

NKBA | KBIS

Student Design Competition

2024-2025 | Official Rules & Entry Requirements

SPONSORED BY **FISHER & PAYKEL**

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About the NKBA | KBIS Student Design Competition

Winning this prestigious competition increases industry visibility and peer recognition, offers valuable publicity and networking opportunities, and acknowledges the talent of aspiring kitchen and bath designers. Students must plan beautiful, safe and functional spaces, incorporating creative design statements and aesthetically pleasing design solutions.

NKBA Student Members may enter the kitchen competition, the bath competition, or both. Their designs must be based on the client requests and plans provided.

The 2024-2025 NKBA Student Design Competition is sponsored by Fisher & Paykel.

Who Can Enter

Entrants must be NKBA Student Members enrolled in an educational institution on the date of submission. There is no cost to students to join NKBA.

Visit [here](#) to register as an NKBA Student Member. Except for experience derived from an internship, entrants must neither have worked in a professional residential design capacity (including interior design, architecture and related fields), nor have been paid for any design services rendered. This includes professional experience gained outside the United States and Canada.

Projects entered must be completed individually by the student designer. Co-designers are not permitted.



How to Enter

NKBA uses Award Force, an awards management software program, to manage the student design competition entries. Students can log on and create an account, submit a portion of the project and return to make final revisions before submitting the completed project by the deadline date.

Please include a headshot with your Award Force entry. Headshots can be any appropriate image (including portrait selfies).

Students can upload items individually as each section is completed. There is also the flexibility to edit the project, while it's in progress. No edits will be accepted after June 6, 2025. Submissions do not have to be in one PDF.

Entries must be submitted no later than June 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM EST. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT](#)

Winning Entries

The top winners in both the kitchen and the bath competitions will be recognized by their peers and industry professionals at the Design Competition Awards ceremony held during the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) 2026.

The winning designs will also be featured in an NKBA newsletter article, and awarded the following:

- First Place \$5,000 Scholarship**
- Second Place \$2,500 Scholarship**
- Third Place \$1,000 Scholarship**

Award winners will receive complimentary KBIS 2026 registration in Orlando, FL, including one expo floor pass, admission to the design awards ceremony, hotel accommodations, and airfare.

Entries Must Be Submitted No Later Than Monday, June 6, 2025, 5:00 PM (Eastern Time).

The NKBA is not responsible for those entries that are not submitted by the deadline.

Submission Requirements

- Review attached rubric for full list of expectations.
- Separate entry forms are required for each project submission; one entry for kitchen and one entry for bath.
- Drawings must be clean, easy to understand and professionally presented. Entries must be submitted digitally utilizing 11" x 17" page size or larger, such as 18" x 24".
- Drawings may be hand or computer-drafted black-lined originals or scans.
- Required drawings include a floor plan with construction changes identified, renderings, and elevations (of every wall with cabinets and/or appliances) following NKBA Graphics and Presentation Standards (fully dimensioned). No color may be used on drawings, other than on perspectives and renderings.
- Design statements must be typed and should not exceed 500-1000 words in length. Design statements may be in narrative or bulleted format. Entries submitted without a design statement will be disqualified.
- A concept board must be submitted digitally. This should include images and may include a material legend or labels for each product.
- **Personal identification and school identification must not appear anywhere on the drawings, file names, or concept board. Inclusion of personal identification information on any of the previously mentioned items will result in an automatic failure.**
- Colored perspectives and detailed drawing(s) of special construction to convey the concept are required.
- The use of Fisher & Paykel products is required. Visit the Student Design Competition [website](#) for a complete list of products.



Entry Checklist

Please review this checklist before submitting your entry:

- Separate entry form for each submission: one for kitchen and one for bath.
- Separate design statements detailing the creative solution for the kitchen and/or bath projects.
- Include color perspective and/or detailed drawings of special construction design features.

The following drawings must follow the NKBA Graphics & Presentation Standards (1/2" scale) and may be submitted on one or multiple floor plan pages:

- Floor Plan (fully dimensioned with specifications with construction & mechanical changes).
- Elevations of every wall with cabinets and/or appliances (fully dimensioned).

Judging

Entries will be judged on visual appeal, creativity, the elements and principles of design, the NKBA's 4th Edition *Kitchen & Bath Planning Guidelines* and NKBA Graphics & Presentation Standards. These topics can be found in the Kitchen & Bath Design Presentation and Kitchen & Bath Design Principles volumes of the NKBA Professional Resource Library or Knowledge Base. The minimum *Kitchen & Bath Planning Guidelines* to be judged can be found [here](#). Students should refer to these resources when designing their projects.

The NKBA reserves the right to disqualify an entry before, during, or after the contest judging.

