Democracy in Design Act, Climate, and Equity Top AIA 2022 Policy Priorities

Congress is back in session, and multiple AIA policy priorities are on the agenda.

After a setback in December, negotiations continue on the Build Back Better Act (BBBA) (H.R. 5376). Billed as the most significant climate bill in U.S. history, the legislation includes critical support to incentivize the state/local adoption of the latest building codes and stretch codes. It also provides robust investment in affordable housing, addressing both the supply and the energy efficiency of existing units. AIA members have sent more than 5,000 letters to Congress in support of architecture priorities in BBBA and an earlier infrastructure bill, the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” which was signed into law just before Thanksgiving last year.

As AIA continues its campaign in support of BBBA’s climate and equity investments, read about the other top policy priorities for 2022.

- Democracy in Design Act
- YIMBY Act / Affordable Housing
- School Safety
- Student Debt

Keep an eye on AIA’s Advocacy page for information and for Action Alert updates.

AIA Trust | Managing Your Risks
Climate Impact on Professional Liability

AIA’s 2021-2025 Strategic Plan states that the mission of AIA is to “inspire and empower architects to improve society and transform the world.” A key tool to enabling architects to fulfill this mission is developing a better understanding of architect’s liability as the world changes around us. And professional liability is evolving due to climate change.

As insurance providers assess claims made, amendments are made to state law and building codes, and legal precedents are set by the courts, professional liability continues to evolve. These actors, as well as an evolving standard of care will greatly influence the designs of the future—which ultimately tie back to the architect’s responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

AIA and the AIA Trust are developing tools and resources to help AIA members better understand their risks and responsibilities pertaining to climate change. And your input is needed via a very brief survey (10 questions - 3 minutes to complete) linked later in this article.

Meet Your 2022 Licensure Goals With These Resources
Should you test in person or online?
Find out which Architect Registration Examination (ARE) delivery method is right for you with our helpful guide. Plus, read advice for taking an online exam from a licensure candidate.

Tips for Starting the AXP
Whether you’re preparing to start the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) or already documenting professional experience, these tips can help you make the most of your hard work.

Answers to Your Most Common Questions About Earning a License
From verifying your degree in your NCARB Record to getting exam eligibility, read our expert answers to your FAQs.

Find Inspiration: Read Our Architect Spotlight Series
Check out success stories from recently licensed architects, including what inspired them to pursue architecture and what advice they have for emerging professionals.

Advocacy

Want to Support the Profession by Speaking About Policy Priorities?
Build Your Leadership and Advocacy Skills at the 2022 Grassroots Leadership Conference

Grassroots 2022: An AIA Leadership Event
Digital event - February 22-24, 2022

Fully living up to our highest ideals and values as a profession won't happen overnight. Yet achieving this vision directly impacts the world's prosperity, health, and future and our relevance as a profession. This event is your window into that future. Join us online this February for Grassroots 2022, AIA's premier leadership training event for chapter leaders.

This all-digital, inclusive, attend-from-anywhere event is packed with sessions and keynotes from some of the most exciting voices in architecture, design, business, finance, sustainability, and management consulting who will explore the critical topics that help us achieve our vision: Leadership, equity, and sustainability. Ultimately, it's on us to design a better world. Let's get there, together.

Learn more >

Equitable Development Frameworks:
An introduction and comparison for architects
Exploring architecture's opportunity in advancing equitable communities

Architects and designers are increasingly called upon to address the world's most pressing challenges, from the climate crisis to rising inequity and inequality. This is a daunting task, but it is an opportunity to reimagine the relevance, possibilities, and boundaries of the profession.

As outlined in AIA's Framework for Design Excellence, "Every Project can be used as a platform for addressing big problems and providing creative solutions."

In the face of this opportunity, architects can leverage existing equitable development frameworks to guide their role in creating and promoting healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities. AIA analyzes five of these systems in the Equitable development frameworks: An introduction and comparison for architects to identify the agency architects and designers have in driving valuable change. This report intends to:

- equip architects and designers with tools to develop a deeper understanding of equitable development
- equip architects' and designers' role in shaping equity in their work through equitable development frameworks
- consider a wide range of equitable development approaches differing in intersectionality, depth, structure, and relevance
- provide project examples to demonstrate the potential impacts each equitable development framework can establish

Download
Equitable development frameworks: An introduction and comparison for architects

Interested in furthering your role in driving equitable communities?
Visit AIAU for additional education opportunities!

