



2026 STUDENT HOME DESIGN CONTEST

Presentation Drawings of a Residence and Design Scale Model

For more than 75 years the HBRA has sponsored this exciting and unique educational experience, which provides student scholarships for continued education in the construction field.



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JENNIFER MORGENTHAU ARCHITECT

2026 STUDENT HOME DESIGN CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRY FORMS: Each student must complete a registration form found online at www.cthomeshow.com on or before January 10, 2026. Your instructor will receive an email to confirm your participation once registered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Entries may be submitted by any student in grades 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th enrolled in design or drafting courses in public, parochial or private schools in the state of Connecticut.

WHAT SHOULD BE ENTERED: Presentation drawings and a model of a single-family residence started and completed in a single school year under the supervision of a technology education instructor that meets the required criteria. Drawings and model at 1/4"=1'-0" scale.

JUDGING: Official judging will be done by a panel of members of the Home Builders & Remodelers of the CT River Region, Inc. and their associates. *In all cases, the decision of the judges will be final. Non-adherence to rules and regulations will result in point deduction and/or disqualification.*

Entries will be judged upon the following:

- Meeting design requirements
- Originality of ideas in plan and elevations
- Logical use of materials on construction of model
- Conformance with principles of good and sensible architectural design
- Quality of model presentation and draftsmanship
- Accuracy of construction details/wall section

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS: Award winners will be announced at the Connecticut Home & Remodeling Show at the Connecticut Convention Center. Students, Teachers and their guests will be allowed admittance to the Home Show.

DELIVERY OF ENTRIES: All entries are to be delivered to the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT on Thursday, March 5, 2026, prior to 12:00 noon.

EXHIBIT: All completed entries will be publicly displayed during the Connecticut Home & Remodeling Show at the Connecticut Convention Center, March 6-8, 2026.

RETURN OF ENTRIES: All entries submitted by entrants, as well as their accompanying scale models, will become the property of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of CT River Region, Inc. for the duration of the home show.

Please see attached Model Pick Up Agreement.

If models are not picked up, they will be disposed of by the Connecticut Convention Center.

All drawings and models must be reclaimed at the Connecticut Convention Center NOT before 3:30p.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026 or on Monday, March 9, 2026, between 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The HBRA is not responsible for entry materials.

DESIGN CRITERIA:

Design a single-family home with three (3) bedrooms not to exceed **2,000 sq.ft.** floor space (i.e., finished living area) measured to the outside face of all perimeter walls.

- The residence may be with or without basement.
- The residence must have a garage. The garage can be in the basement, attached or freestanding. The garage must be enclosed; Carports do not count as a garage.
- Please note: Garages, open porches, decks, unfinished incidental, storage, greenhouses, seasonal solar spaces, unfinished basements & attic areas will not be counted as finished living area.
- Two story spaces shall be counted as one area at the floor level. Example: open foyer.
- The site is a residential building lot with **100' of frontage and 140' of depth** (site may incorporate varying topography and characteristics for additional points).

MANDATORY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entries will be rejected unless they meet the following criteria:

DRAWING

- Drawing sheet size shall be **24" wide x 30" high in portrait format**. Mounted on heavy cardboard or illustration board. Black ink/pencil on white paper.
- Only 1 sheet allowed for drawings. Multiple sheets are not permitted.
- Essentially flat, raised letter or other three-dimensional surfaces are not permitted.

MODEL

- The model is to be constructed of suitable material of the student's choice on a rigid base (1/2" plywood or equivalent) 24" wide x 30" high in **portrait format**.
- Full-dimensional scale model of the house design at 1/4"=1'-0" scale.
- Student to include a 3 1/4" wide x 1 1/4" high label for the left front corner of model: School Name, Student Name, Teacher Name

THE JUDGES WILL SCORE ON THE FOLLOWING:

General Requirements

- Drawings must include title block and **must include teacher's signature.**
- Plot plan in 1" = 20' scale, showing all exterior building dimensions and all setbacks from lot lines. Assume 35' front & rear building lines with 10' side yard. Show North arrow on the plot plan.
- A typical wall section noting materials to be used including insulation, roof and wall construction.
- A floor plan in **1/4"=1'-0" scale** including square footage, room sizes (with dimensions) & room titles.

