Small Firm Exchange

AIA Member group

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Output of the Monthly State Representative Call

Connect with AIA SFx

The Competency of Practice

Architectural Education and the Small Firm

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Key Takeaways

Advice for New Graduates Seeking Employment
- » Research firms to ensure alignment with your values and professional goals
- » Be willing to learn and ask questions
- » Consider a short-term summer internship as a precursor to full-time employment
- » Small firms generally provide broader exposure to the entire project lifecycle

Benefits of Hiring Recent Graduates
- » Easier to train in your firm's systems and processes (fewer preconceived notions)
- » Strong exposure to the latest tools in visualization and sustainability
- » Opportunity to build a well-balanced team with both design and technical skills

Positioning Your Firm to Support the Academic-to-Professional Pipeline
- » Partner with local academic institutions
- » Host externships (short sessions, typically one week)
- » Provide mentorship opportunities

Links

- Mind the Gap: Strategies to Develop Competencies in Emerging Professionals (AIA Conference on Design Session)
- Boston Architectural College - Study & Career Combined

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

06.18.2026 **AIA Research Agenda**

07.09.2026 **Diversify Practice Model**

Feature your award-winning project on SFx Social Media

Our Community

List of chapters / components with active groups

Arizona
Statewide

California
AIA San Francisco

Connecticut
Statewide

Delaware
Statewide

District of Columbia
AIA|DC

Hawaii
AIA Honolulu

Illinois
AIA Chicago

Lousiana
AIA New Orleans

Maine
Statewide

Massachusetts
AIA Boston

New Jersey
Statewide

New York
Statewide

North Carolina
AIA Triangle

Ohio
Statewide

Oklahoma
Statewide

Oregon
Statewide

Pennsylvania
Statewide

Tennessee
Statewide

Texas
AIA Austin
AIA Dallas
AIA Houston

Virgina
Statewide
AIA Northern Virginia

Washington
AIA Seattle

Wisconsin
Statewide

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