



Summer 2025

ARCHITYPE

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT

**Redesigning
the Rules of
Early Practice**

**Sustainable Architecture
Awardees**

**Celebrating Excellence in
Architectural Drawing**

2025 Scholarship Recipients

**What Connecticut's New
Laws Mean for the Built
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**The "Big Beautiful Bill"
Becomes Law: What
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An Inspired Perspective

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ARCHITYPE

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT

CACX'25

PRESENTED BY **AIA** Connecticut

SEPTEMBER 26

7:00AM-7:00PM

MOHEGAN SUN
CASINO

REGISTER NOW



AGENDA

7:00AM

CACX'25 Registration and Breakfast

7:30AM

Morning Exhibit Showcase

Expo Hall / 7:00am-8:00am

8:00AM

CACX'25 Welcome and Keynote

*From Straight Lines to Shifting Tides: Retiring Limiting Beliefs Through Promotions, Plateaus & Pivots (ILU)
Ashley Rigby, MBA, WELL AP, ACC, CPRC
General Session / 8:00am-9:00am*

9:00AM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 9:00am-10:00am

10:10AM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 10:10am-11:10am

11:20AM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 11:20am-12:20pm

12:20PM

Lunch, AIA CT Annual Meeting

General Session Room / 12:20pm-2:00pm

2:00PM

Midday Exhibit Engagement

Expo Hall / 2:00pm-2:30pm

2:30PM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 2:30pm-3:30pm

3:40PM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 3:40pm-4:40pm

4:50PM

CE Sessions

Session Rooms D1, D2, or D3 / 4:50pm-5:50pm

5:50PM

Cocktail Reception in the Exhibit Area

Expo Hall / 5:50pm-6:50pm

For a detailed HSW & LU session list, [click here](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members,

I hope you're all enjoying your summer—staying cool, recharging, and finding moments to relax and reconnect. Even as the pace slows a bit in these warmer months, our calendar remains full, and I'm excited to share several important updates and celebrations across our profession.

Award season is still going strong, and we're proud to recognize some recent outstanding achievements:

- **2025 Sustainable Architecture Award Winners** - This year's honorees showcase how innovation, resilience, and climate-conscious design are shaping a more sustainable built environment.
- **Celebrating Excellence in Architectural Drawing 2025** - Honoring those who continue to elevate the art and craft of architectural representation.
- **2025 Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarship Recipients**
- **Connecticut Architecture Foundation Scholarships** - Since 1986, CAF has awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to students enrolled in accredited undergraduate and graduate architecture programs. This year they have granted sent nine scholarship awards.

The Connecticut legislative session has ended, but the impact is just beginning. We're breaking down **What Connecticut's New Laws Mean for the Built Environment**—including key federal updates like the newly passed "**Big Beautiful Bill**", which brings significant changes to our industry.

The **Building Inspector Update** highlights Connecticut's progress toward finalizing the 2026 State Building and Fire Codes. I also issued an **Official Statement Regarding the Department of Consumer Protection's License Renewal Process**, ensuring we address these changes and keep you informed.

It's been a dynamic month at the national level:

- The Strategic Councilor update offers insight into how AIA is shaping the future of the profession.
- The July 2025 AIA Consensus Construction Forecast provides valuable data for planning and decision-making.

We know there's a lot happening—and we're committed to keeping tabs on it all, updating you regularly, and making sure you have the information you need to navigate what's ahead.

Stay well and stay cool,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Calabro".

Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT, NOMA



Connecticut
Committee on the Environment



Olson Photographic, LLC

**Sustainability in
Action:
A Tour of
CT DEEP's
Western District
Headquarters**

**September 18th
3:00pm-4:30pm**

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



To Our Valued Members,

I hope this message finds you well, perhaps enjoying some quiet time under a palm tree, in a backyard tiki hut, or in a beach chair somewhere peaceful. This summer has brought more than just record heatwaves. It has also brought sorrow, as we mourn the passing of several of our members, individuals who contributed greatly to our profession and touched many of our lives. Their absence is deeply felt.



Their passing is a stark reminder that while we spend our careers advocating for others, whether through design, policy, or justice; we often overlook our own well-being. We chase deadlines, improve clients' outcomes, and push for change, often at the expense of our health and personal lives.

For more than 20 years, I subscribed to the "work hard" culture. My days begin early and end late, often filled with site visits, office tasks, and late-night work sessions. I find purpose in being hands-on, collaborating closely with those building what we design. But the pace has taken its toll.

Meanwhile, my wife, who runs a group counseling practice, has found ways to prioritize her wellness. She now carves out time daily to play pickleball and exercise. I've yet to catch up. Instead, I find myself channel surfing and playing chess online to unwind. The recent loss of our 17-year-old dog only deepened the quiet in our home. Our daughter, now grown and pursuing her own career, has unknowingly mirrored our work habits, and we see how it's impacting her too.

