

Office of Regional Architecture



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THIS MONTH

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How to be sustainable this Christmas

Monthly Article: Christmas in the Regions

Origami and architecture featuring a DIY
Christmas decoation.

INTRODUCTION

ORA News is a monthly newsletter in which we let you know about our practice of Architecture in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern, and issues of interest all of us who live in, work alongside, and enjoy architecture and design. The aim of the newsletter is to keep readers updated on what we are doing in our firm, discuss informative topics about architecture, and share stories which reflect our values here at ORA. We hope you enjoy this month's edition of ORA News.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Rosalie Pech Eva

Locally, harvest is in full swing, with twice daily freight trains rattling through the Brookton main street, numerous heavy grain truck movements per day to and from the CBH site, with early mornings for truck drivers and late nights for header drivers and maintenance mechanics. The bustle of end-of-year school activities, swimming lessons, Presentation nights, community group wind-ups and Christmas Trees in little locality halls are planned or under way. Our family favourite is the Aldersyde Community Christmas Tree, which has the arrival of a suspiciously familiar Father Christmas on the back of the fire truck to hand out gifts, as well as a delicious bring-and-share Christmas dinner at it's heart.

At ORA we too have a Christmas rush on, even though our projects have a longer gestation than your traditional Christmas Child. Clients eagerly await their first Christmas in their new addition or home, kitchen (or laundry), and community Centre or Shire offices. As well as progressing our projects, we're working hard towards those few precious weeks we can pause amongst the hustle and bustle of harvest, school, community and work, count our blessings and catch up with family and friends, and even sneak away for a blissful rest by the cooling ocean, and try to even out those farmers-sock tan lines.

We hope you enjoy our Christmas feature articles by Megan Rex, our 2019 work experience student. I can assure you that the origami is not as difficult as it looks, the sequence being thoroughly tested by Megan and my crafty son Henry (aged 10). For those of you in and around the Brookton district, we invite you to come and see our origami efforts in our decorated office windows, as well as the seasonal decorations in other local Brookton businesses and homes. If you think you have a local business premises in your district who outdoes us, or you have successfully and spectacularly origami-ied your way to Christmas splendour, please do post and share your photos on our social media platforms.

A Merry & Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year from myself, Alex and Natalia.

HOW TO BE SUSTAINABLE THIS CHRISTMAS

- Use a living christmas tree

Every plastic Christmas tree eventually ends up in landfill. Living Christmas trees are 100% biodegradable. Get yourself a living Christmas tree or get creative and design your own home made Christmas tree out of dead branches and sticks using some of the ideas shown below.



- Reduce food waste

Make a list before you go shopping! Send your guests home with leftovers. Make sure nothing goes in the bin.

- Minimise plastic and packaging

Consider the packaging your gifts come in
Recycle what you can

Take reusable bags shopping

Skip bottled water and avoid straws

Use reusable or biodegradable cutlery and plates

- Find alternatives for wrapping paper

Buying Christmas wrapping paper is largely unnecessary when so much household paper goes to waste over the course of the year. Use old newspapers, children's artworks, brown paper bags and more as a sustainable alternative to bought Christmas wrapping paper containing plastic.

- Shop Locally

Shopping locally will support the local economy and employment, and minimise energy expenditure and emissions associated with transport.

**SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS
THIS CHRISTMAS!**

MONTHLY ARTICLE

CHRISTMAS IN THE REGIONS

By Megan Rex

The festive season in the regions can feel very different to people from metropolitan areas as well as people from other countries. In this article we explore these differences and discuss what the festive season means for residents of regional Western Australia.

CHRISTMAS AND HARVEST

For many regional people Christmas can be a very stressful time of the year. Farmers are busy harvesting while their significant others are helping, perhaps working their own jobs as well as often planning their family's Christmas day. There are not many other people in the world who endure harvest and the festive season at one time with Christmas being in winter for 90% of the world's population. While Christmas can be stressful it is also extremely joyous. Farmers are not allowed to harvest on Christmas or boxing day due to the compulsory fire ban on these days every year. This means the farmer can clear his or her head of harvesting duties for Christmas and enjoy time off with their family.

