

Building perfect solar home

School of Architecture competes in solar project

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Students from University of Waterloo School of Architecture will be part of a team heading to Washington to build the best solar home.

A total of 20 universities from around the world have been selected to compete in the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, an extremely high profile event to be held in October.

The competition involves building a full scale solar power house.

School of Architecture is working in collaboration with Toronto's Ryerson University and Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Known as North House, each of the three universities brings something unique to the project. Waterloo is leading the project and concentrating on off-grid housing and structure, Ryerson will contribute energy modelling and analysis, while Simon Fraser will develop an "adaptive living interface" that allows the house's occupants to adjust energy settings easily through touch controls built into the walls or

remotely via cellphone and computer.

A significant aspect of the project is fundraising to cover the cost of building the home and transporting it to Washington.

School of Architecture is hosting a fundraiser Feb. 12 from 7 to 10 p. m. with a guest speaker Richard King, director of the Solar Decathlon. For more information about the fundraiser or the project, email events@team-north.com.



North House is a joint collaboration with University of Waterloo School of Architecture, Toronto's Ryerson University and Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.