



2026 CALL FOR DESIGN ENTRIES

Architecture x Nevada Design Awards Packet

Elevate your architectural legacy!

Submit your innovative project to the prestigious AIA Nevada Design Awards. Showcase excellence and inspire the industry.

Questions?

Call: (702) 483-3838

Email: Operations@AIANevada.org
for more information.

View our website
AIANVAwards.org



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LGA ARCHITECTURE & BNIM - CITY OF LV DOWNTOWN CIVIC CENTER & PLAZA - 2025 MERIT AWARD



ABOUT ARCHITECTURE X NEVADA DESIGN AWARDS

The AIA Architecture x Nevada Design Awards celebrate outstanding architecture with the highest levels of innovation, creativity, vision, and design excellence. This program not only sets the standard for exceptional design in Nevada but also serves to educate the public about the pivotal role of architecture in enhancing and uplifting our communities.

In a commitment to recognizing projects that epitomize the very best in Nevada's architectural landscape, we seek designs that are sustainable, innovative, and meticulously crafted. With a panel of esteemed professionals bringing varied insights and proficiency, every submission is examined in light of the project team's objectives and assessed for its innovative solution supportive of those goals.

The final selections of the jury are unveiled at our AxNV DSA Gala. Award-winning projects then receive promotion throughout the Nevada community, fostering a continual public enthusiasm for architectural excellence.

AIA Framework for Design Excellence

The world today is facing broad and complex challenges that threaten every aspect of our lives. The architect's call to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public has a new and broader meaning amid challenges such as increasing climate extremes and social inequity. Architects everywhere must recognize that our profession can harness the power of design to contribute to solutions addressing the most significant needs of our time. Every project can be used as a platform for addressing big problems and providing creative solutions. Every line drawn should be a source of good in the world.

The Framework for Design Excellence represents the defining principles of good design in the 21st century. Comprised of 10 principles and accompanied by searching questions,

The Framework seeks to inform progress toward a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment.

These are to be thoughtfully considered by designer and client at the initiation of every project and incorporated into the work as appropriate to the project scope. The Framework is intended to be accessible and relevant for every architect, every client, and every project, regardless of size, typology, or aspiration.

The Framework for Design Excellence challenges architects with a vision the profession strives to achieve.



Design for INTEGRATION

Good design elevates any project, no matter how small, with a thoughtful process that delivers both beauty and function in balance. It is the element that binds all the principles together with a big idea.

- What is the concept or purpose behind this project, and how will the priorities within the nine other principles inform the unique approach to this project?
- How will the project engage the senses and connect people to place?
- What makes the project one that people will fight to preserve?
- What design strategies can provide multiple benefits across the triple bottom line of social, economic, and environmental value?

Design for EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

Design solutions affect more than the client and current occupants. Good design positively impacts future occupants and the larger community.

- What is the project's greater reach?
- How could this project contribute to creating a diverse, accessible, walkable, just, human-scaled community?
- Who might this project be forgetting?
- How can the design process and outcome remove barriers and promote inclusion and social equity, particularly with respect to vulnerable communities?
- What opportunities exist in this project to include, engage, and promote human connection?
- How can the design support health and resilience for the community during times of need or during emergencies?

Design for ECOSYSTEMS

Good design mutually benefits human and nonhuman inhabitants. What we design has a direct impact to the ecosystems in and around the site. Understanding the site dynamics will allow us to be more conscious of our impacts.

- How can the design support the ecological health of its place over time?
- How can the design help users become more aware and connected with the project's place and regional ecosystem?
- How can the project support regional habitat restoration?
- How can the project support equitable access to nature?

Design for WATER

Good design conserves and improves the quality of water as a precious resource.

- How does the project use water wisely, addressing efficiency and consumption while matching water quality to appropriate use?
- How can the project's water systems maintain function during emergencies or disruptions?
- How does the project handle rainfall and stormwater responsibly?
- How does the project contribute to a healthy regional watershed?

Design for ECONOMY

Good design adds value for owners, occupants, community, and planet, regardless of project size and budget.

- How do we design robust projects that enhance economic, natural, intellectual, and experiential resources?
- How will the design choices balance cost with long-term value?
- How can the performance of this project be improved in ways that are cost and design neutral?

