Mini National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in September 2016, is situated on the National Mall between the National Museum of American History and the Washington Monument. Four architecture firms collaborated on the building’s design: The Freelon Group; Adjaye Associates; Davis Brody Bond; and SmithGroup. The primary architectural idea 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 that drove the museum’s design.

Instructions

Follow these instructions to build your very own paper model. Don’t have a color printer? Print the black-and-white image (page 3), then use your pencils, crayons, and markers to match the color version—or let your imagination run wild!

1. Cut out 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.
5. You made it.
6. Take a picture of your model and share it on social media. 
   Tag us or use the hashtag #NBMpapermodels.

Important Message

Because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Museum is closed until further notice. But the website for our award-winning Museum Shop—nbmshop.org—remains open! We look forward to sharing good news with you about our reopening as soon as possible.

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