



## 2024 Design Awards Program Submission Requirements

---

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

### Instructions

Each project submission shall be accompanied by the digital documents/images and entry fee submitted in the specific requirements outlined herein. AIA Delaware reserves the right to disqualify any entry not submitted in the manner specified. A complete submission for a project includes the following:

1. Submission Form
2. Jury PDF
3. Image Files
4. Entry Fee

All aspects of an entry shall be electronic and managed online and must be completed in their entirety. Only the Jury PDF will be seen and used by the jury to evaluate the submitted project for consideration of award. All materials included in submissions must be cleared for public reproduction. Submitters/Entrants can save their work as they go and return to their submission as needed to continue until the submission entry deadline.

### Where to Submit

- Visit AIA Delaware online at [www.AIADElaware.org](http://www.AIADElaware.org)
- Click Awards
- Click Submit an Entry
- Complete and submit all components of the Submission

## Jury PDF

The Jury PDF will be seen and used by the jury to evaluate the submitted project for consideration of award, used by AIA Delaware in various ways, and shall conform to the following requirements:

- The Jury PDF file shall be in an editable PDF format and shall not exceed 20 MB.
- The Jury PDF file shall be 11" x 8.5", landscape orientation.
- Be sure to conceal any reference to the architect, architecture firm/business or team members in the Jury PDF. Identification of project authorship within the Jury PDF will disqualify the submission.
  
- Name the Jury PDF: **InsertProjectName.pdf** (30 characters total maximum)
  
- Organize the Jury PDF as follows:
  - **Project Description and Introduction (page 1):** Combination of text (and images, if desired) with 10 pt. minimum font size, formatted and designed at the entrant's discretion, 11" x 8.5" landscape orientation, to include:
    - Project Name
    - Project Summary describing the "Site", "Challenge Presented", and "Resolution".
    - As part of this synopsis, discuss key design aspects (intent, concepts, and contextual relationships), technical aspects (structure, materials, mechanical systems, etc. where informative), and sustainable, social, environmental or other benefits of the project to the public and its users.
  
  - **Visuals (page 2 and up to 10):** Combination of text and images with 10 pt. minimum font with succinct annotation. The format and design of the pages are at the entrant's discretion maintaining 11" x 8.5" landscape orientation.
    - **AIA Framework for Design Excellence:** Within the Jury PDF, clearly call out (by naming the Framework principle) and briefly describe how the project design responds to at least 2 of the 10 principles in the AIA Framework for Design Excellence relevant to the project.
  
    - A site plan is required, except for interior architecture only projects.
    - Indicate the project's physical context or site character through graphics and/or imagery.
    - Include photographs, drawings, floor plans, elevations, sections, renderings and graphic images as necessary to provide a clear understanding of the extent and quality of the finished project. Photographs should depict the whole project with views of each exposed exterior façade and each room of the project, as appropriate. Exterior views are optional for interior projects.
    - Renovations, restorations, additions and conversions should present "before" and "after" photographs. For projects involving changes to existing structures, documentation of original conditions is highly recommended.
    - Label images with suitable titling and captions. Credit on images used in the Jury PDF are encouraged except those identifying the submitting architect or architect firm/business and/or team members.
    - Process sketches that communicate the development of the project and/or its construction are encouraged.

## Image Files

The Image Files will not be seen or used by the jury.

- Provide a minimum of 3, but no more than 5, images for use in the presentation of entrants, awards, publications and more.
  - Name the image files using numbers 1 through 3 or 5 in order of preference of use:
    - **1\_ProjectNameOrInitials\_Description.jpg** (e.g., 1\_BirdHouse\_frontexterior.jpg or 1\_BH\_fr\_ext.jpg)
    - File name can be up to 30 characters total maximum
  - Images can be most any format including, EPS, JPG, PNJ, GIF, TIFF, and BMP
  - Images can be no more than 20 MB maximum
  - Two of the images, best representing the project, shall be at least 300 dpi and 8” H x 10” W
  - Subsequent images can be smaller with a suggested maximum of 150 dpi and 6” H x 9” W for horizontal images and a maximum of 150 dpi and 6” H x 7.5” W for vertical images.
- Provide a brief image description or caption (i.e., front exterior, west elevation, kitchen, game room) and artistic credit for each image.

## Entry Fee

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 Due date. 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.

## Questions

Contact AIA Delaware Executive Director, Nancy Payne by email to [nancy@aiadelaware.org](mailto:nancy@aiadelaware.org) or by calling (302) 525-2799.

