



Learning By Design

Learning By Design Programs are sprouting up all across the country! The architects involved in AIA NH have decided it is time to join the effort to bring a design program to our fourth grade classes! We have been fortunate to have a Master Teacher from the Boston Society of Architect's Learning By Design Program, Polly Carpenter, AIA, to assist us with the creation of this new program here in New Hampshire.

Shoebox Clubhouse:

In October 2004, we launched our first program with thirty six design professionals who led eighteen of our NH fourth grade classes in a design exercise to "Design a Shoebox Clubhouse." The design professionals volunteered to teach a three class session with the end result being the creation of a "Shoebox Clubhouse" created by each child! Students selected their own shoeboxes and designed their own clubhouses! Each child's imagination and passion directed the result. There were clubhouses for ski teams, soccer teams, girl scout troops, and many other purposes the children came up with!

This class is structured to give children an outlet for their imagination and to develop the skills of measuring, model building, and spatial understanding. The goals for this program for AIA NH are the following;

- to engage children in architectural awareness and design projects with architects and designers
- to support educators who engage children in interdisciplinary, curriculum-based architectural awareness projects
- to give children the opportunity and skills to communicate ideas about their built and natural environments

The work of the first eighteen classes to participate in this ground breaking program in New Hampshire were on display at the AIANH Excellence in Architecture ceremony in January 2005. We hope to provide other opportunities for display.

If you are a fourth-grade teacher interested in this program for your class, call Carolyn Isaak at the AIA office, (603) 357-2863 or fill out and return the attached form. We will get in touch with you.

The NH “Shoe Box Clubhouse”

American Institute of Architects - New Hampshire Chapter (AIA NH)

Design Exercise: Shoe Box Clubhouse
Design Exercise about Scale and Building Elements
An Interactive Hands On Exercise with NH Design Professionals
This is a free volunteer design exercise for the fourth grade classes of NH.

Volunteer Instructors: Volunteer Architects and Architectural Designers from NH
Two instructors per each participating NH fourth grade class

Proposed Time Frame: Three 90 Minute Classes during the month of October
Proposed for the first, second, and third Fridays of October

Class 1: *Instructors discuss the general scale of buildings and building elements.
Historical Buildings and New Hampshire Buildings can be used.*

*Doors
Windows
Porches
Dormers
Columns*

Local geography feature is discussed as site, i.e. northern NH – Mountain Site.

Each class of children can select their site!

Children select the type of clubhouse they want to design based upon their interests, i.e. “Ski Clubhouse, Fishing Clubhouse, etc.”!

Instructors introduce “Master Template Sheet”

Class 2 *Instructors work with children to use the floor plan items of the “Master Template Sheet”
Children layout floor plans of their selected clubhouses!
Master Template Sheet – Rooms: Bathroom, Kitchenette, Eating Area, Clubhouse
Sitting Area, and Small Quiet room for office, sleeping or specific quiet task related
to their clubhouse activity..*

Class 3: *Instructors work with children to use the elevation items of the “Master Template Sheet”
Children layout the elevations of their clubhouses!
Master Template Sheet – Elevation items:, doors, windows, columns, dormers,
railings, stairs, chimneys and materials, i.e. stone, brick etc.*

Supplies by AIA NH: “Master Template Sheets” for all children.
Each sheet will be 24” x 36”. The sheet will have _” scale elements as a “kit
of parts” for their clubhouses. The children will be able to cut items out of the sheet. If they
need more items, they can copy them on to another piece of paper.
See Class 2 and 3 for specific items proposed.

Supplies by School: Scissors, Glue, Tape, Pencils, Pens, and Paper

Supplies by Children “Shoebox” from their favorite pair of shoes or boots!



AIANH 2005 Learning by Design Program

Name of School: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX: _____

Principal: _____

Contact teacher: _____

Teacher's E-Mail address: _____

Approximate class size: _____

Please return by mail or fax to Carolyn Isaak, AIANH Executive Director at the address below. We will contact you to arrange dates and details.

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