the ultimate design challenge
simple, decent, affordable homes: the homes for habitat design awards
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the homes for habitat design awards

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from the editor

doing good

residential architect’s homes for habitat design awards show how doing good and doing good work can go hand in hand.

by susan bradford barror

last summer, this magazine embarked on a unique project to benefit Habitat for Humanity International: a design competition for a 1,200-square-foot house that a Habitat family would help build and live in.

We called it The Ultimate Design Challenge: The Homes for Habitat Design Awards, and invited our 20,000 readers to participate.

The winning design was to be built in Yonkers, N.Y., a small city on the outskirts of New York City. Bob Vila would cover the build on CBS television.

Both the competition and the build were a smashing success. Our sincere thanks to the many individuals, organizations, and manufacturers who contributed their time and materials for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. You’ll find them mentioned throughout this special issue of the magazine.

the competition

Habitat for Humanity uses the phrase “safe, decent, and affordable” to describe the houses it builds. With the Homes for Habitat Design Awards, residential architect raised the bar several notches. We issued our readers the ultimate design challenge: to achieve design excellence within the established parameters of square footage and affordability. All entries were to be designed for construction using structural insulated panels (SIPs). And all entries had to meet detailed program requirements based on the Yonkers location (for more on those requirements, see page 18).

the winners

The competition drew 175 entries of remarkably high caliber from firms and individuals, new faces and big names alike. After an intensive day of discussion and review, judges Bob Vila, Susan Maxman, Randy Luther, Nevil Eastwood, and Jim Tracy selected seven winners. The top award went to Ed Binkley, AJA, vice president of architecture with The Evans Group in Orlando, Fla. You’ll find Ed’s winning design on page 22—and on the corner of Porach and Walnut Streets in Yonkers, where it is now home to Michelle Hayes and her four daughters.

This issue of residential architect is our tribute to the winners of The Homes for Habitat Design Awards. Starting on page 30, you’ll find plans and project descriptions for the winning designs, plus a selection of nonwinning entries with significant design attributes in their own right.

the challenge ahead

Building (pun intended) on the success of last year’s competition, residential architect will issue a new design challenge to readers this year. Look for details on the 1999 Homes for Habitat Design Awards in the magazine’s next issue. ra
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the ultimate design challenge

affordability and design excellence share top billing in the homes for habitat design awards.

t’s trite but true: The smallest packages can contain the most wonderful things. Like the houses our readers designed for residential architect’s 1998 Homes for Habitat Design Awards. We called the competition the ultimate design challenge: to achieve excellence in a 1,200-square-foot house that could be built for $50 a foot or less. One hundred and seventy-five of you rose to the challenge with a wide array of thoughtful, buildable, well-designed solutions.

If you happened to tune into the “This Morning” program on CBS the week of November 16 through 20, you saw Ed Binkley’s winning design take form before your eyes. Built in Yonkers, N.Y., in cooperation with the Westchester County, N.Y., affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, the house is the
handiwork of 300-plus volunteers, including Bob Vila and the woman who would ultimately own the home. See page 22 for associate editor Meghan Drueing’s in-depth coverage of the winning design; Meghan spent a day on site during the build.

about habitat for humanity
Habitat for Humanity International was the logical beneficiary of this worthy project. One of the world’s most effective providers of affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity has 1,455 local affiliates in the United States and is active in 59 other countries. Through tax-deductible donations of labor and materials, Habitat has built or rehabilitated more than 70,000 houses since its founding in 1976. It sells these homes to eligible households using no-interest loans. Habitat homeowners are required to invest sweat equity in the construction of their own houses and the homes of other Habitat families. Their mortgage payments go into a revolving fund that finances the construction of future houses.

