



Corpus Christi

The AIA Corpus Christi Design Awards Program provides an avenue for AIA Corpus Christi member architects to be recognized by their peers for their outstanding achievements and dedication to excellence in architectural design.

Extending beyond these exemplary individual recognitions, our program aims to:

1. Establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure performance
2. Elevate the general quality of architectural practice in Corpus Christi and the surrounding areas
3. Expand public expectation for design excellence and its breadth/impact on improving our daily lives

ELIGIBILITY

- All entries shall be designed by an Architect licensed in the state in Texas
- Licensed Architect members of this Chapter may enter all project categories.
- Associate AIA members of this Chapter may submit in the unbuilt category only.
- Architects who are not members of the AIA Corpus Christi chapter are eligible for entry only if the built facility is located within the geographical area of AIA Corpus Christi.
- All entries shall be built facilities completed after January 1, 2021, or unbuilt facilities designed on or since January 1, 2021.
- There is no limit to the number of submissions by the same architect or firm.
- Firms whose employees are members of the jury are not eligible for submission in that year.

Eligibility for Previously submitted projects:

- Those projects that did not receive any award in a prior year may be resubmitted.
- Previously awarded projects which have undergone substantial renovation may be resubmitted.
- Previously awarded unbuilt projects are eligible for re-submittal upon completion.
- Projects which received past recognition in a non-juried category (such as past People's Choice winner) may be submitted in subsequent years for consideration of a juried award.
- All other previously awarded juried projects are not eligible for resubmittal.

COMMON APP QUESTIONNAIRE (OPTIONAL FOR ALL PROJECT CATEGORIES)

The Common App is an Excel-based document developed by AIA to capture performance metrics and help standardize awards submissions across AIA components.

We care deeply about sustainability, resilience, performance, community impact, inclusiveness, and design exploration, and fully support AIA National's Framework for Design Excellence. At the same time, we recognize that the Common App format does not always effectively capture the full story of every project or reflect the way many teams communicate design thinking.

For that reason, the Common App will be optional for all submissions this year. However, all entries will be required to include at least one slide that clearly describes how the project addresses sustainability, resilience, performance, community, exploration, or other measures of design excellence in alignment with the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. Ultimately, this will allow teams to present this information in a way that is more narrative, visual, and integrated with the rest of their submission.

If you choose to complete the Common App, please fill it out to the best of your ability. Projects will not be penalized if the Common App is not submitted or is incomplete.

Download the [Common App Questionnaire](#).

Click [HERE](#) to watch a tutorial on how to fill it out.

DEADLINES:

7/22/2026: Submission opens Wednesday, July 22, 2026

9/23/2026 - Submissions must be fully completed, submitted and paid for by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

- All credit card entry fees must be processed by this date
- All check payments must be postmarked by this date
- All digital presentation files must be delivered by this date (see submission requirements for file delivery details)
- Exhibit presentation boards may be submitted by end of the day on Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Early 2027: Design Awards Celebration Event to be held in early 2027, in conjunction with the 2027 Kick-off Party at Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Projects are submitted and judged in one of six categories. The number of projects awarded in each category and the award level is determined by the jury.

1. **Residential:** Completed projects, including single-family residential; multifamily residential; residential housing community planning; and residential renovations, additions, interiors and historic preservation. Residential projects of all sizes and scopes are welcome
2. **Commercial/Industrial:** Completed projects, including public and private commercial developments comprising retail, industrial, manufacturing and hospitality, commercial renovations, adaptive reuse, and new construction projects are eligible.
3. **Historic Rehabilitation/Restoration/Preservation:** Completed projects of all sizes and scopes involving historic rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation are eligible.
4. **Institutional/Civic/Religious Facilities:** Completed projects, including public and private developments of an institutional nature; K-12 and higher education; recreational facilities/parks, memorials; hospitals and medical facilities; religious institutions; utilities.
5. **Interior Architecture:** Completed projects involving substantial interior and minimal exterior alterations. Also includes residential interior renovations with minimal exterior improvement.
6. **Unbuilt:** Unbuilt entries may include any project that is either commissioned (client sponsored) or intended for construction, or purely theoretical work not intended for construction, submitted individually, as a team or firm. Entries in this category are reviewed and selected based on creativity, originality, power and potential of the ideas presented.