Drawing & Design

- Excellence in Floor Plan Design – Creative designs with overall function and efficiency
- Excellence in Exterior Design- A front elevation drawing of the building, additional details, plans, or elevations to explain building design.
- Sheet Organization – clarity, font sizes, and board layout

Model Construction & Accuracy

- Quality of Model Construction
- Built According to Plan and to Scale
- Site Design
- Portrait Orientation – to match Drawing.

Optional Design Concepts (Not required, but additional):

Accessibility: Students may incorporate accessibility features as described in the Dept. of Justice, ADA Standards for Accessible Design. For ADA Standards for Accessible Design go to: **www.ada.gov** Click **ADA Design Standards**.

Site Specific Challenges: Students may incorporate an in-fill or difficult site. Consider challenges of site design and its creative impacts.

Energy Efficiency & Resiliency: Students may incorporate energy efficiency features in the design of the home (heating/cooling, windows, doors, etc.). Students should provide specific details in their wall section drawings and may also include a listing of Energy Star products and energy efficient feature components. They must describe each component and its application. For Energy Star Information go to: **www.energystar.gov** Click **New Homes**.

WHAT YOU CAN WIN

Sponsorship Awards:

By Carrier: \$500 to the school of the winner of this award for practical & unique adaptation to changing technologies, trends and needs of today's home building industry

Santini Homes Award: \$500 to the student and \$500 to the school program for the model that exhibits sophisticated design, intent & execution, innovative problem solving, attention to detail & quality

HBRA Foundation Awards: for students who want to pursue careers in Architecture, Construction Management, Construction Technology, Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering. Scholarships shall be presented upon graduation from high school & is to be used within two (2) years of that time.

1st PLACE: \$1,000 Cash Prize will be awarded to the winner and a \$1,500 scholarship shall be presented upon evidence of matriculation in one of the programs listed above.

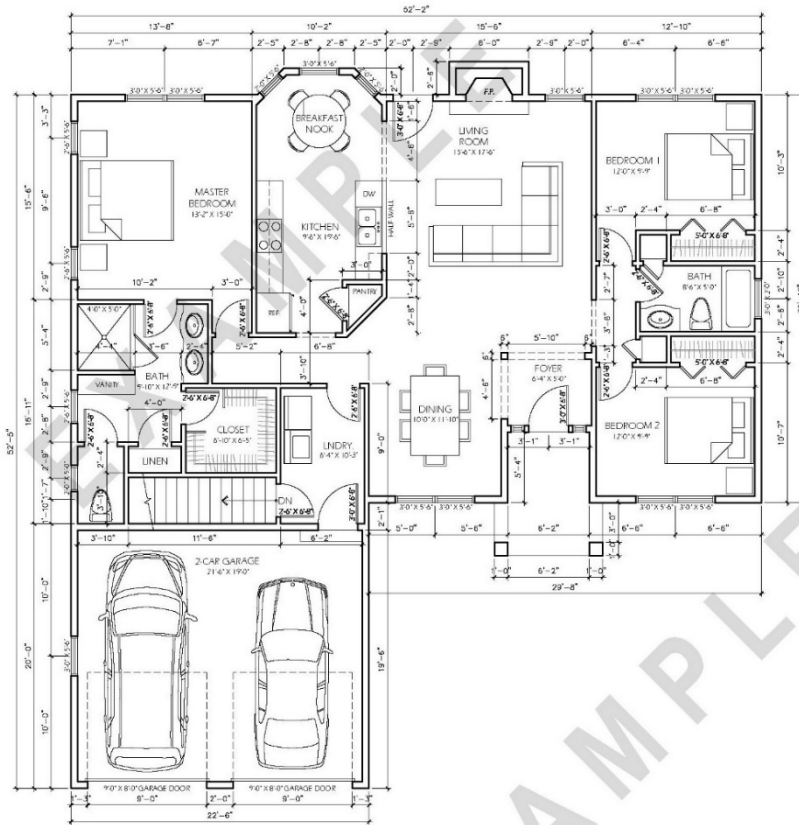
2nd PLACE: \$600 Cash Prize and a \$750 scholarship with the same criteria as above.

3rd PLACE: \$300 Cash Prize

4th PLACE: \$100 Cash Prize

The school of the student winning 1st place shall receive a plaque on which will be designated the name of the school, the teacher and the student. **Additional awards** may be given for Areas of Excellence: **Architectural; Energy Efficiency & Resiliency; Accessibility; Structural Detail; Thinking Outside the Box; Unique Model Presentation; Best First Time Entry for a School**. Each award is \$500 and will be given to the student's school to enhance the department curriculum. Students will win \$100 cash prize in addition.

DRAWING EXAMPLE



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 FRONT EXTERIOR ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

HBRA STUDENT HOME DESIGN COMPETITION

STUDENT NAME: YOUR NAME
SCHOOL NAME: NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL
INSTRUCTOR: NAME OF TEACHER

TOTAL BUILDING
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 1546 S.F.

INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAHB GREEN HOME BUILDING CONCEPTS/GUIDELINES

ENERGY EFFICIENT:

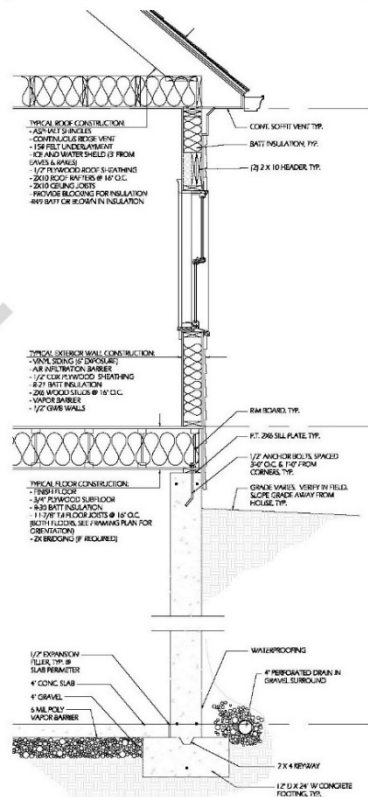
(DETAILED DESCRIPTION HERE)

WATER CONSERVATION:

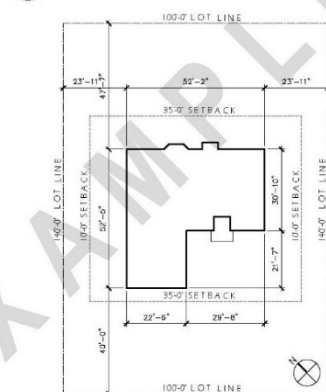
(DETAILED DESCRIPTION HERE)

SUSTAINABILITY:

(DETAILED DESCRIPTION HERE)



3 DETAILED WALL SECTION
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



4 PLOT PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

2026 STUDENT HOME DESIGN CONTEST

REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline January 10, 2026)

Thank you for your interest in this year's Student Home Design Awards Program. We encourage each student to register by January 10, 2026, using this form and return by fax, mail or email to:



Home Builders & Remodelers Association of the CT River Region, Inc

2189 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

Tel: (860) 563-4212 / Fax: (860) 563-3709

Email: sheri@hbractriverregion.com

Contact: Sheri Cote

The producers of the Connecticut Home & Remodeling Show

Please print clearly and complete the form below:

Student's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip: _____

Home Ph. #: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Grade _____

School Ph. #: () _____ - _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Instructor's Email: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Do you plan to continue formal training and education beyond high school level? Yes _____ No _____

Choice of post high school training institution: _____

2026 STUDENT HOME DESIGN CONTEST

SCHEDULE CHECK LIST

Students and Instructors

- ☐ Register by January 10, 2026
- ☐ Sign and return The Student Design Model Pick Up Agreement with registration form.
- ☐ Confirm that you are participating by February 3, 2026
- ☐ Bring your model to the CT Convention Center between 10AM-12PM March 5, 2026
- ☐ Judging will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026
- ☐ Winners will be notified by email on Thursday evening, March 5, 2026
- ☐ Pick-up your model between **3:30PM** and 8PM on March 8, 2026

Instructors and students, you will receive Student Home Design Contest details and reminders. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-563-4212 or email sheri@hbractriverregion.com

Thank you,

Sheri Cote
HBRA of CT River Region

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JMA
JENNIFER MORGENTHAU ARCHITECT

