I shall explain the commonly used model making materials used for architectural models that all good students of architecture would use. (Mainly due to price and cost!) Selecting Your Model Materials. Material selection has a huge impact on how a model "feels". Hence, it'll depend on what you are trying to achieve for your architecture model. There are mainly 2 types of architecture models - sketch models, which are exploratory models and presentation models. An architectural model is a type of scale model - a physical representation of a structure - built to study aspects of an architectural design or to communicate design ideas. Depending on the purpose, models can be made from a variety of materials, including blocks, paper, and wood, and at a variety of scales. Architectural models are used by architects for a range of purposes: