

**Member Project Highlight**

Photo: Daniel Jackson Photography

**2022 Design Awards Program Recipient, Award**  
**Abessinio Stadium Reconstruction**  
Wilmington, Delaware

The new Abessinio Stadium is the result of a transformative public-private partnership between Salesianum School and the City of Wilmington. The overriding goal was to save and reimagine the venerated 100-year-old complex in historic Brandywine Park, formerly known as Baynard Stadium. Immediately after the agreement was completed, a fast-track design process commenced. This collaboration involved the design and construction teams, the school, the city, Delaware State Parks and local community groups.

New event spaces support both the game day experience and a variety of non-athletic functions, both for the school and community. As part of the state park system, the stadium maintains dawn-to-dusk open-access use by the public, allowing for significant expansion of functionality and usage time, compared to the previous facility.

A unique aspect of the project was incorporating administrative and maintenance facilities for Delaware State Parks' Wilmington Operations, already existing on the site. Former long-use mobile offices were removed, and the Park and Ranger Offices are now housed on the park-level of the new 4-story Grandstand Building. Intermediate floors include home team locker rooms, athletic storage, and restrooms. The top level houses coaches/press boxes and a community event room that doubles as a skybox during athletic events and as a classroom/event space for state parks, community or school uses at other times. This top level also includes terraces that offer elevated views of the field, Brandywine Park and the Wilmington skyline beyond.

A second new building on the site is the 2-story Concourse Building which includes concessions, additional restrooms, and stadium offices. At this building's field level is a physical therapy office, open to the public, with direct access to the playing surface and running track. The lower level of the building houses visitor locker rooms and parks maintenance functions. Between the

Grandstand and Concourse Buildings is a landscaped ticketing area and a grand stair leading up to field level. This plaza relieves congestion along 18th Street and serves as a trailhead for Brandywine Park and the greater Wilmington Parks and State Parks systems.

### 2022 Chapter Design Awards, Award

Design Architect: [ABHA Architects](#)

Owner: Salesianum School and the City of Wilmington

#### Chapter Design Awards Program

AIA Delaware is committed to excellence in architecture and to celebrating outstanding works of architecture through its biennial Design Awards Program. [View 2022 Design Awards Recipients](#)

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## AIA updates the Framework for Design Excellence

By Greg Menti

**New updates to AIA's premier design resource aim to create a built environment that is healthy, resilient, equitable, and zero carbon.**



CONFLUENCE PARK, A 2023 COTE TOP TEN WINNER, REFLECTS THE STANDARDS OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE. (Image credit: Casey Dunn)

**This represents the “highest principles of architecture,” according to Allison Anderson, FAIA, 2022, chair, Framework for Design Excellence task group on the Committee on Climate Action and Design Excellence.** The Framework acts as a set of questions architects can ask of themselves or their clients to result in better buildings.

The Framework includes ten focus topics: design for integration, design for equitable communities, design for ecosystems, design for water, design for economy, design for energy, design for well-being, design for resources, design for change, and design for discovery.

“We want to continue to update it year after year so that it represents the fullest understanding

of design excellence and goals for building performance that can be achieved,” said Anderson.

[Read more >](#)

## Artificial Intelligence in Contract Management-Rhetoric to Reality

By AIA Contract Documents

**AIA Contract Documents**



Today’s automated contract management systems and their use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) grew out of three different disciplines – contract management, document management, and business analytics.

Contract management companies were usually founded by legal experts who sought to automate time-consuming tasks involved in contract administration. Their value statements revolve around faster approvals and automated management of contract to-do lists. Most were founded in the early to mid- 2000’s, with many adding AI text search capabilities in the last few years.

[Read more / Get the whitepaper >](#)

### Advocacy

#### Solutions for Cities

AIA leaders promote the value of architects to U.S. mayors to ensure the built environment is designed equitably and sustainably.





AIA staff and leaders attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors 91st Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. L to R: Michael Winn, Sr. Director, State & Local Advocacy; Courtney Hawkins, Manager, Digital Content; AIA President Emily Grandstaff-Rice, FAIA; AIA CEO/EVP Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, Kevin Holland, FAIA, chair, AIA's Government Advocacy Committee. Darral Tate, Assoc. AIA, co-chair, AIA's Public Awareness Committee, and Davon Gray, Managing Director, Advocacy and Engagement.

