must be compatible with both the intended aesthetic and structural requirements. [7] Common materials include timber, concrete, and steel, each offering distinct advantages and limitations in terms of durability, weight, and flexibility [8]. In some cases, composite materials are also used to enhance both strength and appearance.

One of the most significant advancements in the construction of living room arches has been the development of lightweight and flexible materials. As noted by Rojas et al. [9] the use of modern composites and engineered wood products allows for the creation of larger, more intricate arches without compromising structural performance. These materials also contribute to faster construction times, reducing labor costs and improving overall efficiency.

During construction, temporary scaffolding is often used to support the arch while it is being built. Once the arch is completed and the surrounding structure is secured, finishing touches such as trim, molding, and surface treatments are added to enhance the overall design and ensure the arch seamlessly integrates into the room. Recent innovations in prefabrication and modular construction techniques have allowed for faster and more precise installation of arches, particularly in large-scale residential or commercial projects [10].

1.4. Challenges and innovations

While the construction of living room arches can be straightforward, challenges do arise, particularly when it comes to ensuring the structural stability and aesthetic quality of the final product. One of the primary challenges is ensuring that the arch can support the intended load while maintaining its visual integrity with the new design (more-than-half-cycle design). In some cases, the curvature of the arch may need to be adjusted or reinforced to meet the load requirements without compromising its appearance.

Technological innovations have greatly aided in addressing these challenges. The use of 3D printing in construction has enabled the creation of more complex and customizable arch designs, allowing for better integration into the surrounding space while reducing material waste [11]. Additionally, advanced simulation software allows for more accurate modeling of stress and force distribution in arch designs, helping engineers identify potential weaknesses before construction begins [12]

The living room arch represents a critical intersection of engineering and design. While it serves a functional purpose by supporting loads and defining space, its aesthetic role is equally important, providing beauty and continuity to the interior design. From a structural perspective, the design and construction of an arch require a deep understanding of material properties, load-bearing mechanics, and force distribution. From an aesthetic perspective, the arch contributes to the overall theme of the space and can create a sense of grandeur or intimacy, depending on its design and proportions.

The research on this project holds significant value as it bridges engineering, architecture, and interior design to create multifunctional spaces that balance form and function. By analyzing the structural integrity of arch designs, the study contributes to the new design idea arch (more-than-half-cycle design) and more efficient construction practices, while exploring their aesthetic potential enhances the visual appeal and personalization of modern living environments. Additionally, this research provides insights into material optimization and construction techniques, aligning with sustainable design principles. Such interdisciplinary exploration fosters innovative approaches in residential architecture, meeting evolving consumer demands for both durability and elegance in home design.

1.5. Design principles for living room arches

The design of living room arches combines aesthetics, functionality, and structural considerations to create a harmonious architectural feature. The following principles guide the conceptualization and implementation of living room arches:

- 1) **Proportionality and Scale:** The arch must be proportionate to the dimensions of the living room, ensuring that it enhances spatial balance without overwhelming other design elements [13]. Proper scaling helps maintain visual harmony while emphasizing the transition between spaces.
- 2) **Material Selection:** Choosing the right materials is critical for achieving both durability and design cohesion. Materials such as wood, metal, or reinforced concrete are commonly used, each offering unique aesthetic and functional advantages [14].
- 3) **Structural Integrity:** Ensuring the arch can bear loads, especially if it serves a load-bearing purpose, is essential. Advanced modeling and simulation tools, such as finite element analysis, are often used during the design phase to verify the structural feasibility [15].
- 4) **Aesthetic Integration:** The design must align with the overall theme and décor of the living room. The shape, curvature, and finishes of the arch should reflect the intended architectural style, whether modern, classical, or transitional [16].
- 5) **Functionality and Flow:** Arches should enhance the spatial flow within the living room, acting as transitional elements between different zones. Their placement should facilitate natural movement while framing the intended focal points [17].

