# Recipe for a Room 2026: Places for Repair

Recipe for a Room, sponsored by the AIANY Interiors Committee, is a model-making contest about building spatial, sculptural, miniature rooms while fostering fun, creativity and professional mentorship. The contest:

- Showcases the work of NYC-based architecture and design students;
- Connects students with professional mentors, design critics and presentation coaches;
- Raises awareness and funds for a local not-for-profit serving New Yorkers in need.

Students will be paired with architect mentors and design small-scale **Places for Repair**. Per AIANY 2026 Chapter President Mark Gardner's theme of REPAIR https://www.centerforarchitecture.org/support/presidents-circle/, students will create spaces which heal, fix or assist something they identify as 'broken' in this city. Consider social, economic, physical and ecological forms of repair. Funds donated by contest sponsors and supporters will benefit the Repair Café El Barrio in East Harlem.

***Repair*** definition(verb): *to restore by replacing a part or putting together what is torn or broken; to restore to a sound or healthy state; to make good or set right.*

Participants: **We seek (8) eight student designers who will be enrolled in Architecture or Interior Design programs in New York City during Fall 2026.** Past participating schools include Columbia University, Cooper Union, New School/Parsons, NYSID, NJIT, Pratt Institute, NYIT, Syracuse University's Fisher Center and CCNY's Spitzer School of Architecture. Past mentors include firm leaders at Ennead, FX Collaborative, Gensler, SOM, Rogers Partners, Studio397, Rice+Lipka, COOKFOX, Bernheimer Architecture and more.

Model-Making: Each student will build a physical model of their room, at 1"=1'-0" scale. The imagined room will be a max. size of 8' x 8' x 8' (max. model size of 8" x 8" x 8"). Hand sketching, 3D studies and failed attempts are encouraged! Document your process and concept development. Students will build their models at home and upload their designs via (3) 11x17 pdf images and a 1-minute video set to music.

The Big Event: Presentations of the Rooms to (3) three contest judges will take place in-person at the **Contest Event on Wednesday, 09/09/26 at the AIANY Center for Architecture**. Voting will be live and 2 winners will be selected – Audience Favorite and Judge Favorite. Winning designs will be featured on the Center's website and social media!

Contest Schedule:

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| Deadline for Student Applications: | July 1, 2026, 6:00PM EDT |
| Selected Participants Notified: | July 17, 2026 |
| Contest Kick-Off Call: | July 28, 2026, 5:00PM EDT, Zoom |
| Design, Model and Video Making: | July 31 - August 21, 2026, 6:00PM EDT, remote |
| Practice Run "Dress Rehearsal": | September 2, 2026, 6:00-8:00PM EDT, in person |
| **Live Contest Event:** | **September 9, 5:30PM, AIANY Center for Architecture** |

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegyRYufJHZTn17dlLm4bIMbte6TZyLdm1ZJNtx0WG_bUnnuw/viewform?usp=header

**Now accepting statements of interest for the 2026 contest!**
Enter by 6PM EDT on July 1, 2026. Do not submit portfolios or resumes.
No AI, please.