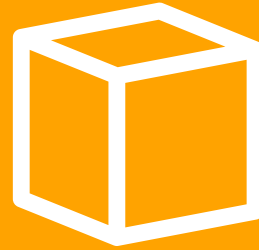


Tool
6



**Model Making
with Blocks**



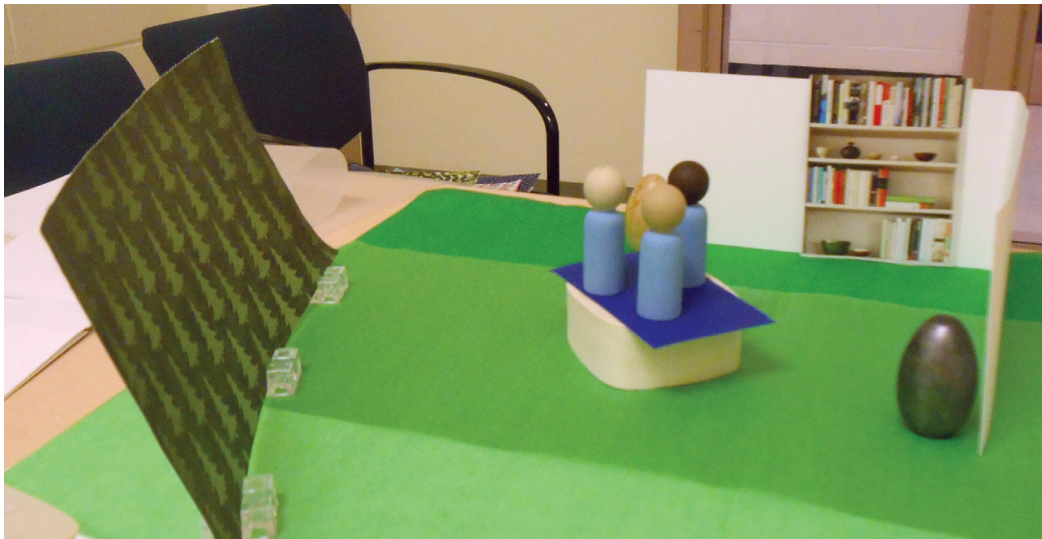


Description

Model Making with Blocks

Model making with blocks is, perhaps, the easiest way for participants to explore three-dimensional space in the toolkit. This tool provides a familiar and hands-on way for participants to express thoughts about space and provide creative and emotional input by using three-dimensional objects.

Blocks may not be allowed into all institutions but, if they are, they can help you quickly explore ideas at the scale of a room or building and without a lot of mess. This section explores various ways to use and create a set of blocks yourself.



SAMPLE EXERCISE

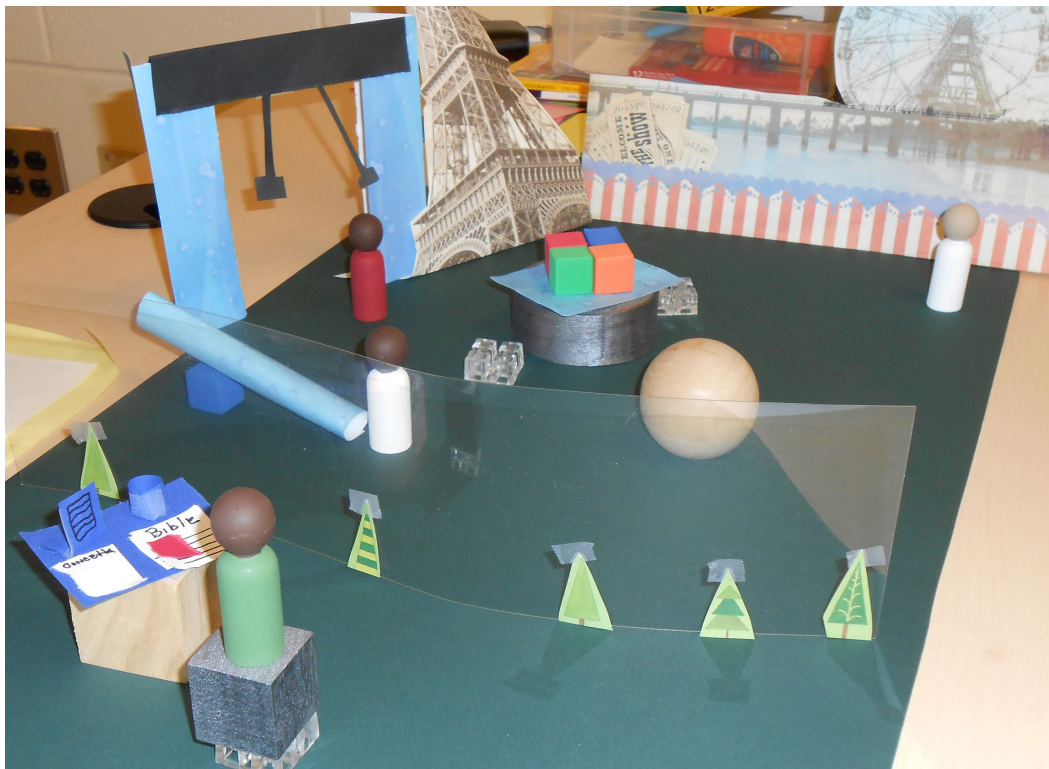
On a table, set out a collection of blocks of various shapes and sizes, as well as a selection of paper of various types, markers, and other design supplies. Invite participants (individually or in small groups) to create a scene, building, room, or landscape that is based on love or restoration, using the blocks and other materials. After they have completed their designs, each participant or group of participants presents their design to the rest of the group, explaining its characteristics and their relationship to restoration. Facilitate a large group discussion that invites participants to explore similarities and differences across their designs.