Spotlight on Equity. Architecture in Turbulent Times: This series includes the event's powerful keynote discussion of the pervasiveness of inequity in our society and visions for change offered by experts in numerous fields as well as courses that offer equity insights and important conversations on design and health equity.

Design for Equitable Communities: AIA Framework for Design Excellence: This course introduces the Design for Equitable Communities principle of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. It includes perspectives from planners and architects on how to create more equitable places through design processes and strategies.
What does the right to housing mean in practice?
AIA Housing and Community Development Knowledge Community

In 2017, the American Institute of Architects declared access to housing a “fundamental right.” What does the right to housing mean in practice? How can architects contribute? Join Eric Tars, Legal Director for the National Homelessness Law Center, to learn more about the history and potentials for the right to housing in the U.S. Eric will share tips on how to act locally and what to say to legislators.

Adequate housing was recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed by the U.S. The AIA Housing and Community Development Knowledge Community has convened a Right-to-Housing Working Group; we present this online conversation as the first in a series. Join Eric Tars, Karen Kubey, and Casius Pealer to learn more about the history and potentials for the right to housing in the U.S.

DATE
Monday, February 7, 12-1pm ET | Earn 1 AIA LU | Free

Register Now >

2021 Housing Awards, Bastion Community by Office of Jonathan Tate. New Orleans. Image: Will Crocker

CSI Philadelphia 2022 Grill Series:
Part 1 - Value Engineering/Decision Management

CSI Philadelphia returns with the Grill Series. Putting together a virtual panel of: One Architect, Spec Writer, Owner, Product Rep, Contractor. They sit on the panel and field questions concerning this difficult topic, which has far reaching consequences. When budgeting a project in early stages stretches the pricetag for an owner, they need options to bring down the price... In comes the dreaded "VE" Option...

Join David Stutzman as moderator, and bring your hard hitting questions! This goes nowhere without you.

Attend and ask the questions that have been plaguing you for years.

DATE
Feb 28, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Zoom Presentation

Register now

Career Opportunities

Local Opportunities
- ABHA Architects
- Architectural Alliance
- Bernardon
- Becker Morgan Group
- BSA + A
- StudioJAED
- Tetra Tech

AIA Career Center
- 5 Strategies to help you land a new job in architecture
- Reference Checking
- Resume Writing & LinkedIn Profile Development
- Coaching
- more...
Join AIA

Designing a better world together

AIA is a community, and much more. More than 94,000 strong, we are the largest, most influential network of architecture professionals. Our members share your passion for architecture and your desire to change the world through the power of design.

AIA is here to support your career, enhance your practice, and advance the architecture profession. As a member, you’re connected to exclusive resources along with opportunities to drive real, transformative change. Together, we’re tackling this generation’s most urgent issues, from climate action to inequities in the built environment.

Find out which membership type is right for you.

- Architects
- Associates
- Associate New Graduates
- More

Current AIA membership incentives
New college graduates can get a free AIA membership for up to 18 months for first-time members.

Welcome New Chapter Members!

- Ruth A. Bassacco, AIA
- Irina Kurkina, Associate AIA
- Christine Olshan, Associate AIA
- Sarita Sen, AIA
- D. Dart Sageser, AIA
- Deisy Velasquez, Associate AIA
- Michael E. Webster, AIA

Member Info

AIA and State Requirements for Continuing Education

General note on CE requirements
Licensed architects must earn continuing education credits each year to fulfill AIA membership requirements. You may also need to complete continuing education requirements to renew your state license(s).

If you’re working on getting licensed, some AIA-approved courses count toward the experience requirement for licensure.

AIA offers a variety of ways to earn continuing education credits that make meeting your goals and licensing requirements interesting and convenient. Our transcript service makes it easy to track your progress.

AIA Annual Requirements
AIA measures continuing education in Learning Units (LUs) where one hour of continuing education earns one LU.

- AIA Architect members are required to complete 18 LUs from registered AIA/CES providers each
calendar year (at least 12 of those LUs must be in the topic areas of health, safety and welfare (HSW)).

- Architect Emeritus members are required to complete 1 LU annually.
- Associate members are not required to meet a minimum number of hours but are encouraged to take continuing education courses to advance in their careers and the profession.

**State Requirements**
AIA requirements can differ from the continuing education requirements of state licensing boards. State requirements may also vary from state to state.

**Delaware**

- Architects must complete a minimum of 24 CEUs (all HSW) in the two calendar years preceding the license renewal deadline, including a minimum of 8 CEUs (all HSW) in each calendar year, or be exempt from the continuing education requirements.
- For an architect’s initial registration period, the CE requirements are pro-rated at one CE (all HSW) per month of registration, beginning with the first full month following the month of issuance, through the end of the renewal cycle.

- Some Details
  - Renewal Cycle is Biennial
  - Renewal Deadline is January 31, even years

- Hardship Extensions
  - Requests for a hardship extension must be in writing and submitted to the Board prior to December 31st of the second calendar year of reporting period.

- For more information, visit the [Division of Professional Regulation / Board of Architects](https://www.delaware.gov/apps/publicregistration/)

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**News from our Members**

**ABHA Architects Announces Promotions**

We are pleased to announce the recent promotion of Stephanie Forman to Associate in the firm. Stephanie earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2003. She gained her NCIDQ certification in 2008 from the Council for Interior Design Qualification and her LEED AP certification in 2010. Stephanie joined ABHA Architects in 2008.

We are pleased to announce the recent promotion of Seth Hammonds to Associate in the firm. Seth earned his Bachelor of Arts from Samford University in 2004 and then went on to earn his Master of Building Construction from Auburn University in 2007 and his Master of Architecture degree from University of Oregon in 2013. He became a registered architect in 2015. He has been a LEED Accredited Professional since 2009 and a Construction Document Technologist since 2012. Seth joined ABHA Architects in 2018.

ABHA Architects operates with the goal of excellence in design and client service. With an emphasis on reaching a clear understanding of each client's needs and design criteria, the firm has an excellent reputation for continually developing and refining the design and management skills necessary to produce high quality buildings. Learn more about us at [ABHA.com](http://www.abha.com).

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**Becker Morgan Group Ranks Amongst Top Architectural Firms**

*Climbed Several Spots in Nationwide Report*

Becker Morgan Group has climbed several spots in Architectural Record Magazine's Top 300 report, ranking #253 nationwide. The 2021 Top 300 Architecture Firms list is ranked by revenue for architectural services.
performed. Becker Morgan Group has ranked in the top 300 firms for the last five years.

Significant projects leading to the ranking are located from Delaware to North Carolina in a variety of practice areas. Projects of note include the Ocean City Convention Center Expansion project, adding 30,000sf of exhibition space and a bayfront gallery to the coastal Maryland amenity, and the Capital School District’s new Combined Middle School project anticipated to welcome 1,600 students in the fall of 2023. Additional projects include the firm’s work at Milford Wellness Village in Milford, Delaware, transforming a former hospital into a multi-tenant community health center, and the North and West Brunswick High Schools addition projects in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Firm leaders continue to be humbled by the national ranking and consider the ranking a testament to the clients and staff members that have made the firm’s growth possible.

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**Becker Morgan Group Ranks Amongst Top Architecture and Engineering Firms**

*Recognized in Education, Healthcare, Hotel, and Commercial Practice Areas*

Building Design+Construction magazine again ranked Becker Morgan Group as one of the nation’s top architecture engineering (AE) firms in the 2021 “Giants 400 Report.” The annual report ranks leading firms nationwide, with more than 485 firms participating. Becker Morgan Group ranked #62, a 12 point jump from previous years, and was recognized as a leader in a series of sector-specific categories, including K-12 Schools, Healthcare, Hotels, Office Spaces, and Higher Education.

W. Ronald Morgan, AIA, President and founder of Becker Morgan Group, continues to attribute the firm’s success to its clients and staff. “It’s an honor to be recognized as a leading firm nationwide amongst our peers. We believe this recognition is a testament to the level and quality of service we provide clients. We are grateful for their continued trust and confidence in our exceptional staff.”

Becker Morgan Group ranked in the following categories:

- **Healthcare Sector Architecture and A/E Firms #82**
- **Hospital Facility Architecture and A/E Firms #74**
- **Medical Office Building Architecture and A/E Firms #43**
- **Outpatient Facility Architecture and A/E Firms #81**
- **Office Sector Architecture and A/E Firms #164**
  - **Office Building Architecture and A/E Firms #127**
- **Top 150 University Sector Architecture and A/E Firms #148**
- **Industrial Facility Architecture and A/E Firms #41**
- **Retail Sector Architecture and A/E Firms – All retail buildings #39**
  - **Retail Sector Architecture and A/E Firms - Malls Big box stores, strip centers #34**
  - **Retail Sector Architecture and A/E Firms - Restaurants #44**
  - **Sports Facility Architecture and A/E Firms #60**
- **Top 150 K-12 School Sector Architecture and AE Firms #63**
- **Top 150 University Sector Architecture and AE Firms #149**
- **Top 100 Sports Facility Architecture and AE Firms #60**
- **Top 50 Parking Structure Architecture and AE Firms #34**

**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. The full-service design firm delivers award-winning work in education, healthcare, public safety, hospitality, commercial, government, residential, and land development. Learn more at www.beckermorgan.com.

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Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. Continues Growth; Promotes Jill DiClementi to Associate Principal

*Jill DiClementi, ASID, NCIDQ, Director of Interior Design, has been promoted to Associate Principal*
Jill has been with Spiezle for more than 5 years. Her creativity, collaboration and talent have led our Interior Design team to new clients, new markets, and new service offerings, including furniture procurement. Her passion-inspired designs continually exceed her clients’ vision and goals.

Jill is a graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. She has a Master of Science in Interior Design from Drexel University.

In addition to her award-winning designs, Jill strives to mentor young professional women in the workplace and has taught interior design courses in undergraduate and graduate programs at various colleges and universities. She has been a member of ASID since 2003. She is active in CREW, Women in Healthcare, and POWER.

Richard C. Quinn, AIA, LEED® AP Joins the Executive Committee as Principal

Rich's career in architecture spans 30 years. He has spent the last seven years with Spiezle, where he has successfully executed a wide range of projects, including Senior Living, Corporate, and Public Spaces. His collaborative design approach engages residents and clients alike, ensuring their expectations are exceeded on every project. His hard work, leadership, and dedication to client service have helped the Springfield office grow exponentially during his tenure.

"I am pleased to announce Rich's promotion and welcome him to our executive leadership group," said Thomas Perrino, President & CEO of Spiezle. "Rich has been an integral part of the firm. He continues to grow as a thought-leader in numerous market sectors and has been an important aspect in our Smart Growth approach to the firm's expansion."

Rich received his associate degree in Architectural Drafting Technology from Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and his Bachelor of Architecture from Drexel University where he was a Michael Pearson Prize finalist. Additionally, he is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and is a U.S. Green Building Council LEED® Accredited Professional.

About Spiezle Architectural Group

Spiezle is an award-winning, full-service architectural and planning firm. Founded in 1954, the firm is known for innovative design, financially responsible solutions, and personalized service. Spiezle serves academic, senior living, acute healthcare, corporate/commercial, government, hospitality, landscape architecture, electrical engineering, urban planning, multi-family, enhance construction administration, recreational and religious clients. Spiezle is listed in the Top 300 U.S. Architecture Firms by Architectural Record. Learn more at www.spiezle.com.

News from our Partners

Superior Materials Deliver Premium Performance

AZEK Cladding delivers the full aesthetic experience of wood
without the laborious, costly, and constant upkeep required with traditional lumber. Our one-of-a-kind capped polymer boards achieve a realistic wood look that lasts—that’s why we back them with industry-leading warranties for both commercial and residential buildings. AZEK® Capped Polymer Cladding offers a wide range of color options, multiple board widths and offers both tongue-and-groove (closed-joint) and square shoulder boards (open-joint). With AZEK Cladding, you lock in exclusive application options for your uniquely beautiful design.

- ORDER SAMPLE
- DOWNLOAD BIM/REVIT

**OPEN-JOINT CLADDING**
AZEK square shoulder boards installed with small gaps (open-joints) between each board creates a cladding rainscreen. The open-joints between the cladding elements create a strong, linear design pattern while also functionally providing air flow to promote ventilation. Click here to view the AZEK Open-Joint Cladding product offering and installation guide.

**CLOSED-JOINT CLADDING**
Install AZEK tongue-and-groove cladding boards that interlock together with ease as another cladding design option. The closed-joint finished look has a more subtle linear design with a smoother finish compared to the larger gaps of the open-joint aesthetic. Click here to view the AZEK Closed-Joint Cladding product offering and installation guide.

AZEK Building Products manufactures home building materials under two divisions: TimberTech® and AZEK® Exteriors. TimberTech offers a premium portfolio of capped polymer and capped composite decking – as well as railing, porch, lighting and paver products – while AZEK Exteriors manufactures distinctly unique siding, trim, and moulding.

Contact Sharon Moore, Territory Manager, Delmarva Peninsula  
(302) 233-5358  
Sharon.Moore@Azekco.com

VanDemark & Lynch Employee approved as Professional Land Surveyor

We are proud of Thor Lundin, who was approved by Delaware State Board of Professional Land Surveyors as a Professional Land Surveyor in Delaware.