In the case of disqualification after an awards ceremony, the entrant will be required to return the award and the association may make a public announcement.

The NKBA reserves the right to determine the number of entries that will be recognized with an award.

Individuals selected to judge the NKBA Student Design Competition are practicing, NKBA certified professionals.

The judges' decision is final.

Competition Scenario

The following story provides details about a fictional client and describes their requests for upgrading the kitchen and bathroom in their home.

Springing Into Retirement in Colorado

Lydia Bachman is a retired professor of anthropology who recently relocated to downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado. Brimming with shops, restaurants, culture, and beautiful historic homes, Lydia was delighted when the opportunity arose to purchase an attractive bungalow in a vibrant neighborhood. Looking forward to this next chapter in her life, Lydia plans to renovate the house. She wants to create a great space for pursuing hobbies and hosting guests. Her housemates include two Labrador Retrievers; her beloved pets that are always included in activities and gatherings.

Built in 1895, Lydia's bungalow features a recently remodeled basement, which includes a beautiful primary bedroom and bathroom for Lydia. The first floor of the home presents great opportunity for renovation, especially as the owner desires to make the kitchen and bath areas more accommodating for guests. The kitchen is situated between a pantry and dining area. Lydia is interested in opening this space and creating a floor plan that's more ideal for cooking and entertaining. Having space for an herb garden is a must as Lydia loves incorporating fresh ingredients in her cooking. She would also like to preserve the small built-in hutch located at the entrance of the dining room. Lydia finds this small space both functional and charming. She would like to preserve, relocate, or even expand this alcove.

From her years in academia, Lydia has created relationships with colleagues around the world, many of whom are now dear friends. She looks forward to hosting them for extended periods and wants to treat them to a touch of luxury in their guest accommodations. This includes the first-floor bathroom. Starting with the basics, a vanity and storage space are necessary, as well a larger shower. She seeks recommendations for other special touches for this space. Lydia also wants to ensure that the bathroom be comfortable for her guests with mobility issues. When it comes to style, Lydia loves the craftsman look. She would prefer a historical feel to the space, keeping with the age of the home while also ensuring it has all the modern amenities.





Springing Into Retirement in Colorado

Additional Property Information

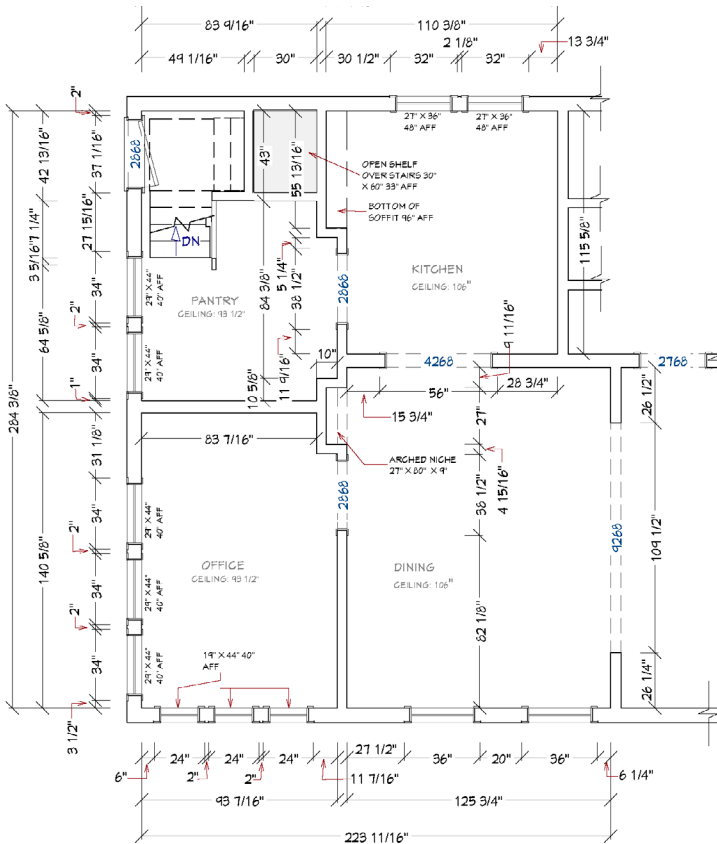
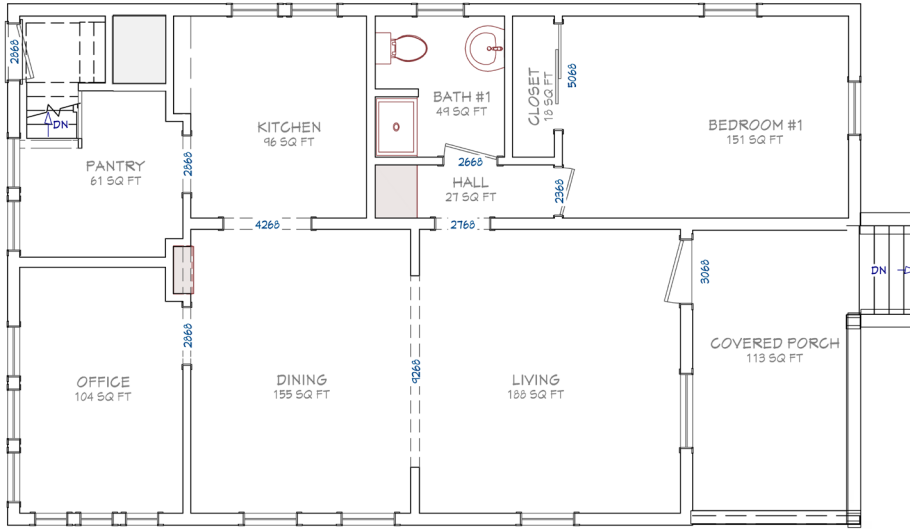
- The new kitchen can incorporate the existing kitchen, pantry, and office space. The stairs must remain as they are.
- A built-in hutch must be incorporated somewhere in the design.
- Seating for four is needed in the kitchen area for entertaining her friends, and a wine storage area is greatly desired.
- The closet in Bedroom 1 can be utilized as part of the bath as well as part of the hallway.
- The use of Fisher & Paykel products is required.
- Please utilize the most recent standards in your submissions. An abbreviated version of the *NKBA Kitchen & Bath Planning Guidelines*, 4th edition is available for reference.
- If you encounter a question not directly addressed here, please use your creativity to resolve the issue in your design.

