
Grow your firm with AIA Business Academy

Take your practice to the next level



Running a successful architecture firm requires more than creative talent - it demands strategy, leadership, and the ability to communicate your value.

AIA Business Academy helps architects nationwide master the business side of practice - equipping firm leaders with the tools to plan strategically, grow sustainably, and lead with purpose.

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- Build a compelling value proposition for your firm
- Use proven frameworks to evaluate market opportunities
- Strengthen your leadership and client relationships
- Execute your strategic plan with measurable results
- Gain high-impact insights from a nationwide cohort of peers

Space is limited—secure your spot today! AIA members save thousands with special member only pricing.

[Join the academy.](#)

AIA26

SAN DIEGO
JUNE 10-13

REGISTER NOW

The Octagon Featured on WTOP

Earlier this year, *Matt About Town* paid a visit to the Octagon Museum and explored its vibrant past as one of D.C.'s most unusual architectural gems — a curved, maze-like 1799 mansion built for a friend of George Washington.

Over the centuries, The Octagon has hosted historic figures from James Madison to Jacqueline Kennedy, but it's the legends of ghostly footsteps, mysterious apparitions, and late-night paranormal encounters that give the home its eerie reputation.

Explore the history (and the hauntings) through the latest [Matt About Town episode](#).

Or, plan your own visit on Bloomberg Philanthropies' Bloomberg Connects, a free arts and culture app that provides digital access to hundreds of museums and cultural institutions worldwide. [Explore the Guide](#).



Next Generation Learning Spaces for the 21st Century to Improve Learning in Schools

Paul Klee, FAIA, will be guest speaker at this [Committee on Architecture for Education](#) advocacy task force meeting. His talk provides new insights on student-centered PK–12 school design and next generation learning guiding principles.

For those who missed his talk at last August's IAKC Knowledge Salon, don't miss your second chance!

May 8 | 2–3pm ET | [Register for the meeting >](#)



Save-the-Date!

AAH/ACHA Summer Leadership Summit

July 17-19 | The Marquette Hotel | Minneapolis

Bridging the Gaps: Advancing Health Care for All

Join us for a pivotal discussion on building a more accessible, effective, and inclusive health care system. Designed for stakeholders across the health care spectrum, this year's event moves beyond traditional clinical care to address the full range of factors that influence health outcomes in our communities.

Because true well-being extends far beyond the doctor's office, sessions will focus on actionable strategies to address the root causes of health disparities. Explore how to harness emerging technologies, leverage data for meaningful insights, and build community partnerships that dismantle systemic barriers to care.

The Summer Leadership Summit (SLS) is co-organized by the [AIA Academy of Architecture for Health \(AAH\)](#) and the [American College of Healthcare Architects \(ACHA\)](#).



Advocate for Architects Tackle issues with AIA

Policy moves fast. We stay ahead of it. AIA Government Affairs & Public Policy advises and mobilizes members to shape policies that support **you** – your business, your community, your firm, your profession. Our aim is to support the **business and practice of architecture** and expand architects' influence in their communities.

We champion policies that allow you to do your best work—pro architectural business incentives, smart public investment, and improved codes and standards—by working with you to create a stronger voice that shapes the built environment.



Government Affairs tracks the legislative landscape internationally, federally, at the state level, and in your own backyard. **We push for progress and ask you to help us move it along.**

Active Advocacy

- Strengthen Section 179D of the Tax Code
- Support Legislation to Alleviate the Housing Crisis
- Support Federal Loan Access for Architecture Students
- ACSA-AIA Federal Loan Access for Architecture Education
- Protect Design Freedom and Significant Federal Buildings

[See what you can do advocate on behalf of the architecture community.](#)

A (Simple) Primer on the Voiding of Tariffs by the Supreme Court and Its Impact on the Construction Industry

On February 20, 2026, the United States Supreme Court voided the tariffs on international goods imposed by President Trump under the IEEPA. The initial, immediate effect is that the recently imposed (and relatively high) tariffs on imported goods are immediately void.

