

AIA Tri-State Design Awards 2026

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Regionally compete with your peers from AIA New Jersey, AIA New York State, and AIA Pennsylvania to be honored for architectural excellence!

The AIA Tri-State Design Awards will be celebrated November 5, 2026, in conjunction with the Tri-State Conference, set for November 4-6, 2026 in Princeton.

The AIA Tri-State Design Awards is accepting eligible project submissions for the 2026 program through 11:59 pm Friday, September 11, 2026.

All entries will be featured in the AIA Tri-State Design Awards Showcase Gallery. Finalists and recipients will be tagged in the showcase. Recipients will also be recognized in a nationally distributed press release, and state chapters' announcements and media outreach.

ELIGIBILITY

A project may be submitted, provided the project and its submitting firm/architect adhere to the following criteria.

SUBMITTING FIRM

The submitting firm must be the Architect of Record* and/or the Design Architect. In the case of multi-office firms, eligible projects are limited to work done by the PA, NY, or NJ-based office as the Architect of Record and/or Design Architect.

AIA MEMBERSHIP

The submitting firm, as Architect of Record and/or Design Architect, must have at least one Principal who is a current AIA Pennsylvania, AIA New Jersey, or AIA New York State architect member.

STATE AWARDS PROJECT ENTRY

Eligibility is restricted to projects entered in [AIA New Jersey](#), [AIA New York State](#), or [AIA Pennsylvania](#) Design Awards programs in 2026, 2025, or 2024.

AIA FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Each submission will be required to demonstrate how the project meets a minimum of three of the ten defining principles of AIA framework for design excellence. Each project will have up to 750 words to explain each of the three design excellence principles. [Link to AIA Framework for Design Excellence.](#)

* The AIA National Ethics Council typically views the Architect of Record as the legal entity that has contracted for and completed the work in question. This entity can be a corporation, partnership, or individual architect.

**Please reach out to your state chapter for a record of your project entry if unsure.

Please note that projects that have previously been recognized by the AIA Tri-State Design Awards program are not eligible for resubmittal. This also applies to projects that have already received recognition by the AIA Tri-State Design Awards as an un-built project.

ENTRY FEE

The cost per project entry for 2026's program is \$125.00.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects may only be submitted in one category. Please use your discretion to submit the project in the category that you feel best represents the project. The jury has the discretion to recategorize projects if they deem the project more worthy of assessment or recognition in another category. We advise entrants to consider their category closely as ideally projects align within the category they are being submitted.

ARCHITECTURE

Built projects including new buildings of all types including additions and alterations to existing buildings including but not limited to commercial, institutional, mixed-use, multi-family, and educational projects.

IMPACT DESIGN

Projects that exemplify the power of design to create a better world. Impact Design Projects will be evaluated for their service to the public good, especially in disadvantaged communities. Examples include buildings, initiatives, events, and products specifically designed to positively impact the social, environmental, and economic fabric of communities.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

Interiors, large or small in scope, and may involve new construction, renovation, and preservation or restoration projects that focus on interior space.

PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURE

Projects including historic preservation, historic restoration, historic rehabilitation, reconstruction, and adaptive reuse.

REGIONAL AND URBAN DESIGN

Recognizes the best in urban design, regional and city planning, and community development (built and unbuilt)

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Single-family residences, accessory buildings or Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADUs), and additions.

SMALL PROJECT // OBJECT

Object, artwork installation, work of environmental art, furniture etc.

SMALL PROJECT // UNDER \$500,000

Small project construction, or architectural design under \$500,000 in construction cost.

SMALL PROJECT // UNDER 1.5 MILLION

Small project construction under 1.5 million in construction cost.

SMALL PROJECT // UNDER 3,000 SQUARE FEET

Small project construction, architectural design under 3,000 square feet.

UN-BUILT

Projects yet to be realized or canceled (speculative work, conceptual work, competition work, etc.). If someone is submitting an un-built urban design then it should be under the urban design category.

SUBMITTER & PROJECT INFORMATION

After creating an account and logging in, you may view the entire submission form, and save your submission as you work to complete it. You may log back in at any time to finalize your submission before the submission cutoff date. You will not be asked to process payment until your submission is complete.

Please note; all submission materials must be blind including narratives, file names, photo/rendering and plan captions, and all copy/content included in file uploads. Please double-check your materials. **Submissions whose materials indicate a firm affiliation will be disqualified.**

Preview the required and optional fields for the submitter information, project information, and project images in the table below. Asterisks in the table below denote a required field.

