Obtain a Set of Custom House Plans

Students in the Building Construction Management Program at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville are required to take the senior level “Residential Planning and Design” course (3 semester credits). Topics include space planning, room relationships, good traffic patterns, structural details, building code requirements and other related topics. Students also learn how to layout and draw the views in a set of house plans using state-of-the-art CADD software.

Each semester students must draw a set of house plans based on requirements established by the instructor. This year students will be offered another option. They can work with an actual family who is planning to build a house in the near future. Providing students with this option is win-win for everybody involved: it can help a Parkersburg family affected by tornado help recover and it provides the student with a “real world” experience in designing and drawing a set of house plans.

Drawings include:
- Floor Plans (1/4” = 1’0” Scale)
- Foundation Plans (1/4” = 1’0” Scale)
- Site Plan
- Elevations
- Wall Sections
- Door and Window Schedules
- Features incorporated for obtaining Energy Star Certification of the house

Obligations of the Home Owner
- Meet with the student designer to determine house design requirements.
- Provide a legal description or map of the lot or land where the proposed house is to be built including the location and access to utilities (electricity, water, sewer/septic, natural gas/propane, phone, cable TV).
- Provide timely response to student questions (via phone, fax, US mail, or email).
- Give feedback on draft copies of the plans. Paper copies of the plans will be placed in a cardboard tube and exchanged via US mail. Owner will be asked to cover postage costs.

At the end of the semester the student will provide the owner with the set of drawings on Size D sheets (22” x 34”). Since this is only a 3 credit class, the student will not have enough time to completely design and draw all aspects of the house; e.g., there will be no plumbing or HVAC drawings. At a minimum, the owner will have something substantial which s/he can begin discussions with a local builder and general contractor.

For more information or questions:
Dr. Warner Smidt (former teacher in the late 1970s at Allison-Bristow & former member of Trinity Reformed Church)
608-778-8937 (cell phone)    smidt@uwplatt.edu (email)
Building Construction Management Program
Industrial Studies Department
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Platteville, WI  53818