MINI NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

The historic home of the National Building Museum is one of the great American buildings of the nineteenth century and one of Washington, D.C.’s most spectacular works of public architecture. Built between 1882 and 1887, it was originally intended as a suitable, fireproof building for the U.S. Pension Bureau’s headquarters. U.S. Army Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs was appointed as both the architect and engineer for the building. Almost a century later in 1980, it was designated by Congress as the home of the new National Building Museum.

Instructions

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

1. Cut on all the white dotted lines and cut away the white area.
2. Fold on all the dark red lines , starting at the middle of the card.
3. Connect the top of the roof and tape the inside so it holds together.
4. Connect the flaps of the upper roof walls.
5. Put the two walls together and tape them together.

Cool & Collected: Recent Acquisitions

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.

Information

The National Building Museum is open Monday–Saturday: 10 am–5 pm and Sunday: 11 am–5 pm.

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