

'Story Time from Space'

The new Mister Rogers on the block is in outer space. Her name is Kate Rubins who is reading children's books, among other astronauts from the International Space Station. She is part of the project Story Time from Space, led by the Global Space Education Foundation (GSEF) in partnership with the International Space Station (ISS). When co-founder Patricia Tribe saw a need to engage children in STEM and literacy, she and astronaut Alvin Drew took action. Now astronauts are reading to children around the world, entertaining and educating them all while teaching valuable lessons.

Rubins reads *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, by Andrea Beaty. It's about a shy little girl who builds up her confidence, only to have it fall back down. She hides away in her basement, making gizmos and gadgets. Rosie reveals them to her family, and finally Fred the Zookeeper who has a problem to be solved -- snakes on his head! She builds him a cheese hat, which doesn't turn out so well. The budding engineer retreats into her shell, then her great great Aunt Rose comes to visit wearing the signature Rosie the Riveter headscarf. She speaks of a time when women worked in factories during World War II, with passion and determination. Her last wish is to be able to fly. Little Rosie lays in bed, and wonders, "Could she build a gizmo to help her aunt fly?"



photo credit: <https://pixabay.com/en/space-shuttle-earth->

In the morning, she flies a Cheese-copter just for a moment, and crashes. Aunt Rose laughs and laughs, as her niece utters that she will never try to build anything again. But then Aunt Rose gives her a big hug. The lesson learned -- Life may have its failures, but this was not it.

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Archi-fact:

There is an old saying that apply to all areas of life...

"When you want to accomplish something you can choose only two of the three that will apply to your task. The choices to pick from are...

Excellence, Speed, Inexpensive." The civic leaders in China wanted speed in the design of the Tianjin Binhai Library and thus lost excellence in design.

Iconic Building Of The Month

Tianjin Binhai
Library, China



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Binhai_library_sphere.ipa

Dutch architects MVRDV collaborated with local architects TUPDI in Tianjin, China to complete the public Tianjin Binhai Library in 2017, as part of the master plan for the new Binhai Cultural Center. The 5-story space revolves around a spherical auditorium, seen through an oval opening known as The Eye of Binhai. A “sea of books” covers the undulating bookshelf and catches a new wave of futuristic architecture. At more than 36,000 square feet, its capacity is at 110 people and 1.2 million books. But, “there’s a catch, not all the books are real”, Business Insider reveals.

Due to a short 3-year time frame, the firm had to sacrifice its original design, which allowed for access to the upper bookshelves. Instead, images of book spines cover the much of the atrium’s shelves. This part is called The Cave, centered around the LED-lit iconic sphere, “meant as an urban living room,” says MVRDV founder. Moving inward, a spherical auditorium carries the theme. Then, more traditional reading rooms offer real books and spaces tailored to fit various needs. However, the central space is undeniably modern. The



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floor, wall, stairs, and ceiling flow together -- lines disappear and it feels as though you’re floating in a “continuous bookshelf.” As a result, the library has gone viral on social media. Though the lack of real books disappoints some visitors, the design philosophy ensures “social happiness” above all.

Archi-Quote

Design is important and it is a mistake to short change it in both fees and time. The Iconic Building of the Month is a perfect example of rushing through design to meet an artificial completion date. Of course that does not mean unlimited costs and time is required or necessary. Just remember what the Prime Minister (during World War two) of Great Britain said about where we live, work and play.

“We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.”

Winston Churchill

'Story Time from Space'

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The only true failure can come if you quit. And so the story ends with Rosie wearing the characteristic scarf on her head. She keeps on going and inspires kids at school to enthusiastically build perfect failures.

Story Time from Space shares the same innovative spirit. On the website, the About Page starts: "What you cannot imagine, you cannot do." Watching astronauts read stories encourages children to explore how literacy and science connect. To get a book approved, it has to take no longer than 15 minutes to read (as the astronauts are on strict time schedules) and, most important, must be scientifically accurate. Then Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) partners with NASA to transport the books to the ISS. The books arrival is an exciting day. Astronauts volunteer to read in front of the camera. The recordings



are edited and uploaded to the Story Time from Space website, and a few of them, like Rubins', are on YouTube.

Families are dazzled. "What better role models to engage kids in science and to engage them in reading?" says Tribe to the Huffington Post. "You're not only looking and listening to the books, you're looking around the International Space Station." If parents are looking for a way to step up story time, look no further than YouTube and outer space.

Archi-Speak

Can you find all these examples of a sphere?

Basketball	Jupiter	Earth	Marble	Globe										
Q	R	N	P	O	A	N	C	S	D	K	E	E	X	W
R	F	E	X	K	N	S	J	D	T	N	M	O	S	T
S	T	V	I	M	A	R	B	L	E	E	I	H	I	P
E	Z	J	T	U	I	K	G	T	A	Y	E	H	W	G
N	W	T	V	H	R	S	Q	C	C	G	L	O	B	E
O	G	N	E	X	Z	T	J	V	O	U	X	B	I	K
Z	I	V	W	T	L	J	C	J	S	L	J	A	D	U
E	Y	K	K	Q	T	U	M	R	Z	S	V	S	C	F
A	I	Q	V	P	E	P	E	T	O	H	W	K	U	U
O	M	Z	I	H	S	I	N	U	G	R	L	E	B	H
M	S	U	U	P	A	T	M	E	E	A	R	T	H	W
M	U	M	T	Z	H	E	H	P	N	Y	Q	B	P	U
G	C	C	P	C	V	R	D	P	O	D	Z	A	J	D
E	J	R	T	A	F	T	P	J	B	U	I	L	O	R
I	I	H	E	W	Q	N	I	T	I	X	C	L	E	F

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month's question is...**

Why do architects say a project of an addition to a home can take up to six months before construction can start. There was a TV show that built additions including design in seven days.

James K

James,

First off TV is NOT real. Depending on the community you live in ti could take up to three months for the local Building Department to review the finished construction drawings before issuing a construction permit. Design takes time, see the Arch-Fact of the month with regards to trade offs.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com, and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

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About

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB
President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

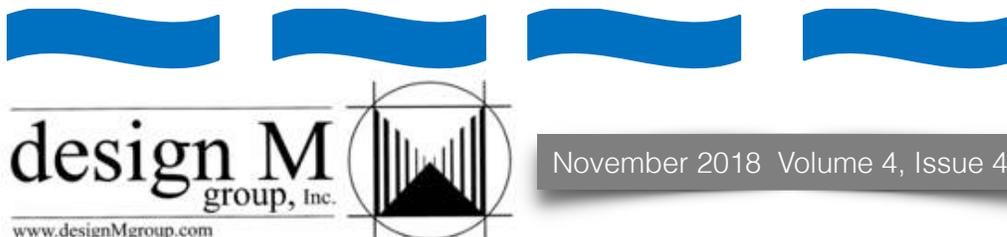
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