

MLK AFTER SCHOOL DESIGN CLUB, YONKERS, NY

“So many kids don’t even know what an architect is. They don’t think about how buildings are built; they don’t know anything about developing or planning You need to go to schools, neighborhoods, communities, any place where underrepresented minorities exist, and start talking”

First Lady Michelle Obama

AIA 2017 Conference on Architecture, Orlando



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- We had the same idea in 2008 / 2009 at the AIA Westchester Hudson Valley Chapter
- 2009 President's theme was "Outreach"
- General idea was to promote diversity in the Architectural profession by introducing young minority elementary school students to Architecture as a possible career choice – **through an after-school architecture program**
- Cold called a local urban School District – Yonkers, NY
- Set up a meeting with the School District and Principal of the MLK Jr. Elementary School



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- School district was very receptive to hosting an AIA after-school “Design Club”
- AIA proposal: 2 or 3 sessions
- School District Proposal: At least 20 sessions over the course of the school year
- With no idea about how we would do this, we enthusiastically said YES



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- Organization (who is involved?):
 - Put out a call for volunteer teachers from our Chapter membership (no teaching experience necessary)
 - 8 responded and agreed to do it
- Each Class:
 - 1 lead teacher who develops the lesson plan
 - 1 or 2 assistant teachers
 - A 10 to 15 minute lesson by the lead teacher
 - Then a 45 minute hands-on “project”



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- Class 1 Lesson Plan:
 - Introductions, students introduce themselves and name something in the room that was designed (desk, windows, lights, etc....)
 - Conclusion – everything they see and use was designed by someone
 - Use example of a chair and show design variations based on function and materials
 - Transition to architecture
 - Take something they know – the design of their school
 - Show how other schools are designed differently
 - Project: Redesign the front of their school based on an idea they have about how to improve it
 - Each student presents their idea and sketch



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Intro to Design Class



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Intro to Design Class



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Intro to Design Class



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Intro to Design Class



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Measurement and Scale Class



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Habitat Class



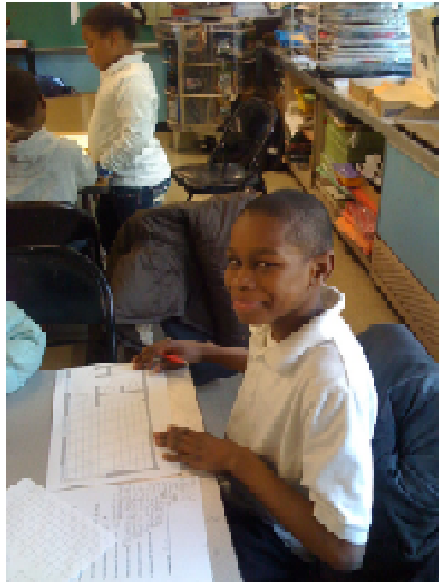
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Model Making Class



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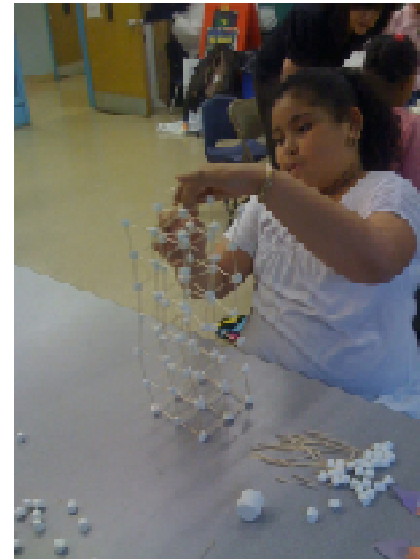
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What is a Plan Class



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All About Mud Class



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Building with Steel Class



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Build a Dome Project – Chicago Architecture Foundation



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Build a Dome Project – Chicago Architecture Foundation



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Frank Lloyd Wright and the Guggenheim Museum Class



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MLK AFTER SCHOOL DESIGN CLUB, YONKERS, NY
Guggenheim Museum Field Trip



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Guggenheim Museum Field Trip



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Guggenheim Museum Field Trip



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Guggenheim Museum Field Trip



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- Year 1 Outcome:
 - 20 to 25 Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students were introduced to the profession of architecture
 - 8 volunteer AIA teachers participated
 - **Minimal funding was needed** from the Chapter (about \$500 for supplies and T-shirts, a sponsor funded the field trip bus expense)
 - The School District was very happy with the program and asked us to do it again (it actually ran for 6 additional years)
 - “How to” template created for use by other Chapters
 - Key element of the program’s success: **DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS**



