2020 Design Awards
Call for Entries

Deadline for Submission: Friday, November 13, 2020 by 11:59 PM
Design Awards Ball: Save-the-Date! December 10, 2020, virtual, time to be announced

The Delaware component of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Delaware) Design Awards Program recognizes significant achievements in planning, design, and execution of architectural projects. The program demonstrates the value of good design and illustrates the variety of services performed by architects.

Eligibility

Participation is open to all licensed architects. The architect submitting a project must be a member of the design team responsible for it, though not necessarily the head of that team. Firm entries must be submitted by an authorized principal or partner. If the project being submitted was created in collaboration with another architect or firm, the submitting firm must have provided the primary design leadership for the project. Project eligibility depends on the status of the submitting architect, as follows:

- Any licensed architect who is a member, assigned or unassigned, of AIA Delaware may submit any residential, non-residential or historic preservation project(s) completed or urban design/master planning project(s) initiated after January 1, 2015.

- Any licensed architect who is a member of another American Institute of Architects component or who is not a member of the Institute may submit any residential, non-residential or historic preservation project(s) located in Delaware and completed after January 1, 2015 or urban design/master planning project(s) located in Delaware and initiated after January 1, 2015.

Completed shall be understood to mean “substantially completed” as defined in standard AIA Contract Documents governing design and construction. If a project was previously bestowed an award in an AIA Delaware Design Awards Program built category, the project is not eligible to be considered for an award in this program.
When one architect is not the sole author of a project, all other participants contributing substantially to the design of the project must be given credit as part of the submission, regardless of discipline. If more than one architect or firm worked on the project, name each architect or firm and describe their roles on the project. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the entrant.

For all questions concerning the eligibility requirements, please contact AIA Delaware, who shall have the sole authority to verify that eligibility requirements have been met.

Categories

Eligible projects, regardless of project scale, budget, style or building type, may be submitted for award consideration in one of four categories.

Residential
Single/dual family residential structures, including entirely new construction, additions, restorations, renovations and interiors.

Non-Residential
Entirely new construction, additions, restorations, renovations and interiors for all building types except single/dual family residential. Includes institutional architecture (structures for education, religion and government), commercial architecture (structures for commerce, such as office, retail, multi-family housing and food service) and interiors.

Historic Resources
Pure preservation or restoration, rehabilitation or sympathetic adaptive reuse of existing structures whose overall architectural character is maintained, sympathetic additions to historic structures and replication or reconstruction of damaged or destroyed structures or element thereof.

Urban Design/Master Planning
Urban design projects, planning projects, municipal master plans, civic improvements, civic design, private development plans, campus plans, environmental programs, redevelopment projects, transportation plans that have a significant urban design or master planning component.

A project may be submitted in no more than one of these categories. It is the responsibility of the submitting architect or firm to obtain permission from the owner to submit a project and to provide AIA Delaware with any confidentiality requirements. The jury’s decision to award any submission will be contingent upon verification by AIA Delaware that the project meets all eligibility requirements.
Framework for Design Excellence

At its March 2020 meeting, the AIA Delaware Board of Directors formally adopted the AIA Framework for Design Excellence as criteria for its Design Awards Program. The Framework for Design Excellence represents the defining principles of good design in the 21st century and seeks to inform progress toward a zero carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment. These are to be thoughtfully considered by designer and client at the initiation of every project and incorporated into the work as appropriate to the project scope.

In AIA Delaware’s 2020 Design Awards Program, each submission will have the option of including a description, of a few sentences, of how the project design achieved outcomes of each of the 10 principles in the Framework, which are relevant to that project, with the goal of promoting the sustainable design work of architects and supporting the AIA Climate Action Initiative. As mandated by the AIA Delaware Board of Directors, all of its future Design Awards Programs project evaluation criteria will incorporated the AIA Framework for Design Excellence.

Entry Fees

Entrants may pay the entry fee using a credit card in the submission form or by mailing a check payable to AIA Delaware to 110 E. Main Street #479, Newark, DE 19715-8021. No late entries will be accepted. All submitted materials become the property of AIA Delaware who retains unrestricted, enduring permission to use in its sole discretion any and all information and material related to the submitted project. All fees are non-refundable; entry fees vary depending upon the entrant’s AIA member status.

- **AIA Delaware members and members of the Institute**
  $250 per project submission, or

- **Non-members**
  $500 per project submission.

Jury & Awards

The jury shall have the sole authority to determine which and how many awards are justified in each category. Projects shall be considered on their own merits, not in comparison with any other project, regardless of size, scope or cost. The jury’s decisions shall be final and not subject to review. While entirely at the discretion of the jury, two types of awards are proposed:

- **Award**
  Projects in any category that exceed minimum expectations as to resiliency, functionality and beauty (firmness, commodity and delight) shall be bestowed an award. Submissions should include a brief narrative of why the project is exemplary in any one or more of those areas. The jury may decide to elevate projects submitted with or without a narrative.
Honor Award
The jury will select one or more projects to receive an Honor Award, AIA Delaware’s highest award, in recognition of the project’s distinctive character and outstanding merit.

Jury Citation
At the jury’s discretion, the jury may bestow a Jury Citation to any project it strongly feels met one or more of the Framework for Design Excellence principles.

Design Awards Ball
Award winning projects will be formally announced during the 2020 Design Awards Ball, which is planned as a virtual event to be held Thursday, December 10, 2020.