This research began as a sabbatical in 2006 in search of design principles to assess the quality of object-oriented models. What has always appeared to be a qualitative exercise mirrors closely the challenge of assessing quality in art and physical architecture. Christopher Alexander’s work defining elemental qualities in architecture inspired the challenge of finding corresponding expressions of quality in models of systems, particularly information systems. Alexander’s theories have been the principle impetus in the emergence of patterns as a fundamental and pervasive systems engineering concept. This research considers whether the properties of order identified in the physical domain can be translated into the abstract domain of information systems and modeling. Alexander’s properties of physical design quality into the abstract domain of information systems and modeling.