

2026 DESIGN AWARDS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

9/15/26

The Design Awards honor the talents and skills of the members and firms of the Santa Fe Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, in furtherance of the Vision Statement of the Institute:

Driving positive change through the power of design.

Eligibility

Architect, Associate and Emeritus members in good standing with the Santa Fe Chapter at the Entry Deadline may submit entries for the Design Awards. There are no entry fees, and there is a limit of three entries per member.

Criteria for Entries

Entrants may submit any work that they feel is worthy of a Design Award. This includes projects, conceptual projects, architectural accessories, and technical innovations; any kind of work that demonstrates excellence or innovation in the field of architecture.

Entries that have been constructed may be located anywhere in the world and must have been substantially completed after January 1, 2021. Entrants must demonstrate that they were the Architect of Record and/or the Design Architect for these projects.

For entries that have been constructed, the Jury will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

1. **Design Excellence:** The primary focus is on innovative and impactful design that reflects a high level of creativity, functionality, and aesthetics. Projects should demonstrate a strong conceptual approach and effectively integrate architectural elements with the surrounding environment.
2. **Sustainability:** Consideration will be given to projects that employ sustainable practices, including energy efficiency, use of renewable materials, and minimal environmental impact.
3. **Contextual Sensitivity:** Designs should respect and enhance the cultural, historical, and environmental context of their location, contributing positively to the community and its identity. **Technical Proficiency:** The quality of craftsmanship, attention to detail, and use of materials will be assessed.
4. **Client and User Satisfaction:** Projects should meet or exceed the needs of the client and users, offering solutions that are functional, accessible, and responsive to the intended purpose.

Other entries that are appropriately associated with the built environment will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Innovation and Creativity:** Entries should showcase original thinking, problem solving, and creative approaches to architectural challenges beyond traditional design.
2. **Technical Achievement:** Where appropriate, emphasis will be placed on technical excellence, including structural ingenuity, engineering solutions, building science, and the innovative use of materials or technologies.
3. **Impact and Contribution:** The work should demonstrate a significant contribution to the field of architecture, advancing industry standards, practices, or knowledge.
4. **Collaboration and Leadership:** Where appropriate, entries should reflect effective, leadership, and collaboration among stakeholders, including clients, engineers, and other professionals.

Recipients

Award recipients will be determined by the Awards Jury, which may choose not to make an award in any category.

Awards Levels

There are three award levels:

- Honor Award – presented to entries demonstrating exemplary design.
- Merit Award – presented to an entry demonstrating outstanding design.
- Citation Award – presented to an entry demonstrating noteworthy design.

AWARDS CHAIR and AWARDS JURY

The Design Awards Chair is the Immediate Past President of the Chapter. The Awards Chair shall not be eligible to enter projects in the Design Awards in the current year. The Awards Chair is charged with securing the Jury Chair, who shall be a permanent resident outside of New Mexico. The Jury Chair shall be responsible for selecting the additional members of the jury; additional jury members must be drawn from firms or organizations that are not subject to the actions or decisions of the Jury Chair. Should any dispute arise regarding eligibility of any individual or project, or for any other matter, the Awards Chair shall determine the outcome after suitable consultation with members of the Executive Committee of the Chapter.

WAIVER

By submitting an entry, entrants take full responsibility for the accuracy of all the information submitted and warrant that all the necessary permission has been obtained from others who may have rights to the work presented. Entrants further acknowledge that no royalty or compensation is due anyone, holds AIA Santa Fe and its members harmless from all liability, and grants AIA Santa Fe the right to publish, reproduce and distribute submitted materials and to publish information about the entries. All entrants declare that they do not employ unpaid interns, nor does any firm of which they are Owner or Manager.

ENTRY & SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 5 PM, Monday October 26, 2026
ENTRY AND SUBMITTAL PROCESS

STEP 1 - Entry Form

Complete the Design Awards Entry Form in the Call for Entries announcement and submit it electronically. Please submit one Form for each entry.

STEP 2 - Electronic Submittal

There is no required format for submittals. Any representation that can be shown electronically will be accepted, including video.

Submittals should be sent to aiasantafe@gmail.com. Larger files may be transmitted using wettransfer.com.

The images and text used to present an entry are at the discretion of each applicant and may include photographs, floor plans, site plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, renderings, videos and other documentation. The individual/firm name cannot appear anywhere in the submittal (other than the Entry Form and Presentation Boards).

ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 5 PM, Monday October 26, 2026

STEP 3 - Physical Presentation Board Submittal

Entrants shall submit one or two 24"x24" presentation boards for each entry. In addition to project images and concise, legible explanatory text, board(s) shall include Project/Entry Title, Firm Name (if applicable), Architect Member Name and Team Member credits.

All presentation boards shall be submitted to the offices of AIA Santa Fe. All presentation boards will become the property of AIA Santa Fe. Mail or deliver the presentation board(s) to: AIA Santa Fe, 444 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501

BOARD SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 5 PM, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2026

STEP 4 – Attend the Awards Ceremony at La Posada de Santa Fe!

Friday, December 11, 2025 @ 6 pm

Recipients in all categories will be announced at the event.

Please refer all questions to the 2025 Awards Chair or the Executive Director:

Shawn Evans AIA: sevens@mass-group.org

and/or

Tom Spray, Executive Director: aiasantafe@gmail.com