

A vibrant, painterly illustration of a tropical garden. In the background, a stone archway with a blue-tinted opening leads into the distance. The archway is flanked by two tall, rectangular stone pillars. The garden is filled with lush greenery, including palm trees, large tropical leaves, and various flowers. In the foreground, a pond with lily pads and white lily flowers is visible. The entire scene is framed by a white, scalloped-edged border.

DESIGN *In* BLOOM

THE BONNET HOUSE

OCT 30 2026

AN EVENING OF ART,
NATURE, AND INTRIGUE

AIA Fort Lauderdale



AIA DESIGN AWARDS

The AIA Fort Lauderdale Design Awards wants to recognize achievements for a broad range of architectural activities to elevate the general quality of architecture practice, establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure performance, and inform the public of the breadth and value of architecture practice. We strive to promote, recognize, publicize, and celebrate the value that exceptional and functional design has on the fabric of society. Whether it is a large, multi-residential affordable housing project or a small public work, our jurors are anxious to see your work. We believe great architecture is about creating a lasting functional design that will remain for generations, inspiring people and enriching their lives. Innovative buildings can help redesign the way we live our lives for the better and enable us to make the most of the space we have. We aim to recognize individuals and teams who have made a substantial contribution to the field of architecture. Our awards will recognize excellence in architecture.

- Eligible projects include built and unbuilt projects of all sizes and classifications, including single buildings, groups of buildings, parks and plazas, historic preservation, additions, remodeling, renovations, adaptive re-use, and interiors.
- Each project should consider sustainable design practices that improve energy conservation and the health and resilience of its community.

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SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

The submittals are open to built or unbuilt architectural projects of all types and sizes and can be submitted by individuals or firms that are members of our local chapter, practicing in Broward County, or AIAS in a Broward County University or college. All submittals must indicate the “Architect of Record”, and this architect must be a member of the Fort Lauderdale AIA. Firms utilizing the work of college students are only allowed in the Education and Student Category. Under the Contractor Award, the project submitted must be designed (Architect of Record) by a member Architect.

The awards are juried by a panel of non-competing, award-winning Architects who are not members of AIA Fort Lauderdale and have not served as design awards jurors for at least the past 6 years. It is the goal of these Design Awards to bring recognition to the local Architects and Architecture and to celebrate our local Design Firms.

The Jury will be awarding submittals with three (3) award categories:

- Honor Award
- Merit Award
- Citation Award

Multiple Honor and Merit Awards may be awarded as entries are solely and individually weighted on their value of design excellence and technical rigor. There is no limit to the number of awards in each category.

Winners will be announced at the Design Awards Event at the Bonnet House on October 30, 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

September 10 – Submission Fees Due
September 25– Project Submittal Due
October 30 – Design Awards Celebration



SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

JURIED NOMINATIONS

Test of Time (Must be Built)

The Test of Time Award recognizes distinguished single works of architecture that are still functioning as originally designed for a period of 20 years or more, in which the function, aesthetic statement, and execution can be reassessed. Further, it is the intent of the program to recognize works that, by the timelessness of their design, have influenced that building or building type. The project must be standing in substantially complete form, in good condition, and should substantially still carry out the original program. Buildings whose basic functions have been modified or have been adapted for reuse are ineligible.

Student Category (May be Built or Unbuilt)

This award recognizes studio or competition projects by college students attending a school of architecture program within Broward County. Design excellence in student work, including research, installations, conceptual projects, or competitions. The purpose of the Student Category is to recognize excellence in architectural design, promote architecture in Florida, and build a relationship between AIA Fort Lauderdale and the academic community. Faculty sponsorship is required for all submissions. A professor or instructor from your architecture program must approve and support your entry. Students may enter projects as individual entries or team entries without limit. The project must have been created while the applicant was a student or recently graduated within the current year (2026).

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

JURIED NOMINATIONS

Built Award

The Built Award recognizes design that elevates the human experience while addressing the project's practical needs. Submissions for the Built Award must meet the following requirements:

- The design should be responsive to its site and provide significant improvement. Projects must have been built or under construction within the immediate past five calendar years from the entry deadline.
- Each project should consider sustainable design practices that improve energy conservation and the health and resilience of its community.
- Eligible projects include built projects of all sizes and classifications, including single buildings, groups of buildings, parks and plazas, historic preservations, additions, remodeling, renovations, adaptive re-use, and interiors.

Unbuilt Award

The Unbuilt Award recognizes outstanding examples of recent, initially commissioned architectural designs not yet built or completed. The entry shall exemplify excellence in design while exploring the nature and science of our profession. The focus is on the process of design. Submissions for the Unbuilt Award must meet the following requirements:

- Projects must have been designed within the immediate past five calendar years from the entry deadline.
- Construction shall not have commenced before the deadline for entry.
- Entries must be commissioned for compensation on behalf of a client or in direct response to a compensated design competition.
- Eligible projects include single buildings, groups of buildings, urban designs, additions, renovations, and extended use projects.

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

JURIED NOMINATIONS

Object Award (Must Be Built)

The Object Award recognizes the design of an “object” by members of AIA Fort Lauderdale or AIA students that demonstrates a level of invention, creativity, and craftsmanship beyond the constraints of space or cost restrictions, as well as excellence in design. Each entry will be judged for the success with which it meets the individual project program, intent, and requirements. There shall be no registration fee for the Object Award. Must be an AIA Florida member or an AIA Student (AIAS) member in good standing.

