| **Prescriptive architecture** | **Descriptive architecture** |
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| systems prescriptive architecture captures design decisions made prior to system construction | systems descriptive architecture describes how system has been realized and built |
| defined as designed or intended architecture | defines as implemented or realized architecture |
| acts as a set of rules by which all stakeholders have to play | identifies the rules that the stakeholders have to play when the system is implemented |
| act as technical blueprint, identifies the technology to be used in detail | identifies the techniques that has been adopted at implementation |
| defines steps to reduce deployment risk | may not have considered the deployment risk completely because the system has been deployed with the available infrastructure |
| $E+Ethis may be used to model basic functionality, this architecture is first modified when the system starts to evolve | practically the descriptive architecture is modified as the system evolves |
| may not be completely documented | may be completely documented |
| cannot b used for reverse engineering and re-engineering | can be used for reverse engineering and re-engineering |
| defines if the objectives meet the end user requirement | may model the modified objective and changes in the requirement |
| it states that architecture is about principles and guidelines | it states that architecture is about structure of the system |
| development tool may not have been identified | development tools may be fully considered and identified |
| The prescriptive view contains elements form and rationale. | The descriptive view contains component and connectors. |