

THE GUARDIAN'S CREATIVE SPIRIT

“No picture of Shoghi Effendi’s personality would ever be complete that did not depict the truly extraordinary artistic sense he possessed . . . He certainly had a painter’s and an architect’s eye.” —Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm

Shoghi Effendi loved art and design. We can see this in his plans for the buildings and gardens of the Bahá’í World Centre in Israel. As the Shrine of the Báb was being built, he wrote, “My soul is thrilled in contemplation of . . . the beauty of its design, the majesty of its proportions, the loveliness of its surroundings . . .”

As a writer, the Guardian was inspired by poetry. If

a passage of literature was particularly soul-stirring, he would recite it out loud. He also drew maps to track the growth of the Bahá’í Faith around the world. Map-making combined his attention to detail and his creativity.

Shoghi Effendi encouraged everyone to explore the visual arts, poetry, and music. How do *you* like to express your creativity?

Explore your creativity with these activities inspired by Shoghi Effendi’s artistic spirit.

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP IN 3D



Gather small empty boxes, bottle caps, cardboard tubes, and other recyclables. On a large piece of cardboard, draw the streets in your neighborhood. Create buildings with markers, colored paper, and the other materials. Attach them with tape or glue.

RADIANT GARDENS

Design a garden diorama. Cover a shoebox in colored paper. Then use paper and clay to make fountains, flowers, ponds, or trees. Add pebbles, leaves, or twigs. Make paper butterflies and other creatures.

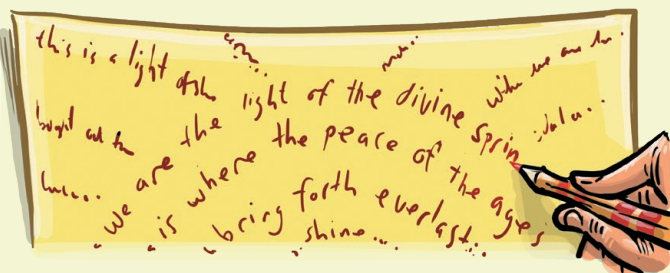


DESIGNS FOR DEVOTION

A Bahá’í Temple is circular and has nine sides and nine gardens with walkways. Design your own, thinking about the windows, doors, fountains, and details. Draw your idea, build it with LEGO bricks, or sculpt it from clay.



POWERFUL POETRY



Draw a shape from nature, such as a tree, a bird, or the sun. Along the outline, write words that express your feelings about it. Use markers to add details.