

## Making a Landscape Model

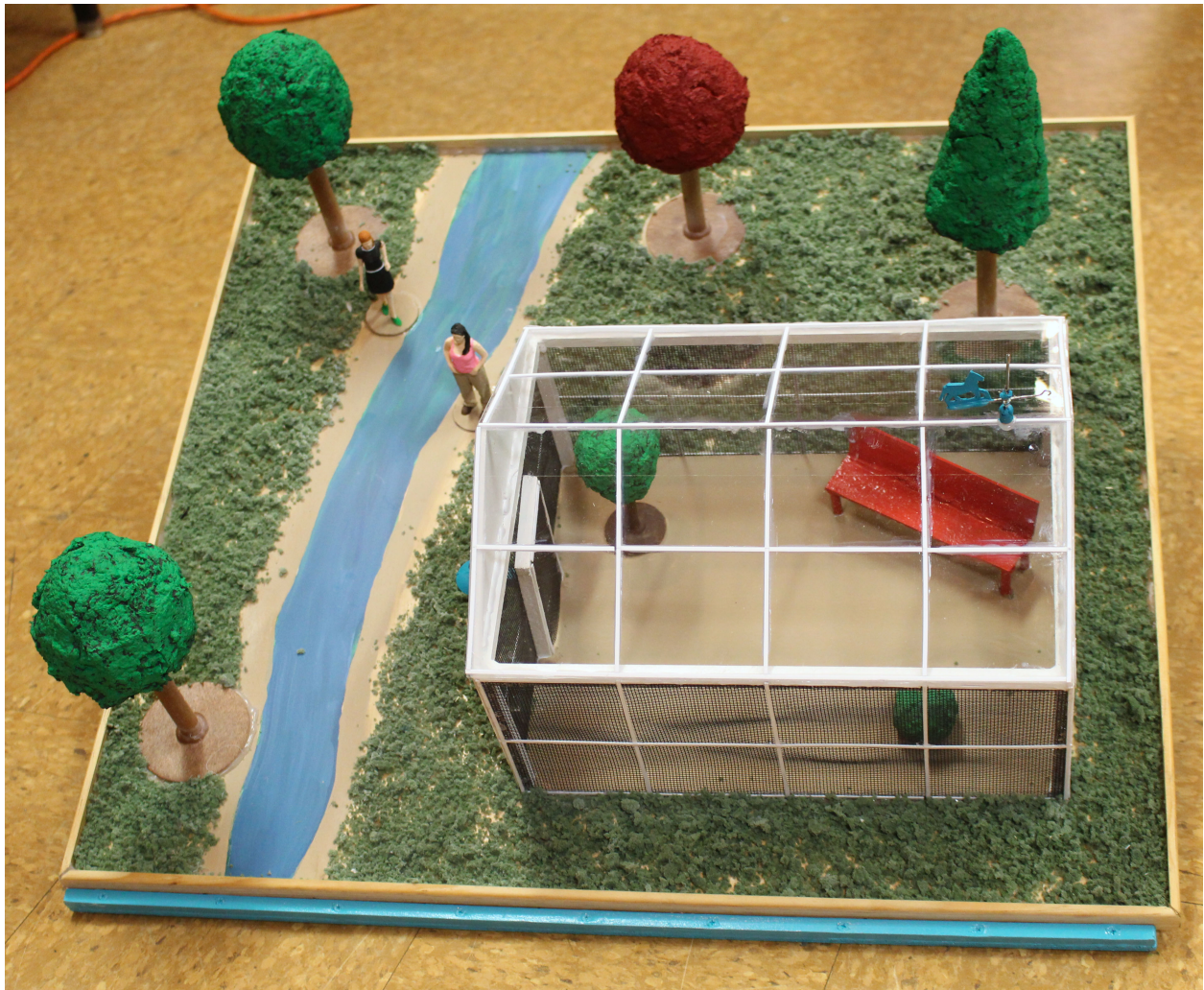
By Jim Scott - May 7, 2019

The script for *Bingo: Five Flights* by Adam Bock opens with this description:

*(ED enters. He is carrying a landscape model. Trees, an aviary, two tiny human figurines to scale. He puts it on a stand, tilted so the audience can see it. Like an aerial shot.)*

Ed's opening monologue goes on to describe the landscape model further: There are four trees: cherry, apple, red maple, and pine. There's a stream. The two figurines represent two of the play's characters, Olivia and Jane. The landscape model stays on its sloping stand in the center of the front edge of the stage throughout the performance.

