

# AIA Central Oklahoma

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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American Institute of Architects  
Central Oklahoma Chapter  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2010

## **KIDesign 2010: Teaching Our Future Architects**

### ***The American Institute of Architects and Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture Host Event for Children***

Children will have a chance to explore and participate in a design environment at this year's KIDesign, Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 4400 N. Shartel Avenue, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

KIDesign is hosted by the Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture and the American Institute of Architects. KIDesign is an exciting opportunity for children to learn hands-on about the adventures of architecture, to investigate a challenge and dream up a design. Architects from our community will teach first through seventh grade children how to recognize various aspects of architecture all around them every day, while having fun at the same time.

The 1st and 2nd grade class will learn to think visually and to think of space as three-dimensional, as well as understand architecture through sensory experience. The class will focus on the basic elements that make up architecture: form, space, and color. For the space lesson, the children will learn to draw a floor plan using their own bedroom as their model. For the form lesson, the children will learn to model their "dream home" using play-doh and straws. For the color lesson, the children will use a Dr. Seuss story to inspire them before painting the model they created of their "dream home".

The focus of the 3rd and 4th grade class will be relating structure to architecture and learning about some of the elements that make up buildings (i.e. doors, windows, walls, roofs). The class will consist of six main activities ranging from lessons on structure, scale, building elements, and the integration of shapes, color, and texture into buildings. The children will build gum drop towers to learn about the structure of buildings and to see who can build the tallest tower. Another activity includes the children using pre-made cardboard boxes to create buildings by adding windows, doors, and roofs. The children will then come together and use their "box buildings" to create one overall building (as in individual apartments forming one larger apartment building).

The 5th and 6th grade class will focus on what makes different buildings look different. Using hands-on activities, children will investigate the diverse building types they encounter everyday and the physical and psychological reasons behind the way they look. Each child will get to focus on a building type of interest, and to develop it through sketching and model building while considering its placement among his or her peer's projects as well. Interior space planning and the environmental factors that affect a building will also be touched upon.

This year's event will begin with registration at 12:00 p.m., followed by activities taking place all afternoon until 4:00 p.m., when the children can be picked up. Seating will be provided for parents who choose to stay during the program.

The event is open to the public, although advanced registration is required. The cost is \$20.00 per child. Please contact Melissa Hunt, AIA Central Oklahoma, at 948-7174 or visit [www.okcarchitecture.com](http://www.okcarchitecture.com) for more information.