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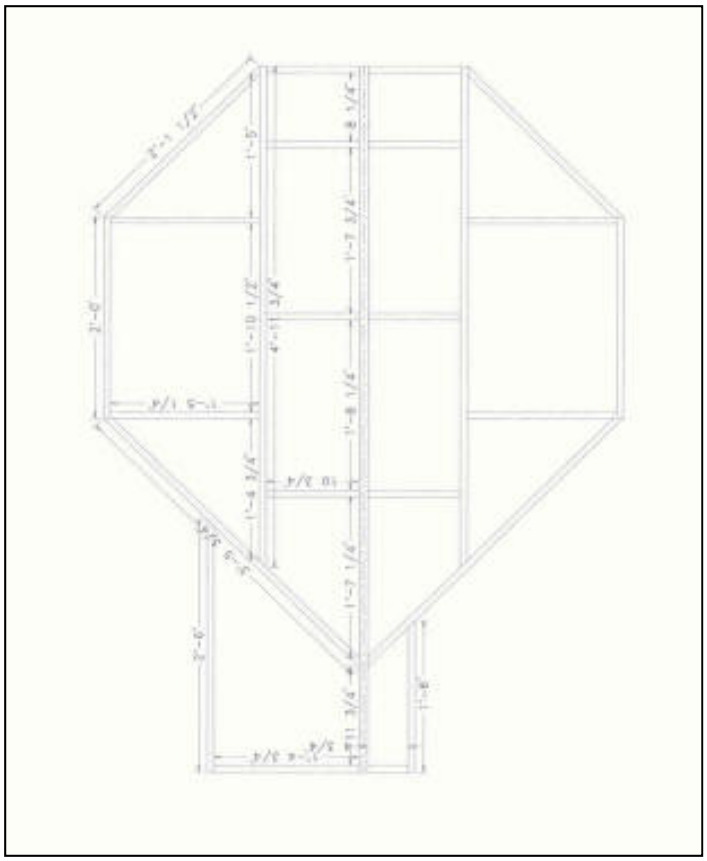
End Loop Design



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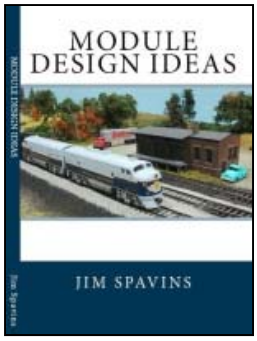
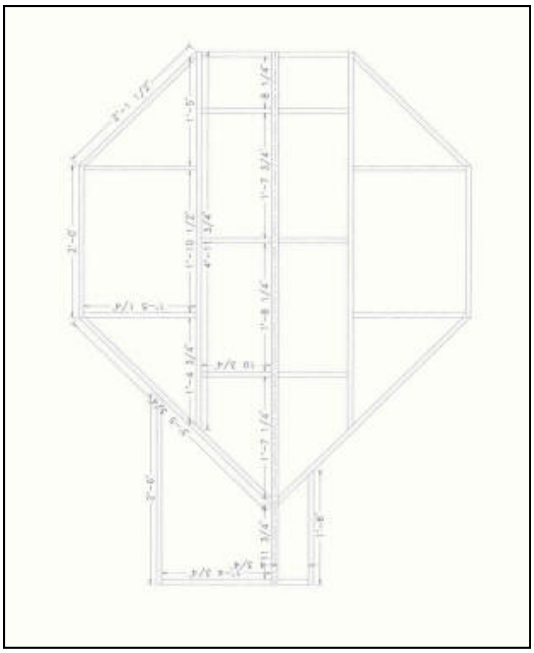
End Loop Design

By Stu Dom

amazon.com

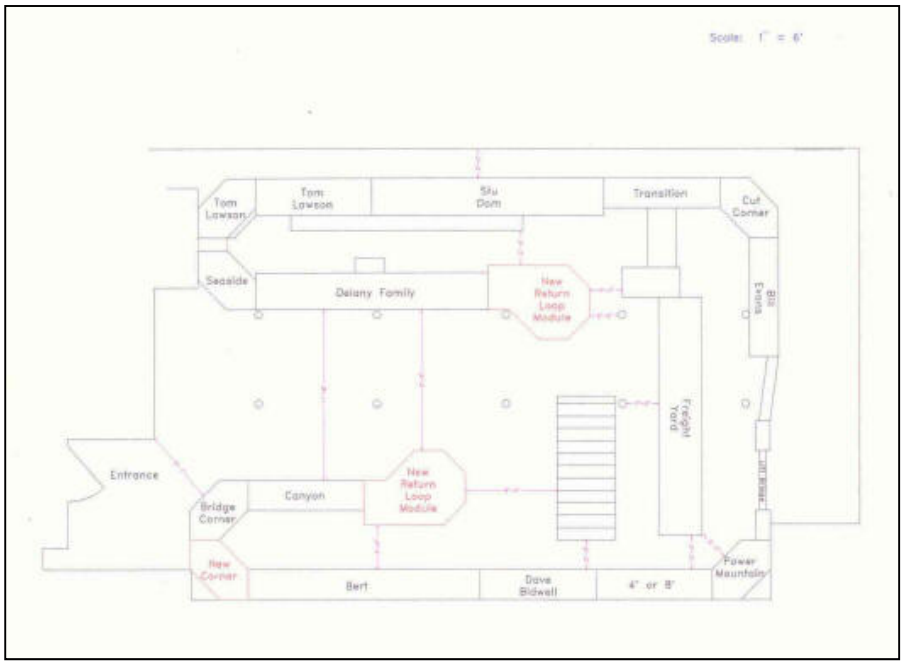


Looking for more module planning ideas? Check out the book Module Design Ideas. If you want to see all the designs from the book, visit the store or Amazon.com to purchase your copy today!



In the mid to late 1990s, my club seriously discussed the idea of building end loops for the HO scale layout. Basically, the mainlines would be a single loop connecting back onto itself instead of the current configuration where each inside and outside mainlines are separate. As shown, the radius on an HO scale end loop is 35”. An N scale loop could be made substantially smaller. In addition, the pleasant part of this design is that two or three staging tracks could also be placed on the inside of the loop.

By using these end loops, the advantage is that the need for a lift bridge or duck under to get to the operating area of the layout is removed. Also, much smaller layouts can be brought to shows if needed with layouts set up along a wall in a dog bone configuration or in an L-shape along two walls. One possible layout configuration is shown below.



However, the downside to the design of these modules is that the total width of the modules would be in the vicinity of seven feet which was deemed too bulky by the club. However, with some modifications and more advanced benchwork design, these loops can prove to add great flexibility to a modular club’s setup. Once again, an N scale version with a smaller radius, say 24”, could fit on a smaller module.