Entries will be judged on visual appeal, creativity, the elements and principles of design, the NKBA 4th Edition *Kitchen & Bathroom Planning Guidelines* and NKBA Graphics and Presentation Standards. These topics can be found in the Kitchen & Bath Design Presentation and Kitchen & Bath Design Principles volumes of the NKBA Professional Resource Library or Knowledge Base. The minimum *Kitchen & Bath Planning Guidelines* to be judged can be found [here](#). Students should refer to these resources when designing their projects.

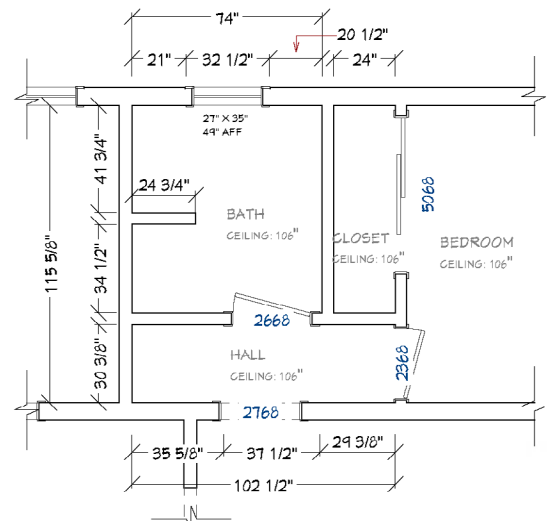
The Floor Plans

The floor plans below are for reference only and are NOT to scale.

[Please click here to view full 11"x17" floor plans built to scale on nkba.org.](http://nkba.org)



KITCHEN PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"



BATH PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

Submission Scoring Rubric

This rubric is a guide to help define the scorable components of competition entries.

Design Statement	15
Concise Description (about 500–1,000 words)	5
Thoughtful Reasoning/Justification For The Design Choices Made	5
Identification of Trade Partner Relationships/Collaboration to Effectively Complete Design	5
NKBA Graphics & Presentation Standards	20
Title Block, Scale & Text: Entry #, job name, address, page numbers, scale size, etc.; 1/2 inch scale on all documents drawn & labelled correctly; size hierarchy, font size & style, and consistency	5
Legend, Specifications, Notes, & Details: Numbered items on plans; in a table on side of page, & appropriate and consistent within plans	5
Floor Plan(s): Dimensioned floor, construction changes & mechanical	5
Elevation Plan	5
NKBA Planning Guidelines	40
Egress & Passageways	10
Activity Centers & Adjacencies	10
Fixture & Equipment Planning	10
Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, & Safety	10
Aesthetic & Creativity	25
Accurately Addresses Client's Objectives	5
Aesthetic/Visual Appeal: (color, texture, pattern, rhythm and repetition, scale and proportion)	5
Executability	5
Creative Problem Solving	5
Creative Use of Materials	5
Total Possible Score	100

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