REGIONAL FESTIVE ARCHITECTURE

In the regions, important public architecture often only gets used in the festive season. Town halls are used for end of school Christmas concerts, small Churches that might only hold limited services throughout the year put on events such as carols by candlelight and Christmas services, the tiny locality halls that are scattered throughout the countryside hold their annual Christmas tree party, bringing the communities of the smaller districts together. Streets also turn into venues for celebration around Christmas time with annual Christmas street carnivals on the main streets of town. The use of these public pieces of architecture around Christmas time is very important in order to keep the buildings and venues maintained. Often the wives of farmers get together to clean up their local hall to hold the Christmas tree parties. The architecture that is used for all these celebrations is extremely important to regional people because of the contribution to each individual's sense of place. Keeping them in use is important for the conservation of these buildings and venues and the festive season is what brings people together and puts these historic and important buildings to good use.

HOLIDAY SEASON TRAVELLING

Because most regional people have family living elsewhere, many people travel for Christmas. The hot weather makes the coast a desirable place to spend Christmas and those who are lucky enough to own beach holiday houses often end up there. People travelling away for Christmas day is part the reason there is a fire ban. With everyone away there is no one to fight fires and hence a complete fire ban reduces the risk of a fire being started. For those who are lucky enough to finish harvest before Christmas, Christmas becomes the start of a well deserved Summer holiday. Often final jobs get finished up on the farm after Christmas and January becomes a month many farmers and their families take for themselves to relax. A majority of people travel to the coast and enjoy the sunshine and the water before heading back inland to work the land again the next season.

ORIGAMI ARTICLE SOURCES:

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/history-of-origami.html>
<https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/between-the-folds/history.html>
<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/brief-history-of-origami-2540653>
<https://www.dezeen.com/2014/05/01/origami-house-tsc-architects-japan-folded-roof/>
<https://thearchitectstake.com/work-news/why-we-still-build-models/>
<https://freshome.com/2013/02/12/origami-inspired-buildings-architecture/>

ORIGAMI AND ARCHITECTURE

By Megan Rex

During the festive season many of us like to get creative. Getting the kids involved in Christmas crafts can be great fun and decorating the house is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Origami is an ancient Japanese art form that can make some beautiful decorations for the house. The act of folding, cutting and making is important in the architectural design process. Many architects use paper folding methods to create initial models as part of their schematic design phase. "It is the very process of actually making something with one's hands that we believe leaves room for inspiration. Model making allows for "happy mistakes," breakthroughs that originate in the non-verbal part of the mind. That just doesn't happen when using a computer." (English, 2015)

THE HISTORY OF ORIGAMI

Paper was invented in China in about 105AD and was brought to Japan by Buddhist monks in the 6th century. It is not known who first invented origami however it was the Japanese who developed it into a true art form. Origami was originally used for ceremonial ritual purposes. By the Edo period (1603-1868) paper folding in Japan had become recreational as well as ceremonial. Most origami traditions were passed down orally. The first written record of Japanese origami is from 1797, the Senbazuru Orikata ("How to Fold one Thousand Cranes"). As paper became more affordable, common people started creating origami figures as gifts and origami started to be used as an educational tool as the folding process was relevant to mathematics.

Origami was popularised outside of Japan in the 1900s and evolved into a modern art form which inspired artists and designers of all forms including architects. Origami has become a trend in contemporary architecture and paper folded models are often the beginnings of conceptual design for architects around the world.

ORIGAMI IN ARCHITECTURE



"Look! Look! Look!" by Studio Morison, England

A pavilion in Berrington Hall's gardens aimed at attracting visitors. Studio Morison first designed the structure using origami, and then worked with structural engineers Artura to bring the design to life.

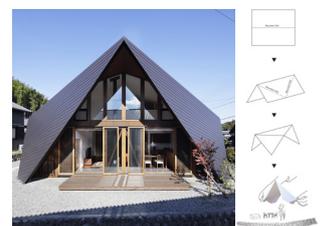
"Klein Bottle House" by McBride Charles Ryan, Victoria Australia

This holiday home is based on the idea of the origami version of the Klein Bottle which was the perfect fit to the constraints of the site. The result is a unique and spectacular shape.



"Origami House" by TSC Architects, Japan

"The origami roof stands from the earth like a tent, creates tolerant space and protects the life of the family. In addition, the origami roof has various functions. It controls sunlight and takes in wind and, besides, makes half outdoors space."



