

Essential Dwelling: The Archon Prize

Architecture 571

Fall 2025

Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA, Studio Critic



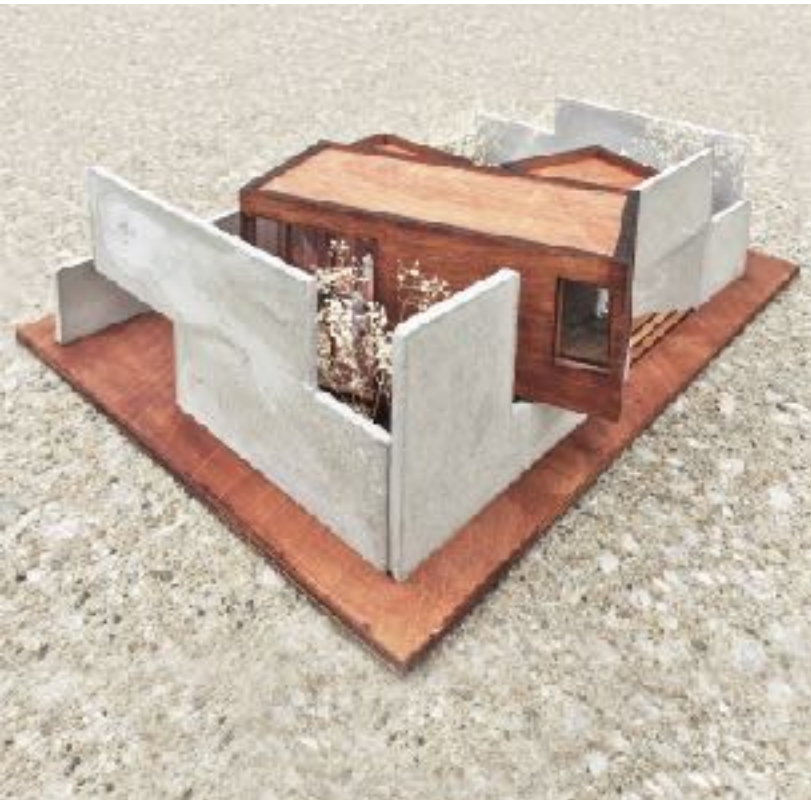
The Archon Prize is a studio competition to design a 1,000 square foot “Essential Dwelling,” with concept, site, interior, and exterior program spaces determined by each designer individually. The site selected should be a place that is memorable and personally significant; the place can be rural, suburban, or urban; likely a place experienced first-hand and of personal value to the designer.

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

The semester will be divided into three parts:

**PART ONE:
DESIGN PROPOSITION FOR AN
ESSENTIAL DWELLING - A MINI-THESIS
(METHIS)**

For the first seven weeks, each designer will determine the thesis, resulting site and program, and the schematic design of their project.



**PART TWO:
DETAIL DEVELOPMENT OF METHIS**

For the next six weeks, designers will develop the systems, furniture, details, and landscaping for their project.

PRIZE COMPETITION PROCEDURE: Each competitor will prepare detailed drawings and models of the building and the site for presentation during a Final Review before an invited jury, which will select the prizewinners. First, second, and third place monetary awards will be given.

PART THREE:

COMPLETION OF PUBLICATION IMAGES

Following the Final Review, each designer will have time to develop their images for the publication of a book that illustrates all of the projects.





FIELD TRIP COMPONENT:

Throughout the semester, we will use some of the studio time to explore Essential Contemporary Residences in the community. We will also explore local construction sites of projects in development by Poss

ONLINE RESOURCES

Previous ARCHON Studio Books: You can preview previous Archon Studio Books at the Presto Photo web site. Click on these links, then press the blue "Preview" button at the upper left of the web page:

[THE ESSENTIAL DWELLING; The 2025 Archon Studio](#)

[THE ESSENTIAL DWELLING: The 2017 Archon Prize Studio](#)

[THE ESSENTIAL DWELLING: The 2016 Archon Prize Studio](#)

[THE ESSENTIAL DWELLING: The 2014 Archon Prize](#)

[ARCHON Book Final \(2013\)](#)

Hard copies of these books will be available to review in the studio.

[Website of Jeffery Poss Architect, PLLC](#)

