



LISMORE  
REGIONAL  
GALLERY

# STUDENT WORKSHEET

## PRIMARY

### ***NOT QUITE SQUARE:***

*The story of Northern Rivers Architecture*

13 April- 2 June 2013



“...the house that grows into garden  
the garden that grows in the home  
and the choice to build your own.”  
- David Hallett

**Not**

**Quite**

**Square**



Background  
information

## *Not Quite Square*



It was May 1973 when a group of students and other young people gathered together in the village of Nimbin, Northern NSW, Australia. They were there to celebrate the Aquarius Festival - a festival of peace, music, culture and alternative ways of living. The festival goers were inspired by the Vietnam War protests and the counterculture (Hippy) movement throughout the world, that was working towards peace as well as different ways of thinking and living.

### The *Not Quite Square* Dream

After the Aquarius Festival finished a number of these people stayed and decided to live in the Area of Nimbin and other Northern NSW towns and villages. They dreamt of setting up communities where they could live together in peace and harmony with the earth. They bought land with their friends and families, where they designed and built their own homes. Their houses were inspired by the love of nature and houses that had been designed by architects and cultures from around the world.

Many of these communities still exist today, such as Tuntable Falls Community near Nimbin, and Rainbow, Bodhi Farm and Dharmananda communities near the Channon, just to name a few. In this exhibition you will see photographs, films and historical materials documenting the homes and stories of the people who designed and built their own houses and dreamed of a life that could be lived outside the box.

In 2013, Tim Hixson was commissioned to photograph five exemplary houses started in the 70s and 80s and still lived in today. There are also historical photographs from the 70s and 80s by Hixson, David Liddle and John Witzig, and images and stories shared by local people. The film by Sharon Shosak was made in 2013 and the film by John Kirk was made in 1979.



## Imagine building your own home!

That's what the home owner builders in *Not Quite Square* did. They were inspired by different architects and houses from around the world. As well as ideas about re-using and recycling materials to create environmentally sustainable houses, with a quirky individual style.



### What's an Architect?

An architect is someone who **DESIGNS** buildings. They train at university to learn how to imagine a house in their brains and then draw up the pictures and plans of how the house will look and the ways it will fit together. They also know about what kinds of materials a house might be built with. Wood or stone, bricks or mud, steel or bamboo are all materials that house can be built out of.

### What is your Home built out of?

## **NOT QUITE SQUARE HOUSES**

The house owner builders in this exhibition were not all necessarily trained architects. Rather many of them were everyday people who dreamed of designing and building their own homes. Using materials available to them, they created interesting, unusual, individual homes. They used rocks, mud and wood from trees on the land where they lived. They recycled materials they discovered around the area such as old windows and doors and coloured glass bottles to create beautiful walls that let the light into their home. They created homes where the inside and the outside met, where gardens grew on the roof and with solar panels and water tanks to create energy efficient homes that showed concern for the environment.





### All Different Shapes

Many different kinds of shapes appear in the houses in the *Not Quite Square* exhibition. People used hexagon, circle, triangle, square and rectangle shapes to build their houses

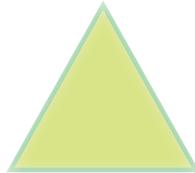
Different shapes have different meaning they can symbolise something important to the person who uses them. Sometimes they are useful for building certain structures and sometimes they can mean something special or magical or create a beautiful atmosphere or artwork.

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### Here are some different meanings for shapes



Circles are round and can represent planets, the moon, the sun, seeds, eyes, faces, portals, fruit, bellies, rings and coins.



Triangles have 3 sides and can represent mountains, strength, pyramids, roofs, spirituality and the three ages of life.

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As you walk around the gallery look at the different shapes you can find in the different houses.

What shapes can you see in the houses?

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If you built a house what shapes would you use?

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What do these shapes mean to you?

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**DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR DREAM HOME**

1. Where would you build your house?

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2. What materials would you use to build your house?

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3. What shapes and colours would you use in your house?

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### LET'S PLAY EYE SPY!

WHILE YOU ARE GOING AROUND THE GALLERY LOOK FOR EYE-SPY LABELS NEXT TO ARTWORKS.

PLAY EYE SPY WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHILE YOU LOOK AT THE ARTWORK.

