

PAPER * METROPOLIS

Topics: Community, Architecture, Details, Neighborhoods, Recycling, Collage

Supplies:

- scissors
- glue stick or tape
- colorful paper scraps
- recycled cardboard packaging (cereal boxes, pasta boxes, etc)

Do you live in a city? Have you visited a city and looked at a tall building? What did you notice? Who do you think built the buildings? Think about the neighborhood where you live. Who lives in your neighborhood? What kind of buildings are near your home? People need homes to live in, stores to buy food from, and hospitals to help them when they are sick.

Bodys Isek Kingelez and **Charles & Ray Eames** are three artists who liked to build things.



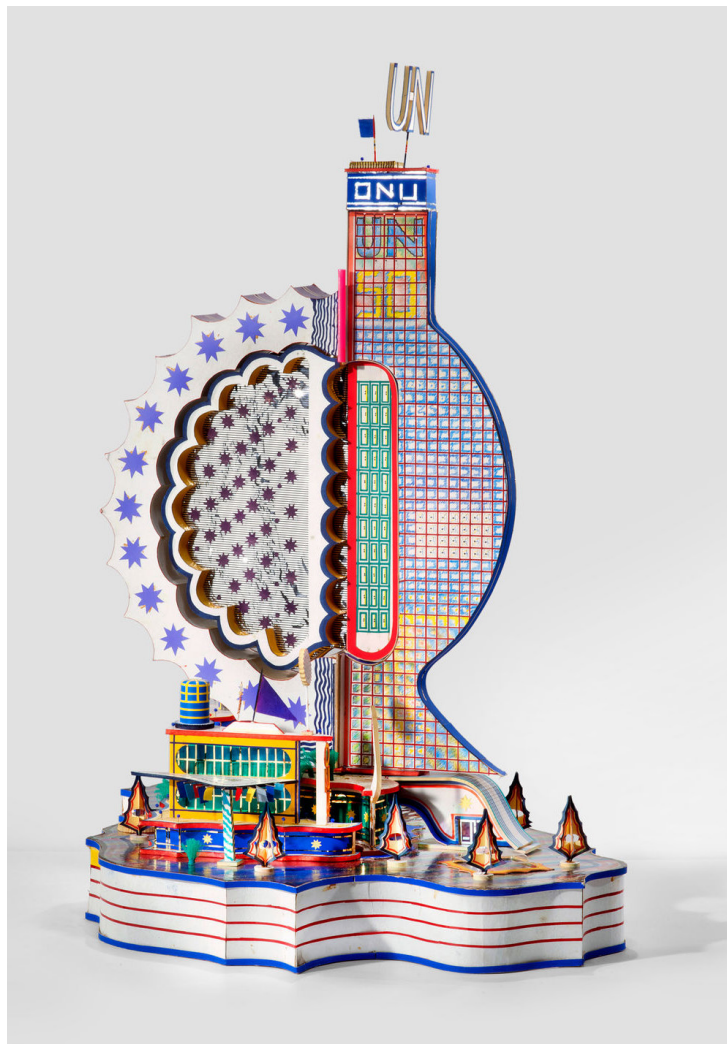
Bodys Isek Kingelez



Ray & Charles Eames

BODYS ISEK KINGELEZ

Bodys Isek Kingelez was an artist who cared a lot about the city where he lived. He lived in a country in Africa that is now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His city inspired Bodys to make miniature buildings out of scraps of paper, found materials, and recycled objects. Bodys had lots of hope for how the world could be a better place and he used his buildings to show that. He thought that everyday buildings should be beautiful. By creating colorful and harmonious paper cities, Bodys imagined a world where people could live together peacefully.



Bodys Isek Kingelez, U.N., 1995. CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva. © Bodys Isek Kingelez. Photo by Maurice Aeschmann. Courtesy CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection.

Look at pictures of the sculptures that Bodys built. Notice all the small details: windows, logos, and tiny flags! What are some words you would use to describe them? What colors do you see? How do they make you feel?

BODYS ISEK KINGELEZ



Bodys Isek Kingelez, U.N., 1995. CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva. © Bodys Isek Kingelez. Photo by Maurice Aeschmann. Courtesy CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection.



