

## **James Rizzi & "The Happy Rizzi House"**

(Lesson adapted from Glittermeetsglue.com)

You will love the buildings inspired by American artist from Brooklyn, New York, James Rizzi. Take a look at 'The Happy House' and other illustrations. He was inspired by all the exciting things going on downtown and in the life of New York and at other landmarks. He made artwork with bright colors lots of buildings. I love the whimsical architecture that he was invited to design for the 5 story building in New Brunswick, Germany. It is similar to his paintings, you will notice that each building is filled with a variety of lines, shapes and colors. The shapes of the buildings are unique and there are silly faces on them laughing, smirking, or looking cool in a pair of sunglasses.

Take a minute and find the things that you normally find on buildings: doors, windows, now look at how windows were used for eyes, mouths. Do you see all the directions of the faces? There are a lot of details with dots, hearts, and wavy lines. How does the roof of the building look compared to a normal roof? Let's have fun and create our own street of Happy Buildings!

Supplies:

-White Paper

-Idea sheet to download of the James Rizzi Cityscape page with oodles of ideas for faces, windows, background and extras

-Pencil and Eraser

-Options for color: water color, markers, or crayons

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Download the Vertical 3 Building page

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grades

Download the Horizontal 2 Rows of Buildings

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders or any students who want a challenge:

Make a template of a rectangle this size (3X9 inches) to trace for drawing your own buildings.

1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Instructions:

Begin by drawing with pencil:

1. Faces, windows, and doors
2. Add the extra details on the buildings
3. Next, draw what you'd like in the sky
4. Outline everything with a dark black crayon or black marker.
5. Color your picture. I loved painting mine with watercolor but use what you have on hand.

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instruction:

1. Begin by drawing on your paper horizontally, by tracing the template you made, into short rectangle shapes on the lower 1/3 of the paper. Be creative like James Rizzi and change the shape of the building to give them a whimsical character, try hearts, curves or geometric shapes to the tops or sides.
2. In the background and near the top of the page, trace the template for the buildings above the first row of buildings. Make them different sizes in height and creative in shape as well.
3. Now you're ready to add faces, windows and doors
4. Next, draw the details on the buildings

5. Draw what you'd like in the sky
6. Outline everything with a dark black crayon or black marker
7. Color your picture. If you use crayons sometimes it is stylized when you outline the outside of the shape your coloring first nice and hard and then color and fill in the space inside it lightly. I enjoyed painting mine with watercolor.

Have fun creating your "Happy House". I would love to see them if you send it to my email.  
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