

CALL FOR ENTRIES

This salute to design excellence was established to promote and focus attention on Miami Valley architecture firms producing quality and high-performance design in adherence to the American Institute of Architect's Framework for Design Excellence. The jury will evaluate all projects based on the aesthetic, functional, contextual and social characteristics of the design.

Call for Entries Opening:	July 7, 2025
Project Entry Submission Deadline:	September 5, 2025
Focus on Design Awards:	November 13, 2025

When you are ready to enter your projects, [click here to be directed to the Open Water portal](#). Select the AIA Dayton program.

ELIGIBLE SUBMISSIONS

The goal of the Focus on Design Awards program is to focus on high quality projects designed by AIA Dayton members. All AIA Dayton members (Emeritus, Professional, Associate) in good standing are eligible to submit entries regardless of project size, budget, geographic location, or building type.

General Submission Requirements (Categories 1-4)

1. The submitting firm must have an active office and be registered to perform services in the state of Ohio -AND- have a local office in the AIA Dayton area.
2. Entries must be completed since January 1, 2020, regardless of project size, geographical location, budget, style or building type.
3. Firms that have performed services in association with another architecture firm must:
 - have performed no less than 50% of the architectural work
 - acknowledge the other architect(s) in all submission items
 - identify the Design Architect and the Architect of Record
4. Firms that operate from multiple offices or branches, representing multiple AIA chapters, may only submit entries wherein the following requirements are met:
 - The Design Firm must have an operating office within the service boundaries of AIA Dayton.
 - Submitted project must have been substantially produced in the AIA Dayton location; it cannot be submitted for design awards within another local component as well.

The same project may be submitted for multiple categories, as long as separate submissions are purchased. Projects that have won awards in other programs are eligible for submission. Previous AIA Dayton Focus on Design Award winning projects may not be resubmitted. Firms and individuals are encouraged to re-enter projects previously submitted if they did not win an award and if they meet the above criteria.

It is the policy of AIA Dayton that any firm/individual submitting for an AIA design award does not utilize, employ, or otherwise engage labor that is unpaid, including working students. In submitting, the firm/individual acknowledges that they have not utilized any unpaid labor, as defined above, for any purpose related to the project being submitted.

Student eligibility Requirements (Category 5)

- Student work can be a built or unbuilt project designed by a student within the last 5 years, but cannot be affiliated with an architecture firm.
- The work must have been done as a student, but the applicant does not have to be a student to submit it currently.
- Any student enrolled at Sinclair Community College in the Architectural Technology program, or
- Any student enrolled at the Miami University of Oxford Department of Architecture + Interior Design, or
- A student in an Architecture Program that lives within the AIA Dayton Chapter boundaries can submit.

25 Year Award Submission (Category 6)

- The nominated project must have been designed by a firm meeting General Submission Requirements #3 and #4 above at the time of the project's completion.
- Projects must have been completed between 1990 and 2000.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

Projects are to be submitted to AIA Dayton through an online registration portal called Open Water. A project may be entered into one of the six Submission Categories listed below. If you wish to enter a project into multiple categories, separate submissions must be purchased. Within each submission category, project types and additional criteria are listed.

AIA Dayton will be utilizing an outside jury from AIA Grand Rapids to judge all submissions for potential awards. The jury will evaluate all projects based on **AIA's Framework for Design Excellence**: <https://www.aia.org/resources/6077668-framework-for-design-excellence>. (This does not include entries for the 25 Year Award.) Each entry will be judged for the success with which it meets the individual project program, intent, and requirements. Each entry will be weighed individually for its merits, not in competition with each other. All evaluations will be based solely on the information contained within the submissions.

Category 1: Newly Completed Buildings

Category 2: Additions, Renovations and Restorations

Category 3: Interior Architecture

Category 4: Small Projects (Less than 5,000 sf)

Submission Fee
(Categories 1-4): \$ 250 Fee AIA Dayton Member
\$ 400 Fee Non-AIA Members
Additional submissions are \$100 for AIA members, \$200 for non-members.

Refer to "Eligible Submissions" above for additional eligibility questions

Category 5: Student

Submission Fee: \$ 20; AIA Membership is not required

Details: Student work can be a built or unbuilt project designed by a student within the last 5 years but cannot be affiliated with an architecture firm. Refer to "Eligible Submissions" above to additional eligibility questions. *This category will have a separate jury and later deadline (October 1, 2025).*

Category 6: 25 Year Award

Definition: This award is open to architectural projects of all classifications and may be one building or a related group of buildings forming a single project completed between 25 and 35 years prior to submission. The project must be located in Ohio and must have been designed by an AIA Dayton member licensed in Ohio. The project must be standing in a substantially completed form and in good condition. The project should still carry out the original program. Change of use is permitted when it has not basically altered original intent. Nominations previously submitted may be resubmitted provided they still meet the stipulated date of substantial completion of the original project.

Submission Fee: None

DESIGN AWARD WINNERS

Awards in Categories 1 through 4 may be given as Honor Awards, Merit Awards, or Honorable Mentions at the discretion of the jury.

Awards in Category 5 will be awarded Winner, Runner-Up, and Third Place Winner.

The jury may select one recipient of the 25 Year Award (Category 6), if a deserving candidate is identified.

Awards will be presented at the 2025 AIA Dayton Focus on Design Awards ceremony on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All entries must be submitted electronically and paid for online via the Open Water Awards Program. Submission costs are listed in the submission categories above.

