

NYC INSTITUTIONS WITH BUILT ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION RESOURCES

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

A leading cultural venue for architecture and the built environment in New York City, the Center for Architecture's [K-12 Education](#) offerings include programs for schools, families and youth onsite and in schools throughout NYC. Free digital resources include [Teacher Resource Packets](#) on built environment education. These materials offer activities for teachers attending our [Student Day](#) workshops. They include information, activities and resource links on many topics in built environment education. The Center for Architecture also offers:

- [Building Bridges Activity Guide](#)
Learn about the design and structure of different bridge types to discover how each works to support the load of traffic and span long distances
- [Built Environment Education Bibliography](#)
A comprehensive list of resources that support built environment education such as curriculum guides, books for children, photography resources, and more.
- [Architecture and Design Resources for High School Students](#)
Discover resources and learning opportunities available for students in grade 9-12.
- [NYC Urban Explorer guides](#)
Explore the architecture of NYC using these family-friendly guides.

NEW YORK CITY TOPICS

[The Architecture of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum](#)

Explore the unique history and architecture of the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in this guide developed for students and teachers. Although the primary goal of this guide is to introduce the museum's unique architecture, many of the suggested discussions and activities can be used to explore the history, design, and use of any chosen building.

[Gotham Center for New York City History](#)

Dedicated to exploring NYC history. Includes helpful directory of resources, an interactive timeline and online teacher resource center with forums (must request access).

[Manhattan Timeformations \(Skyscraper Museum\)](#)

Computer models and interactive animations showing Manhattan's skyscrapers and other information layers, such as transportation infrastructure, settlement patterns and real estate development cycles.

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[Medieval New York](#)

Guide created by Fordham University students in Professor Paul Halsall's introductory medieval courses; includes information on as well as links to medieval buildings around New York City.

[NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)

Includes glossary of architectural terms, as well as maps of Historic Districts. Also includes list of districts and links to PDF reports of their landmark designation.

[NYC Open Accessible Space Information System \(OASIS\)](#)

Interactive map of the five boroughs with multiple layers you can activate to display different data. For example, selecting parks or playgrounds (under community open space) will display these on the map. Examples of additional data layers/categories include land use, schools, demographic statistics from the 2000 Census and boundaries by Community Board and City Council districts and zip codes.

[New York Public Library Digital Gallery](#)

Digitized images from NYPL's collections. Includes the ability to browse by category – to start, try “Cities and Buildings.” While it includes photographs from a variety countries and time periods, there tends to be more of a focus on New York City. Photographs in collections come with accompanying notes and additional resource citations.

[Place Matters](#)

A joint initiative by City Lore and the Municipal Art Society, the Place Matters project works to foster awareness and encourage preservation of places in the city that the community finds important. Includes PDFs of a past project, “Your Guide to the Lower East Side,” with a map and guides about community life at key LES locations.

[Urban Archive](#)

A powerhouse of information about local New York City history. Brings together several important digital archives including the New York Public Library, Museum of the City of New York, New York Historical Society and many, many others. Great app too!

OTHER ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

[A+DEN Architecture and Design Education Network](#)

National network of organizations that provide K – 12 design education programs

[American Institute of Architects Washington DC](#)

IN addition to many educational programs for kids in the DC area, AIA DC [offers Children's Neighborhood Architectural Walking tour activity guides](#) for five neighborhoods in Washington DC. Although the tours focus on Washington DC's neighborhoods, the vocabulary and activities can be a model for creating your own local tours.

[Michigan Architectural Foundation](#)

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This non-profit organization affiliated with AIA Michigan offers numerous free educational [Resources for Kids](#) on their website including the [Architecture: It's Elementary!](#) K-5 Curriculum Guide, Architreks videos exploring architectural topics and Michigan neighborhoods, lists of 100 Essential Architecture Books for kids, and resources for high school students.

[Architecture Foundation of Oregon](#)

AFO runs Architects in Schools, a free, comprehensive in-school architecture and design program for Oregon elementary school students and their teachers. Online resources include a [Design Challenge](#) series and [At-Home Architecture Lessons](#).

[Architecture in Education \(AiE\) Philadelphia](#)

The K-12 education program of the Philadelphia Center for Architecture and Design offers free programs to Philadelphia public schools. Their comprehensive Teachers' Manual is available as a free PDF download from the website.

[Center for Understanding the Built Environment \(CUBE\)](#)

Based in Kansas City, Missouri, CUBE offers their popular Walk Around the Block and Box City curricula as well as other free lesson plan downloads on the [Initiatives page](#) of their web site.

[Chicago Architecture Center](#)

As Chicago's forum for the exchange of ideas on urban design, CAC inspires people to participate in the building of vibrant communities and to demand the highest standard in urban design. Their online [Educational Resources](#) include [Discover Design](#), an online platform pairing classrooms with architect mentors to solve real-world design problems, and numerous K-12 architecture books and curricula available for purchase through their [online store](#).

[Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum](#)

Smithsonian museum dedicated to design of all types with virtual exhibitions and an [Educator Resource Center](#) with downloadable design-based lesson plans for all grades.

