

# PREFAB 20\*20

## Visions for 400 Square Foot Homes

### An International Open Ideas Competition

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Dating as far back as the 17th Century and widely popular in the early 1900s, cost-effective prefabricated housing is not at all a new concept. The increasing demand in today's market for modern/contemporary design and sustainable housing options has renewed the appeal and desire for a new generation of prefab solutions. Prefab 20/20 challenges you to bring forth exciting and attractive housing alternatives: your solution will amplify the advantages of its production, assembly, and logistics, without losing sight of its social implications. Your solution will showcase quality urban living space on a compact scale, and eliminate the social stigma of utilitarian prefabricated home of the past.

We believe quality and good design are pragmatic steps towards a sustainable future. Compact living space requires a level of discipline and environmental sensibility that ought to be endorsed. Small space living means living smart!

Sponsors:

**AZURE**

architecture for humanity  
VANCOUVER

**IDSwest**  
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW WEST  
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2009  
VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE, CANADA PLACE IDSWEST.COM

**AIBC**

ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Bespoke, site-specific architectural design has been highly valued throughout history; it dominates the popular notion of domestic architecture. While one might argue that the meaning of "prefab housing" falls short in this context, prefab housing does offer an entire different set of ambitions: sustainability through efficiency, economy, and quality through volume, to name a few. This concept is increasingly relevant to our imploding cities of today and tomorrow.

With Prefab 20/20, we take the position that compact living space, combined with the advantages of pre-fabrication techniques, is a strategy designers can employ in response to the ever-growing population that makes up the urban fabric around the world. Through Prefab 20/20, you will help break common perceptions of density and social stigma created by prefab solution that came before.

Moreover, prefab structures can be viewed from a social perspective as a communicative platform that breaks down boundaries and allow communities, city officials and designers around the world to share new ideas about sustainable densification. After all, urban density is a supranational phenomenon.

#### YOUR CHALLENGE

Your challenge is to propose a free-standing, prefab dwelling unit for a footprint no more than 400sf (37.5sm) in an urban setting anywhere in the world. Fit for two adults, its basic program shall include sleeping, bathing, cooking, living, working/studying, and storage areas. Entrants are free to deviate from the basic program but justification must be included. *See also Design Considerations.*

#### TIMELINE

May 9, 2009	Competition Launch
June 15	Early Bird Registration Deadline
July 31	Registration Deadline
August 31	Submission Deadline *5pm Vancouver, BC
September 17	Winners Announced

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#### ELIGIBILITY

Prefab 20/20 is an open competition; all submissions will be accepted. A non-refundable entry fee of \$50Cdn (Early Bird Registration \$35Cdn, *See Timeline*) must be included with each individual submission. *See Application Form.*

Employees of the AIBC, Architecture for Humanity Vancouver, IDSwest, and Azure are not eligible to win the competition, but may partake.

#### WINNING ENTRY

The winning entrant, selected by our jury, will receive a \$1,000Cdn award. The first two runners-up will each receive a \$250Cdn award.

#### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

##### 01 THE SITE

The site can be situated in any urban setting in the world. Your proposal should not be an "one-off" installation; rather, it should be adaptable to various sites.

The footprint of the design can be of any geometry as long as it does not exceed 400sf (37.5sm). Vehicular parking is not a requirement.

Entrants are encouraged to look at how their chosen site can be contextualized within transport grids, power grids and other community amenities. Entrants may make recommendations on changes their chosen site should amend in order to encourage sustainable density.

The performance of the design in various climate conditions should be considered. Design for a climatic range of your choice.

Consideration should also be given to the design's environmental impact, both on and off site.

## 02 DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Designs should give consideration to quality, comfort, and safety in a compact environment. Entrants should also consider the cost and availability of the materials needed for the design. However, new production methods that promote sustainability can be promoted.

Entrants are encouraged to incorporate reclaimed material for the construction of the skin, frame and connections. Standardization of components and variations from within should be encouraged.

Entrants should consider and demonstrate procedural steps: building kit of parts articulating different elements, taking inventory, creating a directory of resources, and refining the detailing.

Entrants are encouraged to think about how their design may be varied to suit different climatic, geographical, economic, political and social conditions.

## 03 SOCIAL DIMENSION

Entrants are urged to think beyond the architectural artifact and consider the social dimensions that frame a community's understanding of place, home and growth. Such questions might include:

What dialogues will the designer have to have with the community with whom s/he is working to derive the eventual pre-fabricated form?

What kinds of relations will the designer have with the manufacturers of the pre-fabricated structures s/he has designed?

What social incentives can be given to manufacturers and home-owners in the community to partake in the production and use of pre-fabricated structures?

What rhetoric can a designer adopt to communicate the positive effects of a reduced dwelling area and low-cost pre-fabricated structures to cope with housing shortages?

