

OpenStudio

A collection of art-making ideas by artists

Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO: Collaging a Space Just for You

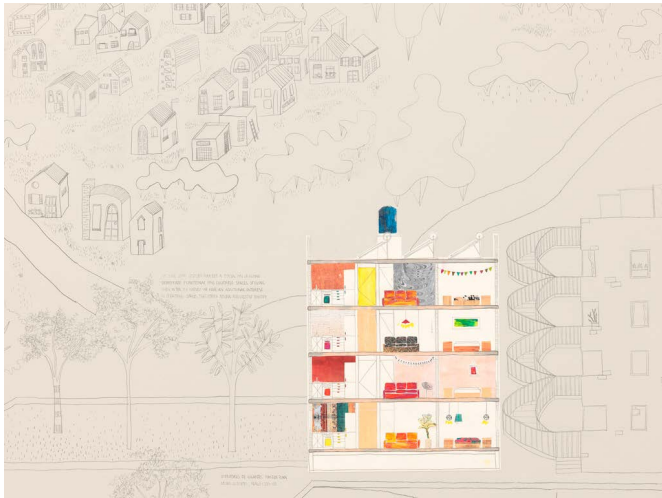
Introduction

A collage is an image composed by cutting, assembling, and glueing images, photos, or other materials onto a surface. It is an artistic method that uses composition and overlapping of items to create new meanings based on the relationships between the pieces. A collaged image can be made from many types of materials. It can use hand drawings and sketches, cut outs from photographs and magazines, or even splashes of paint. The sizes of the images can distort reality or play with perspective. For example, **Superstudio** created an image (Superstudio, 1971, sfmoma.org/artwork/2014.234/) with a dramatic pathway into the landscape.

A collage can also convey an argument, idea, or story. The artist **Martin Venezky**'s collages (Martin Venezky, 1993, sfmoma.org/artwork/2001.135/) capture the myths and symbols of the cowboy to tell a story through that perspective. Sometimes a collage is more abstract. Artist **Herbert Bayer**'s collage (Herbert Bayer, 1932, sfmoma.org/artwork/pst0755/) is a mix of many things that seem unrelated. The juxtaposition of images in the collage makes a dreamlike scene that allows him to share feelings in an unexpected way.

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Collage as a Design Tool

At Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO, we use collages to create ideas for architectural projects. Collages allow us to create images where the unexpected can be discovered. For example, when we have an idea for a new house, we use a collage to imagine the types of activities in the house and the way the house includes nature and plants. The possibilities are limitless!

Similarly, when we have a building designed, we invite people to use collage to transform the space and show us how they might use it. We could propose a room as a dining area, but the reality is you might want to use it as a space to play ping pong with your friends.

We invite you to make a collage with us to imagine and design a space just for you.



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Discovery Activity:

In this activity we will use the tools of collage to imagine where and how you would like to live.

Materials

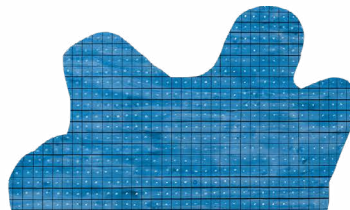
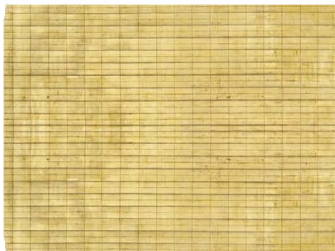
Scissors
Paper
Pencil
Pen

Suggestions for additional materials

Paint, charcoal, colored pencils
Photos
Magazines
Print outs

Preparation

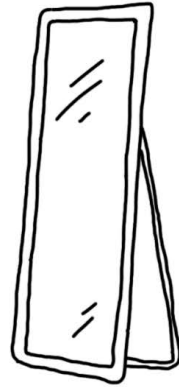
Create room backgrounds by cutting out images that feature a texture—a background can be long, tall, whatever you wish. Cut out images of things you like. There is a packet that accompanies this assignment to help get you started. Pick from the packet or find your own. On the last page of this activity guide, there is a graphic organizer you can use to map out your ideas.



