

A stylized graphic of a firework or explosion. It features a bright green central point from which numerous lines radiate outwards. The lines are primarily purple and blue, with some green lines. The lines have a wavy, ribbon-like appearance, giving the impression of a firework burst. The background is black.

My Visit to the Solar Decathlon Exhibit

The solar decathlon is a competition in which 20 colleges and universities from all over the globe design solar powered homes, then build them and operate them.



The homes were taken
apart by the teams and
rebuilt in their entirety on
the National Mall.



The floor plan of the homes could only take up approximately 800 square feet, the size of a relatively large one bedroom apartment.



Each home contained a kitchen, a living room, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a dining area. Homes also had washers and dryers. All of the homes that I saw had beautiful gardens attached. Some of the gardens had vegetables growing in them.

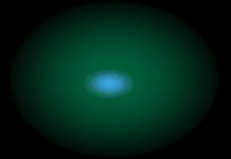


Teams competed in the following areas



- Engineering (150 points)
- Communications (100 points)
- Architecture (200 points)
- Appliances (100 points)
- Getting around (100 points)
- Market viability (100 points) [means: Would real people buy the house?]
- Comfort zone (100 points)
- Hot Water (100 points)
- Energy Balance (100 points)
- Lighting (100 points)

Here are some pictures
that I took.



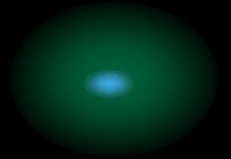








Aerogel – A special material developed by NASA that resists heat much more than regular insulation but also lets light in. It was used as insulation for at least two of the homes that I saw.











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