Bodys Isek Kingelez, Ville Fantôme (detail), 1996. CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva. © Bodys Isek Kingelez. Photo by Maurice Aeschmann. Courtesy of CAAC – The Pigozzi Collection



Bodys Isek Kingelez, Ville de Sète 3009 (detail), 2000. Collection Musée International des Arts Modestes (MIAM), Sète, France. © Pierre Schwartz ADAGP; courtesy Musée International des Arts Modestes (MIAM), Sète, France

RAY & CHARLES EAMES

Ray and Charles Eames were two artists who also believed that everyday objects should be beautiful and well designed. They also believed that playing was very important. Together, they lived in California and made furniture, posters, textiles, toys, and more. They even built their own home! In 1952, they designed a toy called House of Cards. House of Cards is a stack of cards with slits cut into them so that they can be used to build structures.



DCW



The Plastic Elephant



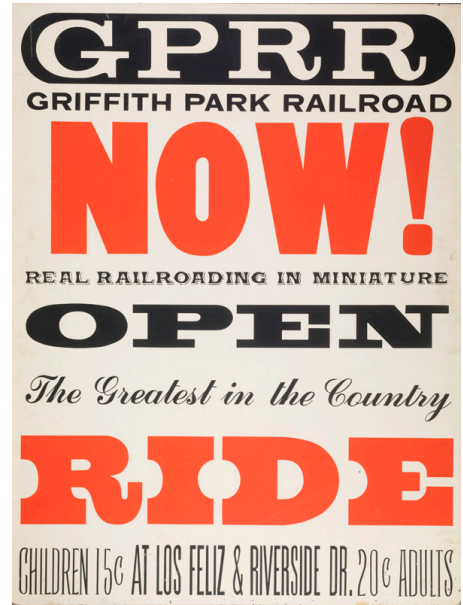
Fiberglass Armchair



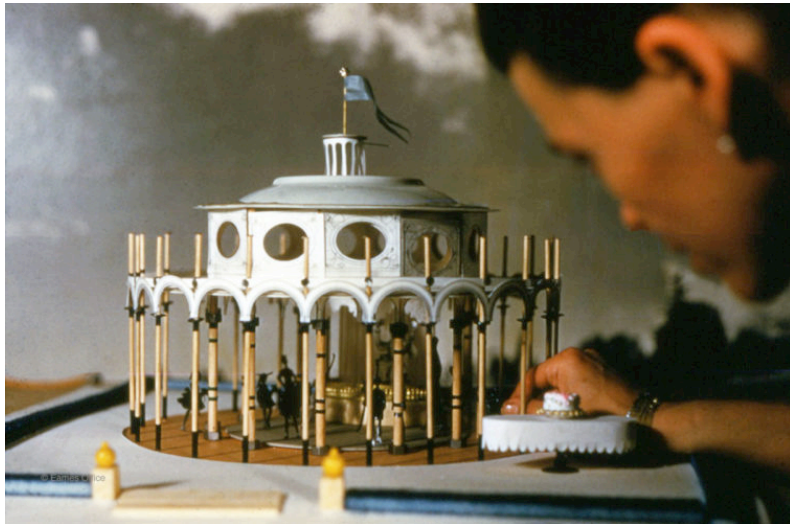
RAY & CHARLES EAMES



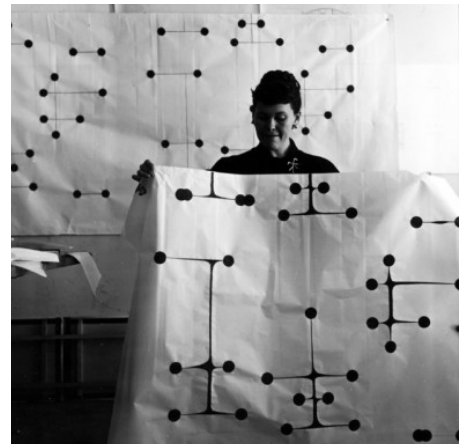
Solar Do-Nothing Machine



Griffith Park Railroad Graphic Design



Birthday House



