

The Getty Center

A Balancing Act

The buildings at the Getty Center were designed by architect Richard Meier. Take a look around and see the complex shapes and forms he designed. What comes to mind when you see these buildings? Try posing like the Getty's structures to get a better understanding of how weight, support, and force work!

- **Weight** is the downwards “pull” of gravity
- **Support** is the ability to hold something up
- **Force** is pressure put on an object which alters its position

Work with a Team:

Get into a group of four and think of two design challenges Meier had to overcome when building the Getty.

Step 1

Within your team, assign two people the roles of the “structure,” one person for the “architect,” and another for the “forcer”. If there are more than four of you, double up on the roles.

Step 2



If you are the structure:

Choose a specific building and work together to recreate its form. Try standing on one leg for less support, stretch your arms out, lean forward, join arms, etc.

Step 3



If you are the architect:

Double check the **structures'** form and make sure it is correct. Give them tips on how to remain sturdy. If necessary, adjust the **structure's** form by *gently* moving his or her arm, head, or leg.

Step 4



If you are the forcer:

With the **architect**, figure out where the building supports the most weight and apply force to that area. *Gently* push down on the **structures'** wrist, knees, shoulders, etc.

Step 5, the **structures** should keep working with the **architect** to create the most sturdy form – a form where the **forcer** has minimal impact.

Final Step: Form a semicircle with your entire group. Take turns showing everyone the building you recreated with your team. Share the problems you had, and how you fixed them.