

Build a Bridge!



“A bridge divides what is ‘above’ the bridge, what is ‘below’ the bridge, what is ‘before’ the bridge and what is ‘after’ the bridge, but at the same time it brings totality and turns it into a neighborhood.”—Siah Armajani

Siah Armajani was an innovative thinker, artist, and bridge builder born in Iran in 1939. He moved to St. Paul, Minnesota to study art and philosophy at Macalester College in the 1960s.

He became an active artist creating large sculptures that made people think about the world in new ways. In particular, he was fascinated by bridges and its ability to connect and transform a place. As an immigrant, he thought deeply about making connections and hoped to encourage more people to think about their connection to one another.

Armajani passed away in 2020 in Minneapolis, but his artworks can still be found in parks and museums both locally and internationally.

Siah Armajani, Skyway No.2, 1980, Mahogany, brass, plexiglass, Gift of Target Corporation 2001.293.1

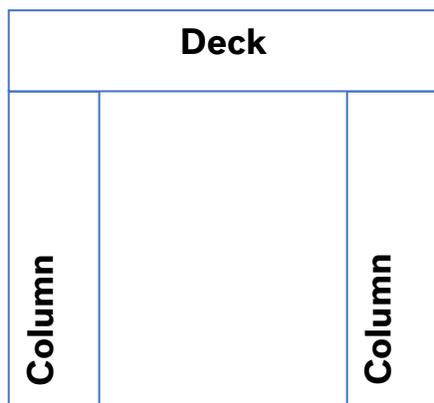
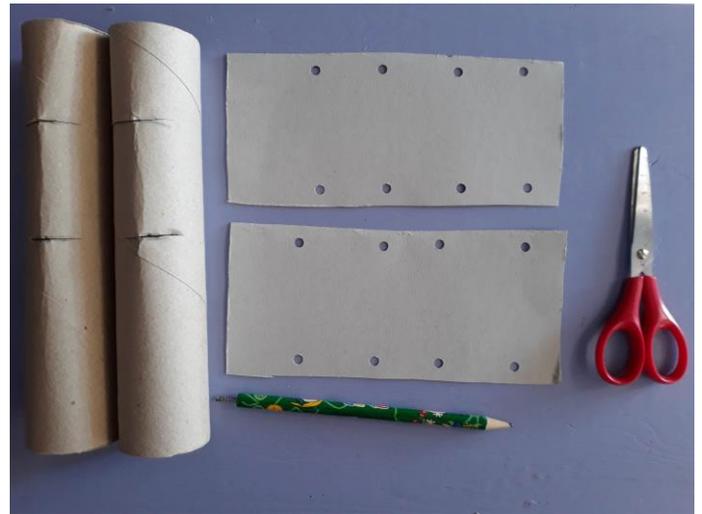
Materials

- 2 paper towel rolls
- 1 chipboard (or cereal box, cardboard)
- Scissors
- Markers
- Optional: hole punchers
- Optional: pipe cleaners or yarn



Instructions

1. Put the 2 paper towel rolls together and line them up evenly on the table. These will be the **columns** (vertical part) of your bridge.
2. Draw a line across both columns to mark where you will cut and insert the deck later
3. Draw another parallel line on both columns slightly beneath the line from step 2
4. Slightly pinch the roll to be able to cut into the lines
5. Cut the chipboard into two even rectangles. These will be the **deck** (horizontal part) of your bridge.



6. Optional: Stack the two chipboards together and use the hole puncher to create 4-5 holes along the outer edges of your beams.
7. Insert the deck in the columns. You may need to make adjustments to make your bridge stable.
 - Try placing a small object or toy on top of your bridge to test its stability!
8. Once the bridge is stable, take the decks out of the columns to be able to decorate both parts with markers or any other material you wish to use.
9. Re-insert the deck in the column when you are done adding decorations
10. Optional: Weave a pipe cleaner or piece of yarn through the holes on the beam for extra stability!
11. Now you have a bridge! Keep playing to test its strength and stability!

How did you feel making a bridge?

Where would you want to place the bridge?

What two places would you like to connect?

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