Dot Pattern Textile



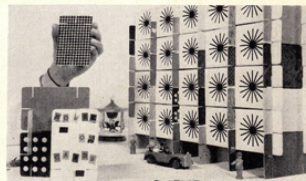
<http://eamesdesigns.com/>

NO. 70 HOUSE OF CARDS
 RETAIL PRICE 98¢
 ONE IN FOUR COLOR TRANSPARENT
 DISPLAY BOX
 BOX SIZE 4 3/4" x 3 3/4" x 2 1/4"
 24 TO MASTER CARTON
 WEIGHT OF MASTER CARTON — 3 1/2 LBS.

HOUSE OF CARDS package consists of 54 colorful cards, so slotted as to form a fascinating construction toy. The design of each card is different. All are bright. Enclosed are illustrations of possible constructions and instruction diagrams.

HOUSE
 OF
 CARDS

EVERY ONE DIFFERENT
 A SUPER COLLECTION
 OF 54 COLORFUL CARDS
 MADE TO BUILD WITH



House of Cards

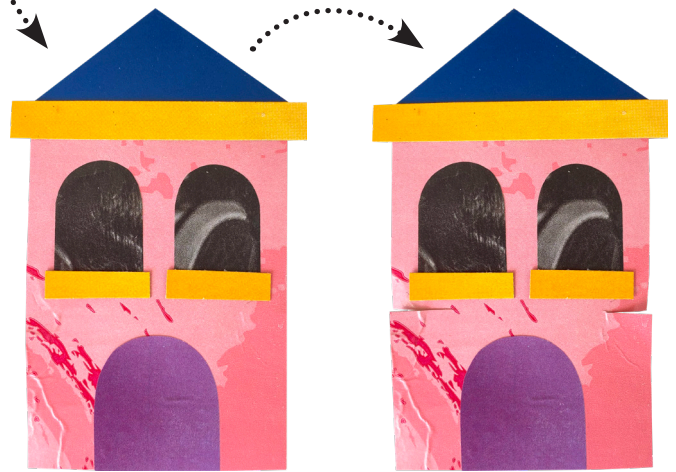
All images © Eames Office, LLC
 (<https://www.eamesoffice.com>)

Let's make a paper metropolis!

1 First, gather your materials. In addition to stiff cardboard like cereal boxes, collect colorful paper scraps to make details like windows and doors. Mailers, security envelopes, old wrapping paper, and magazines are a great place to start.



2 Begin by cutting out pieces to construct your building. Cut the main shape out of stiff cardboard. Add doors, windows, and a roof. What other details could you add?