Design for ENERGY

Good design reduces energy use and eliminates dependence on fossil fuels while improving building performance, function, comfort, and enjoyment.

- How can passive design strategies contribute to the project's performance and form?
- How can the project exceed building code efficiency standards to approach net zero energy and net zero carbon?
- Can the project be powered by clean, renewable energy sources?
- How can the project provide for continuous performance improvements over its lifetime?

Design for WELL-BEING

Good design supports health and well-being for all people, considering physical, mental, and emotional effects on building occupants and wider surrounding community.

- How can the design encourage a healthy lifestyle?
- How can the project provide greater occupant comfort?
- How can the project be welcoming and inclusive for all?
- How can the project connect people with place and nature?
- How can material selection reduce hazards to occupants and communities throughout the supply chain?

Design for RESOURCES

Good design depends on informed material selection, balancing priorities to achieve durable, safe, and healthy projects with an equitable, sustainable supply chain to minimize possible negative impacts to the planet.

- What factors (priorities) will be considered in making material selection decisions?
- How are materials and products selected and designed to reduce embodied carbon and environmental impacts while enhancing building performance?
- How can material selection reduce hazards and support equitable labor practices in the supply chain?
- How does the project promote zero waste throughout its life cycle?
- How does the project celebrate local materials and craft?
- How long will the project last, and how does that affect your material?

Design for CHANGE

Adaptability, resilience, and reuse are essential to good design, which seeks to enhance usability, functionality, and value over time.

- How does the project address future risks and vulnerabilities from social, economic, and environmental change?
- How is the project designed for adaptation to anticipate future uses or changing markets?
- How does the project address passive survivability and/or livability?

Design for DISCOVERY

Every project presents a unique opportunity to apply lessons learned from previous projects and gather information to refine the design and construction process.

- How can the design process foster a long-term relationship between designers, users, and operators to ensure design intentions are realized and the building project performance can improve over time?
- How are performance data and experiential stories shared, even if the findings fall short of the vision?
- What strategies promote a sense of discovery and delight?

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Categories are used solely to facilitate the submission and judging processes. The jury is not required to recognize awards within each project category; there is no maximum or required minimum number of projects recognized within any category.

Entrants must select one of the following categories that best represents their submission, all categories may encompass mixed-use/historic preservation:



COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE - BUILT

- This category recognizes buildings designed for retail, office, industrial, or other commercial business purposes.
- Eligible projects may include corporate offices, shopping centers, factories, warehouses, and other commercial real estate.



INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE - BUILT

- This category recognizes buildings designed for education, healthcare, government, cultural, religious, or other institutional purposes.
- Eligible projects may include schools, universities, hospitals, museums, theaters, churches, civic centers, and related facilities that serve the institution's objectives.



HOSPITALITY ARCHITECTURE - BUILT

- This category recognizes hotels, resorts, restaurants, casinos, clubs, tourism facilities, and other hospitality-focused projects.
- Eligible submissions may include a wide range of tourism, leisure, and entertainment-oriented real estate.

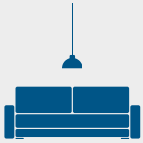


RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE - BUILT

- This category recognizes single family homes, multi-family housing, and mixed-use residential buildings.
- Eligible projects range from private residences to apartments, condominiums, townhouses, and other housing types.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

CONTINUED



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE – BUILT

- This category recognizes interior design projects as a whole or as an element within a larger project in new or existing buildings.
- Eligible submissions include commercial, residential, hospitality, and institutional interior designs.



UNBUILT ARCHITECTURE

- Recognizes excellence in unbuilt, conceptual projects, including all categories that fall in the built architecture category.



ACADEMIC PROJECT

- Category is open only to students currently enrolled in an architecture class for academic credit within the Nevada System of Higher Education or a recently graduated student who completed their project while enrolled in an architecture program, and who is now residing in Nevada.
- The project must have been completed within the last academic year, between August 1, 2024 and July 31, 2026.



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN EXCELLENCE

- This optional opt-in category recognizes a project that demonstrates commitment to sustainable design through AIA/COTE Framework for Design Excellence. To be eligible, you must fill out the Common App for Design Excellence and upload it with your project submission.
- Projects are not judged because they achieve excellence with each measure, but by how they effectively address one or more categories.