**Q** How many hexagon windows can you count?



## Make a paper house you can decorate

On page 7 you will find the template to cut out and make a 3D paper house

### Instructions

#### Step 1

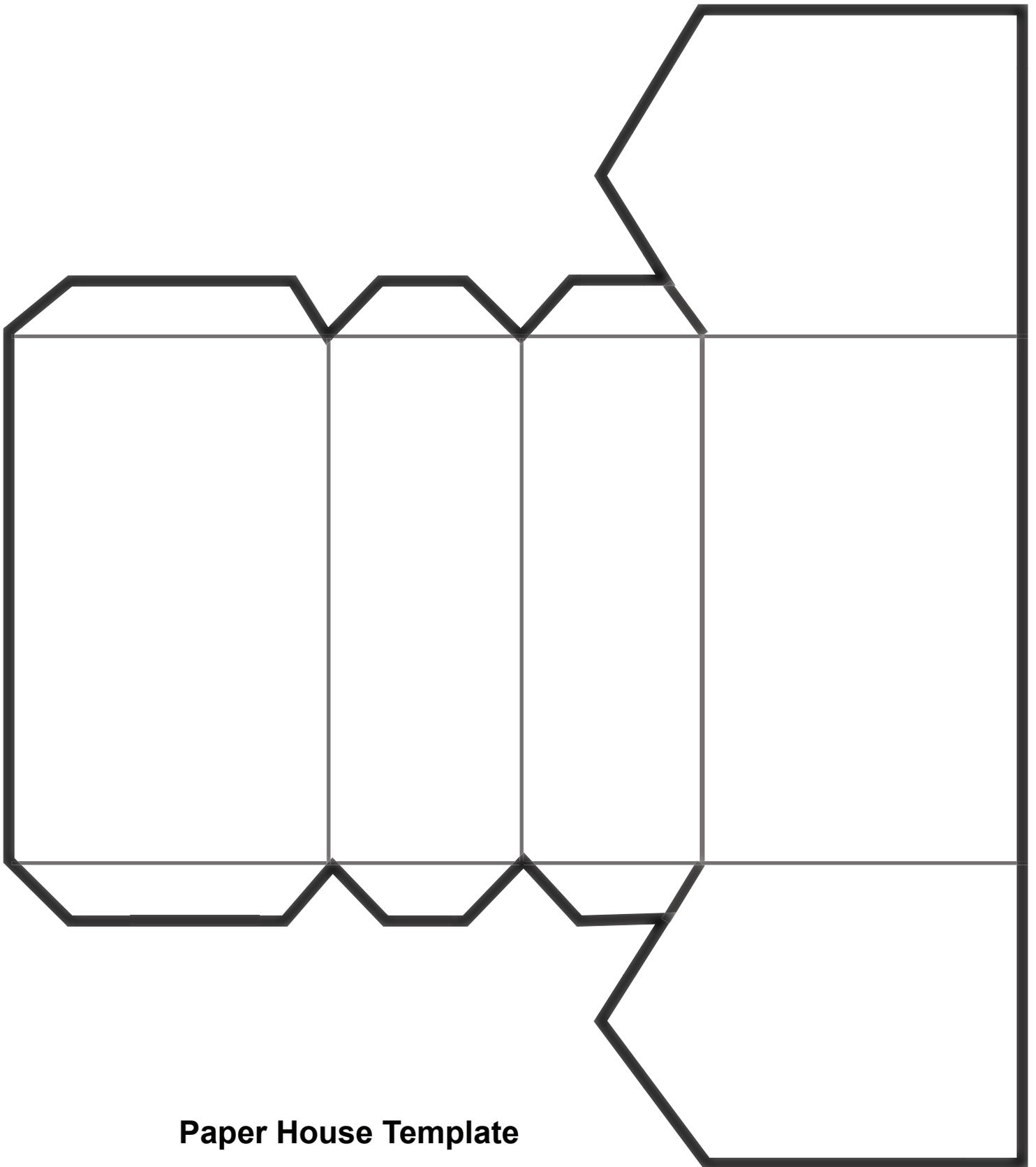
Cut along the dark black outline around the house drawing.

#### Step 2

Colour in your house with different patterns or colours making it your very own special design.

#### Step 3

Ask your teacher or an adult to help you fold and sticky tape or glue your paper house so it becomes a 3D house.



**Paper House Template**