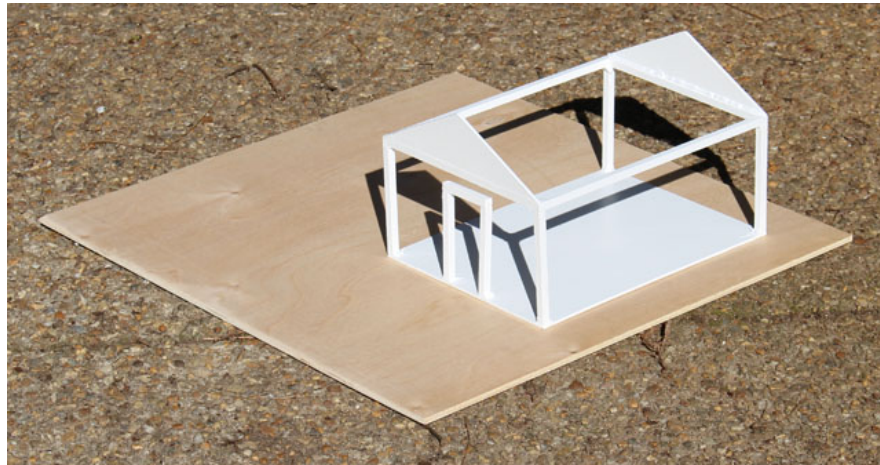
Here is the finished landscape model. The aviary is depicted with a glass roof and screened sides.



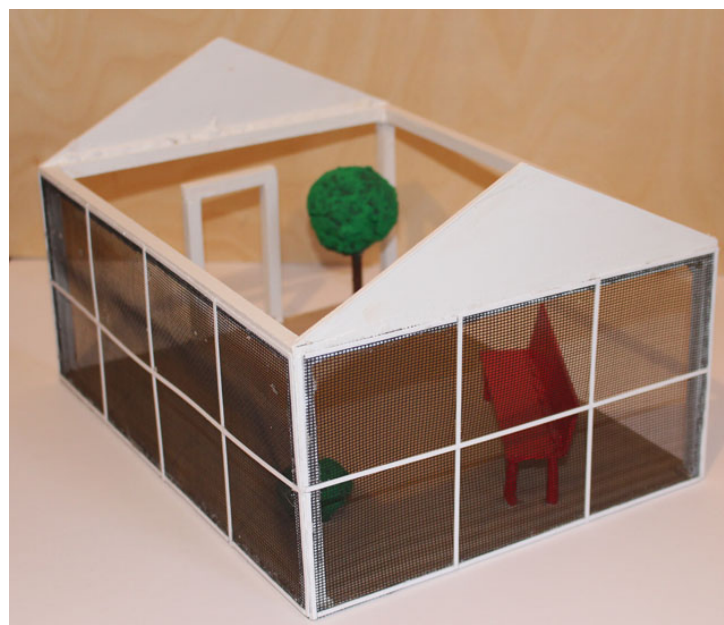
The baseboard of the landscape model is a square of plywood with a narrow wood trim tacked around the edges. (The blue-green strip at the bottom of the first photo is the bottom edge of the sloping stand, to be described later.) The trees are painted papier mâché, with dowels for trunks and circular wood bases glued to the plywood baseboard. The stream is painted. The grass is hobby-store artificial grass, as shown at the right, attached with generous amounts of Elmer's Glue.



The next photo shows an early stage of the project. The wooden frame of the aviary, painted white, is on the bare plywood baseboard.

