

# Kids in Architecture: A Grade 5 Curriculum

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## SUMMARY

Kids in Architecture is a series of three 90-minute workshops in which fifth-grade students each produce a "Workbook on How Architects Design Buildings."

## A HANDS-ON LEARNING PROJECT

The local AIA component's Kids in Architecture Committee recruits AIA members from the faculty of the local school of architecture to teach the program and contacts interested principals and teachers in local elementary schools.

The workshops are scheduled about one month apart, to allow the faculty member time to prepare for each workshop and to allow the students time to complete homework assignments.

For large groups of students, the faculty member recruits graduate students, intern architects, or young architects from the AIA component as teaching assistants. If possible, the AIA component is also represented at the workshop by a staff member or elected leader.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

Implementing the program involves a few simple steps:

- The Kids in Architecture Committee chair contacts a local elementary school and receives approval from the principal and teachers who wish to offer the program to their students.
- The number of students involved is determined.
- The chair recruits an AIA faculty member at the nearest school of architecture to offer the program.
- The AIA faculty member and the teacher discuss the mechanics of making a "workbook" on how architects design buildings. Together, they work out the details of timing, scheduling, and content to suit the particular group of students.

- The AIA faculty member prepares guidelines on the development of a building for the students.
- The AIA component pays the cost of materials or field trips to buildings, if any are included.

## THE WORKSHOPS

All of the workshops take place at the elementary school. The typical schedule follows this pattern:

- The AIA Kids in Architecture faculty meet in the school cafeteria for lunch.
- All fifth-grade students and architects then gather in a large room where the students are organized into smaller groups. Each group moves to a smaller room where the workshop is held.
- During each session, each student has a draft workbook for keeping notes and diagrams.
- At the end of the third workshop, the students or the architects select the five or six best workbooks.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the workshops, all students will understand how architects design buildings.

The five or six best workbooks and their student authors, along with their teachers and the principal of the school, are invited to an AIA luncheon to make a presentation of their workbooks. The local media are invited and good press coverage results.

## For More Information

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## RESOURCES

### More Best Practices

The following AIA Best Practices provide additional information related to this topic:

- 22.08.01 Architectural Awareness Program for Junior High Students
- 22.08.07 Architecture: It's Elementary!  
A K–5 Curriculum
- 22.08.10 Architectural Design Competition for High School Students

### Feedback

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### Key Terms

- Leadership
- Associations
- Design associations
- Architecture associations
- The American Institute of Architects
- AIA Components
- Education