STYRENE

VARIATIONS
Sheets, Rods, Scale Figures, Scale Structural Members

DESCRIPTION
Opaque, usually white, plastic. When in sheets, typically comes in 1/32” and 1/16” thicknesses.

USES
Styrene can be used to achieve that ideally white architectural model. 1/32” sheets can be easily cut and scored by hand and thicker sheets are typically laser cut. Sanding entire sheets before construction allows for inconspicuous sanding away of mistakes and misalignments later on. Can be laser cut.

MANUFACTURE
A chemical cocktail in gas state is mixed in high temperature steam and then passed over a solid catalyst bed (where the gas solidifies into styrene)- the bed’s retention rate is 65-75%. Typical by-products are benzyne and toulene (the latter is the chemical that causes people to get high and sometimes die from concentrated inhalation of paint)

NOTABLE INGREDIENTS
Benzyne, Ethylene, Iron Oxide or Potassium Oxide

DISPOSAL
Place all extra pieces at re-use stations. Styrene is not recyclable, and will remain in the landfill for a long time.

SAFETY NOTES
- Styrene is on the EPA’s list of ‘suspected carcinogens’; avoid inhaling dust and fumes with a respirator, and wear eye protection when sanding in close proximity.

Craft stores sell scale structural pieces, and scale people to populate your model.