



Summer Design Institute 2025

An online digital design and architecture workshop

June 9 - 27 or July 7 - 25

9:00am - 12:00 noon

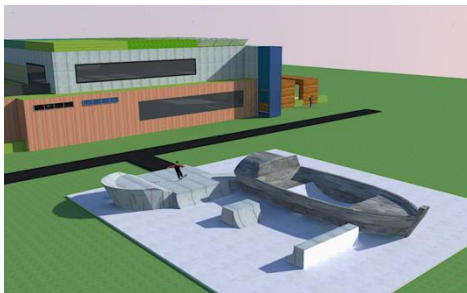
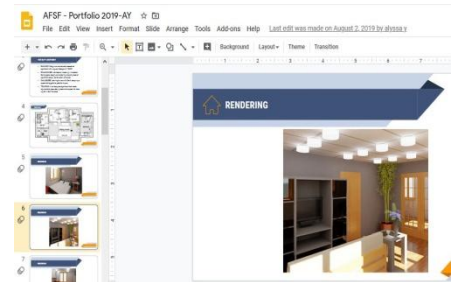
\$3,500 includes all materials and supplies

EARLY BIRD PRICING: \$3,000 up to 1 week before the program start

Curious about architecture & design? Want to gain a broader understanding of the architectural profession? Ready to take a deep dive into the design process? Want to work on your design skills? Developing work for your portfolio and your presentation skills? Well, then this is your opportunity. The **Architectural Foundation of San Francisco (AFSF)** announces ***the AFSF Summer Design Institute 2025***, an online design studio.



The ***AFSF Summer Design Institute 2025*** focuses on developing visual communication skills including sketching, form-making in models, as well as using digital design tools. You'll learn foundational architectural concepts and terms and develop them in your design. Over the 3 weeks, you'll gain experience and understanding in how to use the iterative design process to move from concept to architecture. We'll look at precedent projects to learn how other architects approach design. At the end of our studio, you'll present your project, gaining experience in creating a clear and thoughtful presentation of your architectural ideas.



In addition to your studio sessions, each week you'll meet with a mentor. In these virtual meetings, your mentor will share their experiences in the profession as well as provide feedback on your project.

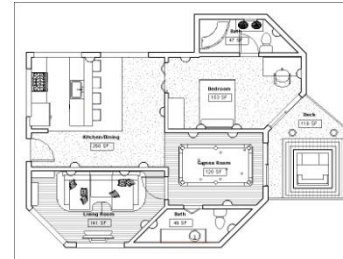
Our Summer Design Institutes are open to all high school students, including rising 9th graders. No prerequisites are required – we welcome all levels of experience including no previous architecture studios.

We are proud to be a diverse studio. We welcome students from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, including students globally. Please be mindful of our studio schedule – design is a collaborative process so being in our live studio is essential.

AFSF Summer Design Institute 2025

Our Institute Environment (“interactive instruction”)

For architects and designers, the studio culture and environment is essential to our work. It’s where we think individually and work collaboratively. It’s where we exchange ideas. Where we get and give feedback. Where we learn from and teach each other. Our AFSF architecture studios bring that to our virtual studio. We have group discussions as well as 1-on-1 “desk crits” about the project. And to create a robust studio environment, all AFSF architecture studios include using a digital pin-up wall. Here, students can post and share their work. Our digital pin-up wall allows us to see and hear examples of other architect’s work through video, images, and group discussion.



Design Process (“real world learning”)

The AFSF Summer Design Institutes are project-based studios. Our studio curriculum introduces high school students to the Design Process & Design Thinking. The process is iterative and exploratory and it’s our path to creative problem solving. It cultivates boldness, creativity, and imagination alongside structure, analysis, and design decision-making. For architects, our design process pushes us to be inspired and to inspire others through our work. In our AFSF Summer Design Institutes, we take the mystery out of the creative process so students can succeed in exploring and giving shape to their ideas.



Hands-on Learning and Mentoring (“learning from experienced pros”)

Architecture is a practice-based profession in which we learn by doing. It’s a profession based on mentoring and constant learning. Drawing on 30 years of inspired design education programming, our studio instructors and mentors come directly from the architecture and design professions as well as related engineering and construction sectors. Our studio instructors create a supportive and collegial environment to provide design instruction based on their own architectural educational/work experience and knowledge of the profession. Our studios mirror the creative energy, collaboration, and professionalism of a design studio.



Skills Building & Visual Communication

The AFSF Summer Design Institutes are an opportunity for students to discover and gain a broader knowledge of architecture and to develop the skills to express their design ideas. The projects in the AFSF studios are challenging and aspirational and are often based on real life projects and design competitions. Whether it’s a student’s first time in an architecture studio course or they come with previous experience we structure the studios so ALL students have the time and support to develop, show, and share their ideas.



Architects use a range of tools in the design process and the AFSF Summer Design Institutes introduce these to students. Students look at precedents to gain a broader understanding of the project, learn essential architectural terms and formats, and develop presentation skills. And knowing there is no single media for designing a project we introduce students to a range of design tools, both digital and analog.



Looking Ahead

AFSF is committed to supporting and mentoring students as they go forward in their educational and career pathways. Participating in AFSF Summer Design Institutes provide students the opportunity connection with architecture & design professionals. These connections can translate to future letters of recommendation, portfolio input and mentoring, internship & work opportunities, as well as leadership development.

Background on the Architectural Foundation of San Francisco

For over twenty years, AFSF has helped students succeed in high school, gain valuable workplace experience and successfully transition to higher education and the workforce. Our programs offer a unique combination of rigorous academic study, real-work experience and individualized professional mentoring, introducing students to the world of urban planning and design.

The annual AFSF [High School Design Competition](#) propels students to dive deep into a design challenge, employing a wealth of tools, skills and creativity and engaging with professionals. Some of our judges participated when they were in high school, inspiring life-long paths to successful careers.



The [AFSF Summer Design Institute](#) attracts students from around the Bay Area and across the globe. Learning high-tech skills, students collaborate on design projects, present to professional developers and develop portfolios of original creative work they can use in applications to colleges and internships.

Working collaboratively with diverse peers and engaging with professionals helps youth hone their interests and confidently envision themselves in a career. Those who have struggled in traditional classrooms often find that success at AFSF gives them a more inspired view of their future. In our commitment to serving the entire community, we strive to ensure that every interested and qualified student can participate, regardless of means.

Please register here:

<https://www.afsf.org/programs/build-san-francisco-summer-design-institute/>