

Case Competition Highlights

Graduate real estate education has embraced the concept of Case Competitions as a way to apply education-based learning to real world project simulation. In this issue of the Review, an inaugural recognition and composite of previous winners of the three major real-estate focused case competitions is presented. Each of these primary case competitions draw students from programs in real estate, architecture and landscape architecture, graduate business, and urban planning. These pages aim to highlight the ongoing success of these competitions, the teams, and the organizations behind the friendly competition.

The University of Texas—Austin McCombs School of Business Real Estate Challenge welcomes teams of real estate and business graduate students to propose an investment thesis from the perspective of an investment fund. Graduate student teams from top business schools compete for the highest honors and cash awards in an invitation-only real estate case competition. Each invited school may enter one team of up to six currently enrolled graduate students. Each team receives the case by email just days prior to the competition event, and must prepare a 20-minute presentation on the case. The competition takes place at The University of Texas at Austin. It is judged by accredited real estate professionals from nationally recognized companies. The case is custom-written for the competition and is provided by a leading global real estate investment institution.



2013 Challenge Winners

- 1st Place: University of Southern California
- 2nd Place: University of Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place: University of Texas
- 4th Place: Cornell University

2012 Challenge Winners

- 1st Place: Columbia Business School
- 2nd Place: University of Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place: University of North Carolina
- 4th Place: University of Texas at Austin

2011 Challenge Winners

- 1st Place: University of North Carolina
- 2nd Place: UC—Berkeley
- 3rd Place: University of Virginia
- 4th Place: University of Michigan



The CASE is an annual real estate competition that provides current graduate student teams an opportunity to compete, showcase their knowledge, and learn from each other through the analysis of a complex real world development site. The CASE is organized and hosted by the Alumni Association of the MIT Center for Real Estate (AACRE).

Unlike other competitions, The Case focuses on real estate acquisition and development underwriting at the asset level. The competition mimics the professional circumstances and assignments that students of real estate finance, construction, planning, and design will encounter in the formal development industry after graduation.



2014 CASE Winners

1st Place: Georgetown University

Honorable Finalists:
Harvard University
Columbia University

2013 CASE Winners

1st Place: Cornell University

Honorable Finalists:
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Georgetown University

2012 CASE Winners

1st Place: York University

Honorable Finalists:
Columbia University
Dartmouth College

2011 CASE Winners

1st Place: Cornell University

Honorable Finalists:
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Columbia University

The ULI Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition—now in its 12th year—offers graduate students the opportunity to form their own multidisciplinary teams and engage in a challenging exercise in responsible land use.

Student teams comprising at least three disciplines will have two weeks to devise a comprehensive design and development program for a real, large-scale site full of challenges and opportunities. Submissions will consist of boards that include drawings, site plans, tables, and market-feasible financial data. Each year the competition focuses on an urban site in a major metropolitan area.



Urban Land Institute

2014 ULI Hines Winners—Nashville

1st Place: University of Maryland
Finalist: Georgia Institute of Technology
Finalist: Harvard University
Finalist: University of Texas—Austin

2013 ULI Hines Winners—Minneapolis

1st Place: Kansas State University/
University of Missouri/University of Kansas
Finalist: Ball State University/Purdue University
Finalist: Harvard University
Finalist: Yale University

2012 ULI Hines Winners—Houston

1st Place: University of Colorado/
Harvard University
Finalist: Columbia University
Finalist: University of California—Berkeley
Finalist: University of Michigan