

Activity Guide

Experience the Shigeru Ban– designed Aspen Art Museum

This activity guide is a resource for you to learn about the design of the Aspen Art Museum. Take time to slowly walk around the building, both inside and out, and use these facts and questions to help you connect with the purpose and experience of the museum's design.

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Explore the new Aspen Art Museum, designed by Shigeru Ban.

The innovative architect Shigeru Ban is known for his environmentally considerate approach to materials and his devotion to public service.

Ban was born in Tokyo in 1957. He studied at the Southern California Institute of Architecture and the Cooper Union School of Architecture. Since he opened his office, Shigeru Ban Architects, in Tokyo in 1985, his firm has received more than twenty-five awards, especially for their humanitarian projects, and today, the firm has offices in Tokyo, Paris, and New York. In 2014, he was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

The mountains around Aspen influenced Ban when designing the new Aspen Art Museum building. He was interested in giving people the option to go directly to the top of the building, by the grand staircase or elevator—much like hiking or taking a ski lift—and moving down your own path, at your own pace.

Make your way to the top. On the roof, you will notice the wavy wooden frame of the truss. This design emphasizes balance and connection, and does not require any metal screws or supports. You will also see that the roof covers an area that is partly outdoors and partly indoors. This integration is important in Ban's design.

How many places in the museum can you connect the outdoors and indoors?

Notice the woven screen that wraps around the exterior of the building. From *outside*, you can peek through to glimpse at the art *inside*. And while you are *inside*, there are numerous points where it seems as though you are *outside*.

Inside

Stand inside and draw what you can see outside.



Outside

Now stand outside and sketch from this perspective.



Shigeru Ban is celebrated for using innovation as an opportunity to do good.

He does this by using available materials in useful ways or finding solutions that help people. Many of Ban's projects around the world have used easily available materials like bamboo or fabric. He also recycles crates, cardboard, and paper.

Ban experimented with different materials to create the new Aspen Art Museum building. For example, the screen that wraps around the building is made from a blend of paper and other recycled materials.

Where can you find creative use of materials elsewhere in the museum?

Ask yourself one of the questions most important to Ban's design process:

How can I use my resources to help others?

Look through your house for materials that you can transform into something useful for someone.

Try making a window screen or chair from cardboard.

Can you build a shelter from objects around your home?