MAKE YOUR OWN 5 POINTED ORIGAMI STAR

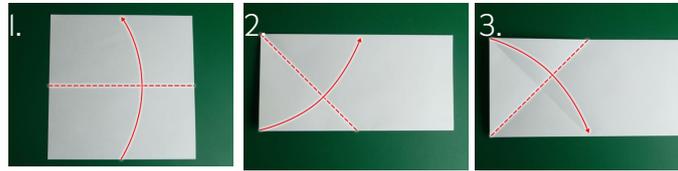
SOURCED FROM: <https://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/5-pointed-origami-star.html>. Go to this website for more in depth information and video tutorials.

Materials needed:

- A square piece of paper
- Scissors

The finished star Christmas ornaments will be about 60% of the size of the square you start with.

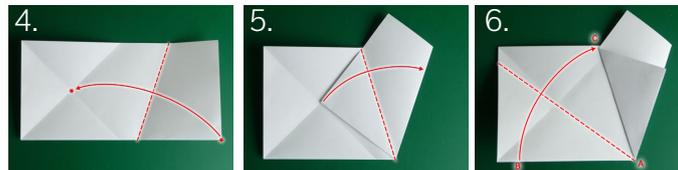
1. MAKE A PENTAGON



1. Fold the square in half

2. Fold up the bottom left corner to the top, then unfold

3. Fold the top left corner to the bottom, then unfold



4. Fold the bottom right corner to the center of the X-shaped crease

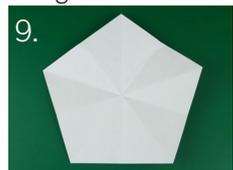
5. Fold the top layer in half.

6. Fold up edge AB to lie along edge AC



7. Turn over the paper. Then fold in half along this line

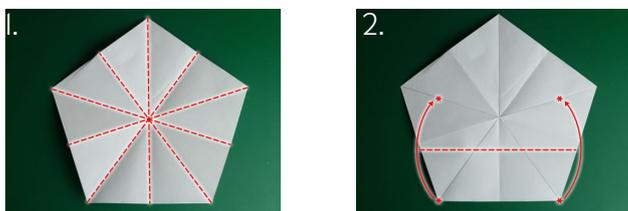
8. Cut along the edge of the top layer



9. Unfold, and you have a pentagon

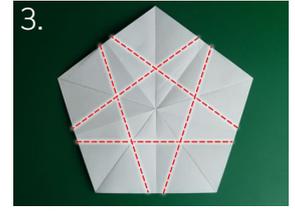
2. FOLDING THE STAR

STEP 1



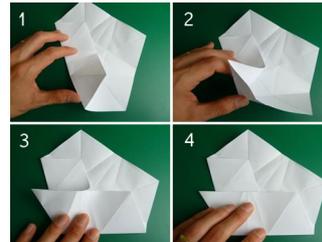
1. Start with your paper nice-side-down. Fold the pentagon in half through each of its points and unfold again, so that you have a set of creases like this

2. Fold up the bottom edge so that the corners meet the creases you just made

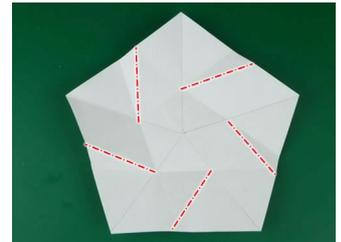


3. Unfold again, then make the same fold for all the other sides of the pentagon, so that you have a set of creases like this

STEP 2



Fold in the left edge along one of the creases you just made. Then fold up the bottom edge, at the same time pulling the corner of the pentagon out to the left like this. Squash the fold flat.



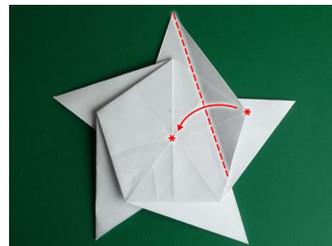
Unfold completely. Rotate the pentagon 1/5th of a rotation so that the next side is at the bottom, then repeat the folds as in the image above. Do the same thing for all the rest of the sides of the pentagon. When you've finished you will have a new set of creases that look something like this:

STEP 3

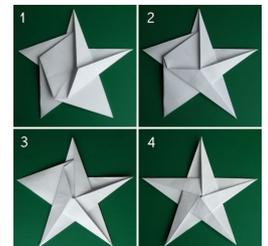


Starting with the pentagon completely unfolded, pinch all the corners together and squash them toward the center. With a bit of "massaging" the paper will collapse into a star shape.

STEP 4



Turn over the star. Fold in the right edge to the center line, like this



Working clockwise around the star, do the same thing for all the other arms

Send photos of your completed stars to our facebook page listed below, Happy Folding!

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