AWARDS LEVELS

Award of Excellence: Requires unanimous vote of the jury that a project excels in all aspects. Reserved for those projects which stand out from all the meritorious award winners. This highest honor recognizes projects which are deemed to exemplify excellence of architectural design on all levels of analysis and exemplify the highest standards to which AIA members aspire.

Award of Merit: Requires consensus from the jury that a project achieves a high quality of work overall. Granted to projects which display a high standard of architectural quality and design.

Citation Award: Responds to notable achievements in one or more particular project aspects; area(s) that stood out, as agreed through consensus by the jury.

JUDGING CRITERIA & JURY

Each entry will be judged for the success with which the project has met its individual requirements. Entries will be evaluated individually. The jury uses anonymous written and visual material submitted for their analysis. Jury considerations include design quality, functional utility, economy, environmental harmony, sustainability, accessibility, aesthetic delight, creativity, craftsmanship and innovation.

In addition, attention will be paid to:

- Building Character: Integration of materials that focus on project value as opposed to costs associated; ease of use to best serve the client; ability to draw people in to explore, experience and feel welcome.
- Overall integration of the project approach considering the project site, community, its users and the surrounding area; An understanding of why and how the project arrived at certain solutions.
- How the project design and functionality serve the client as facilitated by its attention to details.

- Attention to energy/water conservation and applicable environmentally friendly materials and design methods.
- Taking into consideration integrated project approach /community/user involvement and understanding how/why a project arrived at certain solutions, as described in narrative.
- Life cycle cost and maintainability.
- Additional criteria may be established by the jury at the time of their review.

Project authorship will remain concealed throughout the deliberations of the jury. **If the authorship is revealed on any of the images, plans, captions or narratives the entry will be disqualified.**

2026 JURY

Juror selection is based upon locating impartial individuals who represent high levels of achievement, design quality and professional integrity. Every attempt is made to create a balanced panel that will provide fair judgment to all entries. Members of the design awards committee whose firms have submitted in that year may not be present and/or may not participate during any aspect of jury deliberations.

2026 Jury Members:

Burton Baldridge, FAIA – Austin AIA – Baldridge Architects, Austin, TX
 Melvaleen McLemore, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP – AIA Houston – Abstract Group, Inc., Houston, TX
 Cale Lancaster, AIA, NCARB – AIA West Texas – Rhotenberry Wellen Architects, Midland, TX

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions must clearly demonstrate process and accomplishment through a combination of text, diagrams, drawings, photographs and other graphic materials to address the judging criteria noted below.

ENTRY PACKAGE TO INCLUDE:

- Completed Entry Form
- Project Narrative
- Digital Presentation (jurors will base their decision on project narrative and digital presentations only)
- Publicity Photograph Files
- Exhibit Presentation Boards
- Entry Fee

1. Digital Entry Form:

Fill out the Digital Entry Form to answer specific questions about this project. Fields that reference firm and individual names will not be visible to the jury during the review process.

2. Project Narrative: (DO NOT IDENTIFY the architect, designer or firm in any way)

The project narrative is a one-page written description of your project and will be provided to jurors and be used as part of the deliberation process. The narrative may be no more than 250-500 words.

Include:

- Project Name: No firm or personal names allowed.
- Project Location: City, State or City, Country (i.e. Corpus Christi, TX, USA).
- Project Category (choose one): Residential, Commercial/Industrial, Institutional, Civic/Religious/etc., Interior Architecture, Unbuilt
- Summary of the project, including but not limited to its physical context, the ideas behind it, the challenges it presented and how they were investigated and resolved. Place emphasis on the elements of design achievement defined in the Judging Criteria.
- Avoid elaboration of features already made clear by photographs and drawings. Include information about project intentions, including program requirements, cost data, and the distinguishing aspects of their resolution.
- For preservation/restoration projects provide the jury with sufficient information to differentiate between the original architects' work and the newly altered, preserved, or restored work.