I'm not a mental health expert, but I'm learning. I'm realizing that self-care isn't just about vacations or holiday gatherings. It's about finding joy in small, intentional moments, sharing lunch without checking emails, choosing rest without guilt, being present for those we love.

To my fellow architects: we spend our careers designing for others, seeking recognition for solutions that improve the world. I've attended many award ceremonies and applauded those who've used their talents for good, often sacrificing personal time or financial stability in the process. I now understand that honoring ourselves is just as important.

At 53, I know it's never too late to recalibrate. The recent losses have been a personal wake-up call, to live more fully, with better balance, and greater intention.

Let's meet this moment, together, with purpose, courage, and care for ourselves and one another.

Marc Guerrier Andre, AIA, NCARB
2025 President - AIA Connecticut

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Redesigning the Rule

How embedding equity frameworks upstream is h

By Bethany I. Lundell Garver, AIA, NOMA

What if architecture students entered the profession already fluent in intercultural competency, mentorship, and workplace culture?

At the Boston Architectural College, an innovative program is doing just that—making cultural fluency as foundational as design thinking or technical skills, using the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice as its framework.

The architecture profession has long struggled to retain women and designers of color. According to the 2024 NCARB By the Numbers report, women make up just 27% of licensed architects in the U.S., and people of color only 19%. These disparities stem from early barriers to access and networks, coupled with organizational practices that haven't kept pace with a diverse workforce. McKinsey's *Race in the Workplace* and *Women in the Workplace* reports echo this trend, showing how many industries often address inclusion reactively—only after attrition, the “broken rung,” becomes visible.

With NCARB's Competency Standard taking effect in October 2024, the profession is facing a paradigm shift. The new standard outlines 16 core competencies and could open flexible licensure pathways—including options that bypass a NAAB-accredited degree. This shift prioritizes demonstrated ability over seat time and aims to make licensure more accessible and inclusive.

The challenge: How do we embed equity in this evolving landscape? What if equity-minded practice were integrated into students' earliest professional experiences?

Embedding equity through early access to diverse practices

At the BAC, these questions aren't theoretical. As the recipient of the 2025 AIA/ASCA Practice and Leadership Award, the institution has long embraced adaptive, diverse practices and competency-focused innovation. This experience begins even before classes start: new student orientation includes firm visits where students meet practicing architects and connect with emerging professionals.

In 2022, the BAC launched Practice ConnEx (PCX), a semesterly externship that places students in diverse practice settings during the week before classes. PCX goes beyond job shadowing: it layers equity frameworks into the experience using daily readings from the Guides for Equitable Practice. Each day, students reflect on themes like intercultural competence, mentorship, and workplace culture, and share insights on a public blog, creating a living archive of emerging voices and fresh perspectives.

One undergraduate reflected on their experience at Safdie Architects:

“The diversity of our mentors highlighted how multiple perspectives contributed to the firm. They were patient, open to questions, [and] honest about their knowledge. It really showed that being a mentee didn't mean only having to learn from one person.”

These reflections aren't abstract. They arise directly from what students witness in practice—far earlier than conventional curricula.

Another undergraduate student described Prellwitz Chilinski Associates:

“Their Feed-forward program [structures how] advice and

feedback should be met with open-mindedness and empathy. A healthy workplace allows room for constructive criticism and shared discussions. Regular check-ins ensure team members can consistently improve.”

These approaches plant seeds of mentorship and inclusive workplace culture from day one. The result: students develop cultural fluency as a professional competency. They ask critical questions: Who is included in decision-making? How does firm culture influence retention? What does equitable mentorship look like in action?

By reframing preparation as equity-minded observation and reflection, the BAC equips students to engage critically—not as passive participants but as active shapers of practice.

The BAC's roots in practice-integrated education run deep. Founded in 1889 as the Boston Architectural Club, it was created by apprentices and draftsmen seeking collective advancement at a time when architectural education was largely limited to those with wealth or access to elite institutions like l'École des Beaux-Arts.

By day, students worked in architecture offices; by night, they gathered to sketch, critique, and study—democratizing education long before it became a national conversation. Robert Swain Peabody, one of the BAC's founders, later became the AIA's 8th National President—following Daniel Burnham and preceding Charles McKim. The BAC and AIA were closely linked in these formative years and for decades after, sharing a vision and financial commitment for teaching and mentorship, with leaders moving between institutions to strengthen a culture of professional development.

es of Early Practice

helping to rewire architectural education.

Over time, the BAC expanded access—welcoming women in the 1930s and pioneering the world's first NAAB-accredited online architecture degree in 2009. Today, BAC graduates are 55% women and 39% students of color, compared to national figures of 27% and 19%. With nearly 20 BAC graduates completing NCARB's Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure—eight times more than any other school—the college demonstrates how intentional integration of education and practice can shift the demographics of the profession.

Lessons for schools and firms: Embedding equity as a core competency

1. Treat cultural fluency like technical fluency.

Students trained to recognize mentorship dynamics and organizational culture bring those insights into teams, internships, and leadership roles. As firms navigate