

The Science of Being Dad

I Shoulda Been an Architect

"What's that?" Wife asks me.

["Fallingwater."](#)

"The Frank Lloyd Wright house?"

"Yeah, you don't see the resemblance?"

"It resembles Fallingwater as much as our shed resembles the [Biltmore](#) estate." Jeez, tough crowd.

I'll admit it, I'm a bit hurt. But after closer consideration I think you'll agree that her assertion was correct. An architect I am not.

The little masterpiece you see here was made with a cool product called ["CitiBlocs"](#). When Wife first asked me to try out this product I was skeptical. When I think of wooden blocks for kids, I imagine a bunch of random shapes, maybe an arch here and a triangle there. I opened up the [CitiBlocs](#) box and there was nary a half-moon to satisfy my stereotypical block expectations.

After playing with these things for a few minutes, any desire you may have had for an isosceles-triangle shaped chunk of wood will be a distant memory. When you start off with a bunch of odd shapes, a good amount of "creativity" has already been injected by the toy-maker. All you're doing is stacking some stuff together and calling it a castle. On the other hand, when you have a collection of uniform shapes like the ones provided by [CitiBlocs](#), it's completely up to you to make something that looks interesting.

Note that when I talk about "you" or "me", I'm really talking about our kids. You know, the people who these things are made for. I only made the contraption displayed above for evaluation purposes - yeah that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Remember the set of blocks you had when you were a kid? I bet over time all of the interesting shapes began to disappear. Maybe you started out with a bunch of trapezoids and triangles, but after years of usage, dogs chewing on them and other types of egregious mistreatment, your vast collection of pillars and parallelograms probably ended up a sad little set of squares. No such problem with [CitiBlocs](#). You start out with a package of two hundred uniform rectangular pieces. I'm sure your kids will hardly notice if a few end up in the trash or propping up an uneven table.

Here are a few examples of some cool things people have built with this toy. You can find more images on the CitiBlocs site:

www.citiblocs.com/media_gallery/our_photos/

You can buy CitiBlocs in packages that range in size from [52 blocks for \\$15](#) all the way up to a [1,000 piece set that retails for \\$295](#). With that many blocks maybe I could build that model of the Biltmore.

So, go ahead and check out CitiBlocs, I'm sure you'll (er, I mean your kids) will love them. As for me, I'm not giving up on architecture. As you can see, I've managed to create a fine model of the John Hancock building in Boston.





WIN IT! One reader will win a [52 piece CitiBlocs set](#) - your choice of pine or blue/red color (ARV \$17)! Check out the Wife's site for full details: blog.theartofbeingmom.com/?p=1601