Thor Lundin has worked for VanDemark & Lynch, Inc. for 29 years. He first started in 1984 after high school. He left for 9 years to attend college and worked various jobs, including 6 years as a construction laborer and equipment operator. He returned to VanDemark & Lynch in 2001.
Thor recently completed the required testing and internship to obtain his Delaware Surveyor’s license. His experience includes field work as both an instrument man and crew chief for various types of surveys, including topographic, boundary, construction layout, laser scanning, and hydrographic surveys.

For over 70 years, VanDemark & Lynch, Inc. has helped clients bring thousands of projects to life through engineering, planning, and surveying services of the highest quality. Contact us to talk about your next project by calling (302) 764-7635 or by visiting us online.

Visit and Get to Know our Partners

News from our Allied Members

Karins and Associates Welcomes New Team Members

Karins and Associates, a leading engineering and surveying firm headquartered in Newark, DE, is excited to welcome Brandon Simeone, Civil Engineering Intern in our home office. Karins is proud to help cultivate the next generation of engineering professionals.

We are also joined by John Gonzalez P.E., an experienced Civil Engineer, as Senior Project Manager and Director of Engineering of our Maryland division.

Karins and Associates is an engineering, planning and surveying consulting firm with offices in Newark and Georgetown, DE, Bryn Mawr and Exton, PA and Forest Hill, MD. Karins and Associates offers services including subdivision/land development, surveying and 3D laser scanning, stormwater management/water resources, utility planning and engineering, transportation, certified construction review, and construction permitting.

For more information, visit us online at Karins and Associates or call us at 302-369-2900.

Supporting Our Community: Downes Elementary School addition moves closer to construction
We're happy to share great news any chance we get. Construction plans move forward for the new classroom addition to accommodate the growing Chinese immersion program at Downes Elementary School. Structural Design Services were provided by Project Engineer, Rick Savona, P.E.

We enjoy doing what we do, especially providing our services to improve the local education communities. A special thanks to the project team members involved and our partners at StudioJAED Architects Engineers & Facilities Solutions.

Our team has the desire to make a lasting difference in the communities in which they live and work, as well as those beyond. We balance a thriving, supportive and growth-oriented environment for our employees with a keen focus on personal, responsive relationships with our clients. Learn more about us at macintosh.com.

Duffield Associates is now Verdantas

This emerging and fast-growing organization addresses the toughest challenges facing our natural and built environments today; including the effects of climate change, the proliferation of emerging contaminants, impacts to clean and dependable water supplies and the transition to greener, more sustainable, civil infrastructure.

Five leading professional service groups have come together to form a national company, which today is launching under a new brand: Verdantas. Round Table Capital Partners (“RTC Partners”) launched this new venture with the acquisition of Hull & Associates, LLC in July of 2020, and has since expanded the organization with the acquisitions of Duffield Associates, LLC, HSW Consulting, LLC, GeoInsight, Inc. and Alden Research Laboratory, Inc.

Verdantas was started with a vision to build a consulting company focused on improving the world by addressing the toughest challenges facing our natural and built environments today. Over the past 18 months, Verdantas has brought together an outstanding group of consulting companies that share this common focus. The combined organization now offers a comprehensive suite of environmental, energy, water, civil infrastructure, and green and sustainable engineering services.

Verdantas currently employs over 450 people across 26 offices, and is home to many of the top scientists, engineers and technical experts in the industry. Verdantas operates a people-first culture, concentrating on the well-being of its employees, clients, and the communities where they live and work. The platform is actively hiring across all disciplines and seeking additional companies with a strategic and cultural fit.

Read full release. For more information, please visit the Verdantas and address inquiries to Terry Reynolds, VP/Marketing and Communication Director (treynolds@verdantas.com, 916-889-6681).
Thank you to our Allied Members & Supporters

Arch Resources LLC
Baker, Ingram & Associates
Blake & Vaughan Engineering
County Group Companies
DEDC, LLC
Delaware Brick Company
DiSabatino Construction Company
Duffield Associates (now Verdantas)
Electronic Home Solutions (EHS)
Karins & Associates
Landmark Science & Engineering
MacIntosh Engineering
Multivision
Parker Block Company
RCI Printing & Graphics
SC&A Construction
Marvin
Tighe & Cottrell, P.A.
Traditional Building Conference
Union Wholesale Company (UWC)
Wohlsen Construction Company
WoodWorks Wood Products Council

Allied Membership signifies you share a common goal to build a better world for all people and is designed to enhance and strengthen relationships among design and building industry professionals.