Submitter Contact	The submitter contact will be the primary contact for questions about the project submission. This contact is also linked to this submission site's user profile to allow for starting, pausing, and saving the submission as the applicant works to complete it.
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	<p>If you participated in the 2021 or 2024 AIA Tri-State Design Awards or the 2020-2024 AIA Pennsylvania Awards, the account you created is likely still active within the domain.</p> <p>If you cannot recall your password, there is a self-service “lost password” feature in the submission/nomination portal. If you cannot recall which e-mail address you used to register an account and manage your submissions in previous years, please reach out to Katie at klarson@aiapa.org or 717.903.8991</p> <p>A “manage collaborators” button is located in the top left corner of the submission site. The primary submitter may add collaborators to view and edit an application. Only one user can edit a submission at a time. The primary submitter can submit or finalize the application.</p>
	First Name*
	Last Name*
	Firm Name*
	Title*
	Phone #*
	Email Address*
Category Designation*	<p>Each project may only be submitted in one category. Please use your discretion to submit the project in the category that you feel best represents the project. The jury has the discretion to recategorize projects if they deem the project more worthy of assessment or recognition in another category.</p> <p>*Select the most appropriate category from the dropdown menu.</p> <p>*All categories are detailed on page two of this document for reference and in the submission portal form.</p>
Project Title*	This is the name that will be included in all publications should this project be an award recipient. Project titles that credit a firm/architect will be disqualified.
State Chapter Awards Program Project Entry	Please share the most recent history of this project’s submission to verify eligibility. Please reach out to your state chapter for record of your project entry if unsure.
State Chapter Entry*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o AIA New Jersey o AIA New York State o AIA Pennsylvania

Year of State Awards Program Entry*	If the project was entered more than once, please select the most recent year of entry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2026 o 2025 o 2024
Project Stats / Project Location*	Street Address Line 2 City Country State Zip
Project Stats / Conditioned Project Area*	What is the gross conditioned floor area (sq. ft.) of the project? (express as sq. ft. in number only)
Project Stats / Project Size Category*	Select the projects' size category based on the conditioned project area entered above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Small (< 5,000 sq. ft) o Medium (5,000 – 50,000 sq. ft) o Large (> 50,000 sq. ft) o N/A - Regional and Urban Design
Project Stats / Unconditioned Project Area*	What is the gross unconditioned floor area (sq. ft.) of the project? (express as sq. ft. in number only)
Project Stats / Total Project Area*	What is the total area (sq. ft.) of the project? (express as sq. ft. in number only)
Project Stats / Number of Stories*	
Project Stats / Total Site Area*	What is the total site area (sq. ft.) of the project? (express as sq. ft. in number only)
Project Stats / Project Budget	Enter in numerical dollar format. \$1.5 million should be expressed as \$1,500,000. This field is required if the project is being entered in a "Small Project" category.
Project Stats / Completion Date*	Due to the irregular nature of the AIA Tri-State Awards program, eligible projects are only held to their respective state awards completion or commission date criteria based on their year of entry (2024, 2025, or 2026).
Project Stats / Project Use/Type*	What is the primary use/type of the project? Bank/Financial Institution Courthouse Data Center Education - College/University (campus-level) Education – General Education - K-12 School Food Sales - Convenience Store (w/ or w/out gas station)

	<p>Food Sales – General Food Sales - Supermarket/Grocery Food Service - Fast Food Food Service – General Food Service - Restaurant/Cafeteria Health Care – Clinic Health Care - Hospital Inpatient Health Care - Medical Office Health Care - Nursing/Assisted Living Health Care - Outpatient – General Laboratory - recommend use of Labs21 Lodging – General Lodging - Hotel/Motel Lodging - Residence Hall/Dormitory Mixed-Use Office - Small (< 10,000 sf) Office - Medium (< 100,000 sf) Office – Large Other Parking Public Assembly - Entertainment/Culture Public Assembly – General Public Assembly – Library Public Assembly – Recreation Public Assembly - Social/Meeting Public Safety - Fire/Police Station Public Safety – General Religious Worship Residential - Mobile Homes Residential - Multi-Family, 2 to 4 units Residential - Multi-Family, 5 or more units Residential - Single-Family Attached Residential - Single-Family Detached Residential - Mid-Rise/High-Rise Retail – Mall Retail - Non-mall, Vehicle Dealerships, misc. Retail Store Service (vehicle repair/service, postal service) Storage - Distribution/Shipping Center Storage – General Storage - Non-refrigerated warehouse Storage - Refrigerated warehouse Warehouse - Self-storage</p>
<p>Project Stats / Project Site*</p>	<p>Which of the following best describes your project site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Brownfield <input type="radio"/> Not previously developed <input type="radio"/> Previously developed
<p>Project Narratives / Project Overview *</p>	<p>Please describe your project emphasizing elements of design achievement including project intentions, programming requirements, and the distinguishing aspects of your resolution.</p>