[Creative Park by Canon](#)

Canon provides free Paper Craft activities where you can print and fold iconic buildings from around the world into 3D models.

[Fallingwater](#)

This iconic modern house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright has an active [K-12 education program](#) at their site. Their [Annual Gnome House Design Challenge](#) is open to any students 8 to 13 years old.

[KidsThinkDesign](#)

All aspects of design are covered on this website, including architecture. An emporium of ideas.

[Math-Kitecture](#)

Basic step-by-step lesson plan for creating a floorplan of the classroom (from sketching to scale drawing to computer-aided drafting). Also includes activity ideas for finding geometry in architecture and 3-D graphics of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater.

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[Metropolis](#)

Metropolis is a curriculum developed by John Martoni, a planner and third-grade teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. Packed with illustrations and exercises, it is intended for use by elementary classroom teachers and other adults who seek to expose children to a variety of urban forms from around the world.

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[National Building Museum](#)

Teaching resources include free teacher guides to selected exhibitions as well as boxed teaching kits for purchase for classroom use on Bridge Basics (grades 5–9), Green Community (grades 5–8) and Designing for Disaster (grades 7–9)

[Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt](#)

Every community is special and has a story to tell. Developed by the American Planning Association, this scavenger hunt gives you fun ways to begin exploring the different pieces that make-up your community.

[NEXT.cc](#)

NEXT.cc introduces what design is, what design does, and why design is important. They offer many activities ranging from architectural modeling to bridge design to structural systems. NEXT.cc journeys and activities are supported with links to museums, institutions and contemporary practices. In partnership with School Zone Institute, they have launched a [Facebook](#) campaign with daily design activities.

[PBS Building Big](#)

Site created to accompany the PBS TV series ("Building Big") about five types of large structures and their creation (bridges, domes, skyscrapers, dams and tunnels).

[PBS American Masters: Frank Gehry](#)

[PBS American Masters: Eero Saarinen](#)

[PBS American Masters : Charles and Ray Eames](#)

[PBS American Masters : I.M.Peii](#)

[Rice Architecture Recess Exercises](#)

This K-12 program taking place at Rice University's campus uses educational materials and techniques developed by Rice Architecture students to provide hands-on introductory workshops on architecture and design that teach students about the built environment

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[School Zone Institute](#)

A non-profit design education organization that runs the Architecture and Children program and related design workshops in collaboration with the University of New Mexico School of Architecture + Planning. Their comprehensive [Teacher Guide](#) and other resources are available on their website.

[Skyscraper Museum](#)

Provides in-depth studies about tall buildings in NYC, but also holds events with a more international perspective. Their Research and Education pages have good resources and educational content about skyscrapers.

[Teaching with Historic Places](#)

The National Park Service website has information about significant sites around the country.

[100+ Architecture Engineering Resources for Smart Kids](#)

A site compiled by a home school mom. Lots of links to explore within this site.

ARCHITECTURAL IMAGE DATABASES

[Arcaid](#)

Commercial site with architecture, landscapes, interior and design photos by professional photographers. Searchable by an extensive variety of options (including building types and elements, or key aspects). Images available for viewing with watermark without purchase.

[Archiseek](#)

Includes news articles, blog and forum posts, and images of architecture and plans from around the world. Most extensive information available is on Ireland, but also includes separate sites for the US and other European countries. Good quality images.

[Artstor](#)

Online digital image library with pictures, drawings, models, maps and plans for sites around the world. Requires subscription access (often available through affiliated schools).

[Decopix](#)

A series of photos of Art Deco architecture from around the world. Includes historical background (under "About Art Deco Architecture"), a photo collection of the Art Deco sunrise theme, and a selection of advertisements from the era as well.

[Great Buildings Collection](#)

Cross-linked with Archiplanet; database of images (pictures, plans and 3-D models) with basic facts and additional resources on buildings. Searchable and categorized by building, architect or location.

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[MoMA's Architecture Collection](#)

Lots of high-quality images related to architecture in MoMA's collection from past and present exhibitions.

[Prints & Photographs Reading Room: Library of Congress](#)

Online catalog of materials—including photographs, prints and drawings—documenting American history. Search, or try browsing by topic (like "Environment and Architecture." Sample subsections include [Built in America: Historic American Buildings](#): Collection from the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record. Includes images and basic data about the buildings, arranged by subject and place.

[Society of Architectural Historians ARCHIPEDIA](#)

A traditional, alphabetized encyclopedia of all things related to architecture. Go and explore or find something specific...there's a lot of great stuff to be found!

[Skyscraper page](#)

Building database featuring diagram illustrations of structures and data (i.e. tallest, or buildings currently under construction) and searchable index.

MAPS

[Library of Congress Panoramic Maps](#)

Panoramic maps of the United States dating from 1847-1929.

[University of Texas Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection](#)

Collection of historical maps of select US cities. Types of maps vary widely (from police districts to sewage systems to cities during a certain year) but images are generally large and of good quality.