

## Solar Decathlon Europe 2014

La Cité du Soleil - Versailles

June 28 to July 14, 2014

### What is the Solar Decathlon?

The Solar Decathlon is a competition originally initiated by the Department of Energy in 2002 where collegiate teams design, build, and operate cost-effective and energy efficient solar housing. Students spend a full two years to design, prepare their entries, and build. The competition went international only a few years ago – with Spain hosting the first Solar Decathlon in Europe in 2012. France immediately expressed interest in hosting a 2014 event. The competition is now held annually – with the U.S. hosting the event biannually (in odd-numbered years), and international partners hosting the event in even-numbered years. The event features 20 collegiate teams whose entries will be judged by panels of expert jurists according to defined standards. <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/>

### Solar Decathlon Europe (SDE) 2014

This is the first SDE to be held in France at Versailles. It will be a competition of 20 selected university teams that will create, design, and build a highly energy efficient dwelling. The teams come from all over the world. The teams will compete over 16 days, from June 28th to July 14th, 2014, where their designs will be judged on very specific criteria relating to architecture, energy, comfort, social-economic standards, innovation and sustainability. <http://www.solardecathlon2014.fr/en/>

### The participating partnered U.S./European teams

The U.S. has two teams, each partnered with European universities, participating in SDE 2014. Appalachian State University is partnered with the University of Angers in Angers, France on an energy plus house design, dubbed “Maison Reciprocity”. The Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University are also partnering with Germany’s University of Applied Sciences of Erfurt for a textile built house called “Techstyle Haus”.

***Maison Reciprocity:*** Project Reciprocity stems from the desire to design a house with perfect balance between reciprocal elements such as privacy versus interaction, aesthetics versus performance, design versus construction and spaces versus systems. The Maison Reciprocity concept is about creating an open and adjustable environment which can evolve to fulfill the inhabitants’ needs over time.

Density, flexibility and mass customization are key



elements of the prototype whose main ambition is to achieve regional universality through smarter, adaptable, affordable and energy-efficient social housing solutions. <http://reciprocity2014.com/>

**Techstyle Haus:** The concept of Techstyle Haus revolves around the choice of very atypical textile materials. The challenge is to reveal that materials dictate form and not the other way round.

The house will utilize a highly engineered textile envelope to help passively regulate all the properties of the house. These textiles are highly performant; they are lightweight, which allows for easy transportation of the house. The textiles allow for a modular design and adaptive spaces than can answer increasingly diverse needs of the modern family. Techstyle Haus might even serve as a learning tool or a playground, providing enjoyable and didactic interactions with younger inhabitants. <http://www.techstylehaus.com>



### **What Next**

If you liked what you have read and seen, then go out to Versailles and visit the Solar Decathlon Europe and support the participating U.S. Universities and their projects!

The houses will be open for visits during the following hours:

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m. until 2:30p.m. and 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Weekends: 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

### **U.S. Country Day**

If you are looking even for a little bit more... of America....then come to the Solar Decathlon on July 2 and participate in the U.S. Country day. Perhaps you will learn a little hula dance or even some country line dancing steps. See you there!