

## Teacher resource: Making models



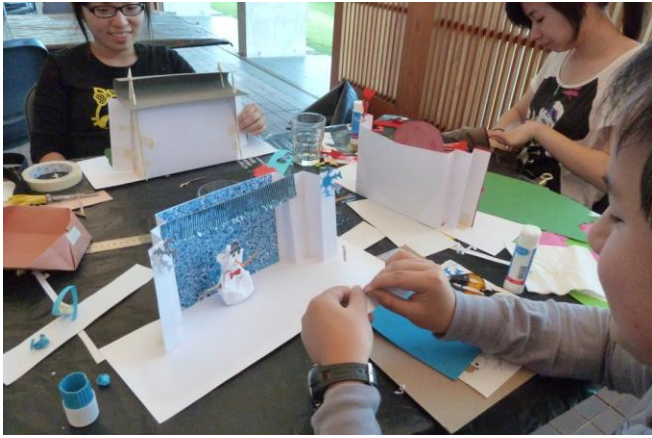
Models can be created at any time in the design process and can help students to visualise their ideas long before the final design solution. Models can be made from almost anything including found objects and often the simpler the material the better.

Models can help students analyse a situation and to identify the needs of the people who use the building/space. They are easily pulled apart and altered. Models can help students appreciate how spaces are used and identify problems that may arise from the interaction of different users.

They can be used as a means of communicating proposed solutions, highlighting special features, materials and colours. Most importantly, a model is informative and brings a building, object or place to life off the plan.



Streetscapes Art City at Outpost on Cockatoo Island 2011



*A3 paper theatre scenes  
Strathfield South High School  
Bundanon 2011*



*Making a base for a pyramid with recycled card, masking tape and foil*

## Helpful hints for managing modeling activities in a classroom

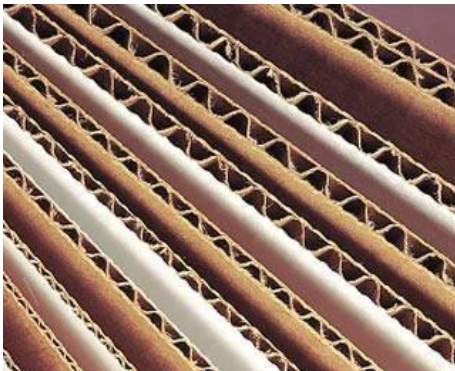
- Be realistic about what you want to achieve with the time, materials and facilities available to you.
- Keep it simple. Don't try to make every detail of your design.
- Keep it simple with colour. Don't build a doll's house, unless that is your goal.
- Most professional models are monochromatic (white). Colour can be added if it's important to the overall design. If you have a special feature in your model this could be the only coloured area, e.g. a model of how water is distributed through a building. Foamboard comes in a range of colours or using spray adhesive, you can add coloured papers, textures or images to your model.
- Expect it to take twice as long as you anticipated
- Be prepared. Cover areas with newspaper before using glue. Put small amounts of PVA glue in plastic cups rather than handing over the bottle.
- Glue is not the only way to put models together. Masking tape, pins and clothes pegs are all good alternatives, particularly when you're using a model in the initial stages.
- Recycle card and boxes for models. Students can use scissors to cut these or in some cases sections can be ripped by hand.
- Foamboard is a more expensive alternative material than card but gives a clean overall appearance. Good for final models and for making simple models of rooms. Foamboard needs to be pre-cut by a teacher as it is difficult to get clean edges without using a craft knife, metal ruler and a cutting mat. Always stand up and over a cutting mat to stop metal ruler and blade slipping.
- Find the students in your class who like to work alone on repetitive tasks. Give them the fences and trees to construct.
- Trees and shrubs can be made of paper, suitable twigs and sea sponge, painted green.
- Ask students to contribute to the model making equipment with recycled boxes, cartons and plastics from home.
- Utilise centres such as Reverse Garbage for a range of industrial scrap; computer parts, plastics, rods, metals, wood strips.



## Tools and equipment

### Card

Store bought card comes in a variety of thicknesses, colours and textures. For example, you can buy fine corrugated card to represent corrugated iron on roofs or tanks. Recycled card is perfect for model making. The card used for cereal boxes, egg cartons and toilet rolls can be used in a variety of ways on a model and are handy to have in your collection. The corrugated card from a carton is a common material for building up landscapes around your model.



*corrugated card*



*black, white and coloured foamboard*

### Foamboard

Foamboard is used by designers and architects for model making and presenting work. It's easy to cut, light weight and gives a crisp, professional finish to a model. Purchased from any good art supply store, it consists of a central core of foam with thin card applied to either side. Foamboard comes in a variety of thicknesses with 5 mm being the most common. Foamboard is cut using a metal ruler and a blade and available in sizes A4 to A1.



simple model of a hut using foamboard, toothpicks and PVA