



2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH DESIGN AWARD SUBMISSION CRITERIA & CHECKLIST

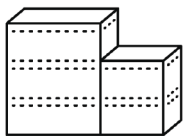
The 2026 Design Awards program celebrates the best contemporary architecture by Triangle architects regardless of budget, size, style or type. These projects show the range of outstanding work architects create and highlight the many ways buildings and spaces can improve our lives.

The **AIA Triangle Community Impact Through Design (CITD) Award** is a distinguished award established to celebrate and honor the lasting legacies of **Phil Freelon, FAIA**, and **Steve Schuster, FAIA**, recognizing projects that create meaningful and enduring positive impacts within their communities.

Projects may be submitted concurrently for consideration in both the **Design Award categories** and the **CITD Award** in the same year, provided they meet the eligibility criteria for each. Projects that have previously received recognition in **Design Awards** or the **CITD Award** categories are eligible for resubmission in future years for consideration in the other applicable categories.

AIA TRIANGLE DESIGN AWARDS

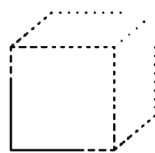
Architectural Design Award



BUILT

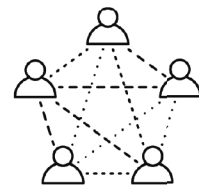
eligible for Merit and Honor

- Large Projects
- Residential
- Interior Arch.
- Small Projects



UNBUILT

eligible for Merit and Honor



CITD

eligible for Merit and Honor

All projects are eligible to win 1 award per division above, either in the same year or in subsequent years.

CITD AWARD SUBMISSION CRITERIA AND CHECKLIST

2026 CITD Awards Eligibility

Projects previously awarded an Unbuilt Award or a Built Award are eligible for consideration for the CITD Award. Projects are eligible to be submitted concurrently for a Built Award and the CITD Award, and are eligible to win both in the same year.

Eligible entries must be authored by a member or associate member of AIA Triangle. Entries can have any location, but the design team must include meaningful impact by a member of AIA Triangle.

Renovations and additions are eligible for submission in all Design Awards categories, but project scope must be clearly and accurately represented through graphics and written descriptions.

The project must be built and completed within the past 7 years. For this year's award, the project must have been completed no earlier than Jan. 1, 2019.

Digital Entry Submission

Entry Fee:

No fee is required to submit.

Submission Deadline:

March 13, 2026, 6:00 pm

Submit the following for each entry:

Digital Submission Package:

- 1 PDF with up to 12 slides
The format is entirely up to the person or team submitting but should clearly illustrate the design process & engagement, as well as tell the story of the impact to the community. There is no need to conceal the identities of project owner, community stakeholders, or design team.
- 1 high-resolution Public Display Image (JPEG, 16:9, 300 dpi)
- Photo release form

Please send your submission to the AIA Triangle at info@aiatdesignawards.org. Please send any questions to the same email address.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The Design helps solve a problem in the community.
 - The project team included stakeholders in the design process through engagement and workshops.
 - The project is a reflection of the community and its context.
 - The project is a catalyst for advancing community-building.
 - The project is people-centered.
2. The design addresses sustainability and seeks to improve its environment or context.
 - The design reimagines the site and space for community use.
 - The construction methods and materials draw from local talent and resources.
 - The project responsibly employs community resources.
3. The design empowers and uplifts.
 - The design embodies optimism.
 - The design is inclusive and welcoming to all.
 - The project is universally accessible.
4. The design surpasses preconceived notions or expectations about the project type.

Note: Award winners will be notified prior to Awards Reception.

CITD AWARD SUBMISSION CRITERIA AND CHECKLIST

The Jury

The Community Impact Through Design Award jury is made up of five members:

1. One or two members of the design team that won the award the previous year
2. One or two members of the client/ownership team that won the award the previous year
3. One representative from the NC State College of Design
4. The AIA Triangle Design Awards task force Chair

Exhibition / Publicity

Drawings and photographs shall not be restricted against publication. It is the entrant's responsibility to clear all drawings and photographs for release by the AIA Triangle Awards Committee which will assume no responsibility for copyrights or photographic fees. The photographs provided for each entry may be used for unrestricted newspaper, magazine, website, and social media publicity. Credit must be given to the photographer by the entrant.

CITD Awards Entry Checklist

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