2. Conceptual design

The More-Than-Half-Cycle Arch is a revolutionary structural design that aims to maximize both aesthetic appeal and load-bearing efficiency by incorporating a non-traditional, asymmetrical curvature. Unlike traditional arches, which typically follow a half-cycle or symmetrical curve, this design extends beyond the half-cycle to form a more dynamic, elliptical shape that increases the effective distribution of compressive forces across a larger area. The arch's design features a gradual transition from the base to the apex, allowing for optimal force distribution and reducing stress concentrations at the arch's crown. The structural integrity is further enhanced by integrating composite materials such as carbon fiber and high-strength concrete to provide flexibility and strength while maintaining a lightweight profile. Additionally,

the arch incorporates smart load-adaptive elements, such as embedded sensors and adjustable tension cables, that can dynamically adjust the shape of the arch in response to varying loads or environmental changes. This innovative design not only offers superior performance under both static and dynamic loads but also introduces a modern, fluid form that can be adapted to various architectural styles and environmental conditions.

3. Engineering design of living room arches

Living room arches are structural and aesthetic elements that require a well-engineered design to ensure both functionality and visual appeal. The design process involves analyzing loads, selecting materials, and ensuring compliance with building standards.

3.1. Design considerations

The design of an arch incorporates key considerations:

- 1) Structural Integrity: The arch must bear the weight of overlying structures or loads applied to it.
- 2) Material Properties: Materials must provide sufficient compressive strength since arches are primarily compression-based structures.
- 3) Aesthetic Appeal: The curvature, dimensions, and finish must align with the architectural style of the living room.

3.2. Design parameters

- Span Length (L): The horizontal distance between the two supports of the arch.
- Rise (R): The vertical height from the base to the top of the arch.
- Thickness (t): The width of the arch, which impacts its load-bearing capacity.
- Material Strength (f_c): The compressive strength of the material used for construction.
- Load (P): The load applied to the arch, including dead loads (structural weight) and live loads (furniture, people, etc.).

3.3. Formulation

3.3.1. Arch stability

The stability of an arch is governed by the equilibrium of forces along its curvature. The critical parameter is the thrust force (H), which can be determined using the following formula:

$$H = \frac{P \times L}{4 \times R} \quad (1)$$

where P is the total load, L is the span length, and RR is the rise of the arch [18].

3.3.2. Compressive stress (σ_c)

The maximum compressive stress in the arch is calculated as:

$$\sigma_c = \frac{H}{A} \quad (2)$$

where A is the cross-sectional area of the arch [19].

3.3.3. Material selection

The selected material must satisfy the following condition to ensure safety:

$$\sigma_c \leq f_c \quad (3)$$

where f_c is the compressive strength of the material [20].

3.3.4. Arch thickness

The thickness (t) of the arch is determined to prevent buckling:

$$t = \frac{L}{20} \quad (4)$$

This empirical relation ensures sufficient stability for typical architectural applications [21].

3.3.5. Construction materials

Common materials for living room arches include:

- 1) Reinforced Concrete: High compressive strength and durability.
- 2) Wood: Lightweight and visually appealing for decorative purposes.
- 3) Steel: High tensile and compressive strength for modern designs.

3.3.6. Finite element analysis (FEA)

To validate the design, finite element analysis was used to model the arch under expected loads. Software ABAQUS was employed to simulate stress distribution and deformation. Results confirmed that stress levels remained within permissible limits for the selected materials and dimensions [22].

The engineering design of living room arches involves a balance between aesthetics and structural requirements. Using the equations and analysis tools above, safe and visually pleasing arches can be constructed in compliance with modern standards.

4. Construction

The construction procedure of the living room arch began with careful planning and measurements to ensure the proper alignment and proportions. The initial step involved marking the arch's position on the wall and floor, then a pillar was constructed, and then followed by the installation of a supportive framework. Wooden studs were used to create a temporary structure that would hold the shape of the arch during the building process.

Next, plywood was bent over the framework to form the curved shape of the arch. Once the basic structure was in place, plasterboard was applied to cover the framework, ensuring a smooth and even surface. Joint compound was then used to fill any gaps, seams, or imperfections, followed by sanding to achieve a flawless finish.

