Solar Decathlon Celebrates 20 Years of Building Impact

To celebrate 20 years of advancing the buildings industry, the Solar Decathlon created: 1) a Virtual Village with walkthroughs of the most recent zero energy homes, a sneak peak of the 2023 Build Challenge houses, and a 20th anniversary pavilion; 2) an interactive infographic with timelines, maps, and images that display more when hovered over; 3) new competition trophies made from reclaimed wood and recycled metals, highlighting the Solar Decathlon logo; and 4) a 20th anniversary video featuring footage from 2002 to today.

Cheers to 20 Years!
Since 2002, the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon® has empowered more than 25,000 collegiate students from around the world to design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy. Thousands more have joined one of the six international competitions, making the Solar Decathlon brand one of the most recognizable in the collegiate competition sphere.

• As the competition has grown, the branding and visuals have been refreshed to remain current and reflect its continued impact.
• New 20th anniversary materials included: 1) a Virtual Village; 2) an interactive infographic; 3) new trophies made from reclaimed wood and recycled metals, highlighting the Solar Decathlon logo; and 4) a 20th anniversary video featuring footage from 2002 to today.

Explore more, including alumni features, through the 20th anniversary landing page!

Logo Evolution
The Solar Decathlon team created a special logo to highlight the 20th anniversary (B), then took it a step further with a brand refresh (C) that kept the competition’s heritage while updating the font and colors for a more modern look. 20 years in, the Solar Decathlon is expanding, so a modular branding kit was developed to support the identity of the new programs.