



AIA California's Academy for Emerging Professionals Awards Program strives to advance local and regional excellence which recognizes and celebrates those who contribute to assisting Emerging Professionals and their colleagues in pursuing their personal and professional goals.

DEADLINES

<p>Call for Nominations Opens: September 3, 2024 Submittal Deadline: December 12, 2024</p>

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each completed nomination package must follow these guidelines:

- 8 ½ x 11 paper size
- Not to exceed 8MB and/or 12 pages
- Font 12 point or larger
- **Page 1:** Nomination Letter
- **Page 2:** Statement of Contributions
- **Page 3:** Biography and/or resume
- **Pages 4 – 5:** Two letters of recommendation that are explicit in their recommendation
- **Pages 6 – 12:** Supporting materials and documentation which can include a portfolio, articles, or photographs that support the nomination. Supporting materials are unique to the award category and should be thoroughly reviewed.
- **Educator Award only - Page 13:** titles of courses taught, and programs administered by the nominee with brief descriptions of each.

AWARDS

- [Firm Mentorship Award](#)
- [Chapter Award](#)
- [Associates Award](#)
- [Young Architects Award](#)
- [Student Leader Award](#)
- [Educator Award](#)

Each award category has its own rules for eligibility. Please click on or scroll to the category you are submitting under for more information.

Have questions? Reach out to our Awards Coordinator, Ashley Taylor, at ataylor@aiacalifornia.org.



ELIGIBILITY

Firm Mentorship Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an AIA firm that has made an extraordinary effort to mentor Emerging Professionals in their firm through the implementation of specific programs.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, member of AIA California’s Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Must include support letter from an Emerging Professional
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years
- Firm Mentorship Award: AIA member led firms located in California that actively support interns in the pursuit of licensure and provide professional opportunities for emerging professionals.

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Showcase the firm’s impact on the built environment through mentorship programs that guide emerging professionals in understanding their role in design.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Demonstrate the firm's history of service in supporting young professionals and contributing to the broader architectural community through mentorship and community involvement.
3. **Innovation:** Highlight the firm’s commitment to fostering innovation among emerging professionals, showcasing how mentorship has led to new ideas and approaches within the firm.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Showcase the firm’s leadership in creating a supportive environment for professional growth, highlighting programs and initiatives that promote leadership development.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Demonstrate the firm’s commitment to advocating for the profession through mentorship and support of young professionals, maintaining high ethical standards, and promoting values that benefit the community.



ELIGIBILITY

Chapter Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an AIA chapter in California for the development of superb programming and fostering the highest qualities of leadership within the emerging professional membership.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, member of AIA California’s Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Must include support letter an Emerging Professional
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years
- Chapter Award: Local AIA chapters in California that have developed creative programs for its Emerging Professionals to enhance active and consistent chapter participation at local, state and national levels.

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Illustrate how the component’s initiatives and programs have contributed to the advancement of the built environment within their region or community.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Highlight the chapter’s efforts in recognizing and promoting the achievements and service of emerging professionals. This includes the chapter’s role in providing awards, scholarships, or other forms of recognition for emerging professionals who have made significant contributions to the architecture community.
3. **Innovation:** Demonstrate how the component has promoted innovation within its emerging professionals through programs, events, or initiatives that encourage creative thinking.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Demonstrate how the chapter has played a leadership role in supporting the practice and professional development of emerging professionals. This includes organizing leadership training, mentorship opportunities, and networking events that help emerging professionals grow within their practice and beyond.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Illustrate how the chapter has advocated for the needs and interests of emerging professionals, including efforts to promote ethical practice, sustainability, and other core values. Highlight how the chapter’s advocacy work has contributed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for emerging professionals.



ELIGIBILITY

Associates Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an individual Associate AIA member in California, who best exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership and has demonstrated unparalleled commitment to their chapter or region's membership, the community, professional organizations, and/or design and construction industries.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, member of AIA California's Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Demonstrate a growing impact on the built environment through contributions to firm projects or independent initiatives. Showcase involvement in projects that reflect an understanding of regional, cultural, or technological contexts.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Highlight personal achievements and service to the architecture community, including participation in AIA activities, volunteering, or contributing to significant projects.
3. **Innovation:** Showcase innovative approaches to design and problem-solving within projects or firm initiatives, emphasizing contributions that push the boundaries of traditional practice.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Demonstrate leadership in professional practice through involvement in projects, team leadership, or participation in professional organizations. Showcase a commitment to professional growth.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Demonstrate a commitment to advocating for the profession through participation in AIA initiatives, community projects, or promotion of sustainable and ethical practices.



ELIGIBILITY

Young Architects Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an individual Young Architect in California who has shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession in the early stage of their architectural career.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, member of AIA California’s Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Demonstrate tangible impact on the built environment through work, showing a strong understanding of contextual, cultural, or technological factors.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Showcase personal achievements and service to the architecture community, including significant project roles, recognition by peers, and involvement in professional organizations.
3. **Innovation:** Emphasize how these architects have brought fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to their work, introducing new methodologies, technologies, or design thinking.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Demonstrate leadership within the firm and in broader professional contexts, highlighting leadership roles in projects and mentoring colleagues.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Showcase a commitment to advocating for the future of the profession, including involvement in sustainability initiatives, promoting diversity, and engaging in community-focused projects.



ELIGIBILITY

Student Leader Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an individual student in California, for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to the consistent growth and development of their AIAS chapter, school and/or community.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, Committee Chair, member of AIA California’s Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years
- Student Leader Award: Student members of AIAS or AIA who are currently enrolled in an architectural program in California.

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Highlight design projects or research with the potential to influence the built environment, focusing on work that addresses current challenges and innovations in architecture.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Recognize academic achievements, involvement in architecture student organizations, and participation in competitions or community service projects.
3. **Innovation:** Emphasize creativity and innovation in design studio work, research, or competitions, highlighting projects that explore new ideas, technologies, or methods.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Highlight leadership roles in academic settings, student organizations, or design competitions, emphasizing a commitment to learning and contributing to the future of the profession.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Highlight advocacy efforts in sustainability, social justice, or other areas relevant to the profession, emphasizing a commitment to values that will shape future practice.



ELIGIBILITY

Educator Award: The highest award given by the AIA CA AEP to an Educator in California, for their outstanding contribution to the formal education of architecture students.

- Must be nominated by a chapter president, member of AIA California’s Board of Directors, an Educator or a member of the College of Fellows.
- Exhibits exceptional skill and leadership
- Cannot be a recipient of an Academy for Emerging Professionals Award within the last five years
- Educator Award: AIA members who are educators at a post-secondary Architectural Program in California.

NOMINATION PACKAGE CONTENT: Each completed nomination package should focus on the following accomplishments:

1. **Impact on the Built Environment:** Focus on the influence of educational programs on the built environment through the work of students and research, highlighting the impact of teaching on design culture.
2. **Achievements and Service:** Emphasize contributions to the profession through teaching, mentorship, and service to academic institutions and the architectural community, including awards or recognition.
3. **Innovation:** Focus on innovative teaching methods, curriculum development, and research that inspire creativity in students, contributing to the advancement of architectural education.
4. **Practice and Leadership:** Emphasize leadership in the academic and professional community, highlighting roles in shaping curriculum, guiding research, and mentoring students.
5. **Advocacy and Values:** Focus on advocacy for educational excellence, diversity, and inclusion, highlighting efforts to integrate cultural, environmental, and technological values into teaching.