How can pre-fabricated structures be regarded as socio-spatial platforms for their inhabitants to actively engage with increased density?

What kinds of new urban communities can be formed around these pre-fabricated structures?

How can pre-fabricated structures be adapted across the globe to deal with varied climatic, cultural and political conditions without assuming an universal design?

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### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES & TERMS

Submissions must consist of one 36x48 inch presentation board, landscape format, in High Quality PDF format.

The presentation must also include a write-up of no more than 500 words describing the project.

All submissions must be submitted electronically, either on CD/DVD or transmitted electronically. Please refer to the application form.

Registrants will receive a unique Identification Code within 48 hours of registration. Label your PDF file in the following manner: <Identification Code>.pdf. Also please include your Identification Code in the lower left-hand corner of your presentation board with the following typeface: Helvetica or Arial, size 12.

Names of participants, groups, studios/companies are not permitted on any presentation material, and storage media.

Submissions must represent original works, and participants assume any and all responsibility for any breach of intellectual property or copyright entitlements of others.

This competition is being held in accordance with the Architectural Institute of British Columbia Policy 6.13 regarding Architectural Competitions.

IDSwest, Azure, and Architecture For Humanity Vancouver and the Architectural Institute of British Columbia reserve the rights to showcase submitted material on the world wide web, as well as any future reproduction and/or publication.

All entrants agree to the organizers' free use of submitted images and copy for promotion of Prefab 20/20. Appropriate credits / authorship will be given.

This is an ideas competition and as such does not entail the construction of submitted projects.

By entering the competition, all contest participants agree to all terms of the competition; moreover, decisions of the jury shall be final and binding.

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### SUBMIT ENTRY FEE VIA PAYPAL

Paypal account is not required. Visit [www.afh-vancouver.org](http://www.afh-vancouver.org)

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### SEND YOUR CD/DVD TO

PREFAB 20/20  
C/O INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW WEST  
510-1185 WEST GEORGIA STREET  
VANCOUVER, BC V6E 4E6 CANADA

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### QUESTIONS?

Email [prefab@afh-vancouver.org](mailto:prefab@afh-vancouver.org)

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### JUDGING CRITERIA (100 POINTS TOTAL)

Overall Concept / Program / Design	40
Prefab Concept / Creativity / Adaptability	25
Siting / Social Dimension	25
Climatic & Ecological Concern	10

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## JURY

### Oliver Lang, MAIBC

Lang Wilson Practice in Architecture Culture

Oliver Lang, a registered architect in Germany, America and Canada, is co-founder of Lang Wilson Practice in Architecture Culture (LWPAC) with Cynthia Wilson. LWPAC has designed and built projects in Canada, China, Chile, USA and Spain, and has won several awards such as the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Excellence, the AIBC Innovation Award, the 2008 Governor General's Medal in Architecture and the ACSA Faculty Design Award. Lang holds a Diploma Ingenieur in Architecture from Technische Universitatet Berlin and a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University. He has taught at Columbia, Princeton, UPenn, SCI ARC and UBC.

### George Wagner

School of Architecture of Landscape Architecture, University of British Columbia

George Wagner has done extensive research on urban forms and their ideological implications, contemporary Japanese architecture and the relation between architecture and modernity. His writings have been published in journals such as *Perspecta*, *Bauwelt*, *AA Files*, *Canadian Architect* and *Harvard Design Magazine*. He is also the editor of several books including *Tokyo* from Vancouver, *Thom Mayne: The Sixth Street*, *Stanley Saitowitz: A House in the Transvaal* and *Barkow Leibinger Architects: Werkbericht 1993 – 2001 Work-Report*. Prior to teaching the professional Master of Architecture at UBC, Wagner taught at Rhode Island School of Design, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Yale University, Cornell University and Rice University.

### Maged Senbel

School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia

Inspired by the ongoing quest for environmental and social justice Maged Senbel's research traverses the space between architecture and planning, between design and

public decision-making. Specifically, his research focuses on participatory processes that contribute to producing better sustainable designs. Prior to teaching Urban Design at UBC, Senbel taught at the University of Utah where he launched and directed the Westside Studio, an interdisciplinary teaching and research centre in Salt Lake City's lowest income and highest diversity neighbourhoods. The project brought together students from architecture, urban planning and business. He was named Professor of the year for the College of Architecture and Planning at University Utah. He is also an associate at Studio Senbel Architecture + Design, Inc.

