



Call for Entries

2025

DESIGN AWARDS

Shaping Our Communities Through Design Excellence



#### SUBMISSION DATES

April 7 Online Submission Opens

May 27 Online Submission Deadline

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# Welcome to the AIA Honolulu Design Awards

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

Since 1958, the AIA Honolulu Annual Design Awards Program has provided an avenue for AIA Honolulu member architects to be recognized by their peers for their outstanding achievements and dedication to excellence in architectural design.

Extending beyond these exemplary individual recognitions, our prestigious program aims to:

- Utilize the [AIA Framework for Design Excellence](#) as the design standard.
- Elevate the general quality of architectural practice in Hawaii.
- Expand public expectation for design excellence and its breadth/impact on improving daily lives.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Licensed Architect members of this Chapter may enter all project categories.
- Associate AIA members of this Chapter may submit in the Unbuilt category only.
- No time limit from when the project was completed to when it may be submitted for an award.
- No limit to the number of submissions by the same architect or firm.
- Firms whose employees are members of the jury are not eligible for submission in that year.

The following re-entry rules apply to previously submitted projects:

- Those projects that did not receive any award in a prior year may be resubmitted.
- Previously awarded projects which have undergone substantial renovation may be resubmitted.
- Previously awarded unbuilt projects are eligible for re-submittal upon completion.
- Projects which received past recognition in a non-juried category (i.e. People's Choice winner) may be submitted in subsequent years for consideration of a juried award.
- All other previously awarded juried projects are not eligible for resubmittal.

**SUBMISSION FEE**     \$400 for the First Entry  
                                 \$300 for each Additional Submission

## 2025 SCHEDULE

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|----------------|---|
| • Mon, April 7 | Call for Entry & Online Submissions Opens                           |
| • Tue, May 27  | Submissions Due - Must be fully completed/submitted/paid by 5:00 PM |
| • Fri, July 25 | Design Awards Gala at Prince Waikiki. Winners will be announced.    |

A \$100 administrative fee will be charged to all withdrawn projects, where AIA has been notified in advance of the request to withdraw. After Tuesday, May 27, 2025, no refund requests from entrants will be considered.

There will be no refunds for submissions that are late, incomplete, or disqualified per the deadlines/guidelines of this awards program.

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## PROJECT CATEGORIES & AWARDS

Each entry shall be submitted and may receive an award in one of the following categories. The number of projects awarded in each category and the level of award shall be determined by the jury. The jury may unanimously decide to move a project into a more appropriate category post-submission.

### PROJECT CATEGORIES

**Commercial/Industrial:** Public and private developments comprising retail, industrial, manufacturing, and hospitality. Commercial renovations, historic preservation, adaptive reuse as well as new construction projects are eligible.

**Distinctive Detail:** (choose this project category for consideration in our Distinct Detail Design Awards) Individual building components and design features on built projects that deserve special consideration, whether it be a prominent façade, a grand staircase, or a custom piece of furniture.

**Institutional:** Public and private developments of an institutional nature; K-12 and higher education; recreational facilities/parks, hospitals and medical facilities and utilities.

**Interior Architecture:** Examples of projects falling in this category are, but are not limited to, tenant improvements and new tenant spaces within an existing (or by others and/or previously completed) exterior shell/space. Also includes residential interior renovations with minimal exterior improvement.

**Residential:** Single-family residential; multi-family residential; residential housing community planning; and residential renovations, additions, and historic preservation. Residential projects of various sizes and scope are welcome as long as the project involves substantial exterior alterations.

**Unbuilt:** Unbuilt entries may include any project that is either commissioned or intended for construction, or purely theoretical work not intended for construction, submitted individually, as a team or firm. The jury will award entries in this category based on creativity, originality, power, and potential of the ideas presented.

### JURIED AWARDS

**Award of Excellence:** Requires unanimous vote of the jury that a project excels in all aspects. Reserved for those projects which stand out from all of the meritorious award winners. This highest honor recognizes projects which are deemed to exemplify excellence of architectural design on all levels of analysis and exemplify the highest standards to which AIA members aspire.

**Award of Merit:** Requires consensus from the jury that a project demonstrates high quality work overall. Granted to projects which display a high standard of architectural quality and design.

**Honorable Mention Award:** Responds to notable achievements in one or more particular project aspects; area(s) that stood out, as agreed through consensus by the jury.

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## SPECIALTY AWARDS

**Distinctive Detail Award:** Celebrates the craftsmanship, attention to detail, and spirit of innovation expressed by architectural elements big and small. Can only be awarded to projects submitted in the Distinctive Detail project category, as agreed through consensus by the jury.

