

Cool & Collected

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 PAPER MODELS

Under construction now and set to open in late 2016, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture is situated on the National Mall between the National Museum of American History and the Washington Monument. The architectural team is a collaboration of four firms: The Freelon Group; Adjaye Associates; Davis Brody Bond; and the SmithGroup. The primary architectural idea for the museum's building was derived from the classical tripartite column with its base, shaft and capital. In Yoruban art and architecture, the column or wooden post was usually crafted with a capital resembling a crown. This crown or corona form is the central idea which has driven the design of the museum. The bronze corona also reflects an African American presence that is a permanent part of the American landscape.

Follow these instructions to build your very own paper model. Feel free to take it home with you.

1. Cut out all all three elements.
2. Carefully fold all the white dotted lines up and fold orange dotted lines down on all four walls, starting on the sides and then moving to the center of each fold.
3. Connect all the folded sides together with tape so you get the shape of a cross.
4. Connect the roof and the dark wall corners with tape.



This exhibition features objects from the National Building Museum's collection. What types of materials does the Museum collect? Anything that illuminates the building process, changing architectural styles, and construction techniques. The current collection contains approximately 75,000 photographic images, 68,000 architectural prints and drawings, 100 linear feet of documents, and 10,000 objects, including material samples, architectural fragments, and building toys.


The 80 paper models in this gallery are part of a 4,600-piece collection recently donated to the Museum by architect David Kemnitzer of West Virginia, among the largest of its kind in the world.

The National Building Museum is open Monday–Saturday: 10 am–5 pm and Sunday: 11 am–5 pm.
401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, 202.272.2448, www.nbm.org

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