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# Dvira fights for top spot, from the ground up



Thornhill resident Dvira Ovadia is one of nine remaining contestants on *From the Ground Up*, a reality show featuring international designer Debbie Travis.

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A Thornhill resident is one of nine remaining contestants on a design-focused reality television show.

Earlier this year Dvira Ovadia was among 14 "protégés" selected from across Canada to compete on *From the Ground Up*, an *Apprentice*-style, elimination-based reality show created by design guru Debbie Travis.

Ovadia, a 26-year old architect with a Masters of interior architecture from the renowned Pratt Institute in New York, has worked most recently for a Toronto-based international design firm.

Though she currently lives with her fiancée in Thornhill, Ovadia was born in Israel and raised in Belgium, a background she says gave her "a unique cultural insight into design."

But in spite of all her experience, she

says the rigorous challenges on *From the Ground Up* pose substantial obstacles in high-pressure situations.

"More than anything, this experience has taught me how to think on my feet," she told *The Weekly*, adding that Travis herself is a tremendous source of inspiration. "Debbie still inspires me. She's able to appeal to the masses and she brings functional design to the everyday person. I've learned so much from her."

While Ovadia has managed to survive three episodes, she still has a long haul before her. There are eight other candidates vying with near equal fervour to land the prestigious role of Travis' chief designer on an upcoming project with Tribute Communities, a GTA-based home-builder.

*From the Ground Up* can be seen on Global Television on Thursday nights at 9 p.m. For more information, visit [www.globaltv.com](http://www.globaltv.com). For more on Ovadia, visit [www.dvira.com](http://www.dvira.com).

## Vaughan students awarded for business successes

Three York Region high school students have won first place and brought home \$1,000 each after participating in a Business Plan Challenge for high school students earlier this month.

The students were honoured at an awards dinner on June 14 which marked the third year for the challenge and highlighted a total of nine students from various high

successful future entrepreneurs; market research, marketing strategies, setting the right price, good record keeping and more.

"By providing this entrepreneurship opportunity and support to students now, we can hopefully one day look back and see that some have established themselves in a successful enterprise," says Teresa Saraceno, senior business consultant and