**Michael Geller**, MAIBC, FCIP  
The Geller Group

Michael Geller is a Vancouver based architect, planner, real estate consultant and property developer with four decades of experience in the public, private and institutional sectors. He is president of The Geller Group, which comprises Michael Geller & Associates Limited (MGAL), Laneway Cottages Inc. and Geller Properties Inc. His firm has been active in urban planning and real estate consulting, overseeing significant developments in the South Shore of False Creek and Bayshore areas. Most recently his firm has been involved in developing laneway housing around the Vancouver region. Geller is also a frequent contributor to the Vancouver Sun on issues of architecture and urbanism. From 1999-2006 he served as president and CEO of the SFU Community Trust, where he was responsible for SFU's "UniverCity", the sustainable community development project adjacent to the Burnaby Mountain campus. Currently, he also serves as an Adjunct Professor at SFU's Centre for Sustainable Community Development.

**Kristina Lee Podesva**  
Artist

Kristina Lee Podesva is an artist, writer, and curator based in Vancouver, Canada. Her research interests concern the production of space and subjectivity in urban settings. She is the founder of colour.school, a free school within a school

(UBC where Podesva completed her MFA) dedicated to the speculative and collaborative study of five colours (white, black, red, yellow, and brown) and cofounder of Cornershop Projects, an open framework for engaging with economic exchange. In between things, she is assistant editor at the Fillip Review, a Vancouver-based critical theory and art magazine. She is, most recently, the inaugural Artist in Residence Program at Langara College Centre for Art in Public Spaces.

**Duane Elverum**  
Emily Carr University

Duane Elverum is assistant professor and academic advisor at Emily Carr University where he teaches in design and sustainability. This past term he co-taught with Janet Moore in SFU's Undergraduate Semester in Dialogue on the theme of Designing the Future. His research centers on sustainability learning in higher education, aiming to understand how design can proceed in ways that matter to the atmosphere. He asks, how can the environment be better because of our work? Duane is currently responsible for emitting .3 tons of CO2 per year into the atmosphere, and has crossed the Pacific Ocean in a sailboat five times. He received a degree with honors in architecture from the University of British Columbia for his thesis on alternative urban housing.

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#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Jason Heard**, Show Director, Interior Design Show West

**Linus Lam**, Director, Architecture For Humanity Vancouver

**Patrick F. Chan**, Educator, AFH Vancouver

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#### PROJECT SHOWCASE

At the Interior Design Show West, we are constantly striving to introduce new architectural concepts through event features - from the Concept Condo (a 300 sqft 'living display' at the inaugural show) and The Pod (complete fold-together structure in Year Two) to the Smallworks Studio/Laneway home showcased at the 2007 show. We are again looking to push the boundaries of architecture on the West Coast through a competition based on concepts for pre-built structures.

IDSwest, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, Azure magazine and Architecture For Humanity Vancouver will present PREFAB 20/20 – Visions for 400-square-foot homes, An Open Ideas Competition at IDSwest 2009. A 20ft x 20ft floor space will be dedicated to highlighting select entries for this exciting competition. Selection, made by show management, will be based on compatibility with the show. The display will be hosted at IDSwest from September 17 to 20, 2009.

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#### SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

##### Interior Design Show West

IDSwest is Western Canada's annual design show and event, attended by design professionals, an affluent consumer audience and media. Participation is open to manufacturers, distributors and importers, retailers, designers and others interested in marketing, selling and promoting Canadian and International products and services for residential design. [www.idswest.com](http://www.idswest.com)

##### AZURE Magazine

AZURE's international scope covers the best innovations in architecture and design, from the latest green designs to cutting-edge technology and building materials. Published eight times a year, AZURE is an indispensable resource for architects, designers and the design-savvy public. [www.azuremagazine.com](http://www.azuremagazine.com)

##### Architecture For Humanity Vancouver

AFH Vancouver is a registered not-for-profit society promoting architectural and design solutions to local, social and environmental issues. Through design/build projects, competitions, workshops, educational forums, partnerships with related organizations and municipalities, it strives to create opportunities for Vancouver architects, designers, and artists to improve quality of living through design, and to help communities in need. We believe innovative, sustainable and collaborative design can make a difference. Reflecting the multi-disciplinary nature of the practice, our volunteers are consisted of Architects, Planners, Interior Designers, Engineers, Artists, Industrial designers, Graphic designers, Educators, Community Activists, and Students. [www.afh-vancouver.org](http://www.afh-vancouver.org)

##### Architectural Institute of British Columbia

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) is a self-governing body dedicated to excellence in the profession of architecture for the benefit of society, the environment and its membership. The AIBC is responsible for registering and regulating architects throughout British Columbia. Through its many professional programs, partnerships and community initiatives, the organization also strives to be an ambassador on behalf of the profession and its practitioners in B.C.

Through the AIBC, architects are licensed to assure the public that individuals calling themselves architects have the necessary qualifications. The AIBC is also mandated to promote and increase the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members in all things related to the profession, and to advance and maintain a high standard for the practice of architecture. [www.aibc.ca](http://www.aibc.ca)

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