

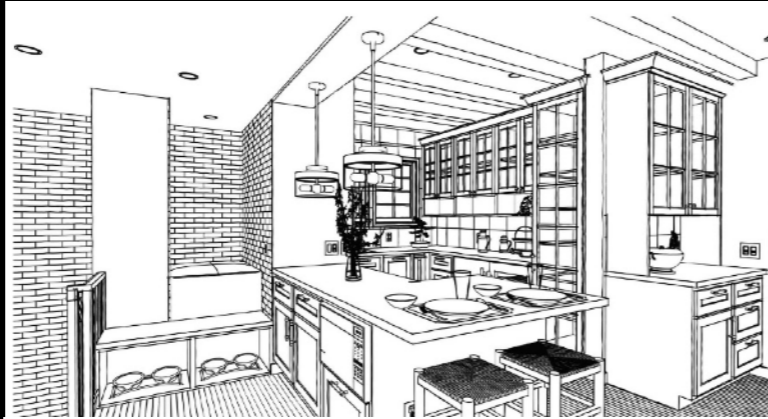
# NKBA

**Ontario/Canada Chapter**

**2026**

**Student  
Design Competition**

Official Rules & Entry Requirements



**NKBA | KBIS**  
Ontario/Canada Chapter

**2026**

## Student Design Competition

### About the NKBA Ontario/Canada Chapter

#### Student Design Competition

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

Their designs must be based on the client requests and plans provided. Projects entered must be completed individually by the student designer. Co-designers are NOT permitted.

#### 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 of Canada.**

# How to Enter

The NKBA Ontario Chapter uses Awardify, an awards management 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.

Competition **OPENS June 1, 2026.**

Please include a headshot with your Awardify 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 is in progress. No edits will be accepted after **June 30, 2026.** Submissions do not have to be in one PDF.

*Entries must be submitted no later than **June 30, 2026 at 11:59pm EST.** Incomplete entries will be disqualified.*

Link to Awardify can be found at:

<https://nkba.org/chapters/ontario-canada/events/>

Winners will be announced on the NKBA Ontario Awards Gala on November 11, 2026 and the Top 3 Winners will be featured on social media.



**2025 - 1st Place Winner  
Rachel Mendoza - Georgian College**



## Winning Entries

The winning designs will receive:

- First Place..... \$1,000 Scholarship  
\*Plus an Individual NKBA Membership (valid for 1-yr)
- Second Place..... \$500 Scholarship
- Third Place..... \$250 Scholarship
- (6) Honourable Mentions... \$50 Scholarship

# Entries Must Be Submitted No Later Than

## Tuesday June 30, 2026 11:59pm EST

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

### Submission Requirements

*Review attached rubric for full list of expectations.*



- Drawings must be clean, easy to understand and professionally presented. Entries must be submitted digitally utilizing 11”x17” page size. *Designs that are **NOT** 11”x17” will be disqualified.*
- 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 colour may be used on drawings, other than perspectives and renderings.
- **Design statements** must be typed and should not exceed 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.*
- **Coloured perspectives** and **detailed drawing(s)** of special construction to convey the concept are required.



## Entry Checklist

*Please review this checklist before submitting your entry:*

- ✓ Entry form.
- ✓ Design statement detailing a creative solution for the kitchen project.
- ✓ Include colour perspective and/or detailed drawings of special construction design features.
- ✓ A concept board must be submitted digitally, including a material legend and labelled products.

**The following drawings must follow 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.

Students should refer to these resources when designing their projects.

**The NKBA Ontario 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 scholarship and the association may make a public announcement.

The NKBA Ontario reserves the right to determine the number of entries that will be recognized with an award. Individuals selected to judge the NKBA Ontario/Canada 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.*

## Williams Family

This year's competition invites you to reimagine the kitchen for Camila and Mateo Williams and their vibrant family of five. Residing in the Westboro neighbourhood in the city of Ottawa, Ontario, the Williams family are deeply rooted in their community and envision their home as the heart of family, friendship and function. With three active children, plus a rotating door of friends, neighbours and relatives, this household regularly hosts gatherings of all sizes. Your challenge is to design spaces that support their lifestyle now and into the future, with bold style, thoughtful organization and warm hospitality at the forefront.

### Meet the Williams Family

Camila is the CFO of a successful Ottawa-based law firm, while Mateo works as a nurse at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital. Outside of his career, Mateo is a board member of their neighbourhood home association and co-chairs the quarterly block party. Camila and Mateo have three active children, ranging from middle school to high school. Their eldest daughter, Elena is a sixteen year old who enjoys playing soccer and competing in her school's annual robotics competition. Their fourteen year old son, Emilio plays football and participates on the debate team. Their younger daughter Gabriela is eleven and loves tennis and theatre. Each of the kids enjoys cooking and frequently initiates baking projects or helps their parents in the kitchen.

With one child already thinking about college, Camila and Mateo are thoughtfully preparing their forever home to grow with their family. They know how quickly time passes and want to create a space that not only supports their kids into adulthood but also welcomes them back with open arms. For them, this home is a foundation for every chapter to come.

*\*Exterior images of the home are for illustration purposes only. They are not intended to be exact interpretations of the design competition scenario or floor plans.*

*Renderings are provided by Yasir Mehar.*

# The Great Indoors

## Kitchen Remodel:

The kitchen is the epicentre of the Williams home and they are seeking a design that enhances both everyday living and frequent entertaining.