Habitat welcomes involvement from architects willing to donate their design and construction skills. To find out how you can volunteer for Habitat in your community, contact 1.800.habitat or visit www.habitat.org.

about the team
As with any house, the winning design built on CBS’ “This Morning” was a

design requirements
Entrants in the 1998 Homes for Habitat Design Awards were given these criteria:

- House should be friendly to the street, with a simple, livable plan that can be built by volunteers under professional supervision.
- House will be built on a flat corner lot in an established neighborhood in Yonkers, N.Y. Neighboring houses are a mix of two- and three-story structures, predominantly clad in wood, aluminum, and vinyl. Front porches are prevalent.
- Design must utilize structural insulated panels (SIPs) and other engineered wood products. SIPs are factory-assembled, load-bearing wall, floor, and roof components. Panels consist of two facings of oriented strand board (OSB) laminated and pressure cured to a one-pound density core of modified expanded polystyrene (EPS). Dimensions range from 4' x 8' to 8' x 24', in thicknesses from 4 to 12 inches.
- Design must meet BOCA code.
- Design must demonstrate energy efficiency.
- Site is a corner lot, 25 feet wide by 100 feet deep.
- Front door must face 25-foot-wide street frontage.
- House must have a covered front porch.
- House must be no more than 1,200 square feet.
- Maximum lot coverage is 800 square feet, with 40-foot-deep rear yard (minimum).
- House must have two stories and no basement. Building height may not exceed 35 feet.
- House must have three bedrooms and one-and-a-half bathrooms.
- All passage doors (including bathroom doors) must be 30", with 28" minimum clear width.
- Halls must be minimum 34" wide, frame to frame.
- No garage or carport is to be included.
- Projected construction cost must not exceed $50 per square foot.
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team effort, of which *residential architect*’s design competition was just one component. We were joined by the following project co-sponsors:

**apa—the engineered wood association.** Based in Tacoma, Wash., APA is a nonprofit association that represents manufacturers of plywood, oriented strand board, structural composite panels, glue-laminated timber, and wood I-joists. APA trademarks products manufactured by member mills who comply with the association’s rigorous program of quality testing and inspection.

**premier building systems.** Fife, Wash.-based Premier Building Systems is the largest manufacturer of insulated structural building components in the Western Hemisphere. Its structural insulated panels (SIPs) were used in the construction of the award-winning house.

**klima-tite, a division of reliant building products.** Reliant Building Products in Dallas is the largest producer of nonwood windows in the country. Klima-Tite windows were specified in the award-winning house.

**about the judges**
Judges for the Homes for Habitat Design Awards were selected for their knowledge of affordable design and building practices.

The jury included Nevil Eastwood, director of construction and environmental resources, Habitat for Humanity International, Americus, Ga.; Randy Luther, vice president of research and development, Centex Homes, Dallas; Susan Maxman, FAIA, principal, Susan Maxman & Partners Architects, Philadelphia; Jim Tracy, division manager, Premier Building Systems, Fife, Wash.; and Bob Vila, BVTV, Marston Mills, Mass.

**about this issue**
We view this issue of *residential architect* as an idea book for affordable house design. Our judges selected six winners in addition to the first-place design that was actually built in Yonkers. You’ll find all seven winning designs in the pages that follow, complete with plans, elevations, and the entrants’ project descriptions as edited by our staff.

We also present plans, elevations, and project descriptions for six nonwinning entries. All addressed the competition’s design requirements thoroughly and thoughtfully.

**thanks**
We thank all those who entered the Homes for Habitat Design Awards; our co-sponsors and judges; Habitat for Humanity International and its Westchester County, N.Y., affiliate; the City of Yonkers, N.Y.; Bob Vila; the producers and crew of CBS’ “This Morning”; the Partnership for Advanced Technology in Housing (PATH) and engineering consultant Steven Winter Associates; and all the volunteers and manufacturers who contributed their time, materials, and expertise to make this project possible.

Stay tuned for information on the 1999 Homes for Habitat Design Awards.

—Susan Bradford Barror
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“It’s still a box,” one judge said.
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for

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orlando architect ed binkley, aia, won first place for design excellence in residential architect's ultimate design challenge.

by meghan drueding

when ed and sherry binkley moved into their first house in nashville, tenn., in 1987, little did they know that their 1,200-square-foot abode would inspire a design destined for national television. but then, they probably wouldn’t have cared.

