



AIANJ150 Committee

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Robert Longo, AIA
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AIA-NJ

**AIA 150 Schools Presentation
Sample Script for 45 minute 6th Grade Classroom Presentation
On or around March 28th, 2007**

Written by Stacey Ruhle Kliesch, AIA

Ideally, DO NOT read this to the class, but become familiar with it and then make yourself note cards with the key words/ideas to remind you as you move through the content. The comments in parentheses are for your information and not to be spoken. When you are comfortable with the content, be sure to dry run it on someone to be sure you timing is OK. You might need to make adjustments for a different time allowance from your school. You don't want to run out of time or end early. Schools usually cannot run over from one period into another. You are being provided with a Power Point presentation and electronic project which coordinates with this script. If you have a laptop and projector available, you might like to use it in your presentation. This is optional. You will also be provided with a paper copy of the project if you prefer to use that.

This script, power point presentation, paper plan and set of buildings, electronic plan and set of buildings, and homework handouts are a suggestion for your presentation that will meet the goals of AIA-NJ for this program. Please feel free to modify, add to or delete from this program as suits your interests and those of your students.

If you have questions about this program or the materials you have received, please contact Stacey Kliesch at staceycliesch@optonline.net.

Presentation Requirements

- Camera
- One Homework Handout and AIA- NJ pencil per student
- Laptop with Flash Player and Power Point installed (**electronic option**)
- Projector (**electronic option**)
- Screen (**electronic option**, most classrooms already have a screen)
- Paper Plan and buildings already cut out (**conventional option**)
- Tape or putty or other means of attaching the buildings to the plan (**conventional option**)
- Any graphics you choose to print to enhance your verbal presentation (**conventional option**)



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Presentation Script:

Intro: 3 minutes (ideally, show graphics of AIA logo)

Hi and thanks for allowing me to join you in class today. My name is XXXX and I am an architect. I am here to present to you the American Institute of Architect's 10 Principles of Livable Communities in honor of our 150 year anniversary in 2007. The American Institute of Architects is the professional organization that helps architects serve the public's needs and builds awareness of the role of architects and architecture in American society. This week, over 5000 sixth graders all over New Jersey are learning this same lesson as you are today and I am excited to be able to share it with all of you. We are going to have some interactive discussion and then do a project together using what we have learned, and at the end of the session, you will be asked to do a take home project on your own, so listen carefully, ask questions and please share you ideas!

Can anyone tell me what an architect is or does?

(Try for three students' ideas here)

An architect is someone who designs buildings and advises in their construction.

Communities: 5 minutes (ideally show graphics of urban, suburban, rural, commercial, residential, municipal and green spaces)

Architects can design and plan more livable communities so people have a better environment to live, work and play in.

Can anyone tell me what a community is?

(student ideas)

A community is an interacting group of people in a common location.

There are three types of communities. Urban, Suburban and Rural. Can anyone describe these types of communities?

(student ideas)

Urban – City, hi-rise structures, skyscrapers, lots of people, more public transportation, more pedestrians, sidewalks, lots of traffic, few single homes, housing often in apartment buildings, condos and town homes, limited open land, more crowded, more pollution, more noise.

Suburban – Outskirts of a city, housing developments, garden apartments, many single homes, malls and shopping centers, town centers, lower height buildings (1-5 stories), more trees and open land than in the city, some public transportation, sidewalks and bike paths common, most families have cars, less noise, crowd and pollution than in a city.

Rural – Country, farms, barns, single homes, pastures, fields, forests, less public transportation, everything is farther apart, stores and other services



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might be a farther drive than in the suburbs, quieter, less people, less pollution.

The kinds of spaces you might find in a community could include the following:

Commercial – Places to work and spend money like stores, banks, barbershops and restaurants.

Residential – Places to live like houses and apartment buildings.

Municipal/ Federal – Places provided by the municipality like the town hall, post offices, library, recycling center, schools, community center, and town pool.

Green Spaces – Places to enjoy nature and the outdoors like woods, parks, lakes, recreation fields, and playgrounds.

Industrial – Places where things are manufactured like factories.

Religious – Places for the community to gather and worship together.

Transportation – Car parking, train stations, bus terminals and stops, roads, bike paths and sidewalks.

Questions:

1. What types of buildings do you find in a Rural Community? Urban? Suburban?
2. Can you name an urban community in NJ? (Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Camden)
3. Can you name a suburban community in NJ? (Insert local suburban communities in the area of the school)
4. Can you name a rural community in NJ? (Insert local rural communities in the area of the school)
5. Which has the most people? The least?
6. What kinds of transportation are used in each?
7. What kind of community is this town?

