BY DESIGN

BY DESIGN is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 10, 11, or 12 next fall or who will have just graduated from high school this spring. Students admitted to the program must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4-point scale or its equivalent.

Tuition and fees (including supplies and field trips but not parking) are $800. Scholarships are available, but only for students demonstrating true financial need. Admissions are determined on a need-blind basis. No student will be prevented from participating in the program because of inability to pay tuition.

Classes are held at the University of Houston Central Campus, Monday – Friday, except 4 July. This program is meant to be enjoyable, but it is also challenging and requires focused effort and commitment.

To apply, fill out the student section of this form and then have a teacher or counselor who knows you well complete the recommendation section. Your teacher or counselor should then mail the completed form along with an official transcript reflecting your grades and PSAT scores plus any additional documentation required for scholarship consideration to:

Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston, TX 77266-7550

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 2 May; early applications are encouraged.

All applicants will be notified by 23 May; early applicants will be notified sooner. Late applications will be considered only if space remains available. If you have questions or need additional information, e-mail info@wonderworkshouston.org or call 713.301.4882.

Architecture is an art for all to learn, because all are concerned with it.

John Ruskin  
Edinburgh Lectures, 1853

The architect and his brother the engineer are perhaps the most valuable citizens we have.

E. B. White  
“A Letter from the West,” 1958

Architecture combines practical considerations of function and sustainability with a poetics of form and meaning. Although architecture may take years to master, those who study it in college have usually harbored an intense curiosity since at least their early teens. This introductory studio with accompanying lectures and field trips will give you a broader, deeper understanding of the subject and also the opportunity to develop a portfolio for use in applying to schools of architecture should you eventually wish to do so.

The program presupposes no prior knowledge of architecture, simply a visual awareness and willingness to learn. You’ll travel back in time to some of the most interesting buildings ever and also make the acquaintance of some of the most accomplished architects of all time as well as today. You’ll visit some of the most extraordinary buildings and places in Texas, while also developing an appreciation for the architecture of the everyday landscape. Best of all, whether you decide to pursue architecture in college or not, you’ll gain a lifelong appreciation of the built world around you.

The morning session typically begins with a slide-illustrated lecture on some aspect of architectural practice, history or theory or a case study of a building, given by a college faculty member or experienced practitioner. The rest of the day is devoted to the design of small buildings such as a food stand, studio house, pre-kindergarten learning center, café, bookstore, and other buildings of similar scale. Students work through two such projects of several weeks duration using a variety of techniques — especially study models. No computer-aided drafting or modeling skills are expected or required. Fridays are reserved for field trips — two in-town trips to visit architects’ offices and buildings of special interest and two longer out-of-town trips (San Antonio-Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth-Waxahachie) which depart early in the morning and return late at night. Students who perform well may spend an optional sixth-week in a portfolio workshop, refining their projects and documenting them in digital form.

This program is made possible in part by support from the Architecture Center Houston Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc. and The Brown Foundation.
To be completed by the student:
Which program are you applying for? (circle one)
☐ Design: ARCHITECTURE
☐ Moving Pictures: FILM
☐ Closer Looks: ART
☐ Good Vibrations: MUSIC
☐ Story Lines: LITERATURE
☐ Stranger than Fiction: LITERATURE

If yes (and you do not receive a free or reduced-cost lunch), please attach a copy of the enrollment certificate.

If the answer to either question above is yes, you qualify for a tuition waiver, and need not provide family income information below.

If the answer to both questions is no, but your family cannot afford the tuition, please provide the following information:

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2015 (or 2014 if the 2015 return has not been filed—circle one) was: $.

As documentation, you MUST attach a copy of the first page of Form 1040EZ or the first two pages of Form 1040 or 1040A. If parents are divorced, both must provide income documentation.

For all tuition waiver applicants:
I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct and that this is a full disclosure of our family's financial circumstances and also that we truly need assistance.

Signature of parent or guardian

As proof, please also attach a copy of the official score report.

If yes, have a school official verify below:

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2015 (or 2014 if the 2015 return has not been filed—circle one) was: $.

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