

Design Apprenticeship Program



The *Design Apprenticeship Program* was conceived in 2000 to enable previous participants of the Museum's Outreach Programs to augment their design and art experience through direct, intensive involvement in the process of design and construction.

The Museum holds two programs each year, serving a total of approximately 50 students annually. Students meet for a series of short projects taking place over several weekends during the fall and spring semesters. Students are given a design challenge—for example, to create a light fixture or a piece of street furniture—within a set of design criteria. Architects, contractors, electricians, interior designers, visual artists, and university students help the students develop and construct their designs. At the end of the project their work is exhibited in the Museum.



DAP Squad gives students:

- a forum where design can be moved from theory into production, encouraging the development of technical and design skills that support aspects of the school curriculum;
- an opportunity to build essential personal and social skills that can be applied in a professional environment: to work as team members, use presentation skills, and work in a disciplined way within defined time and project limitations;
- exposure to experts who deal with the built environment including architects, designers, technicians, and visual artists; and
- a next-step experience, offered during out of school hours, for students who have participated in other Outreach Programs or an entry point into the Museum's activities for new students.



Over the past eight years, the Museum has presented 16 *DAP Squad* programs, each having a unique theme. Examples of recent programs include:

DAP 16: In conjunction with the exhibition *Marcel Breuer: Design and Architecture*, *DAP 16* students focused on modern furniture design. Teen participants designed and constructed a furnished space in a local community center.

DAP 15: As part of the Washington Shakespeare Festival, *DAP 15* students designed and constructed theatrical set elements for the Museum's Shakespeare Family Day. Actors from the Folger Shakespeare Library used the sets to perform for family audiences in the Museum's Great Hall.

DAP 14: In the spirit of the *Green House* exhibition, which identifies ways to promote sustainability in the built environment, *DAP 14* students were challenged to design new donation boxes composed of green materials. Participant designs were unveiled at *Greenovation: An Expo for the Home* in November 2006.



The American Association of Museums recently awarded The Museum's **Design Apprenticeship Program** for teen audiences with the **2008 AAM Excellence in Programming award!**

To sponsor this award-winning program, please contact the National Building Museum's Development Office at 202.272.2448.