

Architecture: It's Elementary! A K–5 Curriculum

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SUMMARY

A group of volunteer AIA members began working with children, teachers, and administrators in Clawson, Mich. Their initial efforts have evolved into Architecture: It's Elementary! a comprehensive curriculum guide for teachers of grades K–5. The successful program was expanded statewide for the 2002–2003 school year.

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS

Elementary schools teach about dinosaurs, animals, and plants—why not buildings and cities? A vital piece of our children's education is missing when schools don't address the built environment. Children are the future—future clients, future planning commissioners, future city council members, future school-bond voters, and of course, future architects and designers!



A TOOLBOX FOR LEARNING

The complete curriculum guide, which is made available on CD-ROM, includes 10 lesson plans for each grade level. Each lesson plan includes the learning objectives, a materials list, vocabulary, illustrations, and references to curriculum standards.

TEACHING TEACHERS

AIA members volunteer to present the curriculum guide to teachers and school administrators, after which they agree to make themselves available as expert resources to answer questions about terminology, customize a lesson plan for the needs of a particular class, or even participate in a class.

The materials are designed to be visually appealing and to communicate their purpose very clearly.

For More Information

AIA Michigan would be pleased to share these materials with other AIA state and local components or AIA members interested in developing similar educational programs. Please contact R. Rocco Romano, AIA, chair, Elementary Education Committee of AIA Michigan, 248-338-4561 or rromano@tmp-architecture.com

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 School Students
- 22.08.04 Kids in Architecture: A Grade 5 Curriculum
- 22.08.02 Community Leadership in Urban Design

Feedback

The AIA welcomes member feedback on Best Practice articles. To provide feedback on this article, please contact: bestpractices@aia.org

Key Terms

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