This has raised various questions in the construction industry.

AIA Volunteer Opportunities

Explore AIA volunteer opportunities—a great way to support the work and shape the future of the architecture profession, develop and grow leadership skills, and help advance AIA's mission.

AIA encourages participation from members who bring varied perspectives—across career stages, firm sizes, geographic regions, cultural backgrounds, and practice areas. We believe that diverse voices help ensure that our programs, policies, and initiatives reflect the evolving needs of the profession and the communities we serve.



Take the next step

- [Register for the May 27 Volunteers Interest Call.](#) There are many opportunities to volunteer with AIA. This call is open to all who are interested in serving. We will walk through the governance structure of AIA National, the timeline for the Call for Volunteers (including Strategic Council leadership, award jury service, and 70+ national committees), the required information for the applications, tips for navigating the opportunities to serve, and norms for serving as a national volunteer. We will leave plenty of time for questions at the end. **NEW THIS YEAR:** We will end the hour with breakout rooms hosted by leaders of several member groups and communities, organized as an #AskMeAnything.
- **Plan to complete the application before June 15** - you'll need an idea of which opportunity you are interested in and a PDF of your resume to upload.
- Recommend this call to a colleague as a great way to support the architecture profession, develop and grow leadership skills, and help advance AIA's mission.

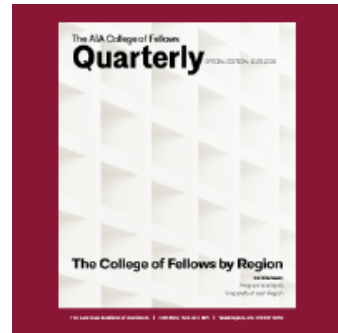
RESOURCES

AIA College of Fellows Quarterly Special Edition: The College of Fellows by Region

Message from the National Chair

What Exactly is a College of Fellows Regional Representative?

We are the AIA College of Fellows. As a college, we have the commonality not just of a profession or career, but the special recognition that our individual contributions to the built world have had significant impact.



This impact—the “ripple effect”—which is sometimes referenced in the application process, is so valued that our singular professional organization recognizes individual members for elevation into the college annually. The impact does not stop at elevation, though. AIA Fellows are necessary for the cultivation of the future of the profession. This is central to the mission—Fellowship is about bettering the profession through giving back. We do this in many ways, formally and informally, nationally and locally. AIA needs the collective wisdom, experience, and influence of the Fellows and at times calls upon the college for guidance and leadership. How does that call arrive? The COF Regional Representatives are that conduit.

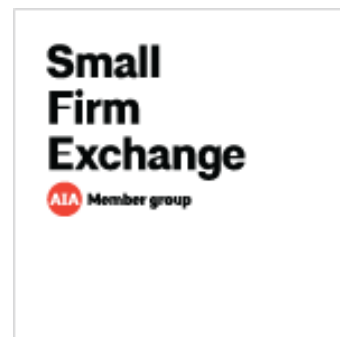
[Read more >](#)

Questions? Contact COF Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative, [Kathleen Lechleiter, FAIA](#).

Demystifying Fellowship for Small Firm Practitioners

Thinking about Fellowship - or know someone who should be? The AIA Small Firm Exchange (SFX) is hosting a panel to break down the Fellowship process and what it looks like for small firm practitioners. Hear directly from leaders in the College of Fellows, including experienced jurors and SFX leaders, as they share insights, pathways, and what makes a strong candidate.

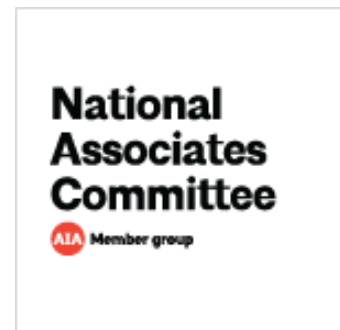
April 30, 2026 | 2–3:30pm ET | [Register >](#)



Updates from NAC

The National Associates Committee (NAC) is a member group of the AIA national organization. NAC’s mission is to inspire the profession by promoting innovation, inclusiveness, and professional development while amplifying the voice of the Associate community within the AIA.

