



California Architectural
Practice Experience
(capX) Program
launches.



EP Leadership Academy begins as first class enters program **founded to develop architectural leaders.**

First session of
year-long ARE/CSE
"Study Hub."

AIA in California collaborates on webinar series addressing fire response, recovery, and rebuild.

"Here to Help" social media campaign runs, featuring **actionable information for fire victims.**

- The AIA in California partners with AIA Contract Documents to **reduce cost of contract documents used for fire rebuilds.**

Components hold
Legislative Day
throughout the state.

ECONOMIC FORECAST
with Michael R. Russo, LEED-AP, WR Research - American Institute of Architects
Members Only

Thursday 10.25.20
10:00P - 1:00P / 1 hour / 1 CEU

 Continuing Education

Long-time AIA
California Lobbyist
Mike Belote
named to **Capitol
Weekly's Hall of
Fame.**

Design Award
recipients announced.

Feedback from AIA California leads to Turner Center's **"California's Building Code Appeals Process: A Quiet but Crucial Lever for Housing"** report.

Over two-hundred and fifty members, design professionals, and students, participate in and connect at the 2025 Awards Celebration at U.C. Berkeley.

Credit Cram returns with 3 hours of EDI content and 4 hours of ZNCD/HSW.

ARCHITECTURE AT ZERO
A Design Competition for Decarbonization, Equity, and Resilience 2026



2025-2026
**Architecture at Zero
Competition** is
announced.

DECEMBER

Choose Architecture, California-focused **career resource guide**, is published.

Nearly 50 California architects travel to Washington, D.C. for the **AIA Leadership Summit**.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks named **2025 Legislator of the Year.**

AIA California leaders
visit Capitol Hill in
**support of housing
and fire recovery.**
#AIAHillDay

Board of Directors meeting features **lively charrette on AI.**

Residential Design Awards
recipients announced.

California's
newest Fellows
are **celebrated
at AIA25.**

: Urban Design Awards
: recipients announced.

Successfully advocated for AB339 amendment that **allows architects to continue contracting with public agencies** without added specific procedural delays.

**AIA CA Sponsored
“Architect-In-Training”
Bill Becomes a Law**

Practice Advisory: Tools, that align with law and Civil Codes, **to protect practices from unfair indemnity and defense obligations in public contracts**, are distributed.

Member Benefit, New Program: Small Firm **health insurance resource** launches.

We extend **heartfelt gratitude** to our 2025 partners whose support has strengthened AIA California's mission, our professional community, and the future of the architecture profession.

- California Architectural Foundation bestowed \$57,000 in scholarships to students and emerging professionals during 2025.

Thank you 2025
President Carina
Mills, AIA.

Welcome, 2026
President Ginger
Thompson, AIA.

- The Healthcare Facilities Forum draws rave reviews, a sold-out crowd.

For the second time in 2025, AIA Climate actions are discussed internationally. This time in a presentation at the **Belgian Economic Mission**.

Michael Maltzan, FAIA, announced as Maybeck Award recipient.



A YEAR OF IMPACT: KEY ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS
SHAPING CALIFORNIA’S BUILT ENVIRONMENT

AIA California’s 2025 advocacy efforts delivered major progress for the profession—strengthening the licensure pipeline, protecting project delivery, advancing housing and climate priorities, and supporting firms through key practice initiatives. These accomplishments reflect the coordinated leadership of AIA California members, committees, and statewide partners, who are committed to improving the built environment.

The year’s signature victory was the passage of **AB 759 (Valencia)**, establishing the new “Architect-in-Training (AIT)” title for individuals formally pursuing licensure. Beginning January 1, 2027, candidates identified by the California Architects Board who have passed at least one ARE division and work under a licensed architect may apply for the designation. Usable for four years—with a possible four-year extension—AIT aligns architecture with engineering and land surveying, strengthens public understanding of the licensure pathway, and supports retention and diversity. This achievement follows nearly a decade of advocacy by AIA California and the Academy for Emerging Professionals.

AIA California also secured a significant project-delivery win through amendments to **AB 339 (Ortega)**. As introduced, the bill would have imposed 60-day notice and negotiation requirements on most local contracting decisions, delaying planning and design work. After sustained coalition advocacy, architects, engineers, and related design services were fully exempted, protecting timely project delivery and the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process.

