

AIA New Jersey 2025 Design Awards FAQ

AIA New Jersey
414 River View Plaza
Trenton, N J, 08611
P: (609) 393-5690
www.aia-nj.org

1. What is the AIA NJ Design Awards?

The AIA NJ Design Awards celebrate the finest architectural achievements in New Jersey, recognizing the creativity, innovation, and excellence of architects in the state.

2. Who is eligible to participate?

To be eligible, submissions must comply with all items under Criteria 1 and at least one item from Criteria 2:

- The lead architect on the project must submit the entry.
- The project must have been completed after June 21, 2021.
- Projects that have previously won an AIA NJ Award are not eligible.
- Credit must be given to contributing architectural firms and consultants.

3. What are the submission requirements?

All materials must be submitted through an online form, including:

- One high-resolution image.
- One 8.5 x 11 Project PDF (maximum of 10 pages) including:
 - Project information sheet (name, address, date of completion, 70-word synopsis, 400-word narrative).
 - Applicable photographs, plans, or images (site plans, before/after photos, building sections, exterior elevations, concept sketches, interior/exterior photos).

4. What is the deadline for submissions?

Entries are due by 9pm EST on October 10, 2025.



The New Jersey Society of Architects
A Chapter and Region of the American Institute of Architects

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5. How much is the entry fee?

The fee is \$150 for the first design submission and \$100 for each additional submission. If submitting in multiple categories, an additional charge applies for each category.

6. Can I submit the same project in multiple categories?

Yes, but each submission in a different category requires an additional fee. Note that a project can only win in one category.

7. How will the submissions be judged?

A panel of three jurors from outside New Jersey will assess the submissions and select the award winners.

8. What are the award categories?

Built Projects:

Open

Public and private projects, single buildings or groups, additions/renovations.

Residential Design

Single residences or accessory buildings, new or remodeled.

Preservation

Adaptive use, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or pure restoration.
Interior Architecture: Focus on interior space, new or renovated.

Built Sustainability

Ecological stewardship, reduced environmental impact/energy consumption, quality-of-life issues.

Built Installation Sculpture or Furniture Piece

Specialty fabrications, art installations, furniture, sculptures.



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Small Projects

Small Projects Design - Budget/Design focus

Eligibility: Projects For projects with construction costs of \$1,500,000 or less and a total area under 2,500 square feet. This category recognizes design excellence within both size and budget constraints.

Small Project Design - Budget Focus

Eligibility: For projects with construction costs of \$750,000 or less, with no limit on square footage. This award highlights innovative and impactful design achieved within modest financial parameters.

Small Project Design - Scale Focus

Eligibility: For projects totaling under 1,500 square feet, with no budget cap. This category celebrates outstanding architecture that demonstrates creative spatial solutions and efficiency at a small scale.

Unbuilt Projects:

- Unbuilt architectural designs with no current intent to build.

Regional and Urban Design:

- Urban design projects, planning programs, civic improvements, campus plans, master plans, environmental programs, or redevelopment projects.

9. When will the winners be announced?

Winners will be announced at the Fall DesignNite. Winners will receive their awards at the Annual Board Installation and Awards Gala on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at The Collingswood Ballroom.