**Community Impact Award:** Recognizes projects that are designed to remove barriers and burdens, physical or abstract, empowering and enabling people to gather, connect, live, and function to their highest potential, ultimately bringing a community together. This award is unique in that it relies on the experiences of end users; therefore, it is recommended that the project be at least 12 months old at time of submission. Awarded through consensus by the jury.

## AIA HONOLULU NON-JURIED AWARD

**People's Choice:** First launched in 2007, the People's Choice Award provides the public an opportunity to view AIA distinguished entrants and determine an annual winner by popular choice. This award encourages public dialogue to help shape Hawaii through design excellence.

## COLLABORATION AWARDS

**Hawaii Energy Award for Excellence in Energy Efficient Design:** The award recognizes design that embodies Hawai'i Energy's mission to assist Hawai'i's consumers in maximizing energy efficiency as a critical step to getting to our state's clean energy goals, saving ratepayers on their utility costs, and protecting our islands' environment. The winning project will have incorporated energy efficiency as a foundational goal which will provide long-term savings and reduced energy use. The architect of record will be eligible for a \$1,000 bonus incentive.

**Hawaii Home and Remodeling Editor's Choice Award for Residential Architecture:** In collaboration with Hawaii Home + Remodeling, a leading home improvement and remodeling magazine for Island homeowners, this award celebrates design excellence by selecting a recipient in the residential category.

**Mayor's Choice:** Since 1998 the Mayor's Choice award has validated the importance of good design in shaping our city and local communities. Thanks to the honorable Mayor's Office, City and County of Honolulu, for their continued support.

**USGBC Hawaii's Sustainability Award:** The U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Sustainability Award celebrates the best of green building and sustainable market transformation. USGBC is committed to transforming buildings, and believes that every person deserves a better, more sustainable life. Projects must be registered with the USGBC LEED Program or a nationally recognized third-party green building rating system.

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## JUDGING CRITERIA

Each entry will be judged for the success with which the project has met its individual requirements. Entries will be evaluated individually, not in competition with others. The jury uses anonymous written and visual material submitted for their analysis. There will be no site visits, so it is imperative that the information provided describes the project as clearly and accurately as possible.

Jury considerations include how the project aligns with the Framework for Design Excellence, which represents 10 design principles to inform progress towards a zero-carbon, healthy, just, resilient, and equitable built environment.

These 10 principles are:

- Integration: Elevate the project by delivering beauty and function
- Equitable Communities: Positively impacting future occupants
- Ecosystems: Consider the greater environment for opportunities to create harmony
- Water: Conserve and improve water quality as a precious resource
- Economy: Add value for owners, occupants, community, and planet, regardless of size/budget
- Energy: Reduce energy use while improving building performance, function, and comfort
- Well-being: Support health and well-being for all people
- Resources: Make informed material selections and balancing priorities
- Change: Showcase resiliency and adaptability, enhance usability, functionality & value over time
- Discovery: Apply lessons learned from previous projects to refine the design process

In addition, attention will be paid to design quality, aesthetic delight, creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation. Additional criteria may be established by the jury at the time of their review.

Project authorship will remain concealed throughout the deliberations of the jury. If the authorship is revealed on any of the images, plans, captions, or narratives the entry will be disqualified.

**2025 JURY** Juror selection is based upon locating impartial individuals who represent high levels of achievement, design quality and professional integrity. Every attempt is made to create a balanced panel that will provide fair judgment to all entries.

In 2025, the AIA Honolulu Design Awards jury will consist of five individuals, two of whom will be members of an AIA chapter outside of Hawaii. Three jurors will be Hawaii residents to ensure that the uniqueness of Hawaii Architecture is recognized and appreciated by non-local jurors. Members of the design awards committee whose firms have submitted in that year may not be present and/or may not participate during any aspect of jury deliberations.

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## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must clearly demonstrate process and accomplishment through a combination of text, diagrams, drawings, photographs, and other graphic materials to address the judging criteria.

### TASK LIST

1. Submitter Information/Project Facts: Answer specific questions about yourself and your project. References to firm and individual names will not be visible to the jury during the review process.

2. Common App for Design Excellence:

- **Complete the Excel form fields to the best of your ability.** Each section of the sheet relates to a principle of the [Framework for Design Excellence](#).

3. Context Upload:

**\*\*Anonymity is a MUST:** firm and personal names are not to be visible on any pages.

- File name: "Project Name.pdf" (no firm name in title)
- Single PDF file
- 20 pages max, 10 MB max file size
- 8 ½" x 11", Landscape
- Add Project Name in footer
- Limit labels or annotation to approximately 30 words per page.
- These pages should graphically represent the project to the jury and may include:
  - Site and floor plans, diagrams, photographs, sections, elevations or other drawings.
  - Conceptual, sustainable, technical or programmatic diagrams are encouraged.
  - Indicate the project's physical context or site character.
  - Renovations and additions should clearly delineate the scope of work and consider including graphics and/or images that distinguish between the initial circumstances and the final product and contain other material highlighting the reuse or adaptation of the site or building.

