

2007 Michael G. Meyers Design Competition

Home of the Future

background

House [*n., adj. hous; v. houz*]

a building in which people live; residence for human beings.

Home [*hohm*]

1. a house, apartment, or other shelter that is the usual residence of a person, family, or household.
2. the place in which one's domestic affections are centered.

The definition of house and of home are similar, but the connotations derived from the two words are distinctly different. A house is made up of a kit of parts and performs the task of a shelter; a place of refuge or inhabitation. A home has an emotional, personal characteristic that is as much the persona of its inhabitants, as well as, a representation of their individuality. A home is more than just a collection of rooms and furniture; it has a quality that is palpable, distinctive, and special.

Architects are often charged with the task of designing a house that is to become a home. Successful design incorporates the typical programmatic functions of a house and infuses it with a compelling quality that transforms it into a home that is inspirational and delightful for its dweller. A home is thoughtful and personal, while remaining functional.

This year, the design problem for the MMDC is to design your home, but not as you would want it today. We are proposing the design to be forward looking and prophetic of what you believe your home will be in the year 2050. You are to define both where and how your home functions as you imagine life in the future.

Your home can be sited anywhere, the clouds, the moon, the ocean, anywhere. It can take whatever form you determine, as long as it responds to its environment. Your home can be a multi family dwelling, a multi generational dwelling, or a single family residence. It's wide open.

project requirements

The design for the Home of the Future must:

1. include a comprehensive, descriptive essay explaining your assumptions and the criteria of your home. We must be able to understand the socioeconomic and environmental conditions and its impact on your design solution.
2. develop a distinctive solution that is considerate to the functions of a human dwelling.
3. fix and describe your solution visually so that the committee and the jury may understand your design goals and how you achieved them.

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program

INTERIOR SPACES (Note the following program elements are suggestions, and can be modified by your definition of Home of the Future if clearly described and explained in your essay)

- Living area:** Area devoted to family gathering and interaction.
- Dining area:** Area devoted to sharing or consumption of meals.
- Food Prep area:** Area devoted to the preparation of meals.
- Sleeping area:** Area devoted to rest.
- Activity area:** Area devoted for physical or mental activity.
- Hygienic area:** Area devoted for bathing and restroom activities.

EXTERIOR SPACES

Vehicular storage area:

Whether it's a flying car or water bike or a space vehicle, it needs a place to be stored.

Optional yard:

Does your home of the future have one, or is it a common, public area for the neighborhood.

additional design exercise options

At least one of the following is required in addition to the basic problem:

1. define the energy source that supplies your home with light and conditioned air.
2. define the sustainable aspects of your home
3. design your home so that it can be transported to another site
4. make a list of as many products and materials as you can that are found in the construction of your building and briefly describe how they are used (ex: titanium, plastic, cloth, carbon fiber, experimental materials, etc)

closing statement

This project is a departure from projects we have issued in the past. This year's solutions will be evaluated for the merit of the idea, greater than the quality of the presentation. A clear and concise description, augmented by a clear visual explanation should be your goal.

Presentation Requirements

essay (should be firmly affixed to the front of one board)

Your descriptive essay should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your essay to one 8 ½ x 11 @ 12 point Arial font.

Suggestions of what to include in your essay:

- Clarify who the home is for and how many inhabitants it will house.
- Illustrate where the home is constructed and elaborate on the context the home is sited; its surroundings or neighborhood or connection to a larger component.
- Explain what the inhabitants do as a profession and if their career informs the home.
- Give a feel for what your home “is”, what makes it “home”.
- Discuss the construction of your home, what is it made of?
- Explain how your assumptions effect the design.

drawings

The following **minimum** requirements should be mounted on two 24” x 36” or 30” x 42” foam core or similar rigid boards (*do not submit more than two boards*):

- A **site plan**, to scale, showing outdoor features and site improvements (if any) and the roof of your Home.
- 1/8” = 1’-0” scale **floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1/8” = 1’-0” scale **exterior building elevations** showing roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- 1/8” or 1/4” = 1’-0” **section** of the building showing where openings are located in walls and how spaces are connected or divided.
- At least one accurate **perspective** drawing at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Three or more **hand sketches** that document your design process.

models

A 1/8” = 1’-0” **scale model** of the project (*building only, no site model*) is required for team projects. **Models are optional for individual participants, but all are encouraged to experiment with models to help answer questions about their designs.

deadline for submissions

Entries are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, **20 April 2007** at the AIA Houston offices **315 Capitol Street, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77002** [phone 713-520-0155].

awards

A reception and awards presentation will be held on Friday, **27 April 2007** at a time and location to be announced.

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships totaling \$2,500, scholarships to the U of H Architectural Summer Discovery Program, and gift certificates to art supply stores, entertainment venues, and restaurants. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

Affix a label on the back of all boards and models with the following:

Individual or Group Entry – Student Name(s) – School Name – Contact Number