# AIA Framework for Design Excellence

The world today is facing broad and complex challenges that threaten every aspect of our lives. The architect's call to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public has a new and broader meaning amid challenges such as increasing climate extremes and social inequity. Architects everywhere must recognize that our profession can harness the power of design to contribute to solutions addressing the most significant needs of our time. Every project can be used as a platform for addressing big problems and providing creative solutions. Every line drawn should be a source of good in the world.

The Framework for Design Excellence represents the defining principles of good design in the 21st century. Comprised of 10 principles and accompanied by searching questions, **the Framework 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. The Framework is intended to be accessible and relevant for every architect, every client, and every project, regardless of size, typology, or aspiration.

The Framework for Design Excellence challenges architects with a vision the profession strives to achieve.



## Design for INTEGRATION

Good design elevates any project, no matter how small, with a thoughtful process that delivers both beauty and function in balance. It is the element that binds all the principles together with a big idea.

- What is the concept or purpose behind this project, and how will the priorities within the nine other principles inform the unique approach to this project?
- How will the project engage the senses and connect people to place?
- What makes the project one that people will fight to preserve?
- What design strategies can provide multiple benefits across the triple bottom line of social, economic, and environmental value?



## Design for EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

Design solutions affect more than the client and current occupants. Good design positively impacts future occupants and the larger community.

- What is the project's greater reach?
- How could this project contribute to creating a diverse, accessible, walkable, just, human-scaled community?
- Who might this project be forgetting?
- How can the design process and outcome remove barriers and promote inclusion and social equity, particularly with respect to vulnerable communities?
- What opportunities exist in this project to include, engage, and promote human connection?
- How can the design support health and resilience for the community during times of need or during emergencies?



## Design for ECOSYSTEMS

Good design mutually benefits human and nonhuman inhabitants. What we design has a direct impact to the ecosystems in and around the site. Understanding the site dynamics will allow us to be more conscious of our impacts.

- How can the design support the ecological health of its place over time?
- How can the design help users become more aware and connected with the project's place and regional ecosystem?
- How can the project support regional habitat restoration?
- How can the project support equitable access to nature?



## Design for WATER

Good design conserves and improves the quality of water as a precious resource.

- How does the project use water wisely, addressing efficiency and consumption while matching water quality to appropriate use?
- How can the project's water systems maintain function during emergencies or disruptions?
- How does the project handle rainfall and stormwater responsibly?
- How does the project contribute to a healthy regional watershed?



## Design for ECONOMY

Good design adds value for owners, occupants, community, and planet, regardless of project size and budget.

- How do we design robust projects that enhance economic, natural, intellectual, and experiential resources?
- How will the design choices balance cost with long-term value?
- How can the performance of this project be improved in ways that are cost and design neutral?



## Design for ENERGY

Good design reduces energy use and eliminates dependence on fossil fuels while improving building performance, function, comfort, and enjoyment.

- How can passive design strategies contribute to the project's performance and form?
- How can the project exceed building code efficiency standards to approach net zero energy and net zero carbon?
- Can the project be powered by clean, renewable energy sources?
- How can the project provide for continuous performance improvements over its lifetime?



## Design for WELL-BEING

Good design supports health and well-being for all people, considering physical, mental, and emotional effects on building occupants and wider surrounding community.

- How can the design encourage a healthy lifestyle?
- How can the project provide greater occupant comfort?
- How can the project be welcoming and inclusive for all?
- How can the project connect people with place and nature?
- How can material selection reduce hazards to occupants and communities throughout the supply chain?



## Design for RESOURCES

Good design depends on informed material selection, balancing priorities to achieve durable, safe, and healthy projects with an equitable, sustainable supply chain to minimize possible negative impacts to the planet.

- What factors (priorities) will be considered in making material selection decisions?
- How are materials and products selected and designed to reduce embodied carbon and environmental impacts while enhancing building performance?
- How can material selection reduce hazards and support equitable labor practices in the supply chain?
- How does the project promote zero waste throughout its life cycle?
- How does the project celebrate local materials and craft?
- How long will the project last, and how does that affect your material?



## Design for CHANGE

Adaptability, resilience, and reuse are essential to good design, which seeks to enhance usability, functionality, and value over time.

- How does the project address future risks and vulnerabilities from social, economic, and environmental change?
- How is the project designed for adaptation to anticipate future uses or changing markets?
- How does the project address passive survivability and/or livability?



## Design for DISCOVERY

Every project presents a unique opportunity to apply lessons learned from previous projects and gather information to refine the design and construction process.

- How can the design process foster a long-term relationship between designers, users, and operators to ensure design intentions are realized and the building project performance can improve over time?
- How are performance data and experiential stories shared, even if the findings fall short of the vision?
- What strategies promote a sense of discovery and delight?