NAC is made up of 53 Associate AIA members, including representatives from each US state, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and one international associate. These representatives are known as State/Territory Associate Representatives or STARS.



2026 Work Groups



Climate Action



Strategic Partnerships



Value



Advocacy



Knowledge & Research

Each STAR represents all of the Associate AIA members in their State or Territory, at the national level. As part of their role, STARS are responsible for:

- Gathering information about issues facing Associate AIA members in their area.
- Disseminating information about national/regional activities and resources.

Reach out to Delaware's STAR, [Christine Olshan, Associate AIA](#).

Read the latest edition of the [NAC NewsBites](#).

BPKC answers your ARE questions - Window Pains

We have a new YouTube video up discussing an ARE question about a leak at a window sill and investigating the cause.

Send me your ARE study questions related to building science or building performance and we'll tackle them in coming videos!

[Watch the video](#)

The goal of the [AIA Building Performance Knowledge Community](#) is to promote architects as leaders in the application of technical design for building performance; in the use of high-performance design criteria, codes, and standards; and in programming, designing, and managing building performance.

To advance, disseminate, and advocate to the architecture profession, AIA members, building owners, the construction industry, the academy, and the public-design practices that create buildings that are healthy, energy efficient, and durable.

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Learn how to align purpose, finances, marketing, and operations to lead your firm with clarity and confidence.

Managing a growing design firm presents both challenges and opportunities - especially in an unpredictable business environment where change is constant. This session helps firm leaders proactively plan for growth by demystifying the business planning process and breaking it into clear, actionable steps.

Explore **strategies for business planning amid uncertainty**, understand **the key components of an effective business plan** - including the interconnection between purpose, finance, marketing, and operations—and learn **how to use critical tools and processes** for strategic decision-making. Participants will also gain the ability to **develop an outline for their own firm's business plan**, supported by a take-home planning handout designed to spark focus, direction, and long-term success.

[Watch now](#) 1.5 AIA CE LU | [Take the Assessment](#)

AIA Trust

MEMBER NEWS

DBF Expands Eastern Shore Presence with Acquisition of Davis, Moore, Shearon & Associates, LLC



Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. (DBF) is pleased to announce the acquisition of Davis, Moore, Shearon & Associates, LLC (DMS & Associates), a respected Centreville, Maryland-based civil engineering firm specializing in land development services.



The Centreville office, located at 207 East Water Street, Suite 100, Centreville, MD, will remain open and will now operate as Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., ensuring continuity of service for existing clients while expanding the firm's regional resources and capabilities.

Founded with a strong reputation for delivering comprehensive site development solutions, DMS & Associates has provided expertise across the full spectrum of the development process, including site grading, road design, utilities, stormwater management, storm drainage, and sediment control planning. The firm is well known for its collaborative approach, working closely with owners, architects, surveyors, environmental consultants, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders to produce high-quality

construction documents and facilitate efficient project approvals.

"This acquisition strengthens our commitment to serving Maryland's Eastern Shore with experienced professionals who understand the region, its communities, and its development needs," said Ring W. Lardner, PE, President of Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc. "Kevin, Jeff, and Brandon have built a respected practice in Centreville. We are excited to welcome them to DBF and to continue building on the strong client relationships they have established."

The addition of the Centreville office enhances DBF's growing presence throughout the Delmarva Peninsula and Mid-Atlantic region. Since its founding in 1983, DBF has expanded strategically through both organic growth and acquisitions, including Andrews, Miller & Associates in 2007 and Environmental Resources, Inc. in 2023. These strategic expansions reflect DBF's ongoing commitment to delivering comprehensive, multidisciplinary services under one roof.



Large Site Plan Solutions

Our large site plans offer a new dimension in visual storytelling, providing detailed mapping and expertly crafted visuals that bring your project to life. With our solutions, you can effectively communicate your vision to stakeholders, ensuring everyone is on the same page. Whether it's for urban planning, architecture, or construction, our large site plans provide a comprehensive visual representation of your project.

