MODULAR RELIEF PROJECT

ART 5 John Watrous, Instructor



You are a designer in a factory with **machines which can only perform simple operations**—cutting and folding paper. You like your job and want the factory to survive.

The factory is seeking a contract to design and build a huge, **modular space separation system** involving millions of units. The piece must be as visually compelling as possible, drawing the viewer into its complexity and keeping her there as long as possible, but must use the existing machinery which can only modify flat shapes of paper with simple cuts and folds.

The more economical the design in terms of the number of cuts, the better it will use existing tooling. Also, you may not cut away and discard any part of the flat shape, since the machines can't do this. Folds are where the design can become interesting. Machinery for folding is this shop's strength. Your job is to design a model, starting with an overlapping, two square paper shape, which will then be modified into a 3D form and attached to itself in horizontal and vertical directions. Minimum size for the model is 24 inches across.

The overall shape of the model should be rectangular (or simple) and no additional paper may be used to attach the modules. The modules can vary *slightly* from top to bottom or from left to right, but should at first glance appear to be all identical. The finished separator must be self supporting for display by the use of push pins. The structure can incorporate "holes" which let the viewer see through the piece. It may also be interesting both front and back, but it is primarily a "bas relief" to be seen from one side.

Remember, begin by establishing a flat module by overlapping 2, 4 inch squares of paper, then modifying several of these so that they can attach to each other both left to right and top to bottom. Complex 3D modules from simply modified (few cuts) flat paper will be highly rewarded.

Due Date: Two weeks of class time will be alloted for this project.

Materials:

- 1. Pencil
- 2. Utility knife
- 3. Ruler
- 4. Magic mending tape

Slides: Grids in nature, quilts