

2027 REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

Candidate Profile



Douglas Austin, FAIA

Candidate for Regional Director

REGION 4

AIA San Diego

Term: 2027

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Douglas H. Austin, FAIA, LEED AP, MAIBC, is founder, chairman and CEO of AVRP Studios. Since founding the firm in 1976, he has led projects spanning housing, education, healthcare and urban development, earning more than 150 design awards. A longtime advocate for affordable housing, Austin pioneered micro-unit concepts and chairs YIGBY's advisory board. He helped shape downtown San Diego through leadership roles in its ballpark district, redevelopment agency and planning commission. Elevated to AIA Fellowship in 1991, Austin is an honored Cal Poly San Luis Obispo alumnus and serves as director of government relations for AIA San Diego.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Douglas H. Austin, FAIA, brings to the Regional Director role a belief that architecture should improve communities while making housing more attainable. His work as founder of AVRP Studios reflects a commitment to design excellence, practical innovation and the health of cities. Across five decades, he has led projects in housing, education, healthcare and urban development, with attention to affordable housing and the possibilities of smaller homes and construction methods.

Austin's experience in San Diego's ballpark district, redevelopment agency and planning commission has shown him how design decisions are shaped by public policy, collaboration and community needs. As chair of YIGBY's advisory board, he continues to explore ways to expand housing opportunities for people who need them.

As a Regional Director, Austin would bring this perspective to Board discussions: listening to members, connecting their experience to priorities and encouraging solutions that balance design quality, affordability and implementation. His goal is to help AIA California support architects as civic leaders and advocates for communities. He would draw on his experience in practice, public service and AIA San Diego government relations to strengthen dialogue between the region and the Board, elevate member concerns and advance responses to California's housing and urban challenges.