MLK HIGH SCHOOL “SHADOW AN ARCHITECT DAY”, YONKERS, NY

- Second initiative in the Yonkers School System (2009 – 2010)
- “Shadow an Architect Day” for High School Juniors and Seniors
- 50 students spent a morning in Architect’s offices seeing what it’s like to work as an Architect



MLK HIGH SCHOOL “SHADOW AN ARCHITECT DAY”, YONKERS, NY



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- After the MLK Design Club stopped in 2014, our Chapter spent a year searching for a new home for our K-12 program
- In 2014 we found a school in the Bronx that was receptive
- This time we had Grades 6-12 so we needed a more advanced curriculum
- 6 volunteer Architects took turns leading and assisting
- And we had the opportunity to mentor students interested in a career in Architecture



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First Session



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Plans Sections Elevations



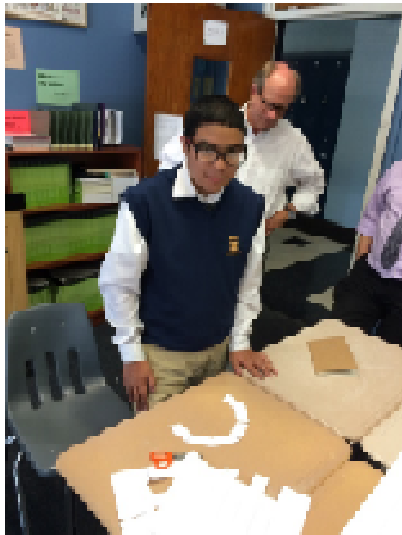
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Drawing Floor Plans to Scale