Plan and Process

Use this tool to:

- Explore space layouts.
- Easily visualize concepts and ideas for three-dimensional building designs.
- Identify and discuss the design characteristics, spatial relationships, and functions of spaces designed to facilitate justice, peace, calm, etc.
- Create and build physical spaces for justice, peace, engagement, reflection, etc.
- Challenge participants to identify and agree on essential design characteristics and spatial relationships.
- Translate the “feel” of a space into a built form.
- Visualize concepts, ideas, or personal experiences.
- Explore participants understanding and perceptions of themes under discussion.
- Encourage participation from those who may be less confident in their verbal communication skills.





Modify the sample exercise

Exercise 1: New justice architecture

On a table, set out a collection of blocks of various shapes and sizes, as well as a selection of paper of various types, markers, and other design supplies. Explain to participants that they will use the blocks to develop a design for a new kind of justice building that fosters love and forgiveness.

Divide the group into three small groups. Each group represents either victims, offenders, or community. Provide each group with a set of blocks. Ask each participant to create a narrative about their experience coming to this new building and consider the spaces that would need to be represented in their designs. For instance:

1. What is the first space you would enter?
2. How should the entry space look and feel?
3. In what order would someone go through the rooms?
4. What rooms should be adjacent to each other?
5. What spaces might be upstairs or downstairs?
6. Are there spaces not represented here? If so, make new spaces to accommodate the needs of your group.

After each group has had thirty minutes to create their ideal spatial organization and building, each group presents their designs. Facilitate a large group discussion about the similarities and differences across the space and room arrangements, across the three groups.

Present, debrief or analyze the design tool

The following prompts are helpful for exploring design characteristics and the rationale behind them:

- What are common themes across the designs?
- What are differences across the designs, based on whether your group designed for a victim, offender, or community member?
- What is surprising about the choice of spaces and their relationships to one another?
- How can this inform the design of our current justice architecture?



Make and Build

There are several ways to make and build this toolkit. The sections below describe the options at your disposal and processes to use to get a toolkit you can use within most institutions.



Materials and process

1. Off-the-shelf block kit

Create a collection of wood or foam blocks and/or paper band boxes in various sizes and shapes. The materials below can be found at most arts and crafts stores. You can apply colored paint to these blocks to identify the different rooms.

Materials

- Cubes – 1 ¾", 1 ½", and 1 ¼".
- Circles – 2 ½" and 2".
- Egg – 2 ½" and 2".
- Square band boxes – 3" and 2".
- Round band boxes – 3" and 2".
- Paint (if desire to label blocks).



2. Make it yourself, by hand

If you are crafty and would like to make your own blocks, you can use standard wood shop machines to cut the blocks out of wood. Below is a list of suggested block sizes. You can apply colored paint to identify the different rooms or laser cut titles/symbols into them for clarification.