"But it’s a box with amenities."
Binkley, an architect who makes his living designing high-end custom homes with The Evans Group in Orlando, Fla., did not enter residential architect’s Homes for Habitat Design Awards because of the publicity it offered or the cash prize involved. He entered because, he says, “designing the Habitat house was a real change in pace from what I normally do. It was actually kind of relaxing.” He entered because the challenge of meeting strict design and construction guidelines appealed to his sense of adventure. And he entered because he wanted to help another family live as comfortably in a small home as his did in Nashville.

designing a winner
Responding to a call for entries that appeared in this magazine last summer, Binkley began to conceptualize the design for a house in Yonkers, N.Y., a small city 10 miles north of New York City. With Sherry’s help, he recalled the characteristics that had made their Nashville home so livable—built-in storage beneath the stairs, a front porch big enough for rocking chairs or a porch swing, a study perch on the second floor. “We spent four years renovating that house from top to bottom,”
Hayes and her four daughters (top) moved into the home from a Yonkers public housing project. he says. “When we were finished, there was very little space we didn’t use on a daily basis.”

Efficient use of space was exactly the quality that the Homes for Habitat judges applauded in Binkley’s design during the September 16th, 1998, judging in Washington, D.C. “The architect thought about everything,” said one judge. “The coat hooks, the television niche, the stairwell. Out of all the entries, it’s the one that does the most with the least.”

Binkley’s plan stretches space in simple but effective ways. Built-ins reduce the need for store-bought furniture. The upstairs bathroom features a separate vanity so that two people can get ready for work or school at the same time. Hallways are minimal, which frees up square footage for living space rather than circulation. The second-floor study loft contains under-counter bookshelves, and the kitchen has a handy pass-through for oven-to-dining-room serving. Instead of chopping up the first floor into small, single-use rooms, Binkley kept it open with a flexible living/dining/family area that makes the space look—and function—larger than it really is.

In short, Binkley’s plan proves that just because a house is designed on a tight budget doesn’t mean it can’t be packed with utility and efficiency. “It’s still a box,” one judge said. “But it’s a box with amenities.”

Michelle Hayes to purchase the house. Hayes, a medical biller and a 14-year resident of Yonkers, has four daughters: Shakeyma, age 15, Doniqua, 9, Shideara, 7, and Ebony, 5. “I was so tired of living in public housing,” she says. “My kids couldn’t play outside without running into drug dealers. The hallways smelled bad. I didn’t want them to grow up like that.” To qualify for homeownership, Hayes and Shakeyma put in more than 700 volunteer hours with Habitat’s “sweat equity” program.

Building blitz
During 11 days in November, more than 300 Habitat for Humanity volunteers built the home on a vacant lot at the corner of Porach and Walnut Streets in Yonkers. Leading the group were Bob Vila, host of the nationally syndicated television show “Home Again” and a contributor to the CBS program “This Morning,” and contest sponsor Premier Building Systems, manufacturer of the structural insulated panels (SIPs) used in building the home. Because producers from CBS’ “This Morning” would be filming the construction for a week’s worth of live coverage, the building team had a nonnegotiable time frame. “You could say we were working all day, but it was really more like all day and all night,” said one volunteer.

The “blitz build,” as Habitat calls it, got an enormous boost from SIPs—factory-assembled, load-bearing components made of polystyrene insulation bonded between panels of oriented...
To cut costs and building time, Binkley designed the home to accommodate standard SIP sizes.

strand board. Use of SIPs was one of the competition's design requirements (for other requirements, see page 18). Binkley had successfully used the technology several years earlier in designing a neighborhood of production homes, and more recently in a restaurant project for The Evans Group, where he's vice president of architecture.

"SIPs put you weeks ahead of the time that stick frame takes," he says. "Plus, you can have vaulted ceilings very easily—you don't have to worry about extra framing and truss cords."

The judges remarked on Binkley's skill in designing to standard SIP dimensions, which saved both time and money. "It did make the design process more challenging," he admits. "But in the long run it saved a lot of trouble."

the energy angle

Energy efficiency was another consideration in the design competition. Engineering consultant Steven Winter Associates worked with the Partnership for Advanced Technology in Housing—an alliance between the White House and..."
Volunteers heave a wall panel into place (top).

Thanks to large windows and a pass-through, natural light floods the living/dining/family room (above).

private sector businesses, created to reduce energy consumption in new and existing homes—to expand on Binkley’s initial energy-saving ideas. Among the technologies used in the Habitat house: photovoltaic roof shingles, low-flow faucets and plumbing fixtures, precast foundation panels, prefinished drywall corners, recycled-content carpeting, and decks made from sustainably harvested wood.

getting contextual
The judges praised Binkley’s design for its sensitivity to the surrounding neighborhood of light-hued, two- and three-story frame houses. While he’d never been to Yonkers, Binkley says he tried to design the home to suit its urban, Northeastern setting. “The materials and elevation are completely appropriate for Yonkers,” said one judge of Binkley’s clapboard-sided, gable-ended design.