Before AIA leaders arrived at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 91st Annual Meeting, AIA architects were already serving city leaders by addressing issues on sustainability and resilience in the built environment in cities across the United States.

In Kansas City, AIA supported and worked with city leaders to ensure that energy efficiency and resiliency standards were not watered down during the recent building energy codes update. Adopting the latest building codes saves building owners and tenants money on their utilities, reduces negative health impacts, and saves \$11 for every \$1 spent by mitigating recovery from future natural disasters.

In Columbus, AIA members participated in the Buildings Task Force to shape the cities' climate action plan and meet its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030.

[Read more >](#)

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## Small Firms and the 2030 Commitment

By Eva Read-Warden, AIA, 2020 AIA Small Firm Exchange Texas Rep.

**Small firms have the potential to make a major impact on our profession's goal of achieving carbon neutrality. Ironic, isn't it?** Owners of small practices might feel like their contributions are inconsequential in the overall scheme of things. However, small firms make up 77% of the architectural practices in the US. If every small architectural practice signed on to the AIA 2030 Commitment, we would have a greater chance of truly achieving integration of sustainability principles into every project.



ENGLISH ARCHITECTS' EVELYN MEADOR BRANCH LIBRARY, HOUSTON'S FIRST LEED GOLD CERTIFIED LIBRARY

Practitioners in offices of 15 or fewer people usually wear many hats: chief marketer, administrator, finance officer, and principal architect. It can be overwhelming to add any more tasks to the to-do list, and even more overwhelming if you think the goal is perfection. But the 2030 Commitment is not as intimidating as you might think.

Established in 2009, the voluntary **2030 Commitment** seeks to transform the practice of architecture in a way that is holistic, firm-wide, project-based, and data-driven. By prioritizing energy performance, participating firms can more easily work toward carbon neutral buildings, developments, and major renovations by 2030.

[Continue reading >](#)

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# LET'S DESIGN A BETTER WORLD, TOGETHER.

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AIA is the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals—a 96,000+ member community who shares your passion for design, a desire to change the world, and a commitment to the highest standards of practice.

When you join AIA, you're joining our community—and so much more.

Membership connects you around key practice areas so you can share knowledge, partner on solutions, and learn from experts and creative thinkers.

It connects you to your local architecture community through your chapter, which hosts events, conferences, awards programs, and volunteer opportunities.

And it comes with unparalleled support AIA offers for your career, your practice, and the architecture profession, plus free [AIAU courses](#) and [free practice guides](#) and reports to help you design for equity and climate action.

It's this kind of support and community that matters. Join AIA, and let's design a better world, together.

[Join AIA today](#)

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[Young Architect Forum \(YAF\)](#)





### Did You Know?

The YAF Advocacy focus group had a webinar on the culture of architecture. If you missed it, check out the Q2 Connection and read about multi-cultural perspectives through the lens of diverse story-telling.

[Click here!](#)



**A'23 Conference was a blast!**

### 2023 Future Forward Grant Winner: Christina Ciardullo

Christina seeks to empower Architects with science-based methods to evaluate the costs and benefits of vegetation within the design process!

### Congratulations to the 2023 Young Architect Award Recipients!

These early career architects have been recognized with the Young Architects Award for their exceptional leadership and significant contributions to the architecture profession, including environmental advocacy, increasing access to great design, and mentoring future architects.

[Click here to learn more](#)

### Meet the Elected AIA Officials



Evelyn Lee, 2025 AIA President

[Click here to read more!](#)

### Call for Connection Content!

The Q3 Connection issue will focus on Education and Professional Development.

**Connection Q3 Drafts due: 8/25**

Contact the editor in chief at: [gbermea@vlkarchitects.com](mailto:gbermea@vlkarchitects.com)

### ASPIRE to New Heights

#### ASPIRE Conference

September 10-12, 2023 in Asheville

The premier conference for the built community to inspire, collaborate, and design the future.

[Click here to register](#)

### Women's Leadership Summit

September 12-14, 2023 in Boston

The event focuses on networking, leadership training, business development, gender equity, and personal empowerment.