AWARD LEVELS



EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Eligible projects may be recognized for their integration of sustainable design excellence through the incorporation of AIA's Framework for Design Excellence principles.



HONOR AWARD

Highest possible honor, recognizing the absolute highest level of design excellence and quality. Unanimous jury approval required.



MERIT AWARD

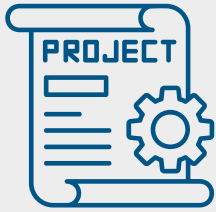
High level of recognition, granted to projects exhibiting distinguished design achievements. Awarded by consensus of jury.



CITATION AWARD

Notable recognition of significant accomplishments in particular aspects of design. Awarded by consensus of jury.

ELIGIBILITY



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Project must have been completed within the last five years, on or after, January 1, 2020.

The work must be submitted by the design architect or architect-of-record, who is an AIA member in good standing, and licensed in the State of Nevada.

All participants who contributed substantially to the project's design must be credited as part of the submission, regardless of professional discipline.



SUBMITTER ELIGIBILITY

AIA Nevada Architect Members: Eligible to submit for all categories for projects worldwide.

AIA Architect Members (Outside of Nevada): Eligible to submit for Built Architecture projects located in Nevada.

Unlicensed AIA Nevada Members (Assoc. AIA Members) are eligible to submit for the Unbuilt Category.



AWARD ELIGIBILITY

Projects that received an “Unbuilt Architecture” design award can resubmit their project under the “Built Architecture” design category only if the project has since been fully built and completed.

There is no limit to the number of submissions per eligible AIA member (or firm) given that projects meet all other criteria for eligibility.

JUDGING & EVALUATION + RELEASE

The AIA Nevada Design Awards program recognizes architectural excellence regardless of budget, size, style, or type. This program celebrates the outstanding work of Nevada-based architecture and the work of AIA Nevada architects in terms of the positive impact of their designs on communities across the state and beyond.

Entries are evaluated holistically, focusing on how effectively and creatively they fulfill the individual project requirements while articulating a bold vision. Each submission is assessed based on its unique merits and not compared competitively with others. It is imperative that projects showcase design prowess that embodies exceptional skill and innovation in harmonizing formal, functional, and technical aspects, encompassing ecological stewardship and societal responsibility.

Jurors will assess each project with the following criteria:

- Innovation and originality of concept, process, materials, systems, and execution
- Physical organization, form, composition, and attention to detail
- Response to program, site, urban and/or geographic context
- Integration of aesthetics with functional solutions
- Incorporation and communication of environmental stewardship and social responsibility

FINE PRINT

AIA Nevada reserves the right to reject entries or projects that don't adhere to the provided guidelines. AIA Nevada won't be held accountable for any errors in the submissions. When you submit an entry, it is deemed as your consent for AIA Nevada to showcase your project. Projects that receive awards might be considered for publication by the AIA in professional periodicals and newspapers.

RELEASE

By submitting an entry, the entrant confirms that AIA Nevada and its local chapters are granted the permission to use, reproduce, crop, publicly display, distribute, and transmit the submitted photographs/images indefinitely for promotional and publication purposes. Entrants ensure that they possess all necessary permissions and rights to bestow this use and that this grant does not breach or contravene any other copyrights. Entrants further acknowledge that they will include photo credits for all photographs and:

1. Allow AIA Nevada and its local chapters to utilize the materials to publicize the awards and educate the public about architectural design, ensuring their prominent display on AIANevada.org, AIANN.org, AIALasVegas.org and AIANVAwards.org.
2. Accept that electronic images may be retained for the AIA Nevada image archive.

While AIA Nevada commits to recognizing the credit and any copyright notices on all electronic images it publishes, and will ensure this information accompanies material distributed to other media, it will not be accountable for any oversight by other individuals or media who neglect to mention this information in their publications. Entrants concur that no royalties or additional amounts will be owed by AIA Nevada for the use of these materials. Additionally, entrants agree to indemnify and hold harmless AIA Nevada, AIA Las Vegas, and AIA Northern Nevada from any claims of copyright infringement or violations stemming from the submitted materials.

SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES



July 31, 2026
Now Accepting
Submissions



October 02, 2026
12:00 PM PST
Final Submission
Deadline



Oct. 12 - Nov. 1, 2026
Jury Deliberations



November 20, 2026
AxNV DSA
Celebration



SUBMISSION FEES

(NON-REFUNDABLE)

\$240 Per Entry

\$15 Per Academic Entry

Refunds will not be issued for disqualified, withdrawn, incomplete or late entries. The submission deadline will be strictly observed; **No exceptions.**

Payment can be made at <https://aianevada.org/shop>



AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us for the AXNV Design and Service Awards ceremony on November 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Celebrate the achievements of Nevada's architects and design professionals as we honor excellence in our industry. Don't miss this opportunity to recognize outstanding work and connect with fellow professionals in Nevada's architectural community.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All submission materials must be properly uploaded online before the specified deadline. Architects are permitted to submit multiple projects. However, Project Authorship (Architect or Firm Name) must NOT be revealed on the submitted material intended for juror viewing. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that the architect's name, firm name, or any other identifying information is NOT displayed on any images, file names, plans, or narratives, with the sole exception being the Team List & Project Exhibit Board.

Submissions that reveal any identifying information images will automatically result in disqualification of the entry without any prior notice.



01 PURCHASE ENTRY

Entries can be purchased using the following button or on the AIA Nevada website at:

<https://aianevada.org/shop>

BUY NOW



02 TEAM INFORMATION

After purchasing your entry, you'll receive an email containing a link to fill out your team information for the project.

The form can be found using the following button or on the AIA Nevada website at:

<https://aianevada.org/design-awards-team-submission/>

TEAM SUBMISSION FORM



03 PROJECT SUBMISSION

After purchasing your entry and filling out the required team information, you are ready to begin the project submission process.

More information about the submission process can be found in the following pages.

The form can be found using the following button or on the AIA Nevada website at:

<https://aianevada.org/design-award-submission-form/>

PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM



Project Information Checklist

- ☐ Project Name
- ☐ Project Category
- ☐ Architecture Firm(s)
- ☐ Building Sq. Ft
- ☐ Green Building Certifications
- ☐ Date of Completion
- ☐ Project Address
- ☐ Project Summary
 - Synopsis of the project – 200 word limit
- ☐ Project Narrative
 - Describe your project, highlighting design achievements aligned with our criteria. Detail intentions, requirements, budget, and unique resolution aspects. Discuss site constraints, innovative design details, contextual relevance, and any historical influences. (Verifiable client testimonies may be included) – 500 word limit
- ☐ Sustainable Design & Material Choices
 - Describe how sustainability and building performance are woven into your design objectives. Additionally, document specific material selections that prioritize environmental quality – 200 word limit

OPTIONAL – COMMON APP TO QUALIFY FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

As an optional step for those seeking consideration for the Sustainable Design Excellence Award, we encourage you to utilize the Common App for Design Excellence Overview. This additional submission is not mandatory but can enhance your project's evaluation. We understand that some fields may not apply to your project. In such cases, feel free to leave those fields blank. It's important to note that the submission process is anonymous, ensuring unbiased evaluation. The information provided will be used exclusively by the jury during their assessment.

AIA Nevada has adjusted the submission process to emphasize the importance of sustainable strategies and to reiterate the significance of environmental sensitivity within comprehensive design excellence. Within your scorecard narrative, detail how your team integrated the highlighted Measures of Design into your project. While addressing all ten Measures isn't obligatory, we encourage submissions that demonstrate a project's exceptional adherence to the standards outlined.

AIA COMMON APP FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE
AIA COTE Ten Tool Kit

Enter information into the below fields to the best of your knowledge. Fields that are not applicable or where information is unavailable can be left blank.

The spider chart to the right is a visual representation of your project's performance as it relates to the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence (FIDE). The point is to use it as a comparative tool where you can quickly visualize areas of strength and opportunities for growth or improvement. Higher performing measures will have longer spokes that reach the outermost concentric circle, while measures that have greater potential will align more with the core of the chart.

Please report any bugs via this link: <https://forms.gle/0000FB1Gg5SP4ep7>. All reported issues will be reviewed by the COTE Network, and feedback will be incorporated into the next annual update.