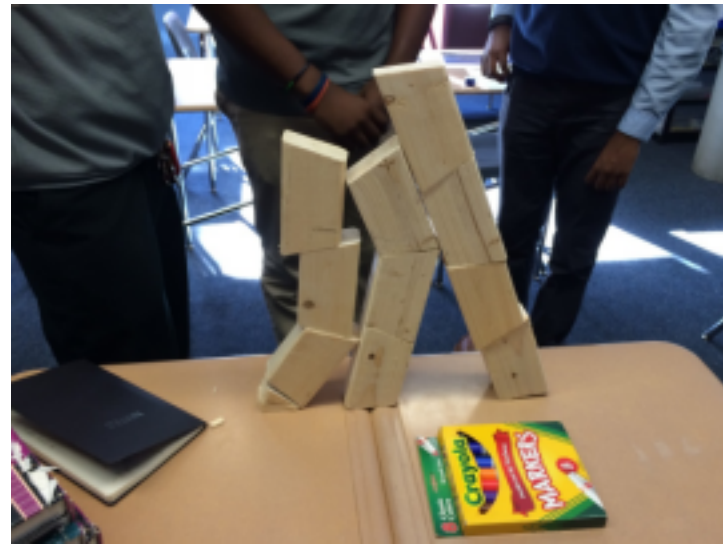


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Building an Arch



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Building an Arch



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Steel Space Frame Design



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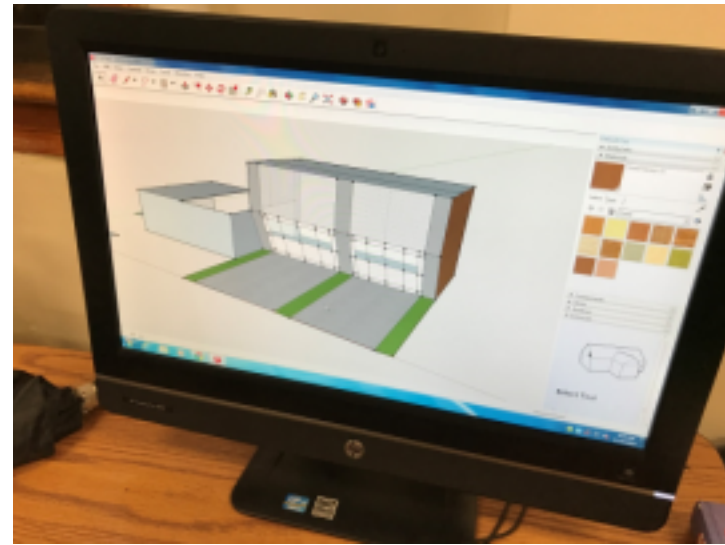
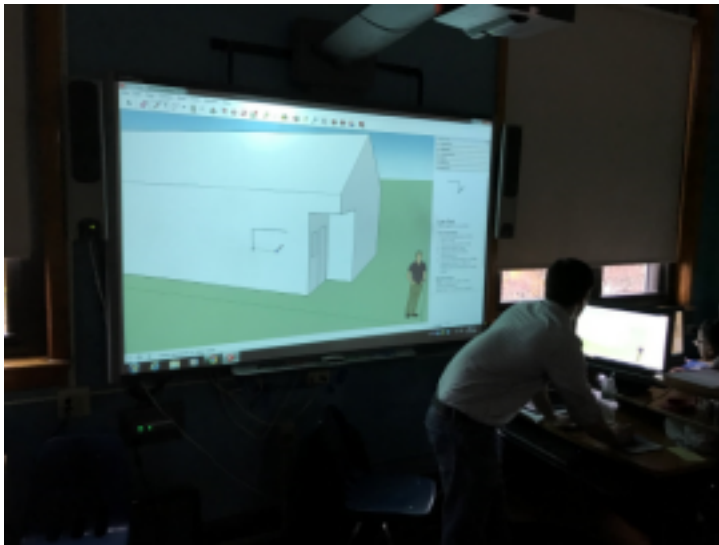
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Field Trip: Bronx Central Library with Richard Dattner FAIA



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Model Making

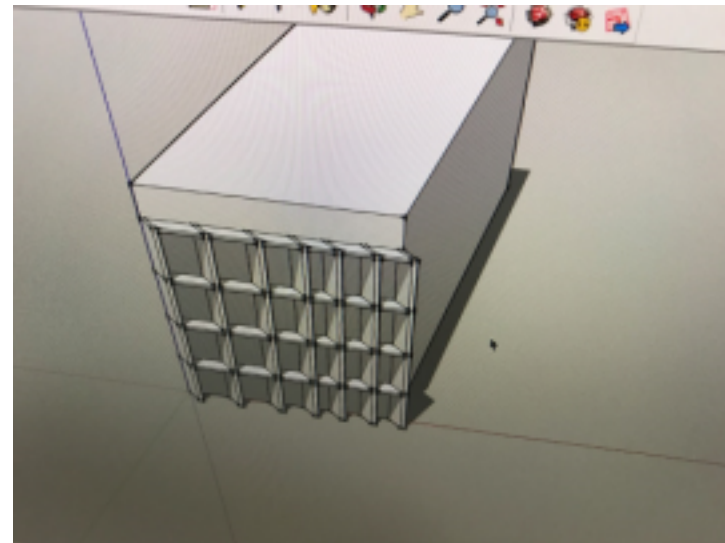


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SketchUp Training



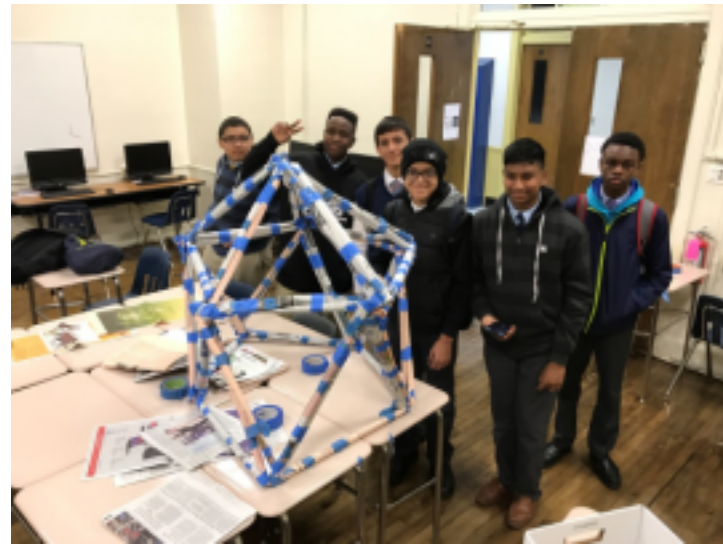
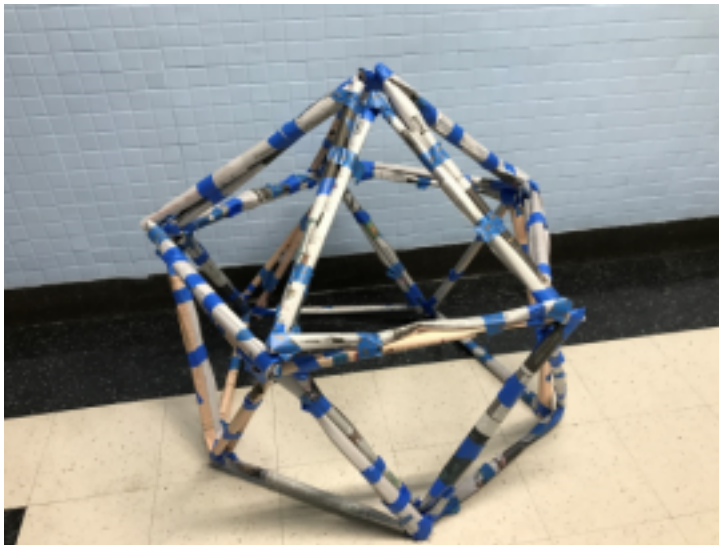
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SketchUp Training

