



Under Construction HTX 2025 Student Design Competition

Website: uchtx.com • Instagram: [@underconstruction.htx](https://www.instagram.com/underconstruction.htx) • YouTube: [@UnderConstructionHTX](https://www.youtube.com/UnderConstructionHTX)

Purpose & Invitation

Design a home that changes with life. Not a bigger box—but a smarter organism. Reimagine the single-family house for Houston's next decade: a place that can flex, divide, recombine, and evolve with its people.

Your canvas is real: a ~7,200 sq ft lot (77025) and a two story home kept preferably under 3,500 sq ft (conditioned). Within those limits, invent a versatile unit that is physically connected so the project remains a single family residence, yet planned to operate discreetly when needed—MIL/caregiver suite, quiet studio/office, quarantine/guest, or STR income—without disturbing the main dwelling. Think beyond the standard playbook: honor setbacks and street presence while creating rooms that change roles, clearer daylight, calmer acoustics, and buildable, budget sensible construction.

Project Parameters

Lot: ~7,200 sq ft (Houston 77025)

- Building: two stories; preferably $\leq 3,500$ sq ft (conditioned)
- Versatile unit: connected (single family) yet operationally independent when needed (entry, privacy/acoustics, bath/micro service zone)
- Civics & code: respect setbacks, building lines, height, parking, basic life safety
- Constructability: simple spans, common trades/materials, clear envelope & details

Materials provided: Site Orientation Reference (PDF) — see competition site.



What to Submit

Section A — Design Package

Single PDF, max 10 pages. Landscape recommended. Legible, build focused.

- **Site / plot plan** — footprint inside setbacks; approach/drive; utility/service logic; subtle entry strategy for the versatile unit.
- **Floor plans (both levels)** — key dims, furniture, circulation; diagram how the unit connects yet stays discreet.
- **Elevations + ≥1 section** — massing, openings/shading, respectful street presence; section proves stair/headroom/envelope.
- **Roof & envelope** — roof form/drainage (slope/scuppers/gutters); note PV/mech zones if any; basic wall/assembly intent.
- **Concept page + visuals** — 1 page adaptability concept (how it morphs over time; how you stay ≤3,500 sf) + 1–2 massing diagrams or simple renders.

Optional appendix (outside the 10 pages): one simple cost/logic page or a phased use diagram.

Section B — Media Package

- **Video (required):** 30–60+ seconds; MP4/H.264; 1080p; ≤300 MB; captions preferred. 16:9 recommended (9:16 acceptable). Content: Introduce the project; show how the versatile unit works without disrupting the main residence; explain why this is a better single family future.
- **Stills (optional):** up to 3 hero images (JPEG/PNG) for thumbnails/social.

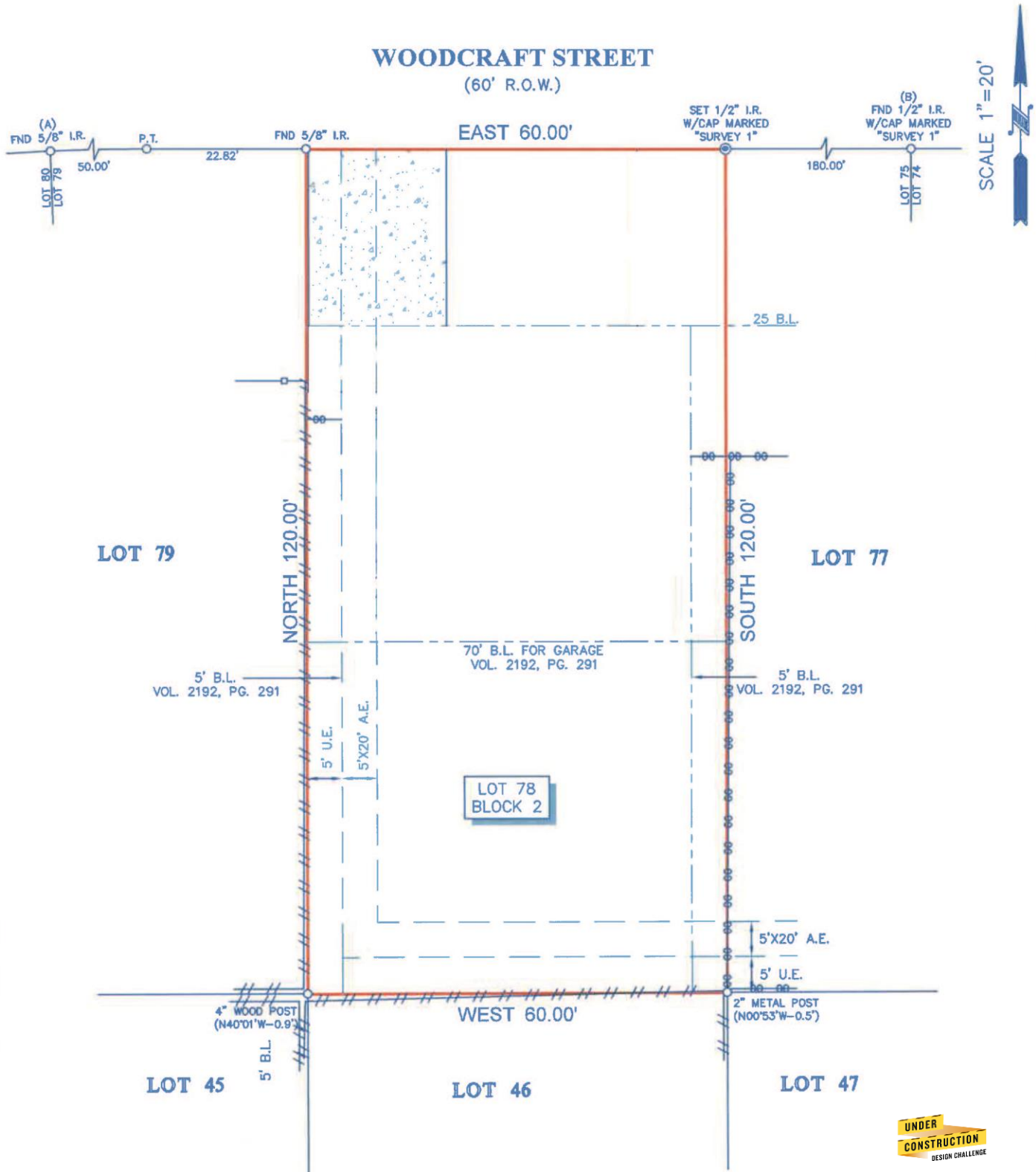
Evaluation (what the jury weighs)

