2026 AIA CALIFORNIA AWARDS
Urban Design

DEADLINES

Early Bird Registration Deadline*: February 11, 2026 by 11:59pm PST
Normal Registration Deadline: March 4, 2026 by 11:59pm PST
Submission Deadline: March 25, 2026 by 11:59pm PST

Register
Submit
How to Submit Guide

FEES

All fees are non-refundable. Please review eligibility prior to registering for awards. This fee must be paid online at the time of registration. Refunds will not be given for entries that are disqualified, late, or incomplete; credits will not be given for future submissions.

Early Bird Registration	Amount	Normal Registration	Amount
AIA Member Fee	**$395.00**	AIA Member Fee	**$420.00**
Non Member Fee	**$595.00**	Non Member Fee	**$625.00**
Student Fee	**Free**	Student Fee	**Free**

ELIGIBILITY

- **Built** and **unbuilt** projects, **research**, and **publications**
- Built projects must have been completed as of Jan 1, 2019
- Must be a licensed architect or student
- Architects with a California license may submit built projects located anywhere in the world
- Architects licensed in other states may only submit built projects located in California
- Undergraduate, graduate and 2025 recent graduates are eligible to submit student work
- Must NOT include individual, firm name, company organization, or school name in final PDF

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each completed submission package must follow these guidelines. Your entry will be disqualified if it does not contain the required elements.

- Full Project Portfolio
- Student ID for student submissions
- Project/Research photos and signed release

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GENERAL PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES

Submitted in PDF format, 8.5x11 landscape orientation. No more than 8MB and 13 pages. No firm name. Preferred file name: 2025_DA_Project Name

- **Page 1:** Cover Page with Project/Research name and location or context (Do NOT include firm name, author name, institution, or organization anywhere in PDF)
- **Page 2:** Project Summary, May include images

BUILT/UNBUILT

- **Page 3:** Readable site plan with North arrow clearly indicated
- **Page 4:** At least one floor plan, but no more than two
- **Page 5:** Project sections and/or elevations
- **Page 6:** At least one sustainable design strategies diagram and resiliency diagram with brief description (additional page may be used if needed)
- **Pages 7-13:** Project Photos/renderings
    - Clear, high resolution
    - Limit of four (4) photos per page
    - Include at least one contextual photo showing project within surrounding area
- **Do not reveal the firm name, architect of record, student name or school**

RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

- **Page 3:** Research framework or methodology diagram
- **Page 4:** Key findings visualization or organizational structure
- **Page 5:** Process diagrams, timelines, or analytical frameworks
- **Page 6:** Impact assessment and sustainability/resilience implications with brief description
- **Pages 7-13:** Supporting materials:
    - Clear, high resolution images/graphics
    - Limit of four (4) images per page
    - Field photography, data visualizations, comparative studies, case documentation
    - Exerts from research/publication
    - For books: spreads showing layout, typography, and content samples
    - Any included graphics must clearly support research findings

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If you list the firm name or do not meet all the requirements, your project will be disqualified
- For Students – Student ID will be uploaded separately and should not be included with your project submission
- For Students – Group projects are maxed at 3 students, all students involved must be listed on the registration

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AIACA AI USAGE DECLARATION

AIA California recognizes that AI is a valuable and increasingly common tool, and that its use will continue to evolve within the profession. We support its responsible use, while emphasizing that AI should be applied thoughtfully, ethically, and with clear intent. For all submissions for recognition including awards, scholarships, articles, etc., participants are expected to ensure that all work reflects their own ideas, judgment, and professional integrity, with AI serving only as a supportive tool—not a substitute for original authorship.