

Report

from the Strategic Council

From:
Jessica M. O'Donnell, AIA 2025 Moderator

To:
AIA New Jersey

Mission: *The AIA Strategic Council advances the architectural profession by informing the AIA Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. The Council has an outward and forward-focused vision with an emphasis on long-term goals and outcomes.*

What Does the Strategic Council Do? *To learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council, click [HERE](#).*

From the Moderator + Vice Moderator

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Council engagement surveys during the March Leadership Exchange Calls. The input we received will be used to enhance upcoming council efforts this year. Over the next few months, our Study Groups are refining their work in advance of our in-person meeting at AIA25 and final group report-outs in Q3.

We invite you to engage with the Council this June! Below are sessions at AIA25 that were either developed by Councilors or have current Councilors speaking. We encourage you to check these sessions out. Not attending AIA25? Keep an eye out for communications about a virtual opportunity to engage with Councilors in June.

Wednesday, 6/4/25

- 9:30-11:00am: Architects in Work Books, WE100
- 9:30-11:00am: AIA & AIA Trust Collaboration: Starting & Operating Your Own Firm, WE103
- 11:00-12:00pm: Strengthening Your Firm Through Intentional Supervision, WE149
- 3:30-4:30pm: Water & Equity: Driving Local & Global Health Through Design, WE136

Friday, 6/6/25

- 11:00am: Engage with the Council at the AIA Booth. More info to come, all are welcome and no registration is required!
- 4:00-5:15pm: 2 + 2: Achieving Outstanding Design, FR400

Please keep an eye out for the upcoming AIA Call for Volunteers, which will contain information on how you can apply for one of the At-Large Representative positions on the Strategic Council!

Jessica M. O'Donnell, AIA 2025 Moderator + **Abigail R. Brown**, FAIA 2025 Vice Moderator

*Special thanks to our **committee chairs** who help guide our work and inform our decision-making process: **Jeff Seabold**, FAIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), **Mary Womble**, AIA & **Marc Mondor**, AIA (Communications Co-Chairs), and **Mike Daly**, AIA (Elections Chair).*

Council News

THE COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

What do you perceive to be the most pressing professional or industry ‘pain points’ that are you experiencing as a firm or an individual architect related to practice?

Please send your written responses to your State’s Strategic Councilor who will pass them along to the Moderators, or add your ideas [to this survey](#). This information will be collected through June 1, 2025.

STUDY GROUP UPDATES

AIA OF THE FUTURE

The group is compiling data from recent SWOT assessments with AIA groups and outside organizations. This information will be synthesized and assessed to inform next steps. Over this past month, members did a deep dive into the recent RAND report and how that information can enhance their upcoming work.

ARCHITECT OF THE FUTURE

The next few weeks will be focused on a ‘persona exercise’ – a research effort that will identify key areas for more robust exploration.

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN & LEADERSHIP

The Climate Corner continues to spotlight critical topics while providing readers with resources and details on forward-thinking issues likely to face our profession in the coming years and decades. Based on recent conversations, the group will focus an upcoming issue on ‘codes’ and the impact of rolling those back. Remember to **ENHANCE YOUR SUSTAIN-ABILITIES** this April with ‘Sufficiency through Smarter Design’. Link to the PDF can be found [here](#).

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Conversations between the four subgroups (housing, technology, equity and chief architect) continue to highlight the value of the chief architect role.

DIGITAL ARCHITECTURE

This group is exploring ways AIA can provide more resources to members and firms related to AI. They have formed three subgroups that are studying the Digital Architecture impacts on Business, Equity and Wellbeing.

RESILIENT PRACTICE MODELS

The next few weeks will identify ways to increase research findings to create support systems for architectural practice. The three internal subgroups are continuing to investigate external pressures, internal pressures and professional pressures to practice.

10-YEAR VALUATION & FUTURE BLUEPRINT

Thorough assessment of Council by-laws and review of the Members Voice Task force results helped inform short survey questions. Over the next few weeks, this group will interview groups to gain insightful feedback.

AIA ARCHITECT – INTEGRATED DESIGN PROCESS

More than just a tool, the Integrated Design Process (IDP) is a paradigm, a way of looking at the world. It's an approach that ensures synergistic, multilateral thinking – a cross-cutting approach – and provides the means to advance promising ideas and strategies, while discarding others that aren't useful. Marc Mondor, AIA explains in this article how the firm, evolveEA, uses the IDP approach in their practice. More information can be found [here](#).

Institute News

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEXT AIA EVP/CEO

AIA has officially launched a search for its next EVP/Chief Executive Officer. The search will be conducted by a dedicated search committee, chaired by AIA's 2024 President, Kimberly Dowdell, AIA, and supported by the executive search firm Hendrick & Struggles. More information can be found [here](#).

AIA is committed to a rigorous, transparent process that reflects the perspectives and needs of the diverse AIA community. The committee values your engagement and will continue to monitor feedback as we move forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to kimberlydowdell@aia.org.

AIA25 – CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Registration is open for the AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2025!

More information can be found [here](#).

The AIA Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 4th at AIA25 to consider amendments to AIA bylaws and resolutions and candidates for national leadership positions.

- By April 25, 2025, the Official Delegate Booklet will be distributed and the text of all proposed resolutions will be available on the annual meeting website.
- Currently, there are eight members who have declared candidacy across three positions. More information about the candidates can be found [here](#).

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
June 4-7	AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2025	Boston, MA	Registration
July 16-17	Architects in Action	Virtual	
November 3-5	Women's Leadership Summit	Atlanta, GA	
December 3-5	AIA Governance Week	Washington, D.C.	

For more events, visit the AIA events page at: <https://www.aia.org/community/events>

Feedback

We value your input! If you have questions or ideas for the Strategic Council, email us at StrategicCouncil@aia.org. To learn more about the work of the Strategic Council, please visit the [Strategic Council webpage at AIA.org](#).