Categories 1-5

1. **PROJECT IMAGES:** Each project submission will require 7 (minimum) to 15 (maximum) digital images. Those images should contain the drawings (site plan, floor plans, sections) and photographs necessary to best represent the project. Multiple drawings and/or photographs may make up one image. Images should be JPEG files, minimum 300 dpi, and no larger than 10" in any one dimension. Images submitted will be displayed in a gallery feature of the Dayton Focus on Design Awards website once the awards program has taken place.
2. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Each project submission must include a concise description of the project; a statement of the problem; a description of the site and environs; and the design intentions and distinguishing factors of the work on a separate sheet. Describe how the project responds to one or more of AIA's Framework for Design Excellence (<https://www.aia.org/resources/6077668-framework-for-design-excellence>). Please limit this project description to 500 words max. Upload as a 'Word' document.
3. **PROJECT SUMMARY:** Please provide a 100-word max project summary. If the project is chosen to receive an award, this summary will be read at the ceremony. This written project summary may also be used for AIA Dayton event and marketing purposes. Upload as a 'Word' document.
4. **MARKETING IMAGES:** Each project submission must include your choice of the best 2 images that represent the project. These images will be used for marketing purposes. Images should be JPEG files and 300dpi. Please include the project title in the naming of these two files as outlined below.

Image 1: 01_Project Title.jpeg

Image 2: 02_Project Title.jpeg

Category 6

- Each submission shall contain the following information:
 - The first page shall be a nomination statement by the sponsoring AIA Dayton member, group of members, and shall include the name of the sponsor by whom the nomination is made and the current contact information for the sponsor.
 - The second page shall be a short description of the original project; a statement of the condition of the project with respect to use and general appearance at the time of the submission; a brief outline of the transformations, if any, that may have taken place in the interim period; the current location and name of the project; and the name of the original architect.
 - A minimum of ten photographs and site and floor plans to properly illustrate the project in its original condition must be included. If available, include up to six additional images illustrating the extent of intervening changes, if any.

With the exception of Category 6, project authorship will remain concealed throughout the jury process. If authorship is revealed on any photos, plans or narrative, the entry will be disqualified.

QUESTIONS

Please contact AIA Dayton Executive Director, Jane Treiber, with any questions:

info@aiaadayton.org.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All entries must be submitted electronically and paid for online via the Open Water Awards Program. This opens on July 7.

File Size:	Each image must not exceed 15 MB in size.
Resolution:	Each image should be 300dpi and a maximum of 3000 pixels (10") in its longest dimension.
File Format:	Each image must be submitted in JPG or TIFF format.
File Naming:	Each image title must be included in the file name. (Please limit the title to the first twenty letters of the title). File name should include date when image was taken Image name must include the extension of .JPG or .TIFF Example Name: "ADayinDayton_20190817_jpg"

COMPETITION JUDGING

- All entries for Categories 1-4 and 6 will be reviewed by a jury from AIA Grand Rapids, selected by the Design Awards Committee, and made up of Grand Rapids architects and related professionals. The jury will choose the winners. The decisions of the jury are final. A separate, local jury will review Category 5 (Students).
- Winners will be announced at the 2025 Dayton Focus on Design Awards held on Thursday, November 13. In addition, we will announce the winners on the AIA Dayton website, in our biweekly e-newsletter, and on our social media platforms.

PHOTOGRAPHER SUBMITTER AGREES TO:

- By entering the Competition, you agree and acknowledge that AIA Dayton is permitted to receive and review your registration data. Participants agree that personal data including, but not limited to, name, mailing address, phone number, and email address may be collected, processed, stored and otherwise used for the purposes of conducting and administering this photo competition.
- All entrants agree that all photograph(s) submitted to the competition may be reproduced (with photographer copyright credit) and used to conduct and promote AIA Dayton. You hereby grant AIA with a right to use submitted photographs in the framework of such promotional activities.
- You acknowledge that AIA and its event partners assume no responsibility and are not liable for any image misuse.
- Images are subject to cropping and resizing to fit marketing and printed material.
- You agree to participate in related publicity and to the use of your name and winning images for the purposes of advertising, promotion and publicity for AIA and the competition without additional compensation. Such requests will not be unreasonably withheld.
- AIA Dayton reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and remove any photograph that does not comply with the following requirements, even after the photograph appears on the website. You warrant, in respect of the photographs submitted by you, as follows: You have the right to enter your photographs in this competition. You are the sole copyright owner and creator of the photographs. To the best of your knowledge, the photographs do not contain any infringing, threatening, false, misleading, abusive, harassing, libelous, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, scandalous, inflammatory, pornographic or profane content. To the best of your knowledge, the photographs do not contain any material that could constitute or encourage conduct which would be considered a criminal offense, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any law.

FAQ's (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

We are a local branch office of a National Firm and are interested in submitting a project for the AIA Dayton Design Awards. Can we submit?

Yes, you can submit as long as the overall design of the project was completed by the local branch office. In addition, a Principal in the office and a project team member must be an AIA Dayton member in good standing.

My project won an AIA Dayton Focus on Design Award in 2021. I was wondering if I can submit the project again this year for the Interior Architecture category?

No, the project cannot be submitted again since it has already received AIA Dayton recognition.

My project won an IIDA Design Award two years ago but has never received AIA recognition. May I resubmit the project again for consideration for one of the AIA Dayton Design categories?

Yes, the project may be resubmitted since it received IIDA recognition and not AIA Dayton recognition.

Will I be notified if my project has won an award?

Yes, winners will be contacted by the AIA Dayton Executive Director.