



2022 DESIGN AWARDS JURY GUIDELINES

PROGRAM GOAL

Through its Annual Design Awards Program, AIA California recognizes excellence in architecture throughout California and beyond. The purpose of the awards program is to encourage and recognize distinguished architectural achievement and to honor the architects, clients, and consultants who work together to improve the built environment, acknowledging their role in shaping the quality of life through design excellence.

ELIGIBILITY

The Awards Program is open to AIA members for projects located anywhere in the world. For a project to be considered eligible for an award, the sole proprietor or principal of the submitting firm must be an AIA member. New structures, additions, and projects involving significant changes to existing buildings, regardless of location, whose construction was completed after January 1, 2016, may be submitted.

CATEGORIES SUBMITTERS CHOOSE FROM

- Adaptive Reuse, Renovation or Historic Preservation
- Mixed-Use
- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Institutional/Education
- Large Civic Projects
- Commercial
- Interior Architecture
- Small Projects (Object and Structure)

AWARD LEVELS

Each project will be considered on its own merit. Therefore, projects will not be considered in the limited context of California but rather within the context of present-day design values and the ideals that have shaped the definition of "good" design throughout the years. As always, a host of design issues will inform the jury process. Issues such as innovation, form, construction, utility, material use, response to context and/or an appreciation of the project's environmental impact are some of the factors likely to be considered for each project.

Three levels of awards shall be given in across categories: **Climate Action Award, Honor, and Merit**, of which **Climate Action** is the highest distinction. The **Climate Action Award** (formerly known as Leading Edge) level of award acknowledges both great design and sustainable features. The **Honor** level of award acknowledges a project with distinctive character and outstanding merit. **Merit** awards recognize projects that clearly demonstrate a level of design that exemplifies superior achievements.

In keeping with AIA California's commitment to climate action and to the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence, we offer the following guidelines as you consider projects for Merit and Honor Awards. We recommend that projects that do not meet the basic minimum requirements of the Common App and/or have a technical review score of less than 2 do not receive any award.

Projects meeting all criteria at a minimum level (recommended technical review score of 2 or higher) are eligible for a Merit Award; projects with a score of 3 or higher are eligible for an Honor Award. The Climate Action award honors projects that are commendable examples of design that reduces carbon impacts in multiple ways. Projects that receive a technical review score of 4 or higher are eligible for a Climate Action Award, with particular recognition for meeting criteria that significantly demonstrate a climate positive approach to design. (Climate Action award winners can also win an Honor or Merit Award.)

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New for 2022: Special Commendation for Framework In Design Excellence Achievement

AIA California is establishing the Special Commendation for Framework in Design Excellence Achievement, which will recognize projects that excel in one particular AIA Framework for Design Excellence measure. The Design Awards jury will have the discretion to award up to 10 total single-measure commendations but are not required to recognize an entry under each measure. No project shall be chosen for a commendation in more than one category or may receive a commendation in more than one year from the same category. Recipients of a special commendation will be eligible to resubmit their project for a Design Award in future years.

JURY REVIEW PROCESS

An entry in the awards program should be judged for the success with which it has met the individual project requirements. An "award winning project" shall demonstrate a high level of design resolution. A project which also advances the contemporary understanding of design by proposing new approaches to the development of architectural form should also be awarded. Entries shall be weighed individually, not in comparison with each other. Awards may be given in as many or as few projects as are deemed worthy to receive recognition as the Jury believes are justified by the quality of the submissions. All entries must be rated either yes or no, with the yes entries moving forward to the next round of judging.



at our in-person jury meeting. All entries where the majority wasn't no will also move forward to the next round of judging. Each entry will be judged and rated on the following criteria:

- **Design Excellence:** Does the design elevate the human experience while addressing the project's practical needs?
- **Sustainable Design/Resiliency:** Does the design take a progressive approach to advancing the missions of sustainability and/or resiliency?
- **Community Impact:** Does the design provide significant improvement to its social or physical setting?

The jury should also consider the following:

- Contextual relationship
- Creative use of materials & systems
- Sustainability and intelligent use of available resources
- Economy
- Purpose & functionality
- Accessibility
- Does it further our understanding of design via new approaches?
- **OVERALL DESIGN EXCELLENCE:** Quality of the built form relative to its program, needs, challenges, and setting

JURY COMMENTS ON WINNING PROJECTS

Jury comments are included with the award recipient's award certificate and in all promotion and publication of the award-winning projects, as well as on the slide show that is presented during the Awards Gala. ***Jury comments are generally 3 to 5 sentences or a solid paragraph for each winning project;*** however, please feel free to comment as much or as little as you deem appropriate. These comments should reflect the positive attributes of the project and demonstrate to the public the value of design excellence.

Recipients and non-winners are notified following the judging, but the level of award remains confidential until the evening of the awards program. ***Please keep the results of the judging strictly confidential until after the awards ceremony.*** Public viewing of all design submissions is opened in the Design Awards gallery after the Jury has made selections. The level of award for winning projects is posted to the public gallery after the awards program is complete.

The members of AIA California sincerely appreciate your donation of time and effort to review our 2022 Design Award submissions. Please feel free to call or email me with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

Thank you!

Amanda Nye
Program Coordinator
AIA California
PH: (916) 642-1712
Email: anye@aiacalifornia.org