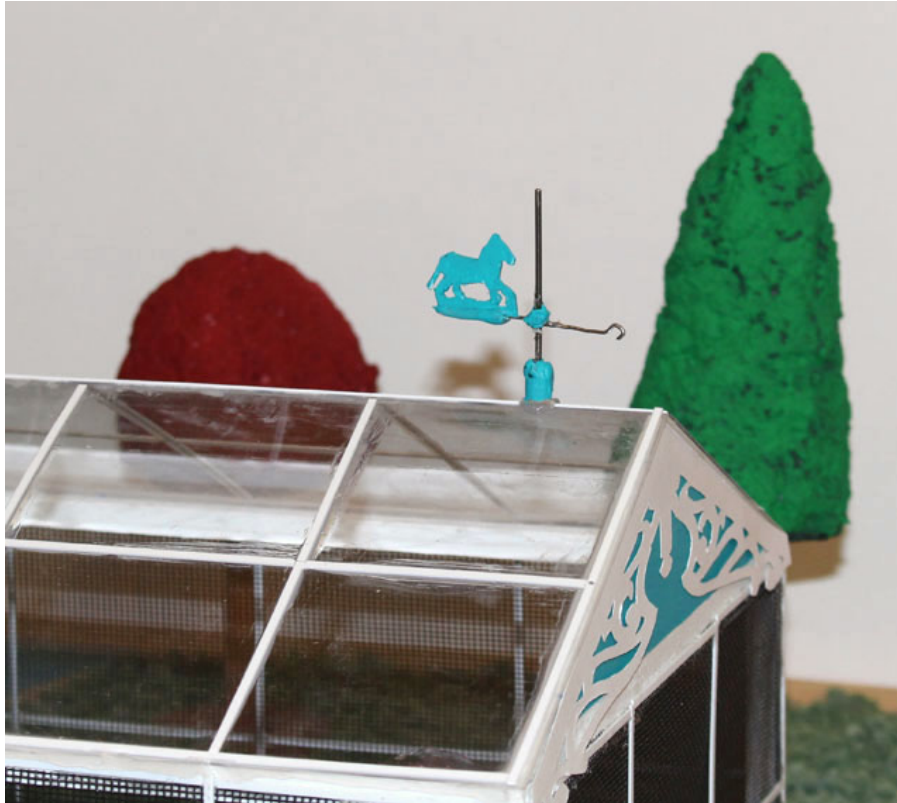


Here is the aviary with its screened sides, before the roof was attached:



The screening is actual black Fiberglas screening as would be used in a full-size window screen or screened porch. The narrow white strips are white styrene plastic strips, purchased, like many of the other materials, at a hobby store that specializes in model-making, such as model train layouts. The bench inside the aviary was made from scrap wood, and the two "shrubs" were made in the same way as the four trees.

The "glass" roof was made from thin clear plastic sheeting. The white strips were glued to it, on the advice of the hobby store, with Maxi-Cure glue.

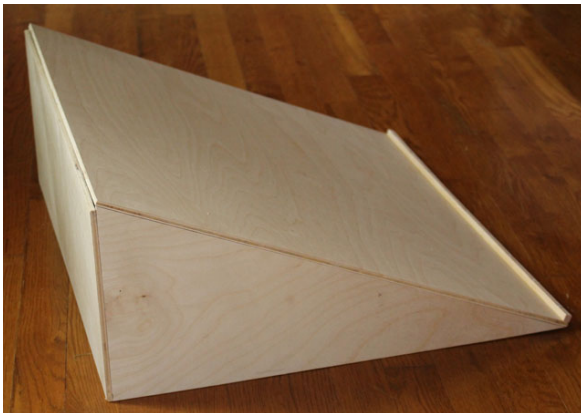


The weather vane / lightning rod attached to the roof ridge was made from scrap materials and painted blue-green (a signature color for the project). The end gable is a cut-out paper pattern glued over a blue-green painted surface. A light fixture mounted over the door at the other end of the aviary was also made from scrap materials (including a suction cup).

It was impossible to find two figurines that would (1) match the designated characters in the play and (2) have the correct scale. So I used a 3D printer at a local library. I started by searching an online database of 3D printer design files uploaded by hobbyists. I selected two that would be suitable, downloaded the files, and submitted them to the library with scaling information. When they were finished, I painted them and glued them to round wooden bases which were then glued to the baseboard.



The sloping stand was made from plywood and painted blue-green.



Here is the landscape model (not completed) on the sloping stand (not yet painted).