4. Publicity Images (4 JPG): Upload 4 images that will be used to showcase the project for publicity purposes (no text included). Requirements: Print-quality (300 dpi) image of approximately 2400 x 4000 pixels in JPG.

### DESIGN AWARDS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Each project must be individually submitted online. Payment processing is done on a per entry basis. You will create a unique login as a user and can enter multiple submissions within that account. You can edit your submission(s) until the deadline. After Tuesday, May 27, Midnight (HST), no changes can be made.

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## SPECIALTY AIA HONOLULU AWARDS

### DISTINCTIVE DETAIL DESIGN AWARD

“The details are not the details. They make the design.” Charles Eames

The Distinctive Detail Award honors individual building components and design features that may not have been recognized for overall achievement. Whether it be a prominent façade, a grand staircase, or a custom piece of furniture, the Distinctive Detail Award celebrates the craftsmanship, attention to detail, and spirit of innovation expressed by architectural elements big and small.

**Eligibility:** Same as the AIA Honolulu Design Awards eligibility criteria for Built Projects.  
MUST choose “Distinctive Detail” under the Project Category list when you start your submission.

**Submission Requirements:** Submitted content (narrative, photos, drawings, and other documentation) should focus on the project component intended for consideration and must address the specific judging criteria outlined below. Distinctive Detail applicants will not complete the Common App.

**Judging Criteria:** Entries will be evaluated individually, not in competition with others. The jury will be looking for work that sets itself apart from the norm through consideration of the following criteria:

- Overall Concept: How the detail relates to the concept/goals of the overall project.
- Innovation: Originality of the design, technology, material, and/or construction system.
- Materiality: Physical and visual quality.
- Craftmanship: Execution of the design concept.
- Sustainability: Optimizing the relationship with the social, economic, and environmental context.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Community Impact Award recognizes projects that are designed to remove barriers and burdens, physical or abstract, empowering and enabling people and/or communities to gather, connect, live, and function to their highest potential. Design entries in this category need not have a high level of design aesthetic but must demonstrate significant social impact. This award is unique in that it relies on the experiences of end-users; therefore, it is recommended that the project be at least 12 months complete at the time of submission.

**Eligibility:** ALL AIA Honolulu Design Awards BUILT Projects are eligible.

The AIA Honolulu Design Awards jury will review all entries with strong Common App sections under

- Measure 2: Design for Equitable Communities &
- Measure 7: Design for Well-Being.

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## COLLABORATION AWARDS

### USGBC HAWAII'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The USGBC Sustainability Award celebrates the best of green building and sustainable market transformation. USGBC is committed to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated. The award recognizes projects that integrate design excellence with environmental performance to inspire sustainable, resilient, and climate forward designs.

Eligibility: Same as the AIA Honolulu Design Awards eligibility criteria for Built Projects, PLUS registration or certification with the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Program or a nationally recognized third-party green building rating system.

Sustainability Award Jury: The Sustainability Award jury will be separate from our regular jury and consist of USGBC Hawaii members. Juror selection is based on impartial individuals who represent high levels of achievement, design quality, and professional integrity. Every attempt is made to create a balanced panel that will provide fair judgment to all entries.

Members of the design awards committee whose firms have submitted in that year may not be present and/or may not participate in any aspect of jury deliberations.

### THE HAWAII ENERGY AWARD for EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY-EFFICIENT DESIGN

The award recognizes design that embodies Hawai'i Energy's mission to assist Hawai'i's consumers in maximizing energy efficiency as a critical step to getting to our state's clean energy goals, saving ratepayers on their utility costs, and protecting our islands' environment. The winning project will have incorporated energy efficiency as a foundational goal which will provide long-term savings and reduced energy use and illustrate the associated benefits of highly efficient building systems for occupant comfort and well-being and operations and maintenance. The architect of record will be eligible for a \$1,000 bonus incentive in addition to any Hawai'i Energy custom or prescriptive incentives which have already been applied for or received by the utility account holder. For more information on our standard and custom incentives, please visit: <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-businesses/incentives>.

Eligibility: Unbuilt and Built projects in the Institutional or Commercial/Industrial categories that make up the top 15% of total submissions based on gross EUI under Measure 6: Energy on the Common App will be considered.

Hawaii Energy Efficiency Award Jury: The award jury will be separate from our regular jury and consist of energy advisors and engineers from Hawai'i Energy as well as selected experts in energy efficient design.



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