

# Design Fort Project Guide

## PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Dream, design, and build a unique space just for you with the right tools, materials, and vibe to get your creative juices flowing.



Project Intro Video:  
Design Fort



Inspirational Video:  
Inspired Creative Spaces



## PROJECT CATEGORY:

Design

## DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

Beginner

## TIME RANGE:

45 - 90 minutes

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS/ MINDSETS THAT YOU MAY LEARN:

Design Thinking

Iteration

Creativity

Project Management

Architecture

Space Planning

Organization

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Assorted craft materials
- Craft tools: hole punch, scissors
- Tape, stick glue, or stapler
- Miscellaneous office supplies
- Cards, colored paper, markers
- Materials found from the Home Scavenger Hunt project

## AT-SCHOOL SUBSTITUTIONS:

- Though this project is mainly for home use, you can also run it at school, work, or in a community program. To do so, think small of small, efficient, or mobile fort designs (i.e., design spaces you can use to create a typical student desk). You may also tackle a larger space by breaking it into smaller sections that each team can focus on. That way the larger space can include multiple Design Fort nooks.

## MATERIAL PURCHASE LINK:

<http://tiny.cc/Intelbuylis>

## Project Steps Dream It!

How can you design a place to creatively solve problems? Look around and see what areas you can repurpose. Maybe you choose the corner of your bedroom, a simple box of supplies, a mobile workspace for the kitchen, or even a garage or shed.

1

Watch the Inspire-To and How-To videos to learn more about creative space design. [ :08]

2

Create a list of five spaces you could use. Keep your specific location in mind. [ :02]

## Draw It!

**3** Pick your top two or three areas. Sketch out ideas for each one that would give you room, tools, and materials to create. [05]

**4** Get feedback on your ideas and make one final drawing. Use the “Think About It” section to challenge linear thinking. [05]

## Build It!

**5** List and source all the tools and materials you will include in your Design Fort. [03]

**6** Create your space. Build, label, and organize the materials as required in your plan. [20]

**7** Iterate by changing your space as new needs arise. [15]

Iteration is a powerful design thinking tool. Don't feel like your space needs to be perfect from day one. Build it, use it, and then change it as you work through your project.

## Share It!

**8** Show off your Design Fort to others before looking at our project list to figure out your first build. [07]

## Expand It!

If you had fun creating your Design Fort, you may enjoy designing other spaces. One fun way to do so is to challenge yourself to design for others. Use the ideas and prompts below to take your space design to the next level:

- What changes would you make to your space if you were designing it for younger children? How about for retired adults with physical limitations?
- Design an innovation space for a company or school. What would the space look and feel like, and how would it inspire creativity?
- Take a look at the IKEA Hacker site: [ikeahackers.net](http://ikeahackers.net)
- How could you modify a piece of IKEA furniture to make it part of a creative Design Fort?

### THINK ABOUT IT:

It is tempting to simply look for empty space you can fill—but have you considered dual-use?

- Could your Design Fort be hidden when not in use?
- Could you create a design suitcase that turns into a desk?
- Where will you store your materials? How about your tools and projects that are still in progress?
- How will you stay organized?
- How can you convert the bathtub into a Design Fort? What other interesting spots have you overlooked?



### DASH OF DESIGN:

Design thinking helps to solve problems like a designer. Watch our video to see how you can use this system to make a better Design Fort.



### PRO TIPS:

- Make your space flexible and adaptable in function while you use it.
- A good space will typically have the following:
  - An open, solid, flat area where you can draw and build.
  - Easy access to tools and materials (i.e., bins of paper clips, straws, tape, stick glue, and other craft items).
  - A place to store projects that are in progress (i.e., incomplete projects).

### HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- Architectural space principles and inspiration: *The Not So Big House* – [susanka.com/not-so-big-house/](http://susanka.com/not-so-big-house/)
- *Make Space* – A great book on creative space design from Stanford's d.school team: [dschool.stanford.edu/resources/make-space-excerpts](http://dschool.stanford.edu/resources/make-space-excerpts)

### NEED MORE HELP AND INFORMATION?

Contact us at: [intelfutureskills@intel.com](mailto:intelfutureskills@intel.com)