3 Attach the pieces with a glue stick or tape.

4 Cut slits in the side of your building.



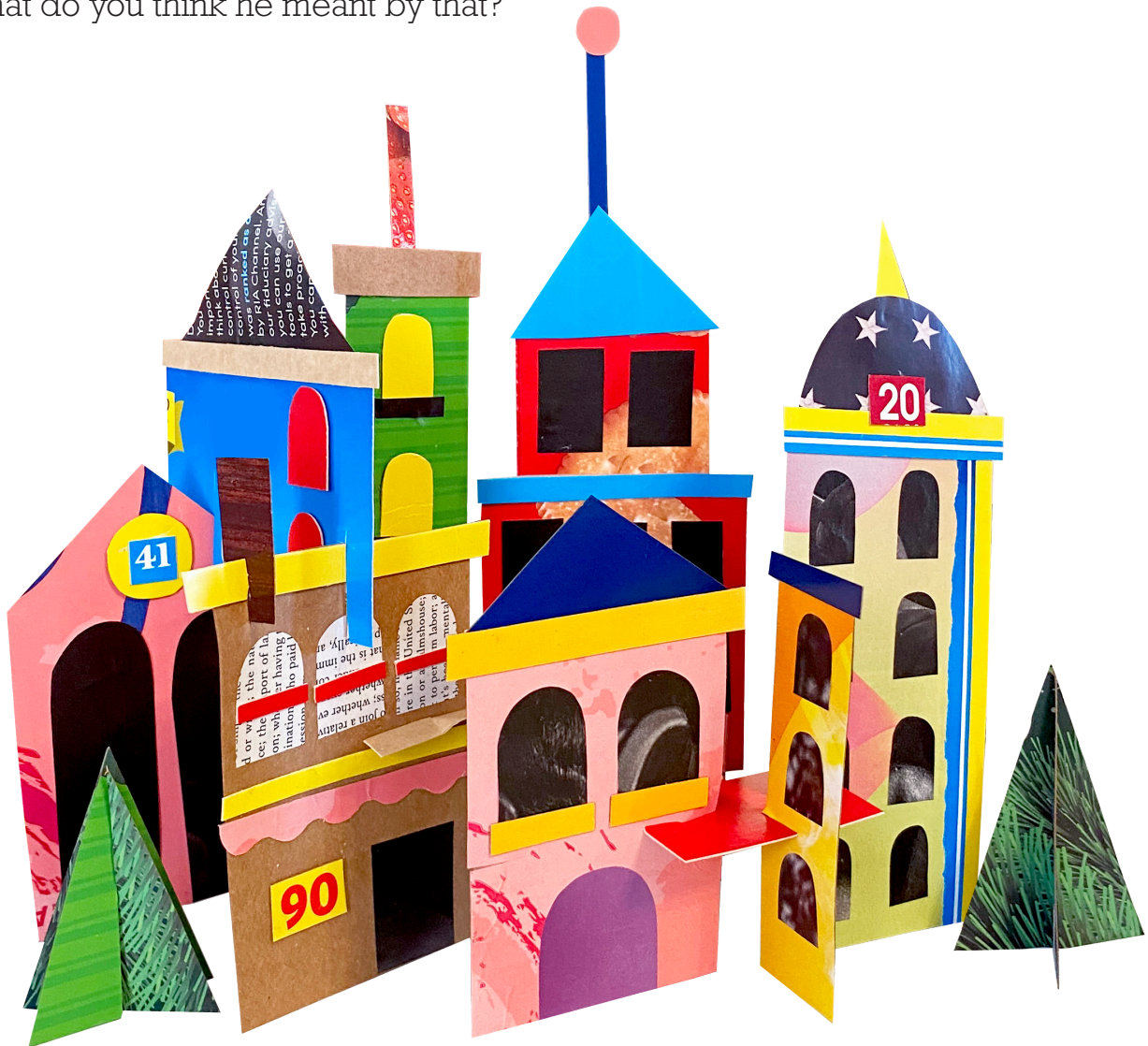
5 Create more buildings. Connect them using slits to build a whole city! Add bridges, roofs, and archways as connections. Add chimneys and towers to make your buildings taller.

REFLECTION

Bodys Isek Kingelez said:

“Without a model, you are nowhere. A nation that can’t make models is a nation that doesn’t understand things, a nation that doesn’t live.”

What do you think he meant by that?



Take a look at your cardboard city. What do you notice? What details did you add to make your buildings specific? Was it easy or hard to make your building connect using slits? What did you notice while trying to connect your buildings and make sure they stand up? You can keep adding new buildings so that your cardboard city is always growing!

RESOURCES & SOURCES

Resources

Watch a video and read more about Bodys Isek Kingelez on the [website](#) for the Museum of Modern Art in NYC.

Learn all about Ray and Charles Eames on the Eames Office [website](#). Visit [this page](#) to see all the different things they made together. Watch a [film](#) they made called "Parade". Charles and Ray were pretty cool!

Sources

"Bodys Isek Kingelez: City Dreams." The Museum of Modern Art, 2018, www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/3889.

Thackara, Tess. "Bodys Isek Kingelez, Maker of Utopian Cities, Finally Gets the Retrospective He Deserves." Artsy, Artsy, 24 May 2018, www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-finally-notice-bodys-isek-kingelezs-utopian-vision.

"(Small) House of Cards." Eames Office, Eames Office, LLC, 17 Oct. 2019, www.eamesoffice.com/the-work/house-of-cards-2/.

"Charles and Ray." Eames Office, Eames Office, LLC, 20 May 2019, www.eamesoffice.com/eames-office/charles-and-ray/.