Essential Dwelling: The Archon Prize

The small studio
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The Archon Prize is a design competition for a 1,000 sq. ft. “Essential Dwelling” on a 50’x120’ site, with interior and exterior program spaces interpreted and defined by each student. The site selected should be a place that is memorable and significant, a place rural, suburban, or urban, a place experienced first hand.

Although the project is small in scale, the process of exploration and development will be rigorous. Each student will be working at multiple scales of region, context, site, building, space, and detail. Prototypes, both virtual and physical, will be developed at a full range of scales, from small site models up to full-scale (1:1) details.

PART ONE:
DESIGN PROPOSITION FOR AN ESSENTIAL DWELLING - A MINI THESIS (METHIS)
Eight-Week Individual Project

PART TWO:
DETAIL DEVELOPMENT OF METHIS - SYSTEMS, DETAILS, FURNITURE, LANDSCAPING
Six-Week Individual Project
PRIZE COMPETITION PROCEDURE: The competition is limited to students enrolled in the studio. Each competitor will prepare detailed drawings and models of the building and the site for presentation during the final review to a prestigious invited jury, which will select the prizewinners. First, second, and third place monetary awards will be given. Following the award announcement, a publication illustrating all of the projects will be prepared.

All of my life I have dreamed of the essence of dwelling not just for oneself, but for all humanity – to dwell in a garden, or in a grove, or on a hill, water’s edge, or in an open space, all with a view, near or far, simply, humbly, poetically like Thoreau or Walden Pond, joining as well in the joy, pride and well-being of community life.

A. Richard Williams, FAIA
Professor Emeritus & and Sponsor of Archon Prize