[Learn more](#)

PARTNER NEWS



New Castle County Airport



New Castle County Airport (Wilmington ILG), managed by the [Delaware River and Bay Authority](#), has undergone significant terminal upgrades, including enhanced screening areas, HVAC improvements, and ADA accessibility enhancements.

[McKim & Creed, Inc.](#), formerly [Landmark Science & Engineering](#) provides site design, engineering, environmental services, specialized surveying services for airport infrastructure projects, including runway and taxiway rehabilitation, ensuring safe operations.



[New Castle County \(DE\) Government](#) officials, including County Executive [Marcus Henry](#), hosted a ribbon cutting in March that marked the completion of a two year, more than \$4 million project to upgrade park amenities and storm water management in the area.

[McKim & Creed, Inc.](#) & Creed (formerly [Landmark Science & Engineering](#)), led the site design efforts, developing a comprehensive plan that addressed both recreational improvements and critical environmental challenges. Our work included stream stabilization to mitigate flooding impacts and protect infrastructure, including the stabilization of an exposed sewer manhole. The design thoughtfully integrated multiple park amenities while prioritizing long-term durability and minimizing future maintenance costs. Additionally, our approach improved stormwater management, enhanced environmental resilience, and supported the long-term health of the park's natural systems.

College Hall at The University of Pennsylvania

[College Hall](#) is the oldest building on the West Philadelphia campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The building was designed by Thomas Webb Richards, a professor of drawing and architecture, and completed in 1873. It once housed all functions of the University and now contains offices of the President, Provost, and Undergrad Admissions, as well as classrooms. Added to the National Register of Historic Places on February 14, 1978. The style of architecture is Gothic Revival.



Pella Reserve single hung windows were used on this project. Authentic window designs with uncompromised attention to detail, created for those who refuse to settle for anything less than extraordinary. These windows feature historic elements with uncompromised attention to detail, including **Integral Light Technology** ® grilles and historic putty profile.



With a single, movable sash, [Pella Reserve – Traditional](#) wood single-hung windows exude authentic traditional style. Their design features through-stile construction, authentic spoon-lock window hardware and intricate putty profiles. Customize these windows with beautiful stains or exceptionally durable extruded aluminum clad exteriors available in a wide variety of colors, including custom.

Featuring the revolutionary [Integrated Rolscreen®](#), a screen that appears when you open a window, and rolls away, out of sight, when you close it.

We're Here to Help

Our team is ready to support all your building needs! We specialize in providing custom solutions tailored to your projects, whether it's crafting specialty shapes for historic buildings or delivering durable, modern frames for new apartment complexes. Explore [our website](#) for inspiration and [reach out to a representative](#) to discuss your upcoming projects. We've got you covered.

ALLIED MEMBER NEWS



- Arch Resources, LLC
- Atwell, LLC
- Baker, Ingram & Associates
- Blake & Vaughan Engineering, Inc.

- Marvin
- Offit Kurman
- Pangro Development
- Parker Block Co. Inc.

- County Group Companies
- DCI Engineers
- DEDC
- Delaware Brick Company
- DiSabatino Construction Company
- Diversified Lighting
- Electronic Home Solution

- Penn Lighting Associates
- RCI Printing and Graphics
- The Sanders Company
- Tighe & Cottrell, P.A.
- Union Wholesale Company
- Verdantas
- Wohlsen Construction Company

Together as a Family on Cape Cod

Multiple generations and multiple goals — all meet under one roof.



"If you told me when I was 18 years old that someday I would choose to move back in with my parents," said homeowner Rachel Hodgdon with a smile, "I would've told you that you were nuts."



But, thanks to an ambitious Cape Cod residential project that combines multi-generation living, [aging-in-place](#) considerations, a desire for family and community connectivity, and health and wellness goals, that's exactly where this New York executive finds herself.