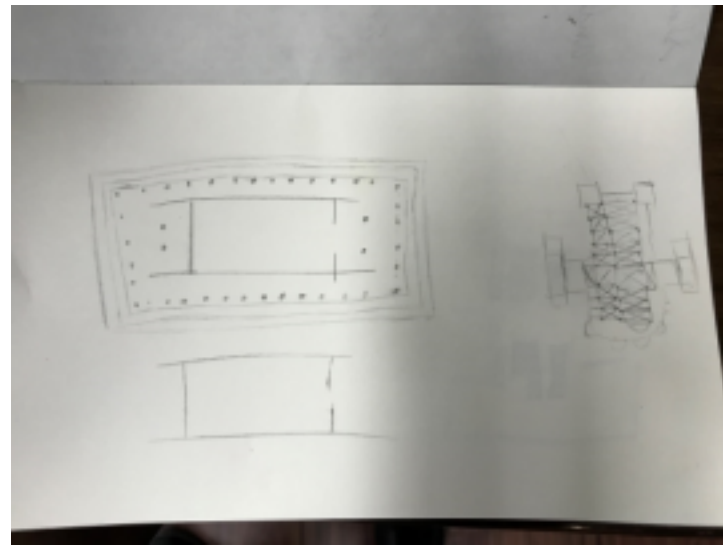
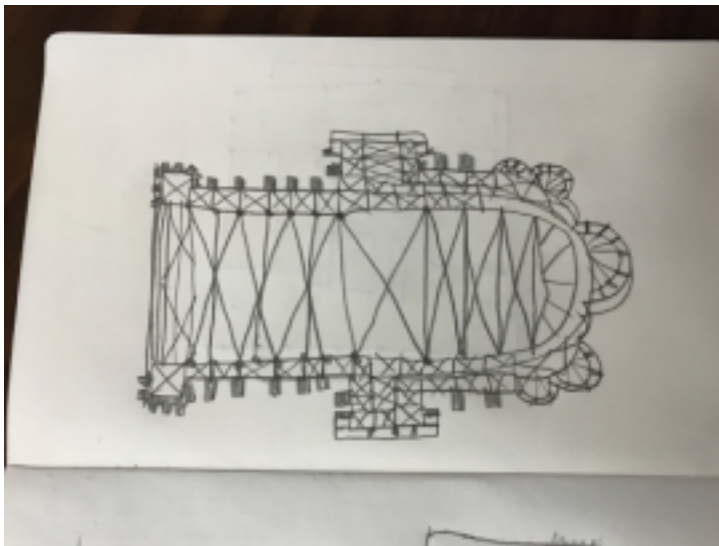