2026 STUDENT HOME DESIGN CONTEST

DESIGN CRITERIA CHECK LIST

Students

- ☐ Presentation drawing on 24" wide x 30" high in portrait format includes:
 - Floor Plan(s) at 1/4"=1'-0" scale with dimensions, room sizes.
 - Plot Plan at 1"=20' with setbacks, dimensions & north arrow.
 - Wall Section showing wall, roof, insulation accurately.
 - Teacher's Signature, square footage, drawing titles (readable font sizes).
- ☐ Full dimensional scale model on 24" wide x 30" high in portrait format includes:
 - Accurate house design (matching floor plans) at 1/4"=1'-0" scale.
 - Constructed of suitable materials, textures and colors to depict design.
 - Site design represents topography, walks, driveway, etc. accurately.
 - Label in left front corner: School Name, Student Name, Teacher Name.
 - **OPTIONAL:** Narrative on Specialty Design Concepts Included: Energy Efficiency & Resiliency, Accessibility Solutions and/or Creative Site Design.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-563-4212 or email sheri@hbractriverregion.com

Sheri Cote
HBRA of CT River Region

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Judging Criteria Explanations

Meets Design Criteria: The design provides for the size and functional criteria as specified in the “DESIGN CRITERIA” section of the contest rules.

Excellence in Floor Plan Design: The design submitted displays practical, livable, and comfortable spaces. The design should feature a well thought out circulation (traffic flow) pattern. Room adjacencies and separations are considered in this category.

Excellence in Exterior Design: The design submitted displays well thought out rooflines, window/door arrangements, proportions, and material selections.

Accuracy of Construction Details: The required wall section submitted displays knowledge of materials and construction methods and assemblies.

Presentation Categories

Sheet Organization: The drawings submitted are arranged in a sensible and easy to read format. Adequate labeling is provided.

Quality of Drawing (formerly Use of Point Sizes and Fonts): The types of drawings (perspectives and/or color renderings for instance), level of detail, and degree of difficulty of the drawings presented.

Model Built According to Plan: The model submitted matches the plan submitted.

Quality of Model Construction: The level of workmanship of the model submitted, as well as the choice of materials, textures and colors.

Below is a copy of the Judges scoring sheet. In all cases, the decision of the judges will be final. Non-adherence to rules and regulations will result in point deduction and/or disqualification.

DATE: March 6, 2026					HBRA OF CT RIVER REGION						Judges:							
Students Number	Mandatory Requirements	General Requirements: Max 2 points 0=no 1= some 2= Yes				Drawing & Design			Model Construction & Accuracy			TOTAL POINTS	SPECIAL RECOGNITION					
	Mandatory for Entry, Disqualification if not met	Instructor Signature	Plot Plan with Setbacks, Dimensions & North Arrow	Insulation,Wall, Roof Sections & Accuracy	Square Footage, Adequate Dimensions & Titles	Excellence in Plan Design (10 points)	Excellence in Exterior Design (5 points)	Sheet Organization & Adequate Font Sizes (5 points)	Quality of Model Construction (10 points)	Built According to Plan and to Scale (5 points)	Site Design (5 Points)		50 Max Points	Rookie award	BOX (Thinking Outside the Box)	CAPS(Accessibility Solutions)	Energy Efficiency & Resiliency	Creative Site Plan



Optional Specialty Design Components

This is not a requirement. However, students are encouraged to design for a specialty area of their choice. Perhaps explore your personal interests or industry trends (not limited to) the following areas:

Energy Efficiency & Resiliency:

Energy Star Programs

Renewable Resources

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

Accessibility Solutions:

Design for Aging in Place (CAPS – Certified Aging in Place Specialist)

Mobility Limitations / ADA

Creative Site Plan and/or Site Limitations:

In-fill or tight lots

If you have included a design component, please submit a written narrative on the detailing you've considered and included in your design.

2026 STUDENT DESIGN MODEL PICK UP AGREEMENT

All entries submitted, as well as their accompanying scale models will become the property of the Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of the CT River Region, Inc. for the entire duration of the Home Show. The Home Show ends on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 3pm. **No models will be allowed to leave the show floor prior to Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 3:30PM.**

NO EXCEPTIONS!

I acknowledge and understand the above that no Student Design Models are to be removed off the Home Show floor before Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 3:30PM. If models are not picked up, they will be disposed of by the Connecticut Convention Center, after Monday at 12PM.

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email _____

Student name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____

School _____

Teacher Signature _____

In order to compete in the Student Design Competition this form
must be signed and returned with your registration form.