Yonkers has long had a reputation as a gritty, crime-ridden town with high unemployment and dismal public housing. The current mayor is trying to improve the city’s image—and quality of life—with projects like this one. “The Habitat house is a super project,” says Richard Halevy, the city’s director of public affairs. “It fits so well with what we want to accomplish in Yonkers—new housing opportunities, more jobs, more economic development.”

a look ahead
The story doesn’t end here—at least not according to Jim Killoran, president of the local Habitat affiliate that worked with the city of Yonkers, the project’s hundreds of volunteers and contributors, and the Hayes family. His group hopes to build six more Habitat houses next door and across the street from this one. “We could make this a national model of a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood, and a catalyst to help all of Yonkers,” Killoran says. While the city and Habitat haven’t come to a final agreement, both sides are optimistic that Michelle Hayes’ home may eventually have Habitat-built neighbors.

“There’s an excellent chance that Habitat may be able to develop the rest of the lots,” Halevy says. “There are 14 different states represented in this project—that’s exactly the kind of partnership we are promoting here. It sets the tone for a future alliance.”

For Binkley, watching Killoran hand the key to One Porach Street over to Michelle Hayes and her family was well worth the many late-night hours he spent on its design. He plans to donate more time and labor to Habitat through his local chapter in Oviedo, Fla., helping the organization work towards its stated goal of “building simple, decent, and affordable housing with families in need.”

really more like all day and all night,” said one volunteer.
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The team at Pyatok Associates, a firm specializing in affordable housing, designed their entry around the experiences of everyday life. The Homes for Habitat judges gave it high praise for its sensitively designed floor plan. "The architect obviously thought a lot about the needs of the people who will be living there," said one. "The second floor has great closets, and I like the kitchen pantry and storage."

To meet the competition's goal of construction simplicity, the Pyatok team produced an uncomplicated, well-organized floor plan. Common areas are large and flexible. The dining and living areas are an uninterrupted rectangular space, resulting in a "great room" with useful furnishing options and glazing on three sides. A half-wall separating the kitchen and dining room hides kitchen appliances and clutter without blocking sightlines between rooms.

Should residents desire a distinct kitchen, the wall can easily be extended to the ceiling. A mudroom off the kitchen provides transition space to the outdoors. It houses a washer and dryer, powder room with large utility sink, and extra storage space.

To achieve maximum bedroom size, the entrants limited two-story volume and upstairs circulation space. Bonus storage space above the closets takes advantage of the second floor's sloped ceiling.

The team also addressed cost efficiency and energy savings by using a 4-by-4-foot grid throughout and specifying 4-by-8-foot structural insulated panels (SIPs) rather than larger panels to reduce or eliminate the need for a crane during construction. Plumbing is located in interior walls or crawl spaces to keep pipes in heated and cooled space, and to avoid interrupting the panels unnecessarily. The house is designed without trusses so that typically unused...
attic space can be re-allocated to living areas. Baseboard heaters are located to restrict thermal infiltration and target heat in occupied areas of the home.

With its front porch, synthetic siding, and gently pitched gables, the Pyatok team's winning design fits the context of Yonkers. Yet with minor changes of material or structure it adapts well to other locations—a real plus to the judges, considering Habitat for Humanity's international outreach.

design team:
Thea Bennett, Robert Frick, Leah Hall,
Stephen Poon, Alex Salazar

advisors:
Michael Pyatok, Peter Waller
The design team at Looney Ricks Kiss Architects submitted three related plans—essentially a neighborhood of modest, well-designed houses. Their goal was to address different household compositions by offering flexible room options within similar footprints. Elevations were designed to be interchangeable from plan to plan to create variety on the street. The plans could even be attached as duplexes.

The judges considered each plan separately, giving an award to a plan with three upstairs bedrooms. But they applauded the entrants' focus on flexibility and affordability in all three submissions.

