

Practice

Calling All Great, Not-So-Big Houses

Examples of compelling residential design needed for book, TV series

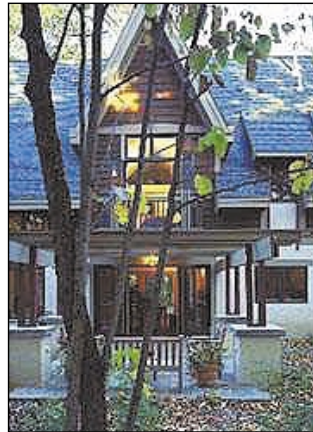
Do you have a residential project so compelling and well designed that it oughta be in pictures—or maybe even featured on TV? If so, Sarah Susanka, AIA, could use your help. Susanka, author of *The Not So Big House*, and *Creating the Not So Big House*, currently is working on her third book, *From House to Home*, to be published by Taunton Press. The new book hopes to take readers through a series of architectural concepts that can help turn any house into *Home*.

In addition, Susanka is working with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) on a series about residential architecture highlighting many her book's concepts. This series is designed to heighten public awareness of both the benefits of architect-designed houses, as of architecture in general.

For both the book and the TV series, Susanka Studios is seeking well designed residential projects that illustrate architectural concepts, including (among hundreds):

- Shelter around activity
- Ceiling height variety
- Light to walk toward
- Focal gathering place
- Layering
- Theme and variations
- Connecting views
- Light screens
- Texture variation
- Visual weight
- Window composition
- Brilliance in a dark place.

To minimize the number of locations for photo shoots, the studio hopes to select several projects that offer numerous examples of such architectural concepts. Projects of all budgets, scales, styles, and localities are needed. Owners must be comfortable opening their house to a film crew, and be willing to



Designed by architects Michaela Mahady, AIA, and Wayne Branum, this house exhibits all the characteristics of a Not So Big House—beauty, charm and comfort—a true expression of its owners (from the Not So Big House Web site, www.entsobig.com).

sign releases for publication. (If a client wishes to remain anonymous, no personal names or locations need be used.)

Susanka Studios currently is developing the photo shoot list for the book, which will be submitted in October or November, with final selections made by December—so submit your projects soon. (See Submission Details on next page.) Submissions for the PBS series will be ongoing, so please keep it in mind as your new projects are designed and built. (See list of questions and answers about the PBS series projects on the next page.)

For more information about submissions, contact Janet Maineri, 530-642-9425 or janet@entsobighouse.com

For more information about the concepts behind the “Not-So-Big House,” visit www.entsobig.com. Also, Susanka's first two books, *The Not So Big House*, and *Creating the Not So Big House*, are available from the AIA Bookstore, 800-242-3837, option #4.

more on next page

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continued from previous page

Submission Details for *From House to Home* and PBS Architecture Series

Send all submissions to: Janet Maineri, PO Box 86, Coloma, CA 95613.

If you have questions, email janet@notsobighouse.com or call 530-642-9425.

Please consider the following:

- Prints or good quality color copies are preferred; slides are acceptable. The ideal submission would include prints/copies with a CD containing the same images in jpeg format. Whenever possible, submit good quality images – we need to be able to understand the space from the images you present.
- If sending electronic images, mail them on a CD. We cannot accept images by email
- Clearly identify the name, address, and telephone number of the firm and/or individual architect on all materials.
- Include construction date and costs, if available
- All submissions should include floor plans
- Ideally, note what architectural concepts you, as architect/designer, believe are best illustrated by each project. You may make up concept names to describe the ideas embodied in the design
- If you would like material returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and allow up to six months. Projects under short- and long-term consideration will be catalogued and possibly kept for some time. We'll contact you if that is the case.
- Don't let the guidelines hinder you; we'll review everything we receive.

Web site and electronic submissions

This submissions information will soon be posted to our Web site, www.notsobighouse.com.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept electronic images at this time.

Q and A: PBS Television Series

Will the name of the architects/designer be associated with the project?

Wherever possible, we will include references for architects and others involved with the project. The TV series will also direct viewers to our Web site, where we likely will feature more information about the project, the design and build team, materials used, etc.

Is there an age limit for projects?

While the age of a project is not important, although if the project looks at all dated, we likely will not use it. Another note—furniture does matter! A home that is well furnished accentuates the thoughtful design that went into the project.

Will you feature projects that address current issues, such as energy efficiency and New Urbanism?

Yes, particularly in later shows once we have established our core audience. In your application, please include a brief description of any applicable “angles” that we should know about. If we are considering the project, we'll contact you for more information.

Are you considering exteriors as well as interiors?

For the first season of the show, we will focus primarily on in-

teriors. However, we may catalogue submissions for future shows, so you may wish to also submit projects focused on exteriors.

Will you feature avant garde house design?

At present, we're focusing on houses that fit the general public's general idea of what “home” should look like—whether that be somewhat traditional or more contemporary in nature. As we establish our viewership, and focus on educating the public about good design, we may begin to feature houses of more cutting-edge design.

Are architects' houses good candidates?

Absolutely! If your own home fits the criteria we outlined, it is likely an excellent project to submit.

What if we have a great project, but a reluctant client?

While we expect that most clients will be interested or enthusiastic about their house being featured, we understand that some might be reluctant to open their homes to a day or two of filming, interviewing, etc. We encourage you to submit only projects whose clients are in full agreement. Reluctance on the client's part makes for a difficult project, and could potentially affect a relationship you no doubt worked hard to build. ■