Livable Communities: 10 minutes (ideally show graphics of the 10 principles)

The AIA has identified the characteristics of better communities, and they call these the 10 Principles of Livable Communities. These principles guide architects to design responsibly. They can apply to urban, suburban or rural communities.

(Become familiar with the descriptions and paraphrase them in your own style. These AIA descriptions not child friendly descriptions and sound canned if you read them off. Just read the principle and then explain in your own words. Keep this very brief.)

1. **Design on a Human Scale** – Compact pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents to walk to shops, services, cultural



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resources and jobs and can reduce traffic congestion and benefit peoples' health.

2. **Provide Choices** – People want variety in housing, shopping, recreation, transportation and employment. Variety creates lively neighborhoods and accommodates residents in different stages of their lives.
3. **Encourage Mixed-Use Development** – Integrating different land uses and varied building types creates vibrant, pedestrian-friendly and diverse communities.
4. **Preserve Urban Centers** – Restoring, revitalizing, and infilling urban centers takes advantage of existing streets, services and buildings and avoids the need for new infrastructure. This helps to curb sprawl and promote stability for city neighborhoods.
5. **Vary Transportation Options** – Giving people the option of walking, biking and using public transit, in addition to driving, reduces traffic congestion, protects the environment and encourages physical activity.
6. **Build Vibrant Public Spaces** – Citizens need welcoming, well defined public spaces to stimulate face-to-face interaction, collectively celebrate and mourn, encourage civic participation, admire public art, and gather for public events.
7. **Create a Neighborhood Identity** – A “sense of place” gives neighborhoods a unique character, enhances the walking environment, and creates pride in the community.
8. **Protect Environmental Resources** – A well-designed balance of nature and development preserves natural systems, protects waterways from pollution, reduces air pollution and protects property values.
9. **Conserve Landscapes** – Open spaces, farms and wildlife habitats are essential for environmental, recreational and cultural reasons.
10. **Design Matters** – Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.

Designing a Livable Community: 20 Minutes (Electronic or Paper Kit of parts provided by AIA-NJ)

Today, we are going to design a livable community based on the principles and ideas we have just learned. Let's imagine that this community combines commercial (remind them places to work, buy things or spend money), municipal (remind them places related to or provided by the municipality), residential (remind them places to live), industrial (remind them places where things are manufactured) religious (remind them places for the community to worship), transportation (cars, bikes, busses, trains, pedestrians) and natural spaces (remind them parks, lakes, and woods).



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We will start off with this plan of some natural and man made elements already occurring on this site, like the lake, woods, railroad, and highway. Here, near the train tracks, in the center we find a town green, or park, that would be a good starting point to plan from. Next to it is the Municipal building with the police and fire departments. This is a good central location for those services. Here we have some examples of buildings and spaces to start placing on our community plan. Now, we need to start to think about the spatial relationships of these spaces to each other, or what goes next to what in our town center.

Of the spaces we have to include in our community what space should we locate near the town green and municipal building? (Pick a different student to locate each building or consider letting a few students take turns using the mouse if you are doing the electronic version).

Now, what should to be near that?
Etc, etc, until all of the listed community spaces are included on the plan.

Next, ask if we have met the 10 principles? (1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 can be addressed in this exercise. Discuss those in relation to their designed community.)

SAVE THE PLAN TO YOUR LAPTOP AND/ OR TAKE A PHOTO OF IT.



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Closing and Assignment: 7 minutes (distribute handout provided by AIA-NJ, we are giving you 25 copies)

We covered a lot of material in a short time today and I am really impressed with your results. Please give yourselves a round of applause for a great job on this community design!

(Send around the handout with assignment and pencils) Now, I have a very important assignment for each of you to complete in the next few weeks. AIA-NJ is concerned about the quality of the communities in our state and we need you to help identify great NJ communities and NJ communities that need some improvement. On this sheet you will find the list of 10 Principles of Livable Communities that we learned today. I want each of you to go out into your own communities, or anywhere else in NJ that you choose, and take photographs or draw pictures of one community that you think is great and one that needs to be improved. Please include your name, your teachers name and school, the address of the location you are submitting and a written description of why you think the space does or does not represent a livable community. Send in your examples to us by e-mail or regular mail at the address included on the handout. We will be sharing your submissions with architects and elected officials across the state and posting them on our website to better educate the public about the ideas that you have learned today.

Do you have any questions for me? Thank you all for participating on this project and I hope you enjoyed working on it with me. If you think of any questions after I leave, you can e-mail AIA-NJ through the info on your handout. I thank you again on behalf of AIA-NJ! Please come up and let's take a class picture with your new community in the background.