

**NEWH Green Voice Design Competition provides students with the opportunity to showcase their design skills while utilizing the very best in sustainable design products and practices.**

**\$7,500 undergraduate scholarship award**

**\$7,500 graduate scholarship award**

**Awards to be presented in November at BDNY 2026 in New York City**

**Instructor Criteria:**

- Instructors may use the competition as a class project. Each student must include a submittal form.

**Student Criteria:**

- Open to declared **Interior Design** or **Architecture** students attending an accredited college/university  
Undergraduate Students (in second year or above of a 4- or 5-year program – Bachelor level degree sought);  
Graduate students (master's or above programs).
- The competition can be completed individually or as a team. Teams: The team can be composed of no more than (2) students who meet the criteria above. If Undergrad and Grad students work together, then the submission will compete for the Graduate level award. If awarded, students will split the \$7,500 scholarship. Each student would receive paid travel and lodging for the awards event.
- Winner(s) must be available to attend the awards event at BDNY in November 2026 (travel and lodging are provided). If unable to attend for valid reasons, student may be asked to select (1) college representative (faculty or advisor) to attend on their behalf.
- Project Submittal Form: ALL projects MUST include this form.
- Due date for all submittals: **Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 11:59 pm EST**

**Questions:**

- newh.scholarship@newh.org or 1.800.593.6394; Canada, EU, & UK: +1.715.514.2338

**Judging:**

- Submissions are judged on competition criteria and professional appearance by NEWH, Inc. Scholarship Committee.
- Up to (5) projects will be selected as finalists for each scholarship (undergraduate and graduate) and will move on to be judged by a panel of professional industry judges.
- Final winners are selected from the judges' recommendations and criteria scores.
- NOTIFICATION: Participating students and instructors will receive notification stating the status of their project submittal(s) prior to April 10th, 2026.
- AWARD IF THERE IS NO QUALIFYING WINNER: In the event judges are unable to identify a winning project for one scholarship – graduate or undergraduate, that scholarship will be awarded to the interiors program of the student or student team who won. The award may be used by the interiors program to enhance the educational needs or materials of the design studio. A school representative must be able to attend the award presentation.

**LOCATION/PROPERTY TYPE**

Identify for use an existing commercial building. Repurpose the building and surrounding site into a hotel property. Your building can be located anywhere, urban, or rural, on earth. (<https://earth.google.com/web/>) The building does not have to be currently vacant.

The purpose of this exercise is to follow the current trend of transforming empty commercial buildings for other uses – such as hotels.

**Project Summary**

This competition will focus on an adaptive reuse and sourcing sustainable materials to comply with the LEED v4.1 – Material Ingredients credit from the [ID+C Guide](#). Through the use of storyboards, animation, annotations, rapid visualization, 2D drawings and 3D perspectives, the student shall tell a sustainable story for both the guest experience and the employees who work on-site.

Describe the experience beyond what the guest can see, meaning what are the associated sensory qualities (i.e., smell, touch, sounds) that will augment your design drawings. Students will execute a dynamic, creative, cutting-edge design utilizing products; technologies, systems, materials, and construction practices that assist in meeting the deliverables as outlined. No set budget required, so have fun!

**Design Criteria: must include, but is not limited to:**

**Adaptive Reuse:** The project will complement the current trend of transforming former commercial office buildings that currently sit vacant into new types of spaces, including hotels.

**Healthy Materials:** This project will specifically focus on LEED v4.1 Materials Ingredients credit from the ID+C Standard. You can achieve either *Option 1: Material Ingredient Reporting* or *Option 2: Material Ingredient Optimization*.

Full Details on the credit are listed here: [https://build.usgbc.org/ID+C\\_Guide](https://build.usgbc.org/ID+C_Guide)

Resources to explore LEED v4.1 Compliant Products:

- <https://portal.mindfulmaterials.com/>
- <https://transparencycatalog.com/>
- <https://www.ecomedes.com/>

**Location:**

- Provide a narrative that conveys:
  - why you selected the building and the property's relationship to its surrounding community & culture.
  - why you chose the geographic location and how the adaptive reuse project will enhance the community.
- Building location and orientation to be shown on a site plan.
- Provide an overview of the surrounding community and culture and relationship to the design site.

**Materials/Products:**

- Include a minimum of 2 products from NEWH Green Voice Sponsors that are manufacturers - <https://newh.org/scholarship/green-voice-design-competition/>
- Description/specification of materials and any relevant construction notes to justify your design solution.
- For any schedules (furniture, lighting, etc.) listed under the Design Scope, utilize either an Excel spreadsheet or Word chart format to organize the required specification info.
- Selection of sustainable interior materials & furniture which support the chosen certification.

**Operations**

- "Innovation & Emerging Technology" is a component of the design criteria.
- Orientation of unit/building and its connection to the outdoors, i.e., outside light/window treatments, heat generation within the space (efficient use of energy).
- Water-use management/cost-saving technology and product design of plumbing and eco-friendly fixtures
- Indoor air quality issues addressed with appropriate material and furniture selections; consideration of health challenges, i.e., COVID-19.
- Energy-management/energy-efficient technology as it relates to climate control, smart lighting, operable window coverings, HVAC technology, guest comfort and well-being.

**Submission**

- We encourage the use of rapid visualization, 2D drawings, and 3D renderings to adequately convey your design concept.
- Actual work may be created virtually or photographed for submission.

**Design Scope:**

Student design must include:

- Front Desk/Lobby/Check-in or arrival space
- Deluxe Guest Room(s) (including bath) – minimum 2 room schemes

The design must also include a minimum of 3 additional spaces from the options below:

- Spa/Pool
- Restaurant/Bar or Cafe

- Fitness Center
- Innovative Public Space - A public space that adds an innovative element to the hotel property and guest experience, i.e., an art gallery, cultural exhibit, retail space, wellness center or any other creative concept you would like to design. It can be an interior or exterior space.

**Submittals:**

*Submit in 1 PDF: Conceptual Plans, Elevations, Drawings & Specifications*

- Floor Plan of all designed areas.
- Furniture Plans of all designed spaces to include lighting, ceiling accents and specialty design items
- Reflected Ceiling plans of all designed spaces to include lighting, ceiling accents and specialty design items
- Lighting Schedule and Specifications for all decorative and essential lighting
- Interior Elevations of the main walls showing important elements of the design concept
- Finish Floor plans of designed spaces with construction notes and Finish Schedule
- Branding & Signage Design for the spaces.
- Renderings, Rapid Visualizations – telling the **guest experience** story and showing design intent for spaces
- Index of all Sustainable Sources/Systems utilized. Include “Innovation & Emerging Technology”
- Minimum of 2 product specifications from NEWH Green Voice Sponsors that are manufacturers:  
<https://newh.org/education/>
- Certification Spreadsheet - LEED v4.1 Materials documentation: Provide a spreadsheet with the product selected and link the associated sustainability certificate.

*Submit in (1) combined PDF file:*

- Design Intent Narrative - max 500-word essay describing design intent and project description
- Location Selection Narrative: (500 words max)
  - why you selected the building and the property’s relationship to its surrounding community & culture.
  - why you chose the geographic location and how the adaptive reuse project will enhance the community.
- Biography about you, the designer – max 500 words
- Student Resume
- Project Submittal Form: <http://newh.org/scholarship/green-voice-design-competition>

*Optional Submittal: 10 (ten) Minute (maximum) video presentation about your concept.*