PROJECT INFORMATION	INPUTS	UNITS / DEFINITION	LINKS / SUPPORT
Project Name Client Is client to remain confidential? ☐			
LOCATION + SIZE Address City State / Province Zip Code / Postal Code Country Climate Zone California Climate Zone (if located in California)			US Equivalent Zip Codes ASHRAE climate zones CA climate zones
Building use: Primary building use Percent of total area Additional building use Percent of total area (if any) Additional building use Percent of total area (if any)	Building Type Percentage of total GSF	For proj outside the con't US + Hawaii, find your US equivalent climate zone here → Find your US climate zone here → Find your California climate zone here → Find building type definitions here → Energy baselines are auto generated based on the Zero Tool → For laboratory buildings, assign 100% of the area to Laboratory → This number should equal 100% GSF SF Conditioned space + non-conditioned programmed space This is the intensity of land use (higher is better in an urban setting)	AIA building type definitions Zero Tool Lab21 Benchmarking
Project Scope Number of Stories Total Floor Area Site Area Floor Area Ratio			
COST DATA			

PROJECT EXHIBIT BOARD

Your project exhibit board will be printed and displayed at the AxNV DSA Gala, offering a platform to showcase your work. Please note that while these boards are for exhibition purposes, they will not be used in the jury evaluation process.

Project Exhibit Board Requirement Checklist:

- ☐ Dimension: 24" x 24"
- ☐ 2 Photograph/image minimum
- ☐ Firm Name(s)
- ☐ Project Category
- ☐ Project Name
- ☐ Include the phrase "AxNV DSA 2026" in 48pt Calibri on top right corner of the board
- ☐ Upload a PDF File formatted - **24x24 Project Exhibit Board, [Category], [Firm Name], [Project Name], AxNV DSA 2026**

PROJECT IMAGES/RENDERINGS

Your submission will consist of individual file uploads, with a **maximum of 18 files** allowed **OR** you may include up to **six composed sheets**. Each one of those composed sheets can obtain a maximum of three graphics, which may be a combination of photos, renderings, and drawings. These drawings can include plans, elevations, sections, wall sections, details, diagrams, or additional drawings.

Project Image Checklist:

- ☐ Include, as applicable, a Site Plan and Building Plan
 - Site Plan requirements do not apply to Interior Architecture projects
- ☐ Include the building plan(s) necessary to describe the building arrangement and envelope.
- ☐ Additional drawings may include plans, elevations, sections, wall sections, details, diagrams, or renderings.
 - If including section or elevation drawings, indicate their location on the plans
- ☐ If the project is a restoration or adaptive reuse project, include at least one image that describes conditions before work began.

File Size and Quality: Minimum 300 DPI & Max 5 MB/Image

- ☐ Label each image: **[Project Name]-[Image Descriptor]-Image [Number]**
 - **IE: AIA Building-Elevation-1**
- ☐ *** Label your top 4 images for AIA marketing use (social media, newsletters, etc.) in the following format. Clearly mark your #1 choice, as it will be used on the design award certificate if selected. These should be your project's best representations.

Format: [#1]-[Project Name]-[Image Descriptor]-Image [Number]

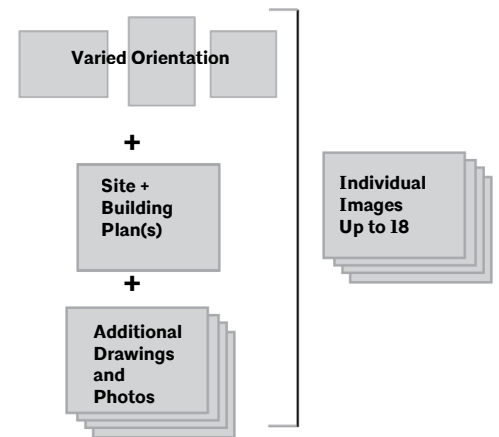


IMAGE DIRECTORY & PHOTO CREDIT

- ☐ **Include Descriptions and credit for Images. The jury will see images in the order they are uploaded.**

Description or Caption is Optional, Photo Credit is not.

- **Format:** The living space showcases a harmonious blend of form and function, creating an ambiance of comfort and elegance. Image by John Doe. **OR** Living Space. Image by John Doe.



You're done! Congratulations and good luck with your submission. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming *AxNV Design and Service Awards*.



Contact Us!

Questions?

Feel free to check out our website at
AIANVAwards.org

✉ Operations@AIANevada.org
☎ (702) 483-3838