[Click here to register](#)

## Young Architects Forum

Member group

### Important Links:

- [YAF on Instagram](#)
- [YAF on LinkedIn](#)
- [YAF on Facebook](#)
- [YAF on Twitter](#)
- [YAF Leadership](#)
- [Young Architects Award](#)
- [YAF KnowledgeNet](#)
- [AIA Acronym List](#)
- [YAF Issue page](#)

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## Career



**Delaware firms  
are looking  
for you.**

**Chapter Job Board**

[Chapter Job Board](#)



**Build your  
dream team  
in 2023.**

**Post a job >**

**AIA Career Center**

[AIA Career Center](#)

## Programs and Events

### Small Firm Exchange (SFx)

Roundtable & Virtual Coworking | August 15 | 12-2 PM  
virtual

The Small Firm Exchange (SFx) seeks to advance the mutual interests of architects practicing in small firms. The group advocates for the value of small firms within the AIA and to the public. It also promotes business development, marketing and leadership development. AIA DE SFx focuses the national mission at a local scale, engaging and supporting small firms practicing in Delaware.

Virtual coworking is a way to feel connected with others in these days of working from home. **You can drop in at any point during the session.**

#### ----Roundtable & Virtual Coworking----

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 12:00 to 2:00 PM

[Join the Discussion](#) | [Coworking Session](#) (via Zoom)

#### Questions?

Contact AIA Delaware Small Firm Exchange Representative  
[Willard F. Hurd, AIA.](#)

## Small Firm Exchange

 **Member group**

Roundtable & Virtual  
Coworking

Tuesday, August 15, 2023,  
12:00 to 2:00 PM

[Join the Discussion](#) |  
[Coworking Session](#)  
(via Zoom)

### Women's Leadership Summit 2023

September 12 - 14 | Boston, MA

WLS supports and empowers women on their leadership journeys and breaks down the barriers that get in their way.

Engage in high-impact programming, gain insights from keynotes and panels, explore tailored sessions/tracks, and network with industry leaders. Elevate your leadership potential and make a lasting impact on your career at WLS.

#### Registration pricing

- AIA Architect members: \$599
- AIA Assoc. members: \$299
- Nonmembers: \$749
- Platinum Pass: \$1,299 (includes VIP seating, fast-pass check-in, and additional VIP benefits.)



Women's Leadership Summit  
Boston Sept. 12-14, 2023  
Sheraton Boston

[Register for WLS 2023!](#)



## Structural Technology Course

October 7 & 8 and 14 & 15, 2023



This course provides an overview of the fundamentals of the structural technology topics that every architect should be aware of. It also helps intern architects prepare for the structural portions of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE 5.0) offered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

Sponsored by  
Virginia Tech's College of  
Architecture, Arts and  
Design

- **Part One** (General Structures) reviews the necessary knowledge on structural theory and behavior of different building components in steel, concrete, and wood.
- **Part Two** (Lateral Forces) emphasizes the effects of lateral forces on buildings and structural framing layout.

[More information and to Register](#)

## Member News

### Becker Morgan Group Supports Sean's House: The Unlocke the Light Movement

In honor of the firm's 40th anniversary, Becker Morgan Group was honored to support Sean's House in Newark, DE, with a donation of \$4,000. Our Principals and staff chose to celebrate 40 years by giving back to the local communities where they live and work as an expression of gratitude. The donation was presented to Chris Locke, Founder of Sean's House (right), and to Zach Ryan, SL24 Executive Director (left), by Christopher D. Duke, PE, Associate Principal of Becker Morgan Group (center).



ARCHITECTURE  
ENGINEERING



This foundation was created to honor the life and memory of Sean Locke, who struggled with mental illness. The Unlocke the Light movement at Sean's House mission is to educate high school and college students about depression, provide suicide prevention resources, help with life transitions, and create a safe haven where students can receive professional help.

"Sean's House is an amazing place," noted Duke, "We're very fortunate to have an office on the University of Delaware Campus and proud to support all the bright and talented young people in this community." Becker Morgan Group is honored to support the mission, vision, and values of Sean's House, working to empower those in the local community and beyond.