- Adaptability & multigenerational clarity (does the versatile unit truly work?)
- Buildability & economy (straightforward structure/envelope/details)
- Planning quality (privacy, acoustics, daylight, circulation that supports change)
- Street presence & site response (setbacks, entries, parking, shade/trees)
- Graphic clarity (10 page story reads fast; media explains the idea)

Awards & Visibility

- First Prize: \$1,500 + public credit + documentation access during the build + site visit + portfolio use of published materials.
- Honorable Mentions (up to 2): features across project channels and site visit invite.

By using this document, the user acknowledges its educational reference nature and agrees not to rely on it for any official purpose and to hold harmless and indemnify contest organizers from claims arising from such reliance.



Legal Pointer

By submitting, you agree to the Under Construction HTX Submission Terms & Agreement.

Under Construction HTX — Submission Terms & Agreement (2025)

By submitting an entry to the Under Construction HTX 2025 Student Design Competition (the “Competition”), you (“Entrant”) agree to the following:

- 1) **Eligibility.** Entrant is a current student or a recent graduate (≤ 24 months) of an accredited architecture or design program in the Houston area; teams may have up to two members. The team representative confirms all members meet eligibility.
- 2) **Originality & Permissions.** Entrant warrants that all submitted content—Design Package (plans, drawings, text, images, diagrams, models, files) and Media Package (video, audio, voice, stills, captions)—is original to the Entrant/team or properly licensed; that no third party rights (copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity, moral rights) are infringed; and that all necessary releases/permissions are obtained, including for any identifiable people or private property appearing in media.
- 3) **Ownership.** Entrant retains copyright in the Design Package and any original content created by Entrant.
- 4) **License for Use (all submissions).** Entrant grants Under Construction HTX, its organizers, partners, sponsors, and media channels a perpetual, worldwide, royalty free, sublicensable license to use, reproduce, publish, distribute, edit, excerpt, translate, publicly perform and display any submission materials (Design Package and Media Package) in any media now known or later developed, for promotional, educational, documentary, and archival purposes, with credit where feasible.
- 5) **Right to Build & Modify (winning/shortlisted designs).** To enable a real build, Entrant grants an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, royalty free, sublicensable license (including the right to create derivative works) to permit, build, have built, adapt, engineer, and modify the winning or shortlisted design(s) as needed for code compliance, permitting, budget, safety, and constructability. Entrant acknowledges the realized project may differ from the submission and that the organizers are not obligated to build any entry.
- 6) **Media Package — Release & Rights.** For the Media Package (video/stills/audio/captions/thumbnail text), Entrant grants the organizers the unrestricted right to use, edit, adapt, subtitle, transform, and publish across uchtx.com, Instagram [@underconstruction.htx](https://www.instagram.com/underconstruction.htx), YouTube [@UnderConstructionHTX](https://www.youtube.com/UnderConstructionHTX), and other platforms, in perpetuity and without additional compensation. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Entrant waives moral rights (including attribution/integrity) as to editing of the Media Package; organizers will make reasonable efforts to credit Entrant. If any minor appears, Entrant represents that parent/guardian consent is obtained and supplied.

7) No Further Compensation. Except for stated awards, no additional compensation will be paid for any permitted uses of submission materials. Taxes on awards/prizes are the Entrant's responsibility. (Top award currently \$1,500; additional visibility as described in the brief.)

8) Non Confidential Submissions. Submissions are not confidential. Do not include information you are not authorized to share publicly.

9) Attribution. Organizers will use reasonable efforts to credit Entrant in public uses where space and format allow.

10) Disqualification. Entries may be disqualified for being late, incomplete, unlawful, unsafe, plagiarized, or otherwise violating these Terms.

11) Indemnity. Entrant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the organizers, partners, sponsors, and their officers, directors, employees, and agents from claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of the submission, the Media Package, or Entrant's breach of these Terms.

12) Limitation of Liability. To the fullest extent permitted by law, organizers will not be liable for indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages, or lost profits/revenues. In any case, total liability shall not exceed USD \$100.

13) Data & Communications. Entrant consents to being contacted about the Competition and related educational events and agrees to reasonable data handling practices.

14) Governing Law & Venue. These Terms are governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Exclusive venue is the state or federal courts in Harris County, Texas, and Entrant consents to jurisdiction there.

15) Entire Agreement; Severability; Updates. These Terms, along with the published brief, constitute the entire agreement regarding submissions. If any provision is held invalid, the remainder remains in effect. Organizers may update administrative details (e.g., dates) without notice; material changes to these Terms will be posted on the Competition site.

BY SUBMITTING, YOU REPRESENT THAT YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THESE TERMS ON BEHALF OF YOURSELF AND (IF APPLICABLE) YOUR TEAM.