The new kitchen must accommodate dual cooks with induction cooking, expanded fresh food storage and a discrete “back of house” scullery are equipped with an additional sink and dishwasher to manage clean up behind the scenes.

A designated beverage station outside of the main fridge is essential and the layout should support casual weekday breakfasts with at least three counter-height seats, while also offering flexibility for larger table gatherings.

The design should celebrate Camila’s love of maximalist style, with curated colour and pattern combinations and Mateo’s passion for biophilic design, ensuring a seamless visual and spatial connection to their well-used backyard and patio.

*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.*

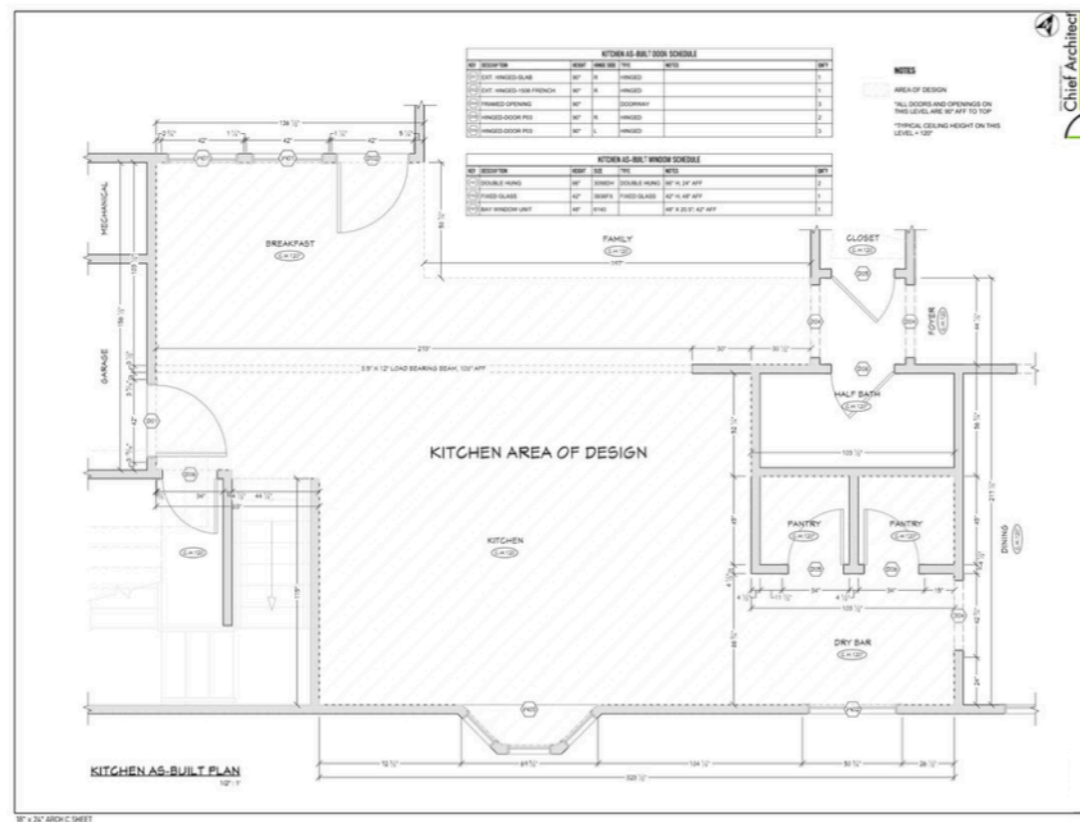
## Key Property Information

- ◆ The overall home design, including the exterior is considered transitional, blending traditional and modern elements.
- ◆ No changes may be made to any exterior windows or walls in the entire home; the client recently replaced all their doors and windows.
- ◆ Walls surrounding the two stairways cannot be modified.
- ◆ Appliances from any brand are permitted.
- ◆ The garage door entry cannot move.
- ◆ The load-bearing beam between the kitchen and the breakfast/family room must remain: it cannot be recessed into the floor above. The 30" wall to the right of the beam cannot be moved.
- ◆ Walls around the downstairs half bath may not be moved, however the two pantries can be deleted or relocated.
- ◆ The entry from the kitchen/pantry area to the dining room may be opened or relocated. Other than altering the entry, the dining room cannot be changed.
- ◆ There is a mudroom space in the garage; no need to add a mudroom space to the kitchen.
- ◆ The same flooring continues throughout the kitchen, breakfast nook, dry bar and pantry areas. Changes to the flooring are welcome but must be addressed accordingly.



## Floor Plans

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



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

This rubric is designed to assess multiple aspects of a design submission, balancing creative, technical and practical considerations.

Each category includes guidance bullet points for context, though these should not be interpreted as equally weighted criterion within their sections.

Category	Value
<p><b>Overall Design Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addresses client requests</li> <li>• Demonstrates functional use of space, including effective appliance integration.</li> <li>• Is executable and possesses real-world “sales potential”</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Design Statement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly articulates design concept</li> <li>• Explains connection between concept and execution</li> <li>• Expresses innovative, user-centered solutions</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Integration of NKBA Kitchen &amp; Bath Planning Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Egress and passageways</li> <li>• Fixture and equipment planning</li> <li>• Mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and safety</li> <li>• Activity centers and adjacencies</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>NKBA Graphic and Presentation Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of title block, scale, and text</li> <li>• Inclusion of legends, specifications, notes, and details</li> <li>• Dimensioned floor, construction, mechanical, and elevation plans</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Aesthetics and Creativity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual appeal</li> <li>• Creative problem solving</li> <li>• Use of materials, including appliances</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>

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