Deep front porches extend living space outdoors on all three houses, providing a connection to the surrounding neighborhood. Two plans feature flexible back rooms that could be used as a bedroom, play area, or den. In those plans, the kitchen and dining area are in the center of the house, with side doors providing secondary access from the street.

The winning design is the most family-oriented of Looney Ricks Kiss' three submissions. It sacrifices that first-floor flexibility in favor of a kitchen over-
looking the rear yard where children are likely to play; a laundry room/mudroom provides access to the backyard. And this plan’s family-size dining area is larger than that of the other two plans, creating greater openness throughout the first floor.

The winning plan has three upstairs bedrooms—again, the most efficient arrangement for households with children. Of the nonwinning submissions, one has two larger upper bedrooms with more closet space, plus the downstairs bedroom option. The other nonwinner has a second-floor study—too small, unfortunately, to function as a third bedroom.

Looney Ricks Kiss designed all three plans to be built using SIPs and engineered wood joists. Walls and plumbing stack for maximum construction efficiency. And the designers recommend using aluminum or vinyl siding for cost-effectiveness and ease of maintenance.
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The judges questioned the construction efficiency of this entry. But they awarded it a citation of merit for its thoughtful design details and its consideration of energy savings.

Brian Easley and Christi Blau, both intern architects, took full advantage of the home’s corner lot. A deep wrap-around porch relates to both streets, as does the dining room with its corner windows. One-and-a-half story volume in the dining room and an open stair expand the house visually. Easley and Blau located one of the home’s three bedrooms on the first floor to accommodate a physically challenged resident. The full bath and laundry also are located on the main floor; both the kitchen and bath provide adequate turning radii for a wheelchair.

Other thoughtful design details include a storage bench in the stairwell where residents can drop off purses, ball gloves, and backpacks when returning home. Each of the upstairs bedrooms has an alcove that can house a desk, television, or chest of drawers. Shuttered openings connect these private alcoves to the first floor.

The entrants suggest board and batten as an inexpensive, easily installed
Easley and Blau took advantage of the home's corner lot with a wrap-around porch that relates to both streets.

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To maximize privacy between houses in a dense urban setting, entrants Peter Musty and R. John Anderson designed a plan that's only 16 feet wide. The 8-foot-deep front porch becomes an outdoor room, sheltered by the second-floor overhang.

The judges selected this design for an award because of the simplicity and openness of its floor plan. The first floor is a single large space with a kitchen overlooking the rear yard and a small back entry porch. The owners' bedroom, located at the back of the upper level, includes a small balcony perched atop the porch below.

Flexible spaces on both levels can house a stacked washer and dryer. If the appliances go upstairs, the downstairs space can be used as a pantry. If the washer and dryer are installed on the first floor, the upper space functions as a study alcove.

The entrants specified SIPs for the roof, walls, and floors. And they suggested a range of exterior finish options. Siding can be fiberboard, fiber cement, aluminum, or vinyl. Front porch columns can be finished with 2x8s or brake-formed white aluminum.
A second-floor overhang shelters the house's 8-foot-deep front porch. On the rear elevation (near left), a balcony perches atop a small back entry porch.
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Circle no. 89
For this entry, a simple brown cardboard wrapper unfolded to reveal a series of detailed drawings that earned architect Colin Cathcart an honorable mention award. Cathcart produced ink drawings in muted earth tones on oatmeal-textured paper. His annotations are in graceful script rather than typical architectural lettering.

Open attic volume achieved through SIP construction allowed Cathcart to give the house a third level of living space. Thus, areas that would be lost to rafter framing in typical construction are reclaimed for sloped-ceiled storage, study, and play lofts. These spaces increase neither the overall enclosed volume nor the square footage (where head heights are below 7 feet), but greatly increase the sense of interior spaciousness.

The off-center shift of the roof rises from a 9-foot eave along the side street to a 24-foot ridge. Cathcart balanced the asymmetry by centering the roof gable on the porch and front door. The entire house is planned on a 4-foot module to realize the cost benefits of SIP construction.

The house can accommodate passive solar design by expanding the windows on the southeast side. Warm water tubing embedded in the slab-on-grade will enhance the slab’s performance as a thermal mass. Cathcart suggested rooftop photovoltaic panels as an energy source, especially since New York state provides financial subsidies and allows for net metering.