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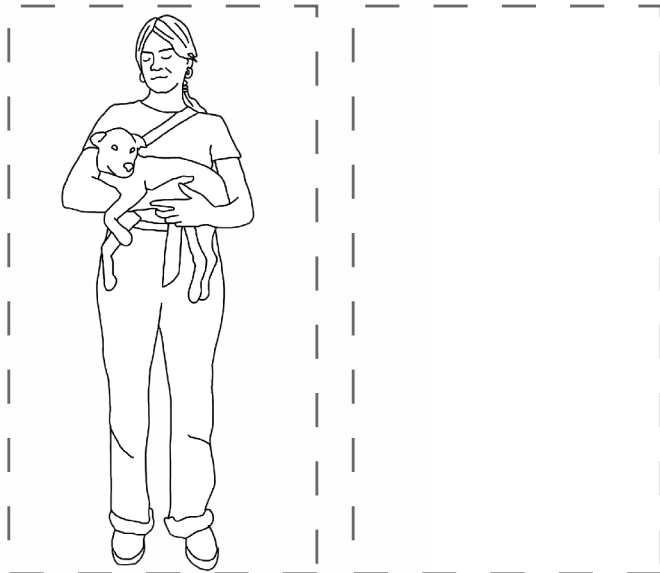
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Draw, sketch, or paint some images—they can be images of people you know or things you like.



Step 1 – Draw yourself!

Create a 2–4 inch drawing of yourself on a separate piece of paper, or use the template in the downloadable PDF packet or the box below. Save your drawing to use in Step 2.



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Step 2 – Space for yourself

Start at the center of a blank sheet of paper and imagine how you would like your personal space to look and feel. Is this a space of peace? Is it somewhere you sleep or where you do your homework? Is it a place where you jam out or practice your art?

Create the background of your room. In front of it, put furniture or objects that you would like in your special space. Cut out the drawing of yourself and place it in front.

Step 3 – Your shared space

In the next step, imagine the spaces you would want to share with others. Who do you want to share spaces with—family? friends? What activities would you do with them? Would you eat and cook together? Would you plant a garden? Or maybe you want a room to dance in after a long day. Add elements to your collage that reflect the look and feel of the spaces you would want to share with others.

Step 4 – Your neighbors

In the last step, imagine where your living space is located. Is it surrounded by little houses or are you in the middle of a grassy field? When you look out your windows would you be surrounded by towers with twinkling lights or maybe a view of the ocean? Imagine the types of things you might want to share with your neighbors—maybe it's a place to meet and skate, maybe it's a place to watch movies in the park. Add elements to your collage that reflect where you imagine your living space is located. It's a city of your design!

Thank you for taking the time to design your own environment!

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Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO is a Mexico City–based architecture studio founded in 2004. At the core of the studio’s practice is an analysis of the context surrounding projects, which scale from masterplans to affordable housing. A goal of the work is to contribute to its surroundings while remaining flexible to absorb shifting needs.

Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO pursues architecture through multidisciplinary perspectives. We promote a collective environment with a diverse staff of architects, academics, and model makers. Our working method uses hand drawing and iterative models to keep design and development rooted in spatial, not digital, exploration. We elevate collaborations between other architects, artists, economists, local governments, and more, to enrich the impact and reach of each project.

The studio’s architectural work includes the Culiacán Botanical Garden, the Pilgrimage Route in Jalisco, an institutional building on the UDEM campus, a research center by the Sea of Cortez, and a social housing prototype displayed at the 2015 Chicago Biennial that costs the buyer under \$8,000. The studio has had work featured at the Graham Foundation, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Venice Biennale, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Museo Amparo, T-space Gallery, and Centre Pompidou, among others.

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Use this graphic organizer to map out your ideas.

