Make a Difference in Columbus

The Center for Architecture and Design builds connections among diverse people and organizations interested in architecture and design in Central Ohio. We are the gateway for the exchange of ideas, education, conversation and debate, and the place where we elevate the importance of quality design and architecture for our progressive city. Visit us at columbuscfad.org for details about who we are and what we do.

Mission

The Center for Architecture and Design is a non-profit organization that promotes the value of architecture and design to the public through education and outreach.

Join an elite group

When Columbus opened The Center for Architecture and Design, it followed the lead of some of the country’s largest metropolitan areas – New York City, Portland and Philadelphia – which have opened architecture centers recently to bring together architecture and design professions and communities. The concept is gaining momentum with additional centers opening nationwide.

Typically these centers are incubated by local AIA (American Institute of Architects) chapters, just as The Center was launched with the support of AIA Columbus. The centers are meeting a pronounced demand for knowledge and social interaction related to the design of buildings, places and arts within their communities. Through creative programming these organizations unite design professionals with those in the larger community interested in the built environment and design.

Other Centers include:

- Austin
- Boston
- Chicago
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Houston
- Montreal
- New York City
- North Carolina
- Philadelphia
- Portland
- Virginia
- San Antonio
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Washington DC
Elevate Central Ohio Design

A new idea

People have a general idea about how great architecture and design affect the livability of our city, but we want to share more with them. Instead of talking amongst ourselves, our goal is to tell our story, hence our motto: “Enriching Communities, Building Connections.” We’re excited because no one else in our community has done or is doing what we’re doing under one roof. Our colleagues, students, friends and community need a place to gather, celebrate and learn about the importance of quality design. We’re the source that builds their connections, gets them hooked and engages them. We see ourselves as the gateway for education, conversation and debate with the aim being to push central Ohio to the forefront of progressive cities.

“We are the gateway for the exchange of ideas.”

Community Connections

- Camp Architecture
- Design Talks
- Exhibits
- Celebrations
- Architecture/Design Tours
- Design Week

Leave your mark and be a part of something BIG

We can’t do it alone. To continue and build upon our great programming and improve our Center we need help – you. We’re appealing to all design professionals, individuals and organizations within our thriving creative culture and beyond, who embrace the importance of the built environment and design, to partner with us. Whatever your interests, we’ll find a place for you to become an active stakeholder in promoting remarkable design in our community.
Exhibits

Throughout the year, The Center sponsors design-related exhibits in its gallery space, featuring our own presentations and those from other central Ohio design-related institutions and organizations.

Past exhibits included:

- *Modern Made Ohio*, a multi-site exhibition of modern furniture collections designed and made in Ohio.
- Orange Line holiday annual train exhibit, featuring Lego™ creations for the Columbus skyline and Downtown living created by architects, landscape architects, designers and artists.
- AIA Columbus’ *Achievements of Women in Architecture* exhibit, celebrating the architectural achievements of women in the Ohio Valley Region – Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky – and sponsored by AIA Columbus.
- Nest exhibit, featuring bird houses created by local designers for a design competition and fund-raiser sponsored by the Neighborhood Design Center.
- *Neighborhood in Harmony with Nature*, Rush Creek Village, highlighting Rush Creek Village, an architectural gem consisting of 47 homes in Worthington inspired by the Usonian principles of Frank Lloyd Wright and built under the direction of Theodore Van Fossen in the 1950s.
- Camp Architecture exhibit, featuring projects from elementary, middle school and high school design camps.
- Fashion designs from International Interior Design Association Columbus’ *Product Runway*.
- AIA Columbus Weight of Architecture, which profiled the results of design service grants for pre-development assistance for Columbus non-profits.
Camp Architecture

The sky is the limit for growth at Camp Architecture, where each summer central Ohio youth, ages 8-18, have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of technology, physics, engineering and mathematics; shape creative ideas; build confidence; and experience architecture.

Help us introduce kids to the world of architecture and design through hands-on activities, field trips, walking tours, presentations by professionals and imaginative games. All camps are held at the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University. Camp Architecture sessions are one week each for students in grades 3-8. High School Design Studio is a two-week design exploration for students in grades 9-12.

Plant the seeds for a life-long appreciation of architecture and design!

“One of the best camps I have attended in awhile. I was unsure about pursuing architecture, but this revitalized my interest and I’m now fairly sure I want to do this as a profession.”

– Past Camper
Architecture/Design Tours

Each year, The Center sponsors architecture and design tours, exploring various Downtown districts, and giving urban enthusiasts the chance to discover what makes Columbus exceptional. Previous stops have included 250 South High Street, Idea Foundry, Land-Grant Brewing Company, Pizzuti Gallery, Lazarus Rooftop Garden, Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio Judicial Center, Lincoln Theatre, and William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library.
Design Talks

Various days throughout the year, The Center hosts Design Talks, discussions on a variety of topics focused on architecture and design in and around Columbus. All gatherings are free, open to the public and usually held at The Center.

Discussions have included Multi-Family Housing Trends, Library Design in the Digital Age, Design and Education, Adding On: Design for Domesticity, Urban Farming in Columbus and Columbus Brewpub Design. In 2016 and 2017, the Design Talks committee produced a short film, Stories of Architecture in Columbus, which featured a series of interviews with various local residents, leaders and architects exploring unique buildings in Columbus.
Design Week

Started in 2011, Design Week connects the public to Columbus’ design ecosystem, promoting local design, and raising the expectation of good design in Columbus. While we promote local design all year long as a design hub within the city, Design Week is an annual festival focused on connecting the public to design through a series of unique programs geared toward celebrating, educating and inspiring people about the important role design plays in Columbus.

We sponsor our own events, (architecture/design tours, exhibits, Mini Camp Architecture sessions, fund-raisers), and include those organized by other design-related central Ohio institutions and organizations, such as AIA Columbus. Our goal is to blur boundaries between disciplines through the cross-pollination of ideas and talents, to raise awareness of the power of design and to leverage our creative economy.
Camp Architecture Growth

Thanks to the support of central Ohio parents and the architecture and design community, The Center launched a new project, Camp Architecture, in 2010, based upon an earlier successful program a local architect, Marcia Conrad, started in a handful of central Ohio elementary schools. Guided by the thinking that building an appreciation for architecture and design begins with the youngest members of our community – kids – our first camp with approximately 20 elementary and middle school campers was a triumph.

We have built on that inaugural year with great success. In 2013, we added a high school camp, High School Design Studio. Beginning in 2014, we moved all of our camps to the Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University and camp attendance hit an all-time high.

Each year, within a few weeks of launching registration for our summer camps, some sessions are nearly full. We are also excited to receive inquiries from throughout the state and beyond. With even more central Ohio youths, we need your support to:

- share the knowledge of technology, physics, engineering and mathematics
- develop creative ideas
- build confidence
- provide an introduction or continued exploration of architecture and design