3. Digital Presentation:

All digital presentation submission must be a single .pdf presentation. One (1) digital entry form will be required for each project submission. Jurors will review the Digital Presentation on laptops and projection screens. The materials submitted must conform to the following requirements to be juried. **Anonymity is a MUST: firm and personal names are not to be visible on any pages.**

Digital Format

- **File name:** Project Name.pdf (no firm name in title)
- **Format:** 8 1/2" x 11", Landscape, Single PDF file, 20 pages maximum, 10 MB maximum file size.

Page 1: Project Description & Introduction

- Leave a 1" margin minimum on all sides, black text on white background, 12 pt minimum font, no graphics or imagery.
- Project Name: No firm or personal names allowed.
- Project Location: City, State or City, Country (i.e. Corpus Christi, TX, USA).
- Project Category (choose one): Residential, Commercial/Industrial, Institutional, Historic Restoration/Rehabilitation/Preservation, Civic/Religious/etc., Interior Architecture, Unbuilt.

Pages 2-20: Project-related diagrams, graphics and imagery

- Limited to a maximum of 19 pages.
- These pages are meant to graphically represent the project to the jury and may include, but are not limited to:
 - Diagrams, photographs, site and floor plans, sections, elevations or other illustrative drawings.
 - Limit labels or annotations to approximately 30 words per page.
 - Indicate the project's physical context or site character through graphics and/or imagery.
 - Conceptual, sustainable, technical or programmatic diagrams are encouraged.
 - Renovations and additions should clearly delineate the scope of work and consider including graphics and/or images that distinguish between the initial circumstances and the final product and contain other material highlighting the reuse or adaptation of the site or building.
- All entries are required to include at least one slide that clearly describes how the project addresses sustainability, resilience, performance, community, exploration, or other measures of design excellence in alignment with the AIA Framework for Design Excellence.

4. Publicity Images (4 in JPG):

These separate images are to be submitted as part of each project submission. By submitting these publicity images, you are giving AIA Corpus Christi permission to use the images for public promotional purposes and understand that they may be included in media promotions. Before submitting publicity images, the architect and/or firm submitting is responsible for attaining permission from the photographer to use the images publicly, including but not limited to online and print media. Photographers will be credited for images when requested.

Requirements:

- 4 total images required
- Print-quality (300 dpi) image of approximately 2400 x 4000 pixels in .jpg.
- File name of each image shall be the project name with a sequential number (e.g., Smith House 01.jpg, Smith House 02.jpg)
- Images should showcase the project for publicity purposes.
- Images may not include any text.
- Images must be accompanied by photographer credit, where applicable.

Please Note: Exhibit presentation boards will be required as part of the submission process, however the jury will base their award decisions on digital submissions and project narrative only.

5. Exhibit Presentation Boards:

Exhibit presentation boards will be used for non-juried awards (such as People's Choice) and for display during the 2026 Design Awards/2027 AIACC Kickoff Party. AIACC will provide the presentation board template in Adobe Illustrator (.ai) file format and reference images illustrating how the final board should appear when printed.

Requirements:

- Firm Name: Include in the bottom right corner of the board.
- Project Name: Include in the upper right corner of the board.
- Project Location: Include in the upper right corner of the board under the project name; list the City and State where the project is located (i.e. Corpus Christi, Texas).
- Project Description: Copied from page 1 of the digital submission.
- Publicity Images: Include four (4) images in the space provided; image order and layout are at the discretion of the submitter but should generally follow the template provided.

- 24"x 36" landscape format
- Mount to white 3/16" foamcore.
- Presentation boards must be wrapped in protective paper before delivery to avoid damage during storage and transport.