	Word Limit: 350
Project Narratives / Project Background & Impact*	Provide a summary of how the project came to be including the client’s perspective from the start and what impact the project has made on the clients and/or the community. Word Limit: 350
Project Narratives / Project Synopsis *	The project synopsis statement is intended for celebration and announcement publication. Ideally, in one sentence, include the following to convey the primary use(s) and outcome(s) of the project for the client, occupant, or community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● project name ● building or project type/typology ● location/region/neighborhood <p>See sample statements.</p> Word Limit: 40
Choose the 3 Defining Principles of the AIA Framework for Design Excellence that this project incorporates	10 AIA Framework for Design Excellence defining principles of design excellence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Design for Integration o Design for Equitable Communities o Design for Ecosystems o Design for Water o Design for Economy o Design for Energy o Design for Well-being o Design for Resources o Design for Change o Design for Discovery
AIA Framework for Design Excellence Narrative	Detail how you incorporated a minimum of three of the defining principles of design excellence noted above. Word Limit: 750 per defining principle.
Submitting Architect	Please identify the "submitting architect." The identified contact must fit each respective state’s criteria to be eligible for submission.
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect First Name*	

Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Last Name*	
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Title*	
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Firm*	
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Email Address*	
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Phone #*	
Submitting Architect / Submitting Architect Address*	Street Address Line 2 City Country State Zip
Submitting Architect AIA Member ID#	
Submitting Architect AIA State Chapter*	<input type="radio"/> AIA New Jersey <input type="radio"/> AIA New York State <input type="radio"/> AIA Pennsylvania
Submitting Architect AIA Local Chapter/Section*	<input type="radio"/> AIA Architects League of Northern New Jersey <input type="radio"/> AIA Central New Jersey <input type="radio"/> AIA Jersey Shore <input type="radio"/> AIA Newark & Suburban Architects <input type="radio"/> AIA South Jersey <input type="radio"/> AIA West Jersey <input type="radio"/> AIA Bronx <input type="radio"/> AIA Brooklyn <input type="radio"/> AIA Buffalo-Western New York <input type="radio"/> AIA Central New York <input type="radio"/> AIA Eastern New York <input type="radio"/> AIA Long Island <input type="radio"/> AIA New York <input type="radio"/> AIA Peconic <input type="radio"/> AIA Queens <input type="radio"/> AIA Rochester <input type="radio"/> AIA Southern New York <input type="radio"/> AIA Staten Island

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o AIA Westchester + Hudson Valley o AIA Bucks County o AIA Central Pennsylvania o AIA Eastern Pennsylvania o AIA Middle Pennsylvania o AIA Northeastern Pennsylvania o AIA Northwestern Pennsylvania o AIA Philadelphia o AIA Pittsburgh
Submitting Firm Architecture Staff Count*	Please input the # of architecture staff currently employed by the submitting firm. Please include all principals/partners, licensed architects, emerging professionals pursuing licensure, and non-licensed architecture staff not on the licensure path.
Submitting Firm Other Staff Count*	Please input the # of other staff currently employed by the submitting firm. 0 is acceptable here.
Submitting Firm Total Staff Count*	Please indicate the categorical size of the submitting firm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sole Practitioner o Small (2-9 employees/total staff) o Midsize (10-49 employees/total staff) o Large (50+ employees/total staff)
Firm Marketing Contact First Name	
Firm Marketing Contact Last Name	
Firm Marketing Contact Title	
Firm Marketing Contact Email Address	
Firm Marketing Contact Phone #	

Architectural Credits*	<p>Please list all architectural firms that should be credited for public display should this project receive recognition. Architecture firms and contacts should also be listed in the "Project Team Collaborator Credits" field.</p> <p>Format as 'Type of Architectural Credit: Firm Name'</p> <p>For example, see below.</p> <p>Architect of Record: Firm A Design Architect: Firm B Local Architect: Firm C Associate Architect: Firm D Collaborating Architect: Firm E Executive Architect: Firm F</p>
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Type of Service*	<p>Please note the type of service or project partner i.e. Associate Architect, Consultant, Engineer - Civil, Engineer - MEP, Engineer - Structural, General Contractor, Landscape Architect, etc.</p> <p>MAX 20 PROJECT PARTNERS MAY BE LISTED</p>
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Firm/Company Name*	
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Contact First Name*	
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Contact Last Name*	
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Contact Title*	
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Contact Email*	
Project Team Collaborator Credits/ Contact Phone	
Would the client/owner like to remain anonymous?*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No, the client/owner information may be made be published <input type="radio"/> Yes, the client/owner information is CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLICATION
Client/Owner Company/Organization*	

