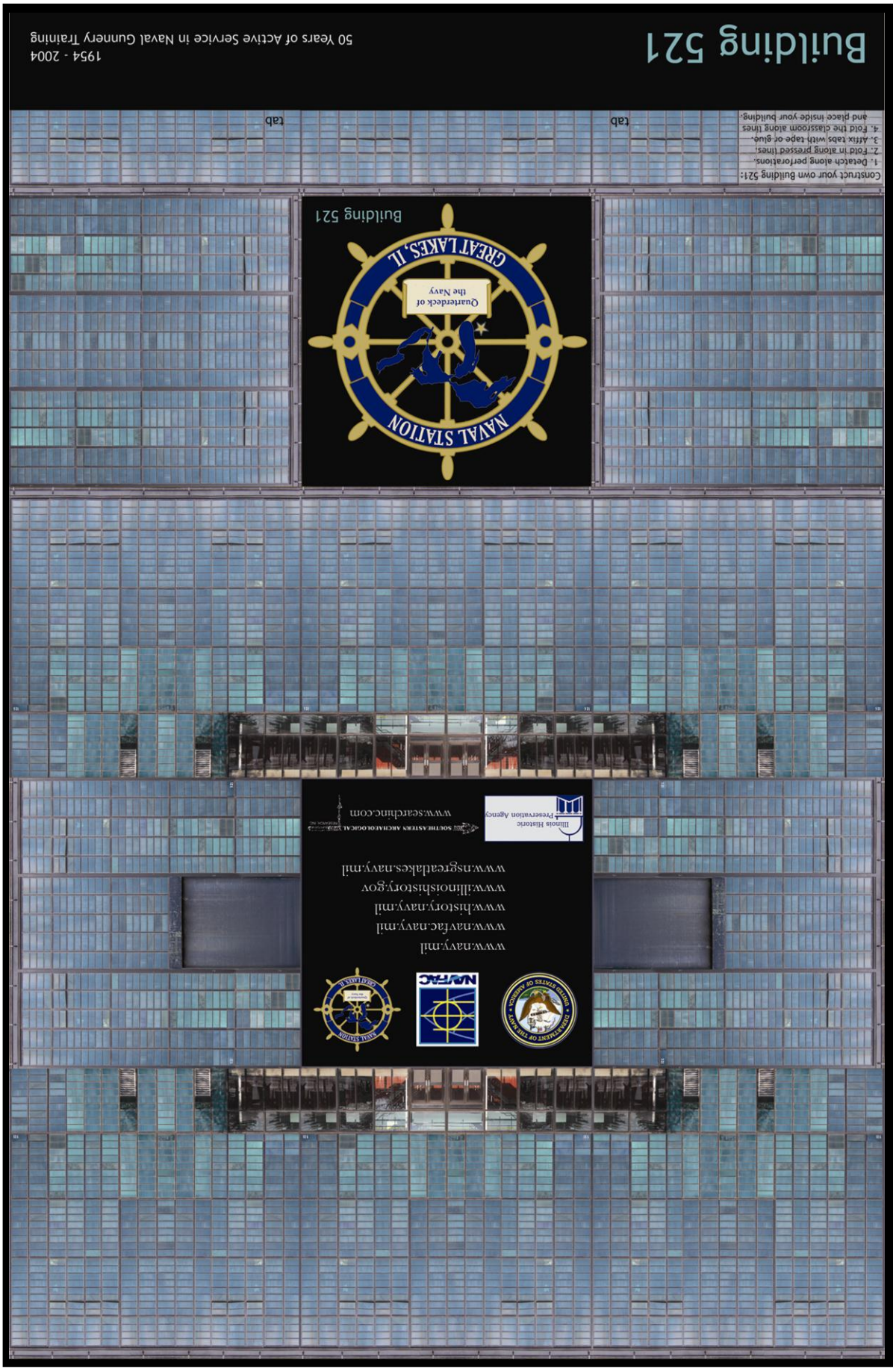
NOTE: This is a miniature version of the cube brochure that can be downloaded, printed (double-sided at either 8½ x11 or 11x17), and assembled at home. See instructions on next page.



OUTSIDE OF CUBE

INSTRUCTIONS: 1) Cut away white border. 2) Cut along solid white lines; detach Building 521 bookmark, architecture card, and classroom building at top. 3) Fold in along dotted lines. 4) Secure tabs with tape or glue. 5) Fold 3-story classroom building and place inside your cube.

Building 521

1954 - 2004
Where Modernism Met The Mission

Modern architecture in the U.S. is most commonly associated with government or corporate buildings constructed after World War II. Key features of Modernism are basic geometric shapes, steel and glass elements, and little ornamentation.

Building 521 Designers & Architecture

Building 521 was designed by architects William T. Priestley and Bruce J. Graham of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP who used the Modernist architectural concept of universal space where an open-span structure can adapt to a variety of functions over time. The open areas and high ceiling of Building 521 housed 50-ton capacity cranes which maneuvered the large guns and training weapons below.

Unofficially called the "House of Glass" and the "Green Monster," Building 521's innovative design featured 8,800 specially-treated blue-green glass windows known as Aklo glass. Depending on the time of day the windows appeared either more blue or more green. Aklo glass was well-suited for the mission of Building 521 because it was translucent enough to allow adequate sunlight yet obscure training activities from outside observers.

This 3-story "building inside a building" included classrooms, library, office and storage space. Located in the center of Building 521, this structure created open spaces to either side. These open bays were used in hands-on weapons training.

Building 521 Mission

Building 521 provided the link from shore instruction to shipboard practice, and ultimately, to combat. Built in 1954 as a Gunner's Mate School, and known on base as the "Gun School," Building 521 played a central role in training U.S. Navy gunners during the second half of the 20th century. U.S. Naval Gunnery education required six weeks of classroom studies and simulated shipboard training. The open bays housed massive trainer guns of various sizes and calibers including 20mm, 40mm, three-inch, and five-inch guns. The Navy's larger guns and missiles, some of which stood more than 30 feet high when fully elevated, were used for Sailor instruction. The Gun School in Building 521 also included anti-submarine warfare weapons and staged control rooms.

The Gunner's Mate emblem is a crossed missile and ship's gun.

INSIDE OF CUBE

Bookmark

Classroom Building