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Build a Dome Project



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Drawing Plans by Hand

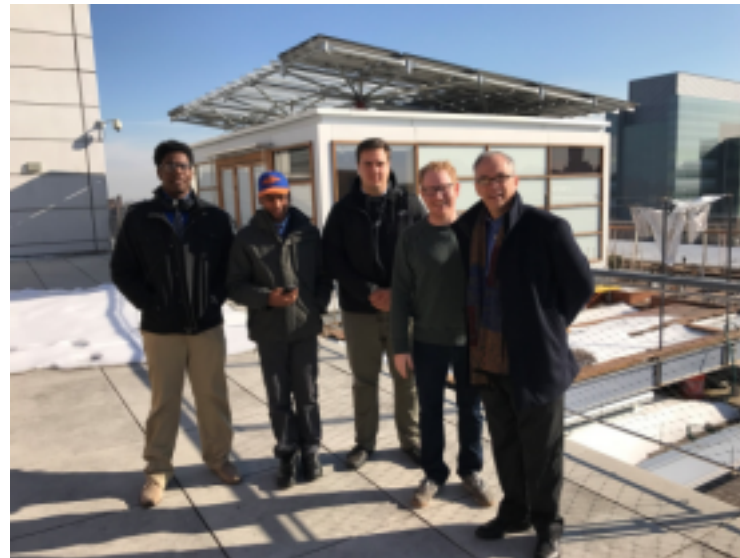


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Field Trip to an Architect's Office



MOUNT ST. MICHAEL ARCHITECTURE CLUB, BRONX, NY
Field Trip to CUNY School of Architecture



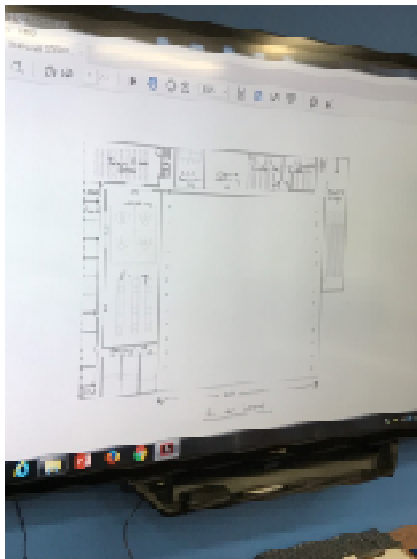
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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House

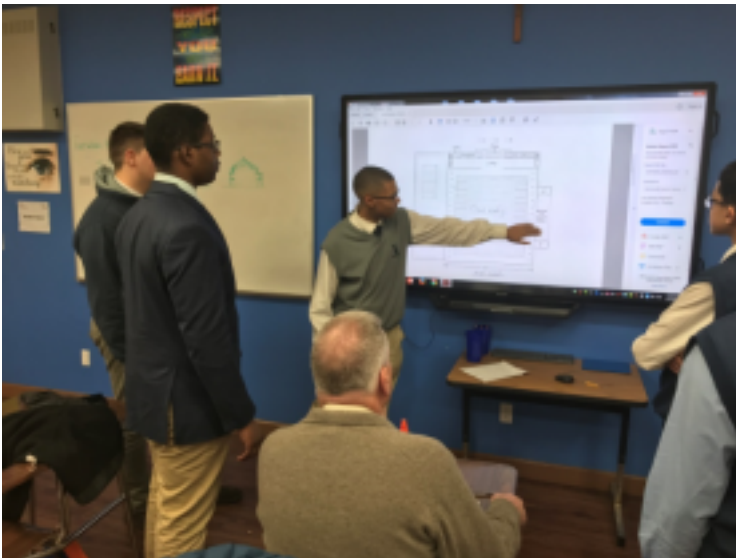


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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House