Additional legislative priorities advanced, including **AB 507 (adaptive reuse)**, **AB 39 (local electrification planning)**, **SB 79 (transit-oriented development)**, and **AB 253 (private plan review)**. AIA California also helped advance key disaster-recovery measures and continued work on **AB 1265 (Historic Tax Credit)** and **AB 368 (Passive House Standards)**, the latter now signed into law.

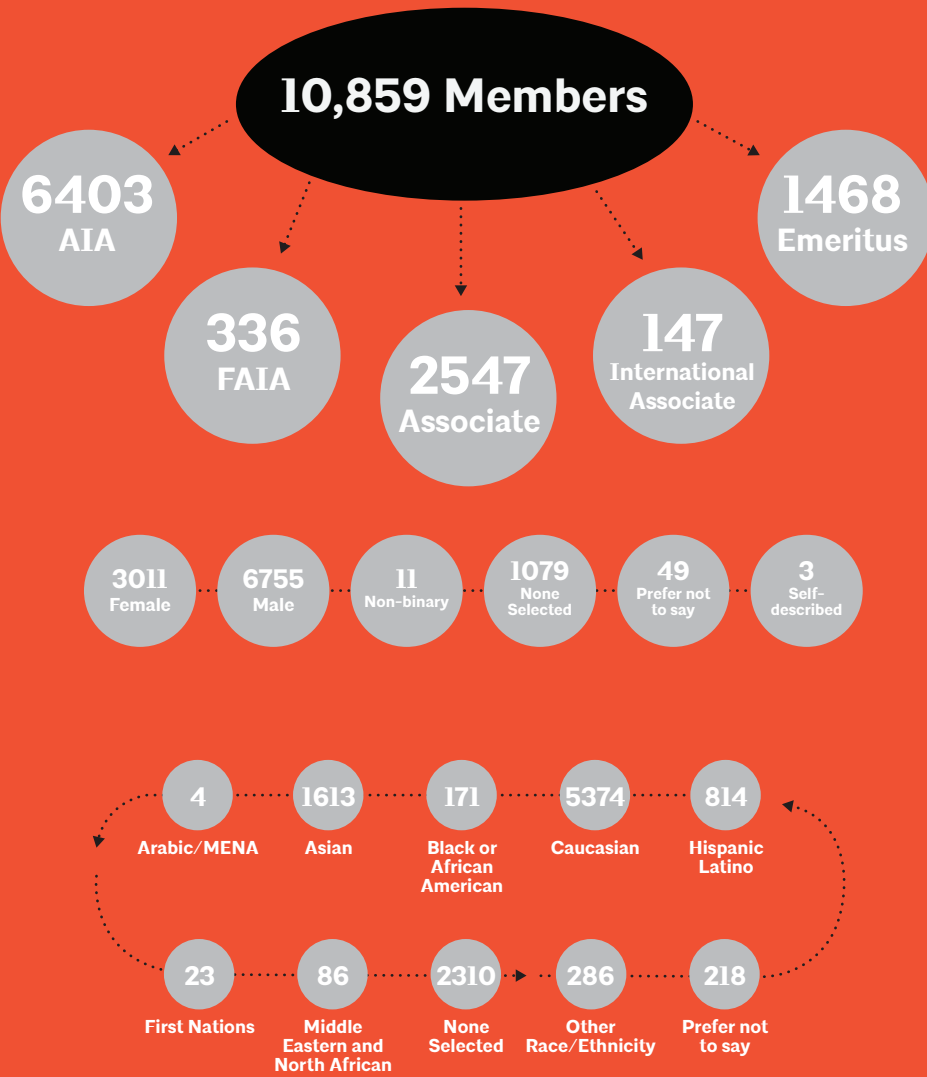
AIA California played a major role in statewide policy development through the **AB 529** Adaptive Reuse Working Group, submitting more than three dozen technical proposals—over half statewide—and extensive comments on HCD’s draft report.

Climate leadership remained central, with AIA California advancing embodied-carbon code implementation, engaging in CALGreen modernization, contributing to the CALGreen Carbon Reduction Collaborative, and helping shape updates to the California Existing Building Code.

AIA California also elevated professional protections through its Duty to Defend initiative. In response to continued misuse of defense-obligation clauses, AIA CA developed a letter firms may submit to clients—or request AIA California submit on their behalf—along with talking points and a webinar now available on the website.

These achievements underscore AIA California’s leadership in advancing a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future for architects and the communities they serve.

BY THE NUMBERS



Continuing Education

Total units offered in 2025:



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