

## Project 1: Exploration of a Stair and Fireplace

A garden folly/viewing platform/bar-b-que shelter

---

Areas of Focus: Fundamental design principles, Elements of architecture, Architectural communication

Project goals:

- to explore the architectural element of the stair as path and place
- to explore architectural expression of the concept of “hearth”
- to become familiar with both precedent for stair and hearth design and the technical requirements for stair and fireplace construction

Schedule:

Wed. Jan 23	Project assigned
Fri. Feb 1 1:30	Final review

Description:

The site is a garden 40 X 40 feet square, with its sides oriented to the points of the compass. It is surrounded by an 8' high opaque wall (you can decide the location in which to place a gate). Beyond the walls on all sides are scenic views. The garden is located in the Las Vegas Valley.

Within the garden you have a 15' X 15' foundation slab capable of bearing whatever loads your design requires. It may be located anywhere within the garden walls. On the slab you are to design a folly. The functional program consists of:

- a) a fireplace where outdoor cooking may be done
- b) a raised surface or series of surfaces reached by stairs from which the views can be seen.

You are to incorporate this functional program into a design which celebrates both the imagery of “hearth place” and the pleasure of motion between and around places. You may use any materials, structural system, etc., but whatever you use must be clearly and accurately depicted in your drawings. Your structure must meet IBC (International Building Code) criteria but need not meet ADA requirements as this is a private facility.

Begin your design process by considering imagery and associations evoked by words like “fire,” “ascent,” “path,” and “hearth.” Out of these reflections develop a parti as an organizing diagram for your folly.

## Presentation Requirements:

All work for this project is to be done by hand, including design sketches, presentation drawings and models.

Final drawings: One 36" X 24" sheet of explanatory drawings that describe your project. You are to choose which of the standard architectural drawings best explain and document your ideas, including diagrams. All drawings appropriately labeled

Model: Media: Chipboard, museum board, bass wood, foam core, wire trees, etc. as appropriate. Construct on wood or sturdy cardboard base.  
Scale: 3/4" = 1'

Evaluation Criteria:	Point Breakdown
• Design resolution at the scale of the site and program elements	2
• Depth and breadth of design exploration	2
• Ability to show progress at each studio meeting	2
• Accuracy and adherence to the assignment	2
• Craft of presentation, both drawings and model.	2
Project total	10