



call for entry
DESIGN . NEXT LA



AIA Los Angeles

2026

DESIGN AWARDS

DESIGN AWARDS 2026

CALL FOR ENTRIES

As one of the most prestigious awards an architect and designer can win in the Los Angeles design community, AIA Los Angeles (AIALA) goes to great lengths to make the Awards as celebrated as possible. This year is no exception! A panel of distinguished jurors, from international architects and fellows, to critics, professors, and theorists, will bring their expertise to our local judging table – evaluating and selecting works that represent the best in our design field.

The annual AIALA Design Awards & Exhibit honors excellence in:

- **Design Awards: Built work in Los Angeles or by Los Angeles architects**
- **Next LA Awards : Unbuilt work in Los Angeles or by Los Angeles architects**

In both Design and Next LA categories, jury awards may be given in three classifications: Citation, Merit and Honor.

SUSTAINABILITY RELATED REQUIREMENTS

All firms submitting to the design awards will again be required to submit proof of being a 2030 Commitment signatory. Built project entries will require a narrative of the project's sustainable features, energy calculations, and proof of being submitted to the AIA 2030DDx platform. If your firm has not yet signed onto the 2030 Commitment, you can sign on here: <https://2030ddx.aia.org/registerFirm>. If you need to register, we suggest you begin now.

All projects pursuing an Honor Award must achieve the following:

Requirements, 2026

- 70% reduction in predicted Energy Use Intensity (pEUI), similar to Title 24 energy baseline compliance.
- 45% pEUI for Low-income Affordable Housing and Adaptive Reuse projects.

Same requirements from past years:

Must meet one of the following sustainability strategies:

- Demonstrate innovative water conservation strategies, such as 100% native planting or non-potable water reuse system, and provide a water savings summary report.
- Conduct a Lifecycle Assessment (LCA), comparing baseline and design case embodied carbon, and submit a carbon analysis summary report.
- Requirements for BUILT Interiors & Residential Submissions: If neither of the above options are feasible, the Lighting Power Density of the interior space must achieve at least a 25% improvement beyond the project's established energy code.

NEW BUILT REQUIREMENT: All projects shall include, within their PDF Presentation, one to three slides that highlight Building Energy Performance, Interior Lighting Performance, Water or Embodied Carbon metrics. Reference at least one COTE Top Ten measure from the [AIA Framework for Design Excellence](#) and complete the provided **Sustainability Dashboard Template**. (Dashboard is in addition to the 1-3 slides)

Note these slides represent the **minimum** sustainability content required. Teams may integrate additional sustainability measures within this slide or include up to **two additional slides** at their discretion.

NEW NEXT|LA REQUIREMENT: Sustainability Dashboard Template AIA2030 Commitment field only.

JUDGING

Separate juries will be convened for each award program: AIALA Design, and Next LA Awards. The decisions by the juries are final and binding. Winners will be kept confidential and will be publicly announced at the AIALA Design Awards Ceremony.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The AIALA Awards Ceremony will be in October. Date, time and type of gathering are to be announced at a later date. Winners of the awards will be announced at the event, where they will be presented with their award certificates. In addition to honoring the winners of the AIALA Design and Next LA Awards, the 2026 AIALA Board of Directors Award recipients will also be recognized. Check <https://www.aialosangeles.org/home/awards/design-awards/> for ceremony updates.

DESIGN AWARDS 2026

CALL FOR ENTRIES

DESIGN AWARD FOR RESILIENT ARCHITECTURE - **INTRODUCED IN 2025**

In light of the devastating wildfires in January 2025, AIALA is introduced a new design award to honor excellence in resilient architecture. These awards will recognize projects that actively address natural disasters.

Resilient architecture involves creating buildings and communities that not only minimize damage from natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, or extreme weather but also recover quickly. The focus is on both structural integrity and adaptability to changing conditions.

- All design entries are eligible for this award, including both **Design Awards (Built)** and **Next LA (Unbuilt)** categories and all typologies. To be considered, use the optional slide to illustrate the mitigating design features in the project.
- The additional slide must include a short **Resiliency Narrative** (no more than 200 words) describing key design features. Key design features include, but are not limited to, foundation design, enclosure design, massing design, and material selection.



DESIGN AWARDS 2026

REGISTRATION

Individuals or firms may submit any number of projects to the AIALA Design and Next LA Awards. An entry will be eligible even though the submitting architect is not the sole author, providing the submitting architect credits all other participants who substantially contributed to the design of the project. AIALA uses **Submittable**, a paperless, digital submission entry. All registrations and awards submissions must be completed through this platform.