Download the presentation board template and associated support files (fonts, reference images, etc.) [HERE](#).

POPULAR CHOICE AWARDS

Additional non-juried awards may be recognized in any program year to include People's Choice, Mayor's Choice, etc. These awards receive recognition as "popular choice" awards. Popular Choice awards have no additional submission requirements. Judging from the public or other award decision maker(s) will be based on the exhibit presentation board. This year's People's Choice Award voting will be held during First Friday Art Walk in downtown Corpus Christi during the months of October, November and December.

AWARDS PRESENTATION & EXHIBIT:

- Submissions will be displayed for public votes during the months of **October and November and December**.
- Public vote will count only towards the People's Choice award and will not influence the decision of the Jury Panel.
- Winners will be announced on the evening of the Design Awards 2026 special event to be held at Del Mar College Oso Creek Campus in early 2027. Winning projects may be exhibited at local public venues following January 2027. Winning projects **will be** submitted to the media for potential publication.
- AIA Corpus Christi reserves the right to display submissions for promotion and outreach purposes.
- The submission of the entry form and publicity images serves as permission to AIA Corpus Christi to use the images and drawings for publication purposes.

SUBMISSION FEE AND PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- \$200 per entry for AIA Corpus Christi Members; \$250 per entry for non-AIA Corpus Christi Members (no entry fees will be refunded).
- Each project must be individually submitted. Payment processing is done on a per entry basis.
- All credit card entry fees must be processed through the AIA Corpus Christi Executive Director before 5:00 pm (CST), Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Check payments must be postmarked on or before Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Checks may be mailed to AIA Corpus Christi - PO Box 1323, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.
- Digital entry forms must be e-mailed to the AIA Corpus Christi Executive Director, Suzan Rozypal, at aiacced@aiacorporuschristi.org on or before 5:00 pm (CST) Wednesday, September 23, 2026.
- Digital presentation files must be submitted on a USB drive inside a sealed envelope labeled: **AIA CORPUS CHRISTI 2026 DESIGN AWARDS SUBMITTAL**, Attn. Mr. Alejandro Garza, AIA. This envelope must be hand delivered to the office of Pfluger Architects, 321 Texan Trail, Suite 150, Corpus Christi, TX 78404, before 5:00pm (CST), Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

USB drive shall include only the following:

- Project Narrative (300 words max)
- PDF of Digital Presentation (20 pages max).
- High-resolution publicity JPG images (4 max).
- Common App File (**OPTIONAL**)
- Exhibit presentation boards must be hand delivered to the office of Pfluger Architects at the above referenced address before 5:00 pm (CST), Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions concerning AIACC Design Awards project eligibility and submittal requirements should be directed at:

Alejandro Garza, AIA, NCARB
 2026 Design Awards Committee Chair, TxA Chapter Director – AIA Corpus Christi
alex.garza@pflugerarchitects.com
 361.235.3151 (956.319.8487 cell)

Please provide all information required on this form and read the competition rules carefully before preparing your entry. Submit a separate entry form for each project submitted. This completed form is for internal AIA Corpus Christi use only and will not be seen by the jury.

Entrants Name	AIA Designation	Firm
Mailing Address	City, State, Zip	
Phone	E-mail	
Project name		
Lead Design Firm (to whom design should be credited for print purposes)		
Additional Design Firm to be Credited (write 'none' if only one design firm is involved)		
Project Location (City, State, Country)	Month/Year Completed	
Lot Size (sq. ft.) or building site if applicable	Building Area (if applicable):	
Owner (at completion)		
Contractor/Developer/Client		
Has this project ever been submitted in the past for an AIA Design Award?	___ YES	___ NO
If yes, did the project win a juried award when it was last submitted:	___ YES	___ NO
If yes, please provide award year and justification for resubmission (i.e., has undergone significant renovation since winning; was unbuilt project that has since been built, etc.):		

Suzan Rozypal
Executive Director - AIA Corpus Christi
aiacced@aiacorporuschristi.org