

Cantilever Sculptures

What is a cantilever?

A cantilever is structure anchored at one end to a (usually vertical) support from which it protrudes; this connection could also be perpendicular to a flat, vertical surface such as a wall. Cantilevers are used extensively in building construction and in machines. In building, any beam built into a wall and with the free end projecting forms a cantilever. Examples of cantilevered bridges include the nearby Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and New York City's Queensboro Bridge.



Project Directions:

Use objects from around your house to create a cantilever sculpture. Start by making an outcropping ledge off of a counter or table and see how far out you can build the cantilever before it touches the ground. You'll be creating a sculpture that uses the same engineering principle employed in bridges, buildings, and in some sculptures at Storm King.

Items to use can include:

Cardboard (from cereal boxes, etc.), bottles, books, blocks, toys, really anything! You can use scissors, tape, ribbon, or cords to build your cantilever.



What are some examples of sculptures with cantilevers at Storm King?

- Alexander Calder, *Black Flag* (1974)
- Alexander Liberman, *Adam* (1970)
- Menashe Kadishman, *Suspended* (1977) (right)
- Mark di Suvero, *Figolu* (2005-11)
- Mark di Suvero, *For Chris* (1991)

Learn More:

Watch Artist Educator John Kaiser of Freestyle Arts video on cantilever sculptures here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JnWwXFdbFws>

