

Purpose

Calgary Youth Design Society (CYDS) is a free youth-led design society for Calgary-area teens 13+ interested in architecture, urban planning, sustainability, leadership, and portfolio projects. We are seeking small, practical forms of support from design educators, alumni, outreach teams, student groups, and professional mentors.

Who CYDS serves

- Students:** Calgary-area teens aged 13 and older
- Cost:** Free membership
- Focus:** Design skills, city projects, leadership, portfolio readiness, and mentorship outreach

Why this matters

- Many teens are curious about architecture, planning, sustainability, and design but do not know how to begin building real project work.
- CYDS gives students a practical path: observe a local problem, research it, prototype ideas, receive feedback, and document the process.
- The strongest outcome is not a certificate. It is a thoughtful project case study that shows curiosity, rigor, iteration, and public-minded design.

What we are asking for

Low-risk support

A 30-minute virtual guest talk, feedback on a challenge brief, or one student project critique.

Mentor connection

Referral to an educator, student group, alumni volunteer, or outreach program that supports youth design learning.

What we are not asking for

- We are not asking for formal endorsement, use of university branding, admissions promises, course credit, or certification.
- CYDS will not describe any organization as a partner unless support is confirmed and permission is granted.

Three preparation tracks

CYDS uses respected architecture and design schools as public learning benchmarks while keeping the work local, honest, and student-centred. Each track is an interest/preparation pathway, not an affiliation or admissions promise.

Important language

CYDS is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by UCalgary, UCL, MIT, or any university unless a relationship is explicitly confirmed.

UCalgary SAPL-Inspired

Local Calgary architecture, planning, landscape, public space, and community-impact preparation.

UCL Bartlett-Inspired

Global architecture benchmark focused on experimental process, portfolio storytelling, and built-environment thinking.

MIT Design Challenge

Innovation-oriented challenge work focused on systems thinking, prototyping, constraints, and impact.

Collaboration menu

Guest talk

30 minutes on design process, architecture school, portfolios, prototyping, or public-interest design.

Brief feedback

Review a 1-page challenge brief and suggest improvements before launch.

Critique session

Portfolio Q&A

Links

Tracks: <https://cydsociety.ca/university-design-tracks.html>

Contact: info@cydsociety.ca