

March 14, 2025

Report

from the Strategic Council

From: Jessica O'Donnell, AIA Strategic Council Moderator
To: AIA New Jersey

Mission: *The AIA Strategic Council advances the architectural profession by informing the AIA Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. The Council has an outward and forward-focused vision with an emphasis on long-term goals and outcomes.*

What Does the Strategic Council Do? *To learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council, click [HERE](#).*

From the Moderator + Vice Moderator

The Moderators and several representatives from the Council attended AIA Leadership Summit in Washington, DC, from February 24-26. We joined the AIA Knowledge Community Leadership Retreat, where we participated in an active workshop to iterate and develop ideas for how AIA can use human-centered design to meet member needs focused on the three 2025 AIA Board priorities of Climate & Resilience, Advancing Technology, and Equitable Community Development. At Leadership Summit, Councilor's Leah Bayer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB and Illya Azaroff, FAIA kicked off the opening Keynote with President Lee, FAIA in a panel discussion about the evolving practice of architecture.

For our Bethune Fellows (all past Council members): please be sure to fill out the survey recently sent to you to help our special projects group define ways to 'Celebrate a Decade of Impact: Reflections on the Legacy and Future of the AIA Strategic Council.'

The full council convened virtually on March 5th for our spring Council Assembly where we heard updates from all seven study groups and our CACE, AIAS, NAC, and YAF liaisons. Study groups were encouraged to identify areas of overlap, opportunities for collaboration, and new ideas sparked by hearing the other's groups updates.

We are looking forward to our Council updates during the upcoming AIA Leadership Exchange Calls and our next in-person Council assembly at AIA25 in Boston this summer. Keep an eye out for details on the Council's engagement session on the Expo floor on 6/5/25!

Jessica M. O'Donnell, AIA 2025 Moderator + **Abigail R. Brown**, FAIA 2025 Vice Moderator
*Special thanks to our **committee chairs** who help guide our work and inform our decision-making process: **Jeff Seabold**, FAIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), **Mary Womble**, AIA & **Marc Mondor**, AIA (Communications Co-Chairs), and **Mike Daly**, AIA (Elections Chair).*

Council News

STUDY GROUP UPDATES

Representatives from the Strategic Council are sharing study group updates on the AIA Leadership Exchange calls throughout the week of March 17. See the attached slides from these calls for updates on each group's big idea, work in progress, and what's on the horizon.

ENHANCE YOUR SUSTAIN-ABILITIES

The future is now when it comes to facing challenges related to extreme weather conditions around the globe. Our 2025 Climate Responsive Design & Leadership Study Group has created a monthly 'Climate Corner' 2-pager to offer actionable steps anyone can take today and reminders of key resources that exist to assist your efforts.

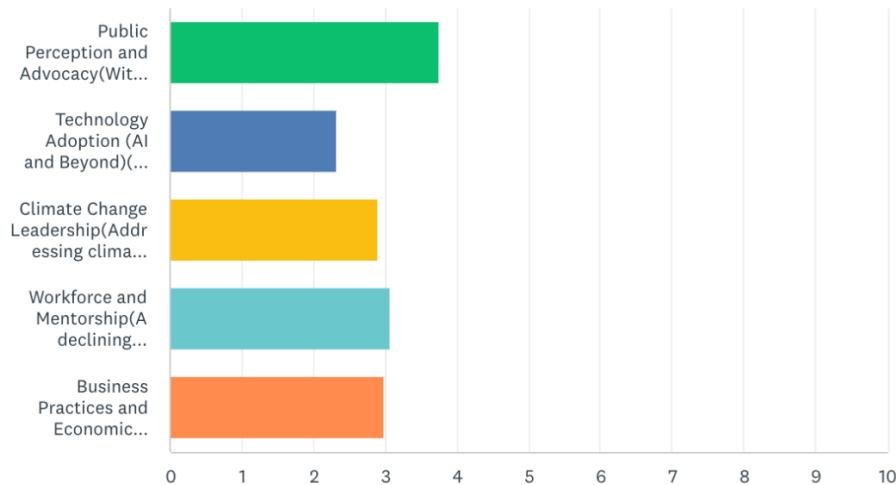
This month's topic: Water is a Design & Equity Opportunity can be downloaded [here](#).

RESULTS FROM: FEBRUARY'S 'THE COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU'

Below are results from the survey questions we asked last month. Thank you to those who filled it out! Keep an eye out for a new engagement question in April (that survey will be open for approx. 3 weeks).