Client/Owner Contact First Name	
Client/Owner Contact Last Name	
Client/Owner Contact Email	
Identify the Product or Material	
Identify the Manufacturer	
Project Photographs	<p>Four (4) photographs of each project or digital renderings for unbuilt project categories are required. These photos/renderings will be used for digital promotion and the awards celebration.</p> <p>Please indicate the priority of photos in each file name and by priority upload designated here; 1 being the preferred photo, 2 the next, etc. (for example DoeResidence_1). Photo #1 will be the default first choice used in all AIA publications, promotions, etc.</p> <p>The project image file uploads must be blind including file names and captions. Credits should/may reveal the firm or photographer.</p> <p>Images of each winning project will be used for unrestricted publicity by the AIA Tri-States.</p>
Photo #1 Upload/Caption*	Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size Caption field should not include credit.
Photo #1 Credit*	
Photo #2 Upload/Caption*	Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size Caption field should not include credit.
Photo #2 Credit*	
Photo #3 Upload/Caption*	Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size Caption field should not include credit.
Photo #3 Credit*	

Photo #4 Upload/Caption*	Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size Caption field should not include credit.
Photo #4 Credit*	
Supplemental Project Photographs	
Supplemental Photo Upload/Caption #1	Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size. Caption field should not include credit.
Supplemental Photo Credit #1	
Supplemental Photo Upload/Caption #2	
Supplemental Photo Credit #2	
Supplemental Photo Upload/Caption #3	
Supplemental Photo Credit #3	
Supplemental Photo Upload/Caption #4	
Supplemental Photo Credit #4	
Supplemental Photo Upload/Caption #5	
Supplemental Photo Credit #5	
Architectural Plans	

Floor Plan Upload*	<p>Upload the project's floor plan(s) in one image file (jpg,jpeg,png). Floor plans are not required for projects entered in the "Regional & Urban Design" category.</p> <p>File name should be formatted as "projectname_floorplan"</p>
Site Plan Upload*	<p>Upload the project's site plan in one image file (jpg,jpeg,png).</p> <p>File name should be formatted as "projectname_siteplan"</p>
Supplemental Architectural Plans	
Supplemental Plan Upload/Caption #1	<p>Acceptable upload formats include jpg, jpeg, png Max 25 MB upload file size. Caption field should not include credit.</p>
Supplemental Plan Upload/Caption #2	
Supplemental Plan Upload/Caption #3	
Supplemental Plan Upload/Caption #4	
Supplemental Project Compilation File Upload	<p>The supplement project compilation upload is an optional field for file upload. The compilation upload may be a project board file (1 large page/compilation canvas) or project binder (multiple pages/compilation canvases).</p>

	<p>All uploaded materials must be blind including file names for all file uploads. Materials that indicate a firm affiliation/credit will be disqualified.</p> <p>.PDF is the only acceptable upload format Max 25 MB upload file size</p>
<p>Agreement</p>	<p>Please be sure that all information is correct on all submitted materials. Verification of information is not guaranteed. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the entrant. The submitting firm may be required to indicate the substantial nature of their design role on the project and identify and describe respective design contributions by other architectural firms involved in the project.</p> <p>The AIA Tri-States assumes no liability for submission materials or loss or damage to any part of the submission. The AIA Tri-States retains the right to reproduce any of the submission materials in its publications, educational programs, and website.</p> <p>Please check all information for correct spelling and accuracy since it will be used for publication. By making a submission, the entrant agrees that the information contained in this form is correct and complete and that the entrant will hold harmless the AIA Tri-States for any and all damage arising out of the use of the information contained herein. Any errors or omissions are the complete responsibility of the entrant.</p> <p>The entrant further certifies that permission has been obtained from the owner, developer, and photographer of the project to publish photographs, images, drawings, and other information included in the submission (and releases and authorizes the AIA Tri-States to use all such materials).</p>
<p>Agreement Checkoff*</p>	<p>I have read and agree to the above terms and conditions.</p>
<p>Agreement Signoff*</p>	<p>Please indicate your agreement by typing in your full name.</p>

DESIGN AWARD HONORS

The jury will have sole discretion to determine whether to select a recipient for an award and how many awards to present. All projects that reach the final round of jurying will be considered for the following awards.

EXCELLENCE AWARD

May be granted, at the jury's discretion, to the project that distinguishes itself from the rest of the submissions representing the highest level of achievement.

HONOR AWARD

May be granted, at the jury's discretion to projects that exemplify distinguished achievement in any category.

MERIT AWARD

May be granted, at the jury's discretion to any project that either lies outside of the other categories or bears an exceptional aspect that the jury feels represents excellence which deserves recognition.

QUESTIONS

Email or call Susan Frear sfrear@aiapa.org or 717.404.8345