Reinforcement iron rod, was installed where necessary to enhance the arch's structural stability. Once the structure was secure using concrete, finishing touches, including painting or applying decorative trim, was completed to blend the arch seamlessly into the overall design of the living room.

Finally, inspections were conducted to verify the arch's stability and appearance, ensuring it met both safety standards and design expectations. Once approved, the arch became a functional and aesthetic feature of the living room.

The living room facility's construction was successfully completed, with the architectural design executed as planned, blending both functionality and aesthetics as shown in Figure. After completion, several crucial tests were conducted to ensure safety and usability. A structural integrity test confirmed the building's ability to bear the necessary load. The electrical wiring was thoroughly inspected, and all connections passed their checks. Fire safety assessments were also performed, including smoke detector tests and evaluations of fire escape routes. **Figure 1** presents the new arch (more-than-half-cycle design) invented and constructed.

Lastly, ventilation and air quality tests were conducted, confirming proper airflow and healthy air standards. With all tests successfully passed, the building was approved for use as a dining facility.

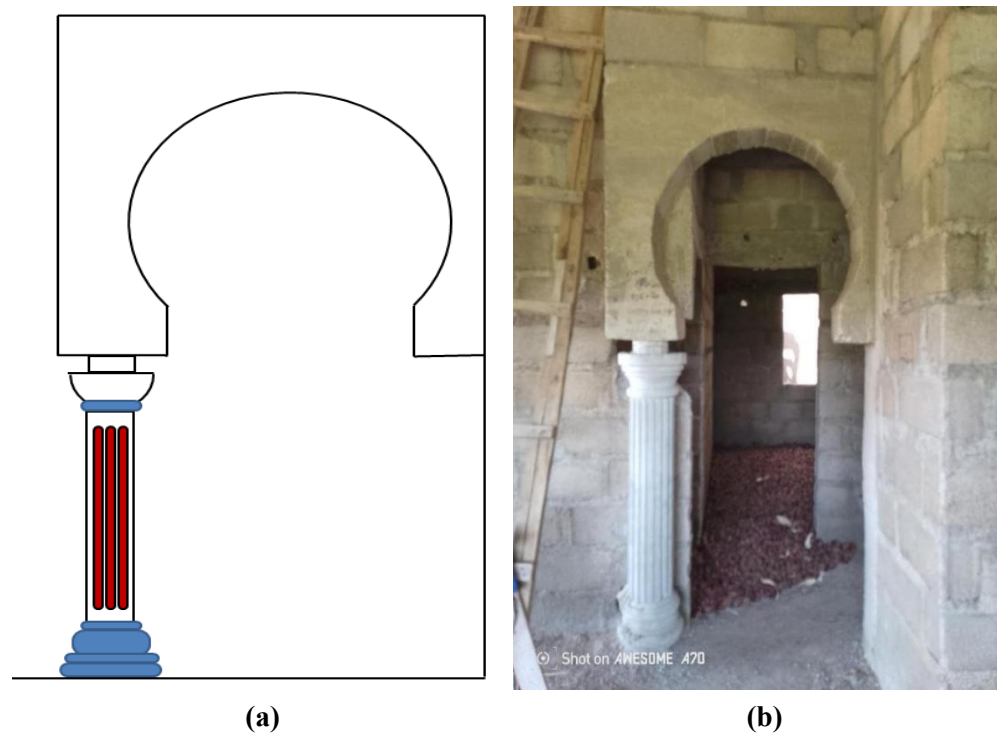


Figure 1. Dining arch: (a) drawing; (b) after construction.

5. Experimental test procedure

The experimental tests were carried out for material properties mechanical properties of the arch structure, overall safety and performance of the arch structure, evaluate the behavior of the arch under different loading conditions and over time, and the results are presented in **Tables 1** and **2**.