Research Award

The Theoretical & Research Award recognizes work by:

- (1) Students who are members of AIA Students (AIAS FAU/Broward College) and enrolled in an accredited architectural degree program in Broward County or;
- (2) Members of AIA Fort Lauderdale including architects, associates, and interns.

The entrant must designate whether the project is academic, competition entry or theoretical/research.

The Theoretical & Research Award is separated into two categories with the following criteria:

- **STUDENT**
 - Entries must be projects that are academic (executed under the supervision of at least one professor of a NAAB-accredited architectural program in Broward County or in direct response to an organized design competition entry requirement.
- **PROFESSIONAL**
 - Theoretical/research projects that are executed in the interest of the advancement of the profession. Projects submitted by professionals must not be compensated.

Interior Design Award

This category celebrates innovative and spectacular interior spaces across various project types. It recognizes projects that seamlessly blend form and function, creating environments that enhance the human experience.



SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

AIA MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

All members are encouraged to submit separate submissions for the following categories. The submission shall be in letter form with all appropriate backup materials to support the nomination and signed by a current AIA Fort Lauderdale member. Submissions from non-members will not be reviewed. All submissions shall be emailed to:

Maribel Cordova-Ramirez, Executive Director director@aiafortlauderdale.org

Firm of the Year

This award will be given in recognition of a firm that displays excellence in design, mentorship of architects, community service, and support to AIA Fort Lauderdale during the 2025 – 2026 calendar year (August to August). To demonstrate this the firm shall submit active or completed projects within this timeline, examples of the process set up for mentorship and/or professional growth of architects within the firm, community service involvement, and demonstration of support of the AIA Fort Lauderdale Chapter through the participation of staff and financial support. Firms wishing to be considered for this award must submit the required criteria of a letter and pictures (4-page max) stating why their firm should be considered for “Firm of the Year”.

Contractor Award

This category recognizes projects that demonstrate excellence in design implementation by a General Contractor. The Architect of Record for any projects submitted by a General Contractor is required to be a member of AIA Fort Lauderdale. Firms wishing to be considered for this award must submit the required criteria of a letter and pictures (4-page max) stating why their firm should be considered for the “Contractor Award”.

Community Service Award

This award is given to recognize an AIA Ft. Lauderdale Architect whose leadership in community activities and service has been a direct benefit to the profession or community. The individual's leadership and service must demonstrate, beyond any reasonable doubt, qualities, outcomes in works of art, programs, or civic influences that have benefited the profession or the community.



SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Government Service Award

This award is given to an AIA Ft. Lauderdale Architect who, by their interest, activity, and concern for the profession of architecture, shall have advanced the cause of good design and planning, and/or contributed to the dignity and value of the architectural profession as an elected or appointed or employed government official/employee.

AIA Service Gold Medal Award

This award recognizes an individual Architect in Broward County who has distinguished himself or herself in a manner resulting in a profound impact on the profession over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that AIA Ft. Lauderdale can bestow on one of its members, and only one may be given in a year. Any individual who has been a member of AIA for a minimum of 10 years is eligible. The individual's long-term, noteworthy accomplishments in the AIA, as well as community organizations or governmental bodies, must demonstrate distinguishable results characterizing one's career in a manner over and above what is normally expected.

Educator of the Year Award

This award will be given in recognition of an educator in Broward County whose outstanding performance has made a significant contribution to the advancement of architectural education through college or university teaching. Nominations may be made by any AIA Ft. Lauderdale Chapter member. Individuals may not nominate themselves.

Associate Member Individual Honor Award

The Associate Member Individual Honor Award recognizes an associate member whose leadership, activities, and service to AIA Ft. Lauderdale have been a direct benefit to the profession.

Allied Member of the Year Award

This award recognizes an Allied Member who is not an architect, but who, by their interest, participation and concern, has promoted and contributed to the dignity and value of AIA Ft. Lauderdale and the architectural profession.

AIA Executive Board Honor Award

The AIA Fort Lauderdale Executive Board's Honor Award will be judged and awarded by the Executive Board and presented at the Design Awards Gala.



SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

ENTRY FEES (all entry fees are non-refundable)

Architect, AIA Member

\$150 per project

Architect of the project must be an AIA Fort Lauderdale Member

Architect, AIA Non-Member

\$250 per project

Student, AIAS Member

\$25 per project

**CLICK HERE TO PAY
YOUR ENTRY FEES**

Student, AIAS Non-Member

\$40 per project

There are no fees for AIA Member Nomination Awards

*Once we receive your entry fee payment, you will receive an email with your project submittal number and project entry template.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All entries must be completed within the PowerPoint template provided. Entries shall be submitted using the provided template and delivered to the chapter via the email provided above. The maximum file size must not exceed 10 MB.

The electronic format facilitates a submission in which all images support the program statement. Each visual should have a purpose as it relates to the larger idea. The photos should contain compelling pieces of information to make the statement visually understood.

Be sure to label drawings clearly. The design of the PPT submission is up to the creator, but the project code number must be included in the upper right section of the slide. Consider the impact the image will make when projected onto a large screen. Images of the winning projects will be shown at the design awards celebration.