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Student-Built Tiny Home and Projects Roll Out for Public Viewing

PALM DESERT, CA (April 18, 2023) – The public is invited April 25-27 to a showcase of architecture student projects, including a tiny home designed and built by students at College of the Desert and Desert Sands Unified School District.

The tiny home and student creations will be displayed in the amphitheater on the College's Palm Desert Campus, 43-500 Monterey Ave., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on each of the three days.

The campus showing of the 225-square-foot home is aimed at students and community members who did not catch its debut at Modernism Week in February.

"This began as a competition for architecture and design students studying sustainable building and they developed something really impressive," said Professor Bert Bitanga, who led the project. "The students learned important skills like framing, wiring and plumbing and earned academic credits too."

Construction of the winning design began in 2020 and was supported by a \$125,000 Strong Workforce Grant from the state and textbooks provided by the Southwest Carpenters Union. The home, which took 18 months to finish, has a bathroom, kitchen, sleeping loft, ductless air conditioner, an electronic awning outside and solar power with backup batteries.

A second home funded by a Strong Workforce grant will be completed next month and a third will start in the fall.

On Tuesday, April 25, the architecture and design student exhibit will be joined by Roadrunner Makers, which offers equipment such as 3D printers, laser engravers, a T-shirt heat press and Cricut for student and faculty use.

For more information, visit collegeofthedesert.edu.

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