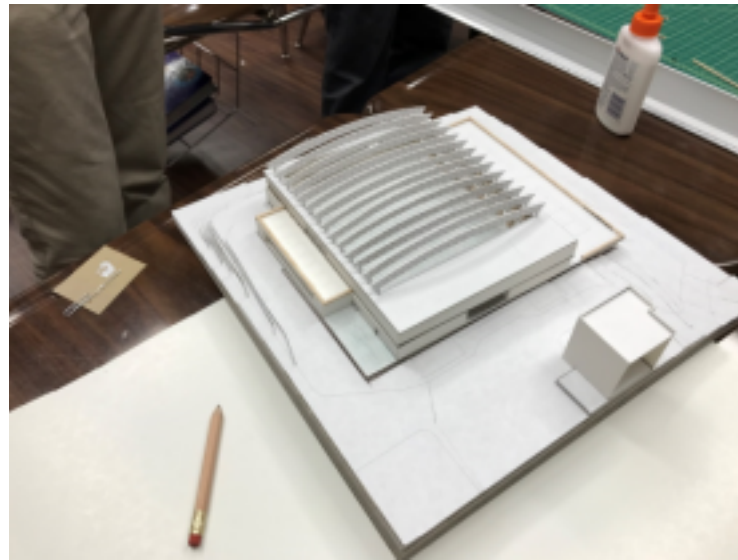
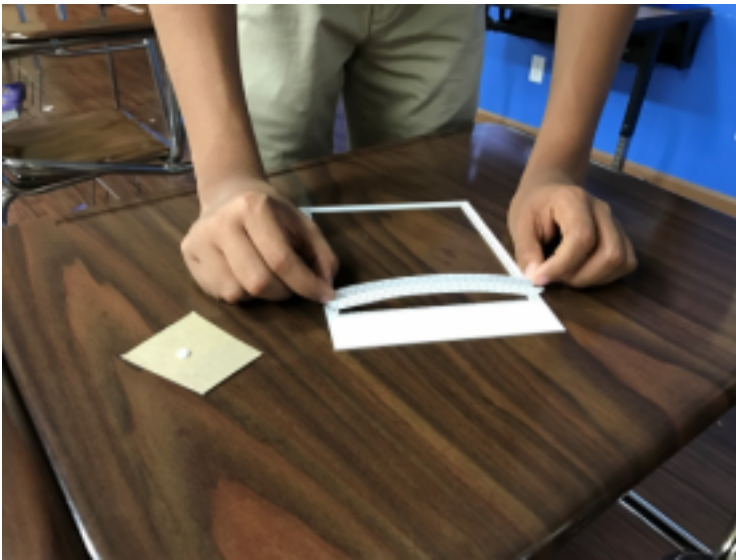


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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House

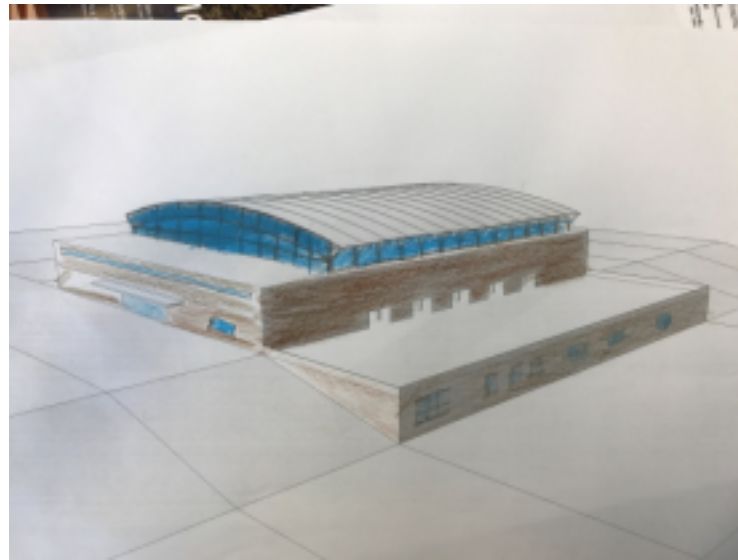
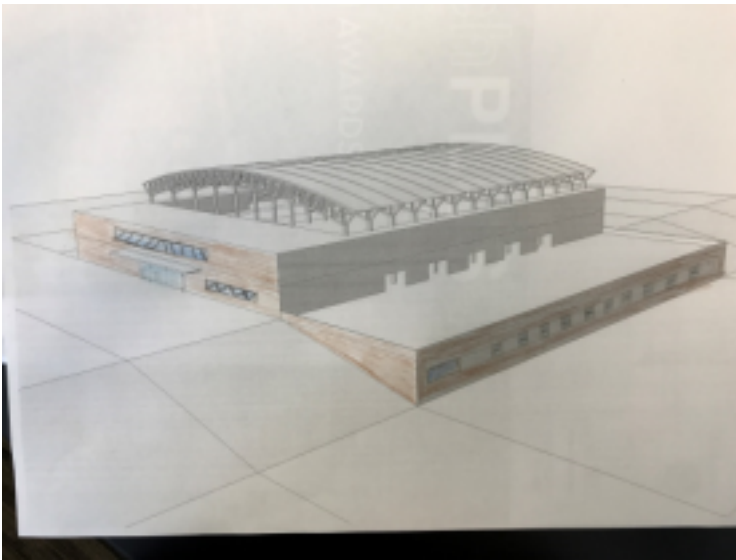


