

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME:

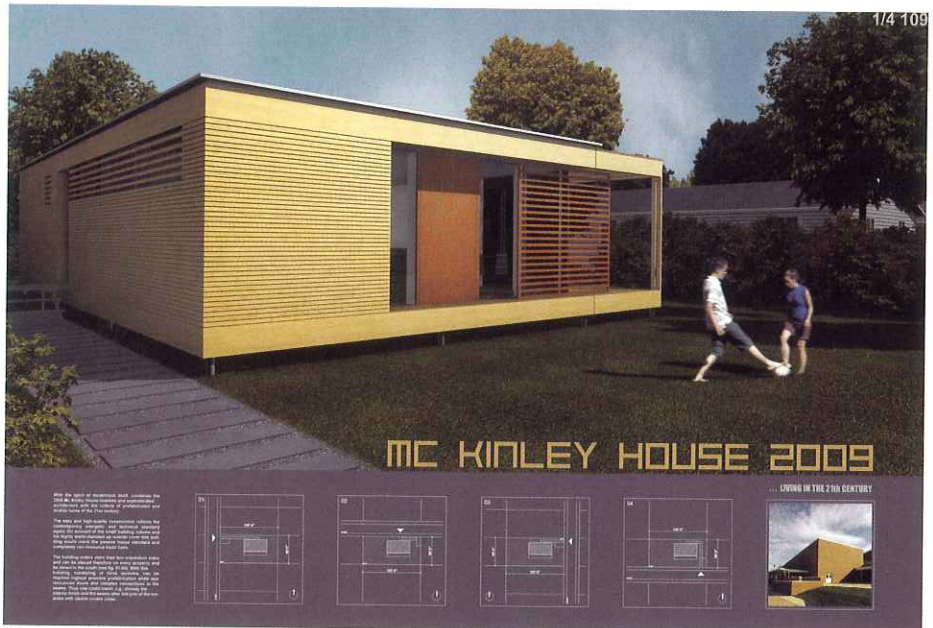
A COMPETITION

by Kelly Hayes McAlonie

For more than ten years, juniors and seniors in the Building Technology Program at McKinley High School have had the opportunity to build a house for academic credit. With McKinley teachers and the Construction Industry Education Foundation assisting these students, The McKinley High School House Project has become an interesting and successful collaboration between the private sector and the Buffalo Public Schools.

Building on the success of this existing project, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Buffalo/WNY Chapter collaborated with the McKinley House organizers to create a new, international design competition entitled "2009 McKinley House . . . There's No Place Like Home." Led by AIA's Emerging Architects Committee and Buffalo Emerging Professionals (BEP), this competition challenged qualified entrants—architects licensed fewer than ten years, intern architects, and students in the field of architecture and design—"to produce a design that encourages us all to consider residential architecture in a new way," says Shanntina Moore, Assoc. AIA, the competition coordinator. "This design competition sought to improve architectural awareness, foster creative design, and discover new models for residential design that will represent twenty-first century values in design and construction."

The competition attracted entries from around the world, which were judged by members of both the AIA Buffalo/WNY Chapter and the Construction Industry Education Foundation; Brian Carter, Dean of the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning; and David Jameson, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and award-winning



The winning entry's wall panels act as shade devices that both provide privacy and reduce the amount of solar gain inside the house.



residential architect from Arlington, Virginia. First place was awarded to German designer Claas H. Blaubaum; second place went to American Georg Lorenz of Connecticut. Honorable mentions were awarded to MABU Design LLC of Brooklyn, New York, and Angxuan Sun of Canada. While each design was as unique as the designers themselves, they were also unapologetically

modern, responding well to the way we live now.

Blaubaum's winning entry particularly embraces the prefabrication component of the competition criteria; his design accommodates the modern family with an open floor plan made up of three modules to be assembled on site. Two of the modules comprise the interior of the house, the design of

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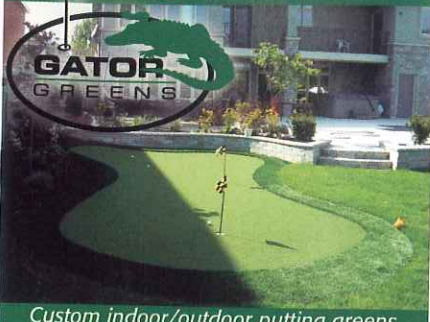


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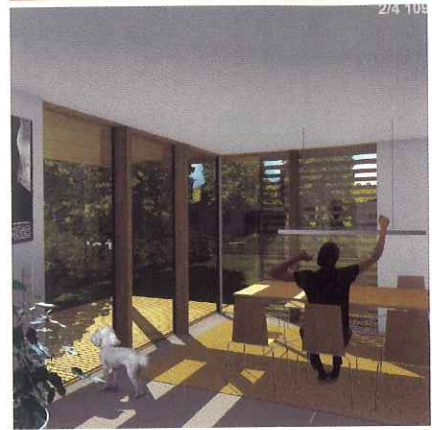
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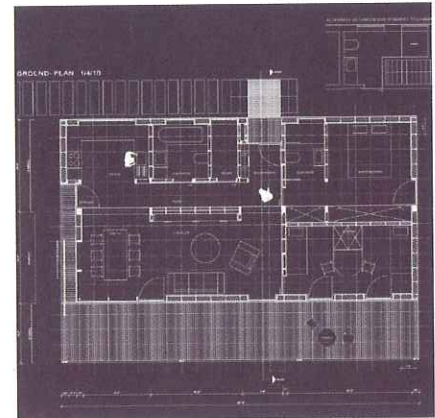


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The porch extends the structure to provide expansive views and comfortable living space, despite the diminutive size of the house. Below: The winning blueprints reveal a well-thought-out design.



which clearly delineates the home's private and public areas without sacrificing a natural path of movement. The third module is the terrace to which the house opens, creating an easy transition from inside to out—something that we in Buffalo don't always consider. In addition, the entry provides a sustainable solution to residential building through the use of recycled wood products and the house's siting, which allows for optimal views and protection from solar gain through the implementation of sun screens and a pergola over the terrace. The utter simplicity of the design is also a point to consider: In spite of the consumer age in which we live, does a small, creatively designed house offer the modern family greater value? ■

To view the entries to the competition visit the AIA Buffalo/WNY website: www.aiabuffalowny.org. Kelly Hayes McAlonie is a Buffalo-based architect and frequent contributor to Buffalo Spree and Buffalo Spree Home.

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