

Green by Design

This lesson was created as a supplement to the *Green by Design* program at the National Building Museum. It is designed to be used in your classroom independently, or as an activity before or after a school program at the Museum. For more information about and to register for the National Building Museum's school programs, visit <http://www.nbm.org/schools-educators/school-visit/>.

The *Green by Design* program helps fourth through ninth grade students understand the issues associated with making environmentally friendly living decisions and the effects of these decisions on their surroundings. It encourages young people to explore how design decisions are made and how they impact the natural and built environment.

National Building Museum

Created by an act of Congress in 1980, the National Building Museum explores, celebrates, and illuminates achievements in architecture, design, engineering, construction, and planning. Since opening its doors in 1985, the Museum has become a vital forum for exchanging ideas and information about such topical issues as managing suburban growth, designing and building sustainable communities, and revitalizing urban centers. A private, nonprofit institution, the Museum creates and presents engaging exhibitions and education programs, including innovative curricula for school children.

Over the past two decades, the Museum has created and refined an extensive array of youth programming. Each year, approximately 50,000 young people and their families participate in hands-on learning experiences at the Museum: 2-hour-long school programs for grades K–9; major daylong festivals; drop-in family workshops; programs helping Cub and Girl Scouts earn activity badges; and three innovative outreach programs, lasting between 30 and 60 hours, for secondary school students. The Museum's youth programming has won the Washington, D.C., Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Contributions to Arts Education and garnered recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts.



NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
202.272.2448/www.NBM.org
Red Line Metro, Judiciary Square

Fun Field Trips: Exploring Your Community

Families:

Your children are learning about constructing environmentally friendly buildings and communities in school and at the National Building Museum. Encourage them to explore these ideas in their community and have them teach *you* about being green.

1 Ask your child about the building s/he built at the National Building Museum. Have her/him explain what happens in the building, why it looks the way it does, and why it is environmentally friendly.

2 Go on a green tour! Some places to visit include the EcoVillage in Loudoun County, VA (www.ecovillages.com) and Casey Trees' green roof (www.caseytrees.org/programs/greeninitiatives.html).

3 Take a construction inventory of your community. What types of buildings, bridges, and/or parks are being built? What was there before the construction began: other buildings, an empty lot, or green space? Are the new places good for your community and the environment?

4 Learn more about creating an environmentally friendly home on the *The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture* page on the Museum's Web site (www.nbm.org).

Visit the National Building Museum,
where families can discover the world we build for ourselves!

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Programs for Schools, Families, Community Groups and Scouts, Outreach Programs, Discovery Carts, Exhibitions, Birthday Parties, Festivals, Summer Camp, and Interactive Web site