



## 2024 Design Awards Program Call for Entries

---

AIA Delaware is committed to excellence in architecture and looks forward to celebrating outstanding works of architecture through its biennial Design Awards Program. The purpose of the program is to recognize and honor excellence in architectural design by licensed architects and to honor the clients and project teams who work with them to create and enhance our built environment.

### Schedule

December 15	Submissions Due
January	Jury Deliberations
Spring	AIA Design Awards presentation event

### Eligibility

Submitted projects should exemplify the value of good design in creating safe, valuable, and sustainable buildings and livable communities. 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/business entries must be submitted by an authorized principal. If the project being submitted was created in collaboration with another architect or firm/business, the submitting firm/business must have provided the primary design leadership for the project.

We encourage you to submit multiple projects for consideration in this awards program.

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 is invited to submit any built or residential project completed, or any unbuilt project initiated, after January 1, 2019.
- Any licensed architect who is a member of another of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) components or who is not a member of AIA is invited to submit any built or residential project located in Delaware and completed after January 1, 2019, or any unbuilt project located in Delaware and initiated after January 1, 2019.

Completed shall be understood to mean “substantially completed” as defined in standard AIA Contract Documents governing design and construction.

When one architect is not the sole author of a project, all other participants contributing substantially to the design of the project must be credited as part of the submission, regardless of discipline. If more than one architect or firm serviced the project, name each architect or firm and describe their roles on the project.

Any project previously bestowed an award in an AIA Delaware Design Awards Program built category is not eligible to be considered for an award in this program.

## Submission Categories

Submission Categories are used only as a means of assisting the jury in reviewing entries with other projects of similar type. Eligible projects, regardless of scope, size, scale, budget, style or building type, may be submitted for award or citation consideration in one Submission Category. Projects will be evaluated on how successfully they have met their individual requirements and on their own merit, not in comparison with any other project.

The AIA Delaware Board of Directors formally adopted the AIA Framework for Design Excellence as criteria for its Design Awards Program.

The AIA 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. Each submission must describe how the project design achieved outcomes of at least 2 of the 10 principles in the Framework.

### **Non-Residential**

Built, entirely new construction, additions, restorations, renovations, and interiors for all building types occupied at the time of entry, 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.

### **Residential**

Built, single/dual family residential projects, including entirely new construction, additions, restorations, renovations, and interiors occupied at the time of entry.

### **Unbuilt**

Unbuilt projects submitted for award consideration must have been commissioned by a client with the intent to build. Projects submitted in past programs in the Unbuilt category, whether awarded or not, may be submitted as built projects after completion.

## Jury & Awards

The jury is empowered to determine the extent to which design excellence is informed by technical, functional, contextual, sustainable, social, environmental or other characteristics of a project. The jury shall determine the quantity of awards justified in each award level. The jury's decisions will be based solely on the materials submitted, shall be final and not subject to review.

### **Honor Award**

An Honor Award, AIA Delaware's highest award, recognizes a project with distinctive character and outstanding achievement.

### **Merit Award**

A Merit Award recognizes a project that exceeds minimum expectations as to resiliency, functionality and beauty (firmness, commodity and delight). Submissions should include a brief narrative of why the project is exemplary in any one or more of those areas.

### **Citation Award**

An Award recognizes projects or design elements of notable accomplishment, similar to Honorable Mention.

## Resubmit

Our design award program juries change with each cycle. You are encouraged to submit eligible, previously non-awarded projects multiple times within the submission time frame as this will afford the opportunity for review by as many as three separate and distinct juries and opportunities to receive recognition.

## Entry Fee

Submitters/Entrants may pay the entry fee using a credit card via PayPal (no account needed) by visiting [www.aiadelaware.org](http://www.aiadelaware.org) or by mailing a check payable to AIA Delaware to P.O. Box 479, Newark, DE 19715-8021 by the submission deadline. No late entries will be accepted. All fees are non-refundable. No fees will be refunded for entries that are disqualified, late, or incomplete. There is no limit to the number of projects that may be entered by an individual or firm/business. Project entry fees vary depending upon the entrant's AIA member status and the Award Category.

### **All Submission Categories**

AIA Delaware members and members of the Institute  
\$250 per project submission,  
\$200 each additional project, or  
\$200 each previously submitted/resubmitted project.

Non-members  
\$500 per project submission,  
\$400 each additional project, or  
\$400 each previously submitted/resubmitted project.

It is the responsibility of the entrant to obtain permission from the project 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.

All submitted work and material must be authorized for publicity and reproduction at the time of entry, and 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.

Questions should be directed to AIA Delaware, who has sole authority of the program.

## Release

By submitting an entry, the entrant agrees that the information contained in its submission are complete and accurate. The entrant further agrees that it shall indemnify and hold harmless AIA Delaware from and against all claims or damages arising out of the use of any information or other materials supplied by the entrant or their agents. All errors or omissions are the sole responsibility of the entrant.

The entrant further certifies that entrant has obtained all permissions necessary to permit AIA Delaware to publish, without financial or other obligation, any information, photograph or other materials submitted by the entrant or its agents, including any permissions required from any individual, architect, contractor, owner or photographer. The entrant certifies that AIA Delaware is authorized to use all such materials as it deems appropriate without restriction.

## Design Awards Celebration

Award winning projects will be formally announced during the 2024 Design Awards celebration, which is planned for the spring of 2025.