FEE STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE

| | | DESIGN or NEXT LA AWARD |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| EARLY BIRD PRICING APRIL 06 - APRIL 27 | 1ST ENTRY | \$195 |
| | EACH ADDITIONAL | \$185 |
| | STUDENT | \$50 [NEXT LA ONLY] |
| REGULAR PRICING APRIL 27 - MAY 11 | 1ST ENTRY | \$265 |
| | EACH ADDITIONAL | \$245 |
| | STUDENT | \$55 [NEXT LA ONLY] |
| LATE PRICING MAY 12 - MAY 25 | 1ST ENTRY | \$295 |
| | EACH ADDITIONAL | \$275 |
| | STUDENT | \$55 [NEXT LA ONLY] |

DEADLINES

Your registration form and fee must be submitted via **Submittable** no later than **Monday, May 25, 2026** (11:00pm PST).

The submission period will be from June 2, 2026 - July 23, 2026. All award submittals are due on **Thursday, July 23, 2026** (11:00pm PST).

CLICK TO SUBMIT

ADDITIONAL FORMS AND MATERIALS

The additional submission form will be sent to registrants starting June 2, 2026 via **Submittable**.

Detailed requirements, including category definitions, specifications for entry materials and a presentation template can be found on our [website](#).

C A T E G O R I E S

| | AWARD CATEGORIES | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA |
| Selecting an award category | Submit complete built works to the Design Awards category | Submit unbuilt works to the NEXT LA Awards category |
| Focus of award category | Recognizes the best built work located in Los Angeles or by Los Angeles based architects. | Recognizes the future of Los Angeles architecture by awarding projects that are not yet built in Los Angeles or by Los Angeles based architects. |

| ENTRY TYPOLOGIES |
|--|
| Adaptive Re-use/Renovation/Historic Preservation |
| Affordable Housing |
| Cityscapes |
| Commercial/Mixed Use |
| Competition (NEXT LA only) |
| Educational |
| Healthcare/Institutional/Civic |
| Interior Architecture |
| Installations |
| Multi-Family Residential |
| Single-Family Residential |
| Temporary Housing |

- Entries are not limited to listed typologies.
- Note: Awards are not bestowed per typology. Projects are grouped by typology for ease of jury coordination only.
- All entries must follow the Submissions Requirements instructions and follow the prompts on **Submittable**.

E L I G I B I L I T Y

The AIALA Design Awards showcase the best of built and unbuilt work located in Los Angeles or by Los Angeles-based architects located elsewhere. Entrants must be members of any chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Award winners will be announced and celebrated at the AIALA Design Awards Ceremony in October.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

DESIGN AWARDS

1. Built work, completed after **January 1, 2022**.
2. Provide proof of project submission on **DDX** platform
3. Provide required building energy information, in online form through **Submittable**.

NEXT LA

1. Unbuilt work originating no earlier than **January 1, 2022**. Project must be less than 75% through completed construction at the time of judging in **September 2026**.

SUBMITTER ELIGIBILITY

DESIGN AWARDS

Only Architect, Associate, or Student members in good standing (at the time of registration) of any Chapter of the American Institute of Architects may submit entries.

Firms must have at least one Architect, Associate, or Student member in good standing, and provide that member's ID number to register and submit.

Los Angeles based practices are eligible to submit regardless of the project's location.

Projects located in Los Angeles are eligible for submission regardless of the architect/firm's practice location.

Submitting firm must be a signatory of the **2030 Commitment**; provide proof of firm's signatory.

Projects by any 2026 AIALA Design or NEXT LA Awards jury member (or the firm of the jury member, regardless of location) are ineligible.

NEXT LA

AWARD ELIGIBILITY

DESIGN AWARDS

Eligible for Honor Award only if required building energy information is provided.

NEXT LA

Eligible for Honor Award

Eligible for Merit Award

Eligible for Citation Award

Projects previously awarded a Design Award are not eligible for resubmission in this category.

Projects previously awarded a NEXT LA Award are not eligible for resubmission in this category. They are eligible for submission to the Design Awards if they meet the criteria.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Julie Yoo, [KFA](#)

Alek Zarifian, FAIA, [Alek Zarifian Architect](#)

REGISTRATIONS DUE

Thursday
May 25, 2026

REGISTER HERE

<https://aialosangeles.submittable.com/submit>