Small Firm Exchange

AIA Member group

Insider 06.18.2026

Output of the Monthly State Representative Call

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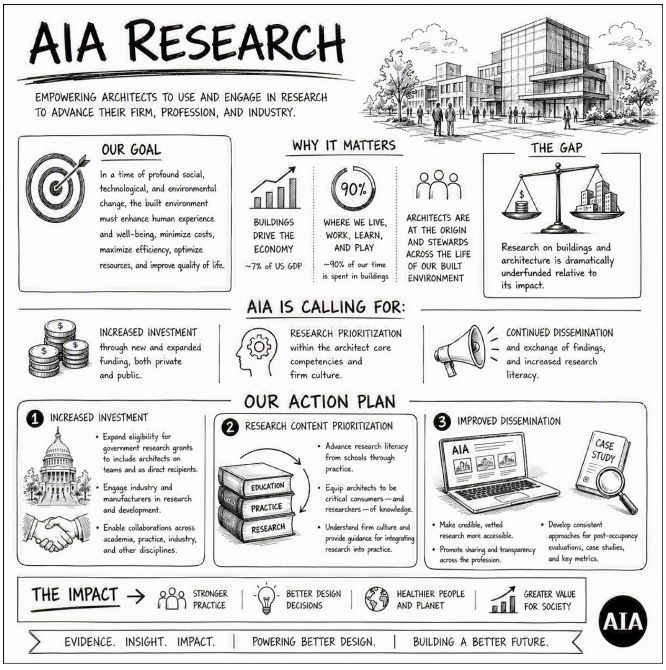

Research for the Small Firm: What Should It Look Like?

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Key Takeaways

What is the AIA Research Agenda?

» A national effort by the American Institute of Architects to strengthen the role of research in architectural practice so architects can make better, evidence-based decisions and increase their impact on the built environment.

What Topics Were Discussed?

» Leadership development and firm best practices
» Data-driven benchmarks, including construction costs and consultant pricing
» Sustainability approaches for Small Firms
» Operational frameworks, spanning financial management to HR and talent practices

What Can Small Firms Do?

» Please participate in the compensation survey to help expand the dataset. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy of the report once it is published.
» Contribute to other research initiatives, like the Home Trends Survey report
» Submit for grant opportunities such as the AIA Upjohn Research Initiative and the Small Project Design Grant.

Resources / Links

- AIA Research Goals + Action Plan
- AIA Billings Index
- AIA Compensation & Benefits Report
- Home Trends Design Survey
- Architecture Grants & Fellowships

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

07.09.2026 **Diversify Practice Model**

08.13.2026 **Beyond Practice**

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 Hampshire
Statewide

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
Commonwealth-wide
AIA Northern Virginia

Washington
AIA Seattle

Wisconsin
Statewide

Is your group not on the list? Email us to add.