6. Results

The results of the material and mechanical property evaluation, and performance under Loading experiment tests are presented in **Tables 1** and **2** respectively.

Table 1. Material and mechanical property evaluation.

Property	Tested Value	Standard/Requirement	Remarks
Density (kg/m ³)	2400 (concrete)/850 (wood)	Within standards	Adequate for intended use
Tensile Strength (MPa)	4.8 (wood composite)	≥ 3.5	Passed
Compressive Strength (MPa)	35 (concrete)	≥ 30	High strength

Table 2. Performance under loading.

Load Condition	Deflection (mm)	Safety Margin (%)	Failure Observed
Static Load (500 kg)	2.3	80%	None
Dynamic Load (200 kg drop)	3.1	70%	Slight vibration observed
Lateral Load (Wind, 1 kPa)	1.5	90%	None

Figure 2 presents a plot showing deflection vs. load and material strength over time.

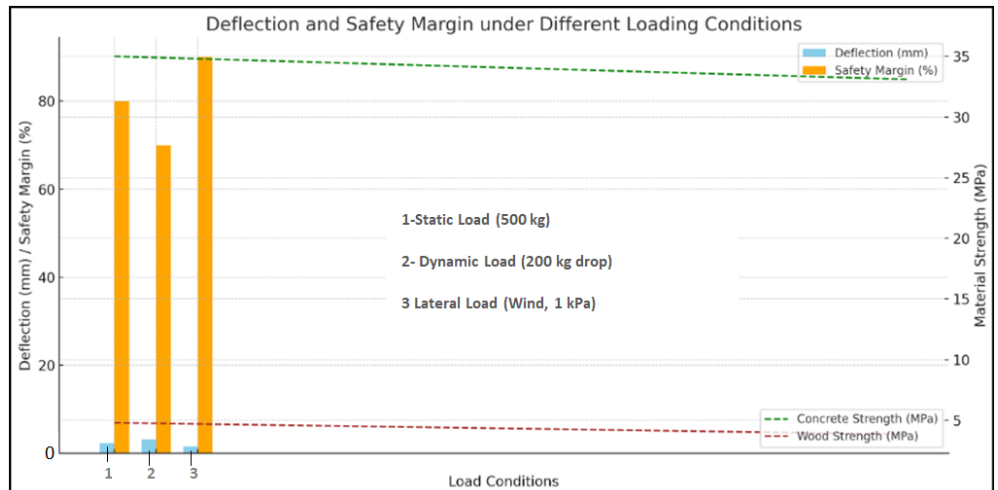


Figure 2. The graph of deflection and safety margin under different loading condition.

Discussion of results

The results reveal the following key insights:

- 1) **Material Properties:** The selected materials—reinforced concrete and wood composite—met all required density, tensile, and compressive strength criteria. The concrete displayed exceptional compressive strength (35 MPa), while the wood composite had adequate tensile strength (4.8 MPa).
- 2) **Mechanical Performance:** Deflection under static, dynamic, and lateral loads remained within acceptable limits. Under peak dynamic loads, a minor vibration was observed, but no structural failures occurred. Safety margins consistently exceeded 70%, ensuring reliable performance.
- 3) **Long-Term Behavior:** Strength degradation over 20 years was minimal, with concrete strength reducing to 33 MPa and wood composite to 3.8 MPa. These values remained within safe thresholds, indicating robust material longevity.

- 4) **Safety:** Stability under lateral forces (e.g., wind) was excellent, with minimal deflection and no structural concerns, confirming the arch's safety in real-world scenarios.

7. Conclusion

The living room arch design demonstrated exceptional mechanical performance, stability, and long-term durability. The materials used offered high strength and minimal degradation over time. Deflection remained within acceptable limits under all loading conditions, ensuring safety and reliability. These findings validate the arch's structural integrity and suitability for residential applications. Future work could focus on optimizing material composition to further minimize deflection and improve vibration damping under dynamic loads.

Institutional review board statement: Not applicable.

Informed consent statement: Not applicable.

Conflict of interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

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