

SUMMER

ART EXPLORERS

BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Scavenger Hunt

During your visit to the Museum, examine both the inside and outside of the buildings. You can also do this with your own home. Try to find these building materials throughout the Museum or your home. Circle the ones that you find.

WOOD

GLASS

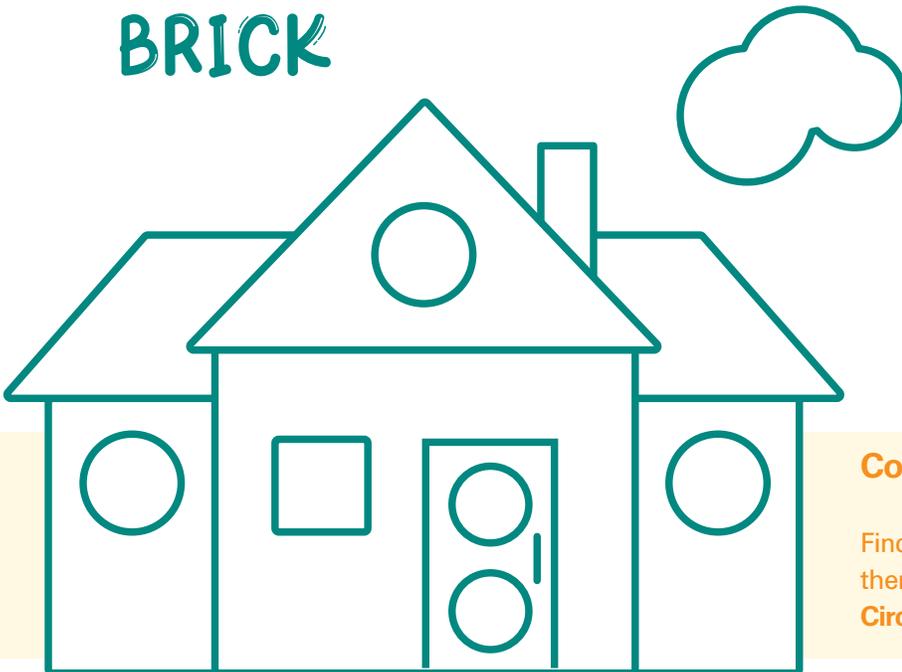
CONCRETE

STONE

METAL

PLASTIC

BRICK



Week 2 PLAYING AND BUILDING

Each week in June and July, explore the inspiring and extraordinary works of art, exhibitions, and installations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston! Whether at home or in the galleries, use this guide to take a trip through the Museum and discover different works of art. If you are using this at home, find works of art in the MFAH Collection at mfah.org/art.

BUILDINGS IN THE COLLECTION

Let's start the conversation!

Use these steps to talk about art with your family.

Architecture plays a big role in our lives. Look for some examples of architecture at the Museum. They can be found in paintings, photographs, drawings, or even the Museum itself. Once you find an example, look at it as a group and discuss these questions.

1. What do you see that is important to the structure of the building?
2. What do you see that is a decorative element?
3. When and where do you think this building was made? Can you find visual evidence to support your thinking?

Coloring Activity

Find the basic shapes within the building and color them accordingly.

Circle-Red Rectangle-Yellow Triangle-Blue

MAKE ART AT HOME

Exploring Buildings and Creating Your Own Tent Challenge

Time: 45 minutes

Difficulty level: Medium



Let's Build a Tent!

Gather These Materials

- Chip clips
- Sheets
- Blankets
- String
- Heavy books
- Clamps
- Chairs
- Anything around the house!

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. You can begin by assigning roles. Who is the client? Who is the architect or designer? Who is the construction manager? Collaboration is encouraged.
2. When designing a structure, it is important to think about the kinds of materials you will use. Will you use materials for structure, visual appeal, or both? The artists in the *Radical: Italian Design* exhibition were very experimental with materials. Challenge yourself to use at least three new materials in your tent. Example: A sheer fabric can act as a window wall.
3. Gather your materials and make some decisions about your tent. How tall will it be? How big? What needs to be able to fit inside?
4. Build your tent.
5. Talk about the three new materials you introduced. Which material was most successful and which one was least successful?
6. Play in your tent! **Share your finished artwork on social media with #MFAHathome.**

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. These blocks are intended to be used by children. What material do you think the blocks are made of?
2. If you could use polyurethane foam to make something big and lightweight, what would it be?
3. These blocks are built one way in the photograph, but how else could you build with these same blocks?

Did You Know?

- Many of the designers who created the lamps, furniture, and other objects in the *Radical: Italian Design 1965–1985, The Dennis Freedman Collection* exhibition have degrees in architecture.
- The designers liked working with foam because it is very lightweight. This allowed their designs to be moved easily for use both indoors and outdoors.
- Architects use walls and other structures to help define space, but lighting designers alter the feeling of a space by using lamps and other lighting devices.

Above: Studio 65, manufactured by Gufram, *Baby-Ionia*, designed 1972, made c. 1986, polyurethane foam and Guflac, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Dennis Freedman Collection, gift of Dennis Freedman, 2018.501.1-.22. © 1972 Studio 65, photography by Kent Pell

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General admission to the MFAH is free on Thursdays, courtesy of Shell Oil Company.

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