Block	Amount	Length	Width	Height
Indoor Spaces				
Large Square	2	17/8"	17/8"	11/2"
Large Circle	2	17/8"		11/2"
Small Square	2	11/4" diameter	11/4"	11/2"
Small Circle	2	11/4" diameter		11/2"
Private Rooms	4	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"
Entry Space	2	21/8"	11/2"	11/2"
Large Multi Purpose	2	21/8"	11/2"	3/4"
Small Multi Purpose	2	11/2"	11/8"	3/4"
Family Room	4	1"	1"	3/4"
Children's Space	1	11/2"	11/8"	3/4"
Kitchen/Dining	1	21/2"	21/2"	3/4"
Stairs	2	11/8"	5/8"	11/2"
Elevators	2	7/8"	3/8"	11/2"
Bathrooms	2	11/8"	3/4"	3/4"
Short Corridor	2	11/2"	3/8"	3/4"
Long Corridor	2	27/8"	3/8"	3/4"
Outdoor Spaces				
Green Space/Gardens	4	13/4"	13/4"	1/16"
Recreation Space	1	21/2"	21/2"	1/16"
Large Water Circle	2	15/8" diameter		1/16"
Small Water Circle	2	7/8" diameter		1/16"

Materials

- 3/4" Bamboo plywood or 3/4" high grade plywood or bass wood.
- Table saw or band saw.
- Laser cutter.
- Paint (if desire to label blocks).



3. Make it yourself, digital

If you are a lover of all things digital and would like to make this kit yourself, you can find on our website Rhino files with the blocks we use in our kit that can be easily 3-D printed. You can have these done locally but you will need to look up vendors in your area who do this. This is helpful if you want to have a chat about color, materials, and how to cut costs. A second option is to go through an online vendor who will ship your blocks to you once you get them the files. Be sure to get a quote first and know your material options.

References

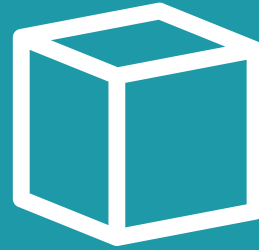
- i.materialise: i.materialise.com/
- Shapeways: www.shapeways.com/
- Sculpteo: www.sculpteo.com/

Tool
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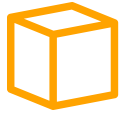
Model Making
with Blocks

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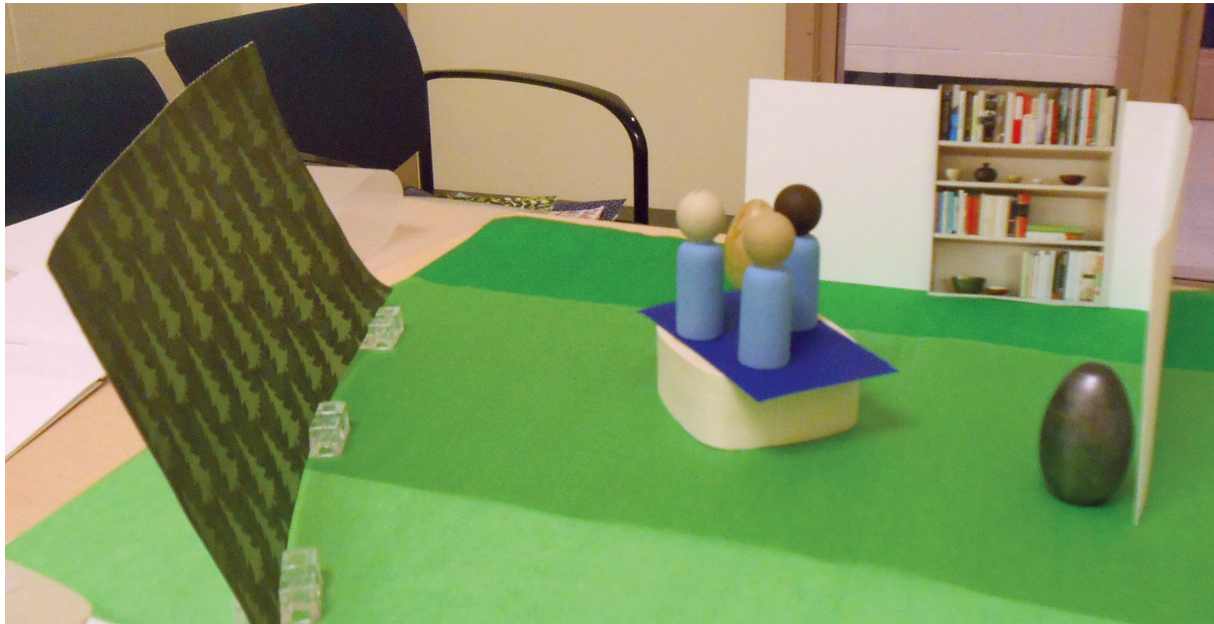
**Model Making
with Blocks**