### Becker Morgan Group Recognized by Engineering News Record

Becker Morgan Group is honored to be recognized by Engineering News Record as a



# ENR

Engineering News-Record  
MID-ATLANTIC

2022 Mid-Atlantic Top Design Firm for the ninth year in a row. Ranking #64 represents a 4-point climb up the list from the prior year. Projects contributing to this success include Wor-Wic Community College’s Patricia and Alan Guerrieri Applied Technology Center, Milford Police Station, Milford Wellness Village, and Margaritaville Hotel & Resort.

“We are proud of our talented staff and thankful for our devoted clients who have made this achievement possible,” said Founder and President W. Ronald Morgan, AIA.

As a news leader for the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) industry, Engineering News Record’s Annual Top Design Firms list ranks the largest U.S. design firms based on design-specific revenue in each region. The Mid-Atlantic encompasses Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and DC.

### About Becker Morgan Group

Established in 1983, Becker Morgan Group is a leader in architecture, engineering, surveying, land planning, and interior design in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States. Learn more at [www.beckermorgan.com](http://www.beckermorgan.com).

## Our Partners



## Partner News

### Welcome to the AZEK Company

As the innovative manufacturer of beautiful, low maintenance and environmentally sustainable outdoor living products, AZEK™ is deeply committed to making a lasting impact on the world by accelerating the use of recycled materials. Consistently recognized as the market leader in innovation, quality and aesthetics, products across The AZEK® Company’s portfolio are made from up to approximately 90% recycled material and



primarily replace wood on the outside of home townhomes, apartments and businesses providing a long-lasting, eco-friendly and stylish solutions for you and your customers.

## THE LEADER IN OUTDOOR LIVING



### OUR PURPOSE

Revolutionizing outdoor living to create a more sustainable future.

### WHY WE'RE DIFFERENT

We leverage our material science to create premium branded products that are stylish, long-lasting, low maintenance and environmentally sustainable.

### OUR BRANDS

The Floor: [www.TimberTech.com](http://www.TimberTech.com) Sustainable outdoor living deck, rail, and accessory products.

The Walls: [www.AZEKExteriors.com](http://www.AZEKExteriors.com) The brand most recognized and trusted for trim, AZEK™! Also includes mouldings, siding and like products for the walls of your homes.

The Ceiling: [www.StruXure.com](http://www.StruXure.com) The modern-day pergola where you control the space with function and beauty.

### LET'S CONNECT

Sharon Moore, Sr. Area Sales Manager. Delmarva Peninsula  
AZEK & TimberTech  
(302) 233-5358 | [Sharon.Moore@azekco.com](mailto:Sharon.Moore@azekco.com)

## Landmark Ties for "Best in Show"

Landmark participated in this year's Food Bank of Delaware's CANgineering competition. The competition was stiff with some really amazing builds using cans and boxes of non-perishable foods. We were so happy to tie for the BEST IN SHOW category with our detailed 3D replica of the entire Food Bank of Delaware's Newark Farm site! What a great team-building experience, all while bringing attention to and helping FBD feed the hungry.







### WE BUILT IT!

**840 CANS, PACKETS & BOXES OF THE FBD'S MOST-NEEDED FOODS:**

*tuna fish, peanut butter, applesauce, canned meals, soups and vegetables*

+ THE WAREHOUSE IS FILLED WITH DONATED FOODS FROM OUR FOOD DRIVE. Thanks to all who donated, including the *crowning touches* added by Mrs. Delaware, Mrs. Middletown, Delaware's Outstanding Kid, and Cinderella Tiny Tot!

If you're curious, here's everything we used to build the Food Bank of Delaware Newark Farm Site:

### BUILDING/SITE

Warehouse Building – 155 cans of garbanzo beans, Spaghetti O's, and vegetables; Warehouse Interior Structure – 100 boxes of Kraft mac & cheese; Building Roof – 70 boxes of Jiffy corn muffin mix; Roadway – 112 cans of tuna fish; Stormwater Pond – 91 tuna fish packets and 24 bottles of blue Gatorade; Pond sidewalls and sidewalks – 27 spaghetti boxes; Grass cover – 75 applesauce 6-packs; Mulch/dirt cover – 44 packs of oatmeal; Tree trunks – 15 jars of peanut butter; Tree tops – 18 green soup cups

### FARM

Farm Tractor – 9 boxes, cans, and pepper mill; Pole Barn & Farmstand– 50 cans of Hormel Chili, tomato sauce and Campbell's Soup; Gazebo – 4 cans of tomato paste and soup bowl; Greenhouse/high tunnels – 5 mashed potato 4-packs; Row Crops – 15 cans of spinach, corn and green beans; Grain bin – 2 cans of oatmeal.