Cathcart earned praise for his attractive presentation. In addition to the floor plan shown here, his entry included floor plans for the second and third stories.
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The judges awarded this entry for its presentation, which reinforced the design's emphasis on simplicity and energy efficiency. The team at Baylis Brand Wagner presented their design on earth-toned brown and green boards wrapped in plain brown paper. The project statement runs along the outside of the wrapper, which was tied together with raffia.

The street façade of the house they designed has two gable ends, with a recessed entry protected by a shed roof. The architects specified board-and-batten siding at street level, with less expensive, low-maintenance composite bevel siding above. SIPs on the exterior walls and roof provide maximum energy conservation. Panels are in 2-foot and 4-foot dimensions to minimize waste.

The floor plan combines the living room, dining room, and kitchen into one large space that can comfortably accommodate large family gatherings. The open plan gives the kitchen outdoor views on three sides—particularly important for busy parents who need to keep an eye on children playing outside. To make future remodeling easier and less expensive, the design team avoided interior bearing walls on the first floor.
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double-decker front porch and a covered rear patio expand living space in this house. Entrants Steven Lamothe and Ken Mackenzie designed three different plan options for the first floor. Each features a front porch and an open living room, with a flexible rear room that could function as a dining room, bedroom, den, or office—or that could be used to enlarge the kitchen.

The upper porch serves all three bedrooms. A bath with separated double vanities provides a privacy buffer between the owners' suite and two secondary bedrooms.

Lamothe and Mackenzie addressed cost savings, energy efficiency, and ease of construction by specifying SIPs for the roof, walls, and floor. Poured-in-place concrete spot footings support the engineered lumber beams that lie beneath the first-floor structural insulated floor panels. The designers specified fiber-cement clapboard siding and autoclaved, aerated concrete clip-on skirt panels for their durability and ease of installation.
A double-decker front porch and a covered patio in back of the house expand living space.

The entrants provided three different plan options for the first floor (far left).
Floor plan flexibility drove this design. The main level contains a large, L-shaped living space that residents can configure to include a dining area and study. The kitchen is large enough to contain a breakfast area, and adjoins a spacious laundry room with a utility sink. Built-in benches on the wrap-around porch provide extra seating.

The home’s three upstairs bedrooms have large windows for light and ventilation. Additional windows are optional, depending on the proximity of the neighboring house. A large landing at the top of the stairs reduces hall space and facilitates furniture move-in. The bathroom contains a separate vanity so that two people can get ready for work or school at the same time without sacrificing privacy.

Entrant Ralph Bender recommended optimum lot orientations to take advantage of summer breezes and protect against winter winds. The roof and walls are SIPs. A single plumbing core serves the kitchen, utility room, and both bathrooms. Low-flow toilets, shower heads, and faucet aerators cut down on water waste.
Bender's design includes a variety of alternate space-utilization plans.
The primary goal of the four Notre Dame architecture students who designed this house was to define public and private zones within the context of the surrounding neighborhood. Porches were fundamental to their design, as places for children to play and neighbors to visit. So the students gave the house both a classically columned front porch and a side porch that shelters a secondary entry.

The team located gathering rooms—the living and dining rooms—along the plan’s street edge to achieve a visual dialogue between the residents and the neighborhood. The arrangement also allows extra sunlight to penetrate these important rooms.

The upstairs bathroom is located above the kitchen so the two can share a plumbing wall. While the judges questioned the plan’s overall construction efficiency—an aspect left largely unaddressed by the students—they agreed that the design has a pleasing street elevation. Indeed, the home is simple, traditional, and easily modifiable.
The judges commended this design's pleasing street elevation.

design team: Kevin Buccelato, Tom Larminer, James Leslie, Kimberly Raspanti
advisor: Professor Duncan Stroik
liska Associates based its design on a simple box with defined living spaces. The house has a distinct foyer set off by columns. A central stair separates living and dining areas. Angled walls promote easy circulation and are a pleasing alternative to 90-degree corners. To expand the interior visually, the architects suggested a monochromatic white color scheme. A covered front porch and a concrete rear patio sheltered by a second-floor projection extend living space to the outdoors.

Plumbing is zoned in one area for cost efficiency. The washer and dryer are stacked in an upstairs laundry closet. The architects specified SIPs for the exterior walls, with clear-span floor and roof trusses. The house has no interior bearing walls; the trusses are easy to erect and expedite the installation of mechanicals.

