

■ **HOME BUILDERS:** Architectural technology students gain experience and kudos

Fanshawe talent pays off

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Mike Harasym doesn't just build houses, he builds community. As one of London's custom home builders, Harasym Developments has a reputation for attention to detail. To help pass on this experience and approach to the next generation of designers, Harasym approached Gary Gerard, co-ordinator of architectural technology at Fanshawe College, with a competition for third- and fourth-year students in the program.

"I get a chance for a brand new design from a perspective I've not had before and a chance to work with students and give back to the community," Harasym said.

"The students did a fantastic job and we enjoyed the process," he said after the designs were adjudicated and the winners presented with prizes.

First prize was awarded to Dawid Wojtaszek and second

to Joshua TeBokkel. A single point separated their two entries.

"I felt that it was a great opportunity to challenge myself and to see if I had what it took to win," Wojtaszek said. "Winning was a great honour for me, being the first time I've won a competition like this and doing so against some very talented peers."

"I thought it was a good opportunity to get my name out there, and test my design ability," TeBokkel said.

The concept was to develop a custom design for a residential lot after meeting with the client. Students were given the information for the client's vision a week ahead of a day spent in the lab preparing renderings and a presentation for the judges. The goal was to connect local industry and students in a supportive activity.

Gerard chose the competition because of the benefits for his students.

"Fanshawe is always looking to engage our communities and develop

partnerships for students," he said. "This fits many of our students' future career goals. The custom designed residential market is an emerging sector, and our students want to be part of that.

"There are so many benefits, but competitions like this one allow our students the ability to use their skills in a real-world scenario using a real client. Secondly, they gain experience for their resumes, by volunteering. Competitions like this simulate how the industry works, which is great for them to learn early."

One of the first reality checks is the lot — a corner, oddly shaped area on a curve.

"Corner lots always present a bit of a challenge," Harasym said. "They present unique challenges and opportunities."

Both winners said the lot shape definitely posed problems.

"The most challenging part of the competition was having a very short amount of time to produce a design



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Jayden Houseman, Josh TeBokkel (2nd prize), Courtney Pender, Shawn Dixon, Dawid Wojtaszek (1st prize).

on an odd-shaped lot, completely from scratch," TeBokkel said.

The design criteria also had to provide access to the outdoors from all parts of the house and fit into the overall feel of the subdivision. The single-storey house had to include three bedrooms, a kitchen and family room, "take advantage of views of the woods at the front with lots of windows" and measure about 2,000 square feet.

Harasym shared one-floor designs with the students,

invited them to a meet-and-greet at his model home so they could get a sense of the neighbourhood and style.

Final presentations included a lot plan (buildings placement and preliminary yard layout); floor plan; building elevations and 3D visualizations and /or isometric drawings to present to the judging panel.

Judges included Gerard, Harasym, Milena Harasym and Doug Stewart, who used a point system to evaluate. Stewart looked at it from a

draftsperson's perspective, while Milena considered the design details. "I looked at it from a woman's point of view," she said. "Is there enough storage, do we have what we need?"

Gerard said, "We simulate the real world expectations of the industry in every class we teach. The goal is to provide students that are trained and ready to join the industry. Competitions like this assist with achieving that goal and enhancing their experiences at Fanshawe."