Read our blog for more about how we built our winning entry: <https://www.landmark-se.com/cangeineering-for-food-bank-delaware/>

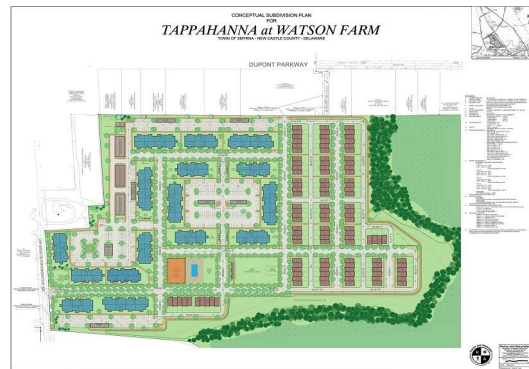


**CCRF Skate Event-**

Karins and Associates' employees are lacing up their skates to support our chosen charity for 2023, Children's Cancer Research. We're raising funds to make a difference in the lives of courageous children battling cancer, helping support their fight and contribute to groundbreaking research. Let's bring smiles, hope, and brighter futures to these incredible children.

Every contribution counts toward helping children fighting cancer.

**Karins and Associates** has offices in Newark and Georgetown, DE, Bryn Mawr, and Exton, PA and Forest Hill, MD. For more information, visit us online at [Karins and Associates](http://Karins and Associates) or call us at 302-369-2900.



**Tappahanna at Watson Farm** is a 53.53 acre Planned Village Community along the west side of DuPont Parkway at the north end of the Town of Smyrna.

The Concept Plan, which depicts 324 apartments and 110 townhomes, has received a favorable review by the Planning Commission, and the Mayor & Council, and will now proceed through the plan approval process. This is the first of three farms to be developed.



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## Wohlsen Construction - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bayhealth Medical Center Emergency & Outpatient Building



Wohlsen's team members recently attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Bayhealth Medical Center Emergency and Outpatient office building.

This new 45,000-square-foot cutting-edge two-story facility sits on an 18-acre greenfield site. It offers an 11,000-square-foot hybrid freestanding emergency department and urgent care facility.



Services offered include diagnostic imaging, specimen collections, integrated primary/immediate care, and integrated specialty care services.

We are happy to have been part of the construction team for this new, innovative facility that serves Sussex County's 250,000+ residents.

**Wohlsen Construction** provides construction management, general contracting, and design/build services to clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions. As a leading merit shop firm, Wohlsen provides construction services in the senior living, education, healthcare, manufacturing, and commercial markets and maintains full-service offices in Wilmington, DE; Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Berwyn, PA; Baltimore, MD; Parsippany, NJ; Hamden, CT; and Vienna, VA.

### Allied Members







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Baker, Ingram & Associates	Marvin
Blake & Vaughan Engineering	Parker Block Company
County Group Companies	Penn Lighting Associates
DCI+MacINTOSH Engineers	RCI Printing & Graphics
DEDC, LLC	SC&A Construction
Delaware Brick Company	Tighe & Cottrell, P.A.
DiSabatino Construction Company	Union Wholesale Company (UWC)
Electronic Home Solutions (EHS)	Verdantas
<b>Welcome New Member</b> <b>G. Fedale Roofing &amp; Siding</b>	Wohlsen Construction Company
	<b>Become a Partner or Allied Member</b>

## Resources

<a href="#">AIA Delaware</a>	<a href="#">Join AIA</a>	<a href="#">AIA Career Center</a>
<a href="#">Find an Architect</a>	<a href="#">Support Us</a>	<a href="#">DE Job Board</a>
<a href="#">AIA Conference on Architecture</a>	<a href="#">AIAU</a>	<a href="#">AIA Contract Documents</a>



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