

NEIGHBORHOODS & CITIES: BUILDINGS

GRADE: 3-5, Middle School, High School

TIME: OPEN

Frank Lloyd Wright designed for more than 70 years and creating both public and private buildings that would become icons of American architecture and design. In this lesson, participants investigate the various buildings that make up their community, compare public and private buildings, and debate the preservation of historic buildings. Afterward, participants repurpose recyclable materials to build their own Wright inspired building.

**Pair this lesson with others in the Neighborhoods & Cities series for a more in-depth exploration.*

INTEGRATED SUBJECTS: Visual Art & Social Studies

OBJECTIVES

MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Examples of public and private buildings designed by Wright

Collection of recyclable materials (no larger than a box of Macaroni and Cheese)

Tape

Glue

Scissors

Construction Paper

1. Examine the different types of buildings that make up a neighborhood and city and how this relates to a community's needs.
2. Explore the concept of preservation and its importance.
3. Create a Wright inspired design from recycled materials.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What did Frank Lloyd Wright's designs contribute to the communities they were built in?
2. What deciding factors determine what buildings are in a community?
3. How can materials be re-used to create artwork?

LESSON PROCEDURE

EXPLORE

- Provide participants with examples of private and public buildings designed by Wright. Images are available at: <https://www.teachingbydesign.org/multimedia/>
Public building examples: The Rookery and Unity Temple
Private Building examples: Frederick C. Robie House and Emil Bach House
- Introduce Wright's Oak Park Home and Studio. (<https://www.teachingbydesign.org/about/home-and-studio/>) Ask: Is this building private or public?

ENGAGE

- **Guide discussion to begin addressing the local community. Have participants consider:** What are examples of public and private buildings? Are the public buildings accessible to all? Are there buildings that are both private and public like the Home and Studio? What is their purpose? How do buildings change over time?
- **Introduce landmarks and historic buildings. Discuss preservation and its role in communities. Ask:** Are all preserved, historic buildings private ones that became public? Is it better to preserve a building or make space for new construction? Can old buildings and designs address contemporary needs? What about adaptive reuse? What do historic buildings contribute to a community's identity?

DESIGN

- Using collected recyclable materials have participants each design a Wright inspired building.
- Participants must decide if their building is public or private and consider what it would contribute to a community.
- *Optional: Have participants choose a client and/or site card to present further design challenges. Client and site cards are available in the Multimedia Resource section of the Teaching by Design website.*

CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Have participants write a short description of their building detailing what inspired their design and what their building contributes to a community.
- Display designs and allow participants time to view each other's work