The firm also considered aesthetics in its design, selecting composite siding and trim material to distinguish this house from manufactured housing. Not knowing the exact context of the neighborhood, the architects chose a neo-traditional style for the exterior.

Liska Associates used angled walls to improve circulation and provide visual interest.
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Entrant Beveridge Architects' design intent was to create a home with a traditional porch-front exterior and open, informal living spaces. The porch recesses into the building footprint, sheltered by a bedroom above. This design approach eliminates the need for—and cost of—a separate porch roof.

Primary living spaces and bedrooms align along the home's two street facades, to take advantage of light and views of the street and backyard. Stairs, bathrooms, utility areas, and closets are located along the interior wall.

SIPS are the home's most important cost-efficient and energy-saving feature. The house follows a modular dimensional system that minimizes the number of panels used and allows, in most cases, the use of standard size panels. Other cost efficiencies include grouping all plumbing into one quadrant of the house and the use of simple and inexpensive finishes.
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Entrant Tarane Rahmani's goal was to create a functional floor plan without compromising architectural integrity. A wraparound porch takes advantage of the corner lot, defining the front door and running along the side of the house to create two street-friendly facades. The side porch leads to the most important part of the house, where the family gathers.

The architect placed the stair, powder room, and kitchen in the center of the first floor to divide formal and informal living areas. The living room occupies the front of the house; the family room and dining area open up to each other for casual daily use. Though the kitchen is an interior space, it has views of the backyard play area through the family room. A two-story entry gallery and 9-foot plate height throughout the first floor help create an open, spacious feeling.

The second floor contains three bedrooms plus a built-in study overlooking the entry. The stair and bath separate the parents' and children's bedrooms. Plumbing stacks for maximum cost efficiency.

In this design, a porch defines the front door and runs along the side of the house, creating two street-friendly facades.
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We join residential architect magazine in paying tribute to Habitat for Humanity, its admirable mission, and the countless volunteers who have given generously of their time and energy. They have truly turned dreams into reality for thousands of families around the world.

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Generac offers high-performance standby generator units tailored specifically for home use, with models generating from 5,000 to 25,000 watts of electricity. Systems such as the Generac Guardian power system can be integrated into new construction or retro-fitted for older structures.

In an emergency, the Guardian power system starts automatically via Generac’s automatic transfer switch, producing electricity within seconds. During brownouts or "rolling blackouts," the generator will produce current to keep vital electrical systems such as computers, lighting, refrigeration, heating, air-conditioning, communications and security systems operating undisturbed for the duration of the outage.

Unlike portable generators, the Guardian power system is installed permanently outdoors and runs on liquid propane or natural gas. It can be linked directly to the permanent fuel source.

For 40 years Generac has been manufacturing a full line of residential and industrial electric power generators. The company has a deep commitment to making emergency power systems available to those who need them. Whether it's disaster relief, disaster preparedness, or everyday protection from utility power failures, Generac’s products can make life a little easier. We are pleased to show our support for Habitat for Humanity by participating in this section.

Contact Generac at 414-544-4811 or visit its website at www.generac.com.
Architects like Thomas Jefferson have long espoused the use of skylights for the sense of well-being they provide. Yet only in the last decade or so have skylights become a practical choice for homes in all regions.

Technological advances in glazing have helped to make this possible. VELUX Comfort-Coated Glass, featuring a double layer of Low-E coating and argon gas between the panes, provides maximum protection against heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. A laminated inner pane can ensure safety from impact such as hail and wind, and reflect 99 percent of ultraviolet rays that cause fading.

VELUX-AMERICA is proud to be a sponsor of Habitat for Humanity. Contact VELUX at 800-283-2831 or visit its website at www.VELUX.com.

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Millennium siding is one example of how Wolverine innovation can help contribute to better-built, more cost-effective housing for Habitat for Humanity "customers." Millennium’s patented NailTight™ Flexible Hem nails tight to the substrate. The panel hangs from tough, synthetic PermaFlex™ Suspension Cables, fusion-welded into the panel, which "float" the panel during changes in temperature. This feature alone makes proper installation virtually foolproof. GripLock™ is another advantage; Millennium can be smoothly and evenly applied by supervised volunteers or by an experienced installer working alone.

