The Salvadori Center Annual Design Charrette

June 8, 2012 8:30am-3pm | Winter Garden Atrium

A design charrette is a collaborative work session during which a group of designers work together to create a solution to a design challenge. As part of its mission to use the built environment to educate students in math and sciences, the Salvadori Center hosts an annual Design Charrette for students who participate in our in-school residencies throughout all five boroughs of New York City.

Past challenges have included creating communities in uninhabitable environments, a memorial for the Haiti earthquake, and an eco-village made entirely of tree houses. This year’s participants – about 100 New York City public school students – will be designing large-scale modular skyscrapers.

Students work with 2 volunteers, at least one of whom is a built environment professional (architect, engineer, builder, etc.). Salvadori Educators circulate among the groups to help volunteers and students design and build their projects. The day ends with a celebration of the students’ work, which includes a brief presentation of each group’s design.

The 2012 Annual Design Charrette is underwritten by a generous grant from Lucius Pitkin, Inc. (LPI) – a New York City-based engineering firm – and Goldman Sachs, with volunteers coming from Goldman's Community Team Works.

About the Salvadori Center:

The Salvadori Center empowers students and teachers to unlock the math and science embedded in the structures that surround us. We inspire students and teachers to use the wonder, beauty, and logic of our built environment as a foundation for learning through collaborative, hands-on, project-based learning.

Please visit www.salvadori.org to learn more about our in-school residencies and after school programs including:

- GLOBE (Guided Learning through Our Built Environment) Residencies
- LEAD (Learning through Engineering, Architecture, and Design) Residencies
- BRIDGES (Build, Research, Invent, Design, Grow, & Explore through Science) After-School Programs
- Professional Development Programs for Educators
- Annual Design Charrette
- Family Workshops & Special Programs

For more than 35 years, Salvadori Center programs have made a positive impact on students’ lives throughout all five boroughs of New York City.

In 1976, Columbia University Professor and renowned structural engineer, Dr. Mario Salvadori (1907-1997) accepted a challenge from the New York Academy of Sciences to improve the teaching of math
and science. Students were so engaged and teachers so impressed that Mario founded the Center as a non-profit organization in 1987.

Mario’s philosophy lives on today in our belief that the built environment contains the essential knowledge needed to be a life-long learner and an informed, active member of society. Salvadori is committed to helping teachers advance classroom goals and objectives through an array of valuable resources, classroom techniques, and programs. Students learn through a hands-on/minds-on approach to personal discovery and experimentation as they think critically, write persuasively, debate proposals, and present their ideas effectively.

The Salvadori approach to teaching math and science through the built environment – buildings, bridges, and structures from the communities that surround us – enables students to achieve personal academic success through hands-on, collaborative, project-based learning.