The home, which was designed to appear as a single-family home from the outside, but from the inside, is actually two separate-but-adjoining homes, gives no hint of the sleight of hand that's taking place. It's an ingenious collection of spaces for each generation; one set meeting the needs of Hodgdon, her wife, and their son, and another for her parents and their aging-in-place preparedness.

"I think one of the cool things about the house is that we've designed it for so many different phases of our family's life and even future generations," Hodgdon said. "We designed with accessibility, and also flexibility, in mind. The home can be opened up so that one space flows into the next, but then the doors can be closed to allow for those separate and private living spaces."

For more on the home, including the project team's healthy living goals, their dedication to connections, plus how the brand experience center, [Marvin at 7 Tide](#), along with [Marvin Modern collection windows and doors](#) helped play a role in meeting these priorities, [take a look at this case study video](#).

A (Simpler) Primer on the Voiding of Tariffs by the Supreme Court and Its Impact on the Construction Industry



On February 20, 2026, the United States Supreme Court voided the tariffs on international goods imposed by President Trump under the IEEPA. The initial, immediate effect is that the recently imposed (and relatively high) tariffs on imported goods are immediately void.

This has raised various questions in the construction industry.

Will prices go down? Will new tariffs be imposed?

Simply because the tariffs were voided does not necessarily mean that prices will go down. Prices are affected by other market forces, not just tariffs. Also, there is the likely prospect of other tariffs being imposed. In fact, that is exactly what the Trump Administration immediately did in response to the Supreme Court ruling. The tariffs are less onerous, however, and they might be temporary. Still, there is the potential for additional or increased tariffs to be imposed on goods. Also, not all construction materials were exclusively under the new tariffs; some materials, such as steel, had longstanding protectionist tariffs dating back decades. If the tariff was through something other than IEEPA, then, the refunds are inapplicable.

Thus, even with the voiding of the recent Trump Administration Tariffs, other tariffs or price volatility may still affect certain goods and materials. Contractors should carefully examine the specific tariffs that apply to specific goods and should continue to account for forthcoming tariff volatility risk in all contracts by negotiating clauses (or prices) that address economic volatility.

What about the tariffs that I already paid on imported materials and goods?

Generally, the key point to understand is that the “Importer of Record” has the right to seek a refund of moneys paid on the tariffs. If you are not the Importer of Record, then, it is likely difficult for you to seek a refund. Refunds are to be sought directly from Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) or the Court of International Trade (“CIT”). Refunds from CBP generally require filing specific documents within 180 days of the “liquidation” of the initial entry of the goods. Consult with an attorney to identify the correct filing(s) for which you might be eligible, as the filings are time-sensitive with deadlines.

Even if you ultimately paid the tariff cost through pass-through clauses in your contracts, if you were not the Importer of Record, you likely do not have eligibility to file a refund claim against the government. Still, each circumstance should be reviewed by an attorney. Theoretically, depending on your contract clauses, the Importer of Record could seek a refund and pass the refund dollars to you.

Why did I pay all those tariff costs if the whole thing was void from the start? Shouldn't I have refused to pay them from the start?

Once the executive branch of the federal government imposed the tariff, it became required to be paid in order to receive the imported good. There really was no other option in real time (other than refusing to receive the good). You could negotiate in your contract who would bear the cost of the tariff, but refusing to pay it meant that you would be unable to receive the imported goods. Theoretically, you could have filed a protective claim with CIT with the intent of appealing to the United States Supreme Court; but realistically, that is a very expensive and burdensome process. Typically, for significant matters of this nature, a single contractor importing a good would not want to carry the cost and burden of a Supreme Court case. Thus, you did what everyone did—paid the tariff to get the goods imported and attempted to price and account for the risk in your contracts accordingly. But, with the recent Supreme Court ruling, refunds are available for certain eligible claimants, including interest.

By Jeffrey Bright, Matthew S. Reddington and Janine M. Campanaro



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- Practice success with tools, research, and risk-management resources
- Industry impact through advocacy, climate action, and design leadership

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