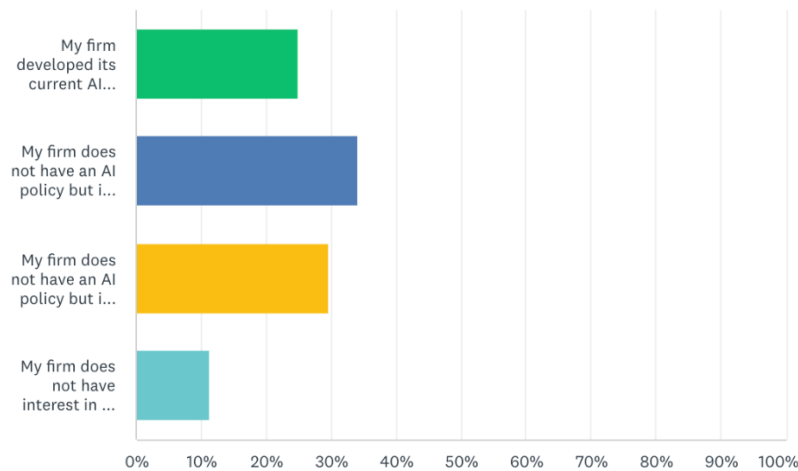
Rank the following in order of largest threat to the future of practice (largest threat should be ranked as #1):

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Select the answer that is most applicable to you:

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
My firm developed its current AI policy	25.00% 11
My firm does not have an AI policy but is looking for guidance from AIA	34.09% 15
My firm does not have an AI policy but is not looking to AIA for guidance	29.55% 13
My firm does not have interest in AI at this time	11.36% 5
TOTAL	44

Institute News

ARCHITECTS HEAD TO CAPITOL HILL TO ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, DESIGN FREEDOM AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

AIA and more than 400 of its architects members attended Hill Day as part of the AIA Leadership Summit to advocate for pressing legislation that will significantly impact the architecture profession and community needs. Topics included affordable housing, design freedom, resilient communities, and tax incentives for architects.

More information about the AIA's legislative goals can be found [here](#).

ADVANCING TOGETHER: GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE UPDATE

The AIA Board established the Governance Task Force in response to the resolution approved in June 2024 to study the composition of the AIA Board of Directors and Strategic Council. This task force is charged with evaluating our current governance structure, identifying opportunities for enhanced communication, and fostering a culture of trust and transparency across the Institute.

The next steps in this effort include working with a consultant with deep expertise in governance best practices to bring recommendations to the board. If you have any questions, please direct them to boardofdirectors@aia.org.

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEXT AIA EVP/CEO

The AIA Board of Directors has formed a Search Committee to lead the selection of our next EVP/CEO with an anticipated selection announcement at the end of 2025.

The Search Committee, Chaired by Past AIA President Dowdell, is composed of a representative group of AIA leaders, who will work collaboratively with an experienced executive search firm. The committee's composition, approved by the AIA Board of Directors, includes a widely representative group of volunteer and component leaders, including current and past Board members, the Strategic Council, Former Presidents, the National Associates Committee (NAC), the Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE), AIA International, and the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). This broad and inclusive representation ensures a well-informed and thoughtful selection process. Aside from the committee Chair, the names of the committee members will remain confidential. This approach is intended to uphold the integrity of the search and aligns with association and executive search recommended process.

AIA is committed to a rigorous, transparent process that reflects the perspectives and needs of the diverse AIA community. The committee values your engagement and will continue to monitor feedback as we move forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to kimberlydowdell@aia.org.

RAND REPORT

Building Impact - Perspectives and Recommendations on the Current State and Future of Architecture was released on March 4, 2025.

This report comes from the researchers at RAND, a nonpartisan research institution with expertise in higher education and themes around educational pipelines, EDI in higher education, and transitions from higher education to the workforce. RAND collaborated with the AIA and NCARB on this report about the current state of architecture in the United States and how the future can increase the impact and relevance of education and professional practice.

More information about the Rand Report can be found [here](#).

AIA25 – CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Registration opens the week of March 17th for the AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

The AIA Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 4th at AIA25 to consider amendments to AIA bylaws and resolutions and candidates for national leadership positions.

- By April 25, 2025, the Official Delegate Booklet will be distributed and the text of all proposed resolutions will be available on the annual meeting website.
- Currently, there are eight members who have declared candidacy across three positions. More information about the candidates can be found [here](#).

AIAISC'25 – AIA INTERNATIONAL SPRING CONFERENCE

This 3-day virtual conference will include lectures, panel discussions, building tours, and more from around the world. Join the global discussion on how architects are embracing bold strategies to redefine the limits of design and construction! The conference is from March 20-22 and attendance is free and open to all.

More information can be found [here](#).

2025 AIA TRUST COMPONENT GRANTS PROGRAM

The [2025 AIA Trust Component Grants Program](#) supports component projects, conferences, and publications that help to foster leadership, advance management education, and increase the

effectiveness of professional practice. The deadline for completed applications to be received by the AIA Trust for consideration is close of business on **Monday, April 14, 2025**.

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
March 20-22	AIA International Spring Conference 2025	Virtual	Learn More and Register
June 4-7	AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2025	Boston, MA	Early Access for Tours
July 16-17	Architects in Action	Virtual	
November 3-5	Women's Leadership Summit	Atlanta, GA	
December 3-5	AIA Governance Week	Washington, D.C.	

For more events, visit the AIA events page at: <https://www.aia.org/community/events>

Feedback

We value your input! If you have questions or ideas for the Strategic Council, email us at StrategicCouncil@aia.org. To learn more about the work of the Strategic Council, please visit the [Strategic Council webpage at AIA.org](#).

Attachments

- Strategic Council – March 2025 Leadership Exchange Call slides