Participant Handout



Model Making with Blocks

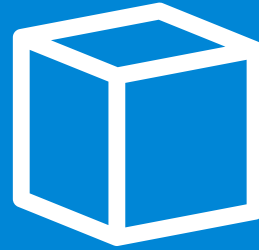
Model making with blocks is, perhaps, the easiest way to explore three-dimensional design. This tool provides a familiar and hands-on way for you to express thoughts about space and provide creative and emotional input by using three-dimensional objects.



Model Making Exercise

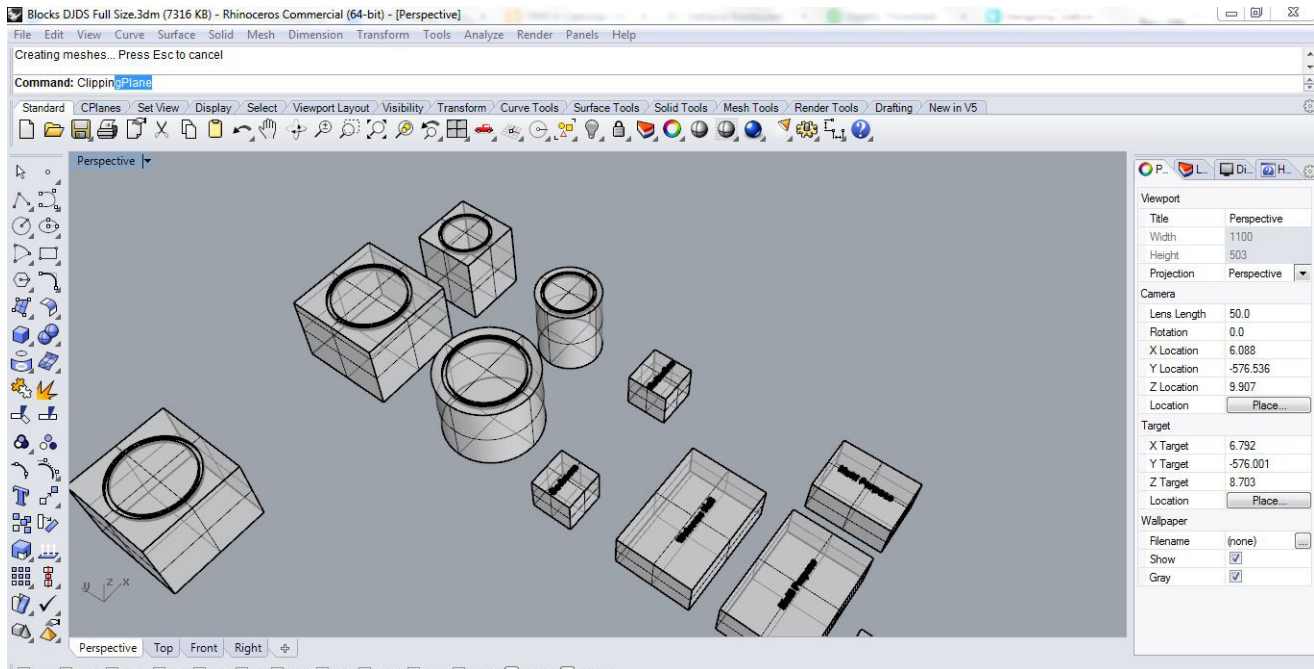
On a table, you will see a collection of blocks of various shapes and sizes, as well as a variety of paper, markers, and other design supplies. You will use these materials to create a scene, building, room, or landscape that is based on love or restoration. After you have completed your design, you will present it to the rest of the group, explaining its characteristics and their relationship to restoration. As a large group, you will explore similarities and differences across your designs.

Tool
6



**Model Making
with Blocks**

Templates



This template is in a digital format as an AutoCad or Rhino file and can be downloaded from our website here.