Millennium’s increased installation speed leads to lower overall costs, too. Because it nails tight to the wall, it is ideal for installation with power nailers and staplers. Reports from contractors in the field tell us Millennium panels install 30% to 50% faster using power tools.

And, for peace of mind of high wind-area customers, Millennium is designed to resist hurricane-force winds.

For whatever project comes along, Millennium siding coordinates with Wolverine soffit and Restoration decorative panels and trim to form a complete and efficient exterior design system. Millennium is available in D4" clapboard and D4.5" dutchlap profiles with a low-gloss cedar grain finish in 13 popular colors. In a recent Brand Use Study for Builder Magazine, professionals rated Wolverine number one in quality for the third time. For information and specifications about Millennium or any other Wolverine innovative, high-performance exterior cladding product, call 888-838-8100, or visit www.siding.com.
Typar HouseWrap...The Inside Story. With Typar HouseWrap on the outside of a home, comfort and energy efficiency are enhanced inside the home. Typar HouseWrap covers construction gaps, cracks, leaks and holes to keep outside air from seeping in. It reduces air movement in wall cavities, and keeps the home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, saving homeowners up to 25 percent on energy bills. Most important, Typar allows a home to breathe, so there's no moisture build-up which can damage the wall cavity.

Typar HouseWrap...The Outside Story. On the job site, Typar HouseWrap is a product that can be counted on. Typar House Wrap survives the rigors of construction—it won't tear in the wind or degrade in the sun. It's easy to handle and cut. Typar gets construction crews out of the weather faster, so they can work inside. Typar's glare-resistant color is installer-friendly, and it gives homes a professional appearance during construction. Typar HouseWrap provides the perfect balance of comfort and performance. Contact Typar HouseWrap at 800-321-6271 or visit its website at www.reemay.com.
Silver Line Building Products Corp. of North Brunswick, NJ, a leading vinyl window manufacturer, is proud to note its continuing association with the Middlesex County, NJ chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

In 1998, Silver Line was a co-sponsor of the Chapter’s first annual bicycle tour, a fund raiser for the one-year-old affiliate of the international organization. “We are proud to be working with Habitat to provide affordable homes in our community,” says Silver Line President Kenneth Silverman.

To date, the chapter has renovated two homes, both in New Brunswick. Proceeds from the tour were used to purchase materials for the homes, which were renovated with all-volunteer labor working weekends.

“We were really excited about this event, and with Silver Line’s help, next year’s will be even better,” says Habitat volunteer, Holly Ely. “We tried to attract many kinds of people, and so the tour is structured to permit riders of all levels of ability.”

In 1999, Silver Line looks forward to further involvement with the chapter, by supporting the bicycle tour, donating windows, and organizing an employee group to donate their labor to renovations.

Contact Silver Line at 800-234-4228 or visit their website at: www.silverlinewindow.com
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Our product-tester, Bob is known for installing confidence. But when it comes to building hope, no one does it better than Habitat for Humanity. For over 25 years, Habitat has been resurrecting the hopes and dreams of thousands of families around the world. And Variform is excited to be a partner with them in constructing homes for low-income families. We've donated manpower and materials at sites from Texas to Illinois, Georgia to California. And we're looking forward to taking part in future projects. We salute Habitat for Humanity for all their effort, sweat and time, and thank them for allowing us to be a part of it.

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Today, the vinyl industry stands as one of Habitat for Humanity’s top corporate sponsors, represented by a coalition of trade associations and companies called the Partnership for Humanity. Over the past five years, the vinyl industry has participated in six “blitz builds” with HFH affiliates from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. and has sponsored 10 homes, donated more than a million dollars in cash and products, and lent the assistance of more than 450 industry volunteers.

With key sponsorship from the Vinyl Institute and the Chlorine Chemistry Council®—whose members manufacture vinyl and vinyl’s raw materials—the Partnership for Humanity has united as many as 50 vinyl building product manufacturers and their individual trade associations for yearly participation in an HFH “blitz build.”

The Partnership for Humanity salutes its members and all the thousands of sponsors and volunteers who give generously of their time and resources to Habitat for Humanity. For information contact Jim Kosinski at 517-837-2819.
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