

Friday Architecture — Staff Cheat Sheet

Dream Home Design — Day 2 of 2 · PAL Center Summer 2026

Today's flow

Students arrive with their Dream Home Blueprint from yesterday's Woven session. Your job is to help them finish the cost research and total it up. The LearnDash page walks them through the structure — you mostly facilitate.

- **1.** Have students pull out their Blueprint from yesterday. If anyone lost theirs, give them grid paper and they can sketch a quick version.
- **2.** Project the Friday LearnDash page on screen. The page guides them through finishing research, totaling up, and sharing.
- **3.** Walk around. Help individuals look up prices, suggest features they didn't think of, encourage them to dream bigger.
- **4.** After research time, help them total it up (the math is just adding + a 15% contingency multiplier).
- **5.** End with the share-out. Each student takes about 90 seconds to show their Blueprint and final cost.

If a student is stuck — prompts that work

- **Frozen on features:** "Tell me one thing in a house you've seen that you love. Anything. We'll put it in yours."
- **Can't think of dream items:** "Picture your favorite restaurant or store. What do they have that you'd want in your house?"
- **Can't find a price online:** "Look at the cost ranges below — pick something in that range. Or call it 'somewhere in this range' and move on."
- **Worried their total is too big:** "Your total can be anything. \$500K, \$5 million, \$50 million. People build homes at every price. The number isn't the point — the dream is."
- **Doesn't know where to search:** "Try Home Depot for flooring. Best Buy for electronics. Tesla.com for solar. Look at HomeAdvisor for installation prices."

Quick cost reference

Approximate price ranges in Southern California, 2026. Share with students if they're stuck.

Item	Typical range	Notes
Base house construction	\$250 per sq ft	SoCal average for new build
Hardwood flooring	\$5–\$15 per sq ft	Engineered cheaper, solid pricier
Tile flooring	\$3–\$20 per sq ft	Wide range — porcelain to marble
Carpet	\$2–\$8 per sq ft	Installed
Kitchen sink	\$150–\$2,000	Single basin basic to farmhouse

Item	Typical range	Notes
Refrigerator	\$700–\$8,000	Smart fridges hit the top range
Dishwasher	\$400–\$2,500	Basic to Bosch/Miele
Stove / range	\$500–\$10,000+	Pro ranges (Wolf, Viking) climb high
Pizza oven (built-in)	\$300–\$5,000	Countertop to permanent install
Toilet	\$150–\$1,500	Smart toilets (TOTO) hit top end
Bathtub / shower	\$300–\$10,000	Soaking tubs and steam showers pricier
Light fixture	\$50–\$2,000	Chandeliers go higher
Interior paint	\$30–\$70 per gallon	1 gal covers ~350 sq ft
Exterior door	\$500–\$3,000	Front doors pricier
Window	\$300–\$2,000 each	Floor-to-ceiling glass walls go higher
Indoor or outdoor pool	\$30,000–\$100,000+	Indoor pools are 2–3× outdoor
Hot tub	\$3,000–\$15,000	Plus installation
Sauna	\$5,000–\$15,000	Infrared cheaper than traditional
Home theater (room buildout)	\$10,000–\$100,000+	Wide range — projector to full luxury
Recording studio (home)	\$5,000–\$50,000	Soundproofing is most of it
Tesla Solar Roof	\$15,000–\$60,000	Depends on roof size
EV charging station	\$500–\$2,000	Tesla Wall Connector, Level 2
Heated floors (per room)	\$2,000–\$5,000	Bathrooms most common
Elevator (home)	\$30,000–\$60,000	Two-story most common
Walk-in closet buildout	\$2,000–\$25,000	California Closets style higher
Landscaping (typical yard)	\$5,000–\$50,000	Mature trees and hardscape push up
HVAC (whole house)	\$8,000–\$20,000	Required in CA — non-negotiable

Dream features to suggest

If a student says "I don't know what else to add," throw these at them. The point is permission to dream — there's no wrong answer.

- Indoor basketball half-court · Skate ramp in the garage · Backyard treehouse · Trampoline room
- Recording studio · Gaming room · Streaming/podcast setup · Home theater with reclining seats
- Indoor pool · Hot tub · Sauna · Cold plunge tub · Steam shower
- Pizza oven · Sushi bar · Walk-in pantry · Wine cellar · Built-in espresso machine
- Library with rolling ladder · Reading nook with skylight · Window seats throughout

- Pet wash station · Built-in pet beds · Catio (cat patio)
- Indoor greenhouse · Living plant wall · Garden room
- Walk-in closet with island · Shoe wall · Built-in vanity
- Spiral staircase · Sliding library ladder · Hidden room behind a bookshelf
- Rooftop deck · Outdoor kitchen · Fire pit · Outdoor movie projector
- Smart everything — fridge with screen, voice-controlled lights, automated blinds
- Tesla solar roof · Battery wall · EV charging · Off-grid backup power

Helping with the final total

The math is simple addition + one multiplication. Help students walk through it on their Blueprint:

Line item	Amount
Base house construction (sq ft × \$250)	\$
Flooring (price per sq ft × sq ft)	\$
Kitchen amenities (sink, fridge, stove, dishwasher, etc.)	\$
Bathroom amenities (sinks, toilets, tubs, showers)	\$
Lighting + paint	\$
HVAC + doors + windows	\$
Landscaping	\$
Dream features (sum of every feature on their menu)	\$
Subtotal (add the above)	\$
× 1.15 (15% contingency for the stuff they forgot)	×1.15
FINAL DREAM HOME COST	\$

One last thing

The point of this workshop isn't the math, or even the house. It's that these students — who may have never been asked "what would you put in your dream home?" — got to dream big and put a real number on it. If a student leaves today saying "my dream home costs \$4 million" with a smile, you nailed it.

Thanks for running this with us today.