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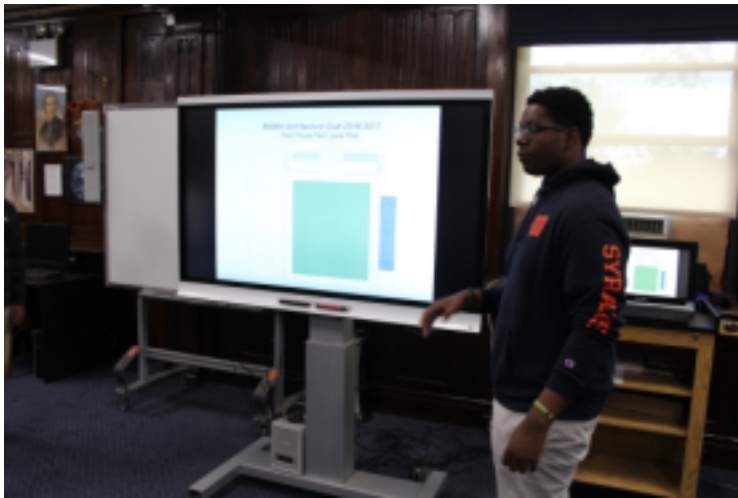
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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House



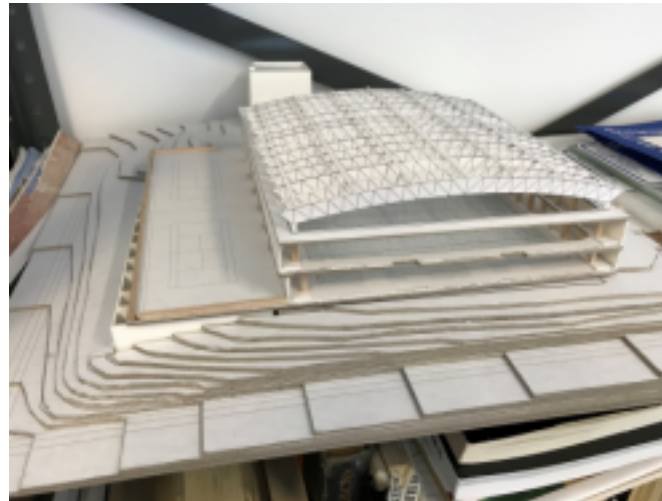
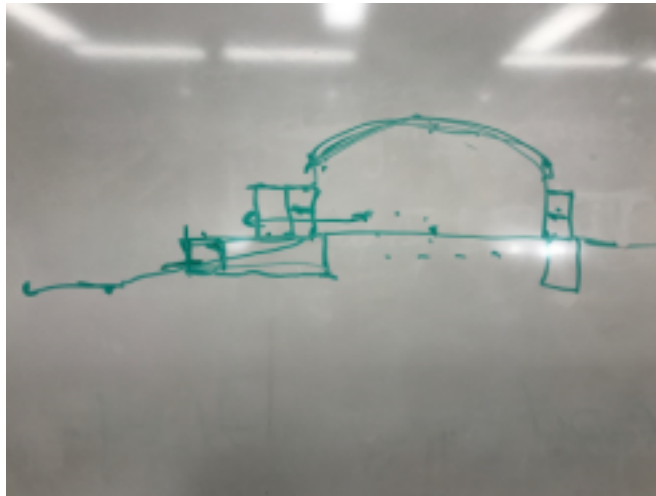
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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House



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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House



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Studio Design Project: MSMA Field House



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Architecture Club Student Jason M. at Univ. of Hartford School of Architecture



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- Year 1 Outcome:
 - 10 to 15 Junior and Senior HS students were introduced to the profession of architecture
 - 2 accepted into University Architecture programs
 - 6 volunteer AIA teachers participated
 - **Minimal funding was needed** from the Chapter (about \$800 for supplies, school provided transportation)
 - The School was very happy with the program and asked us to do it again (in 2nd year now)
 - “How to” template created for use by other Chapters
 - Key element of the program’s success again: **DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS**



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- How are these programs sustained?
 - We've had 8 successful years doing this
 - Depends on a dedicated program director and volunteers
 - Current challenges in the MSMA program
 - **All it really takes is a dedicated individual who wants to make a difference**
 - **I hope some of you feel motivated to also accept Michelle Obama's challenge:**
 - *"You need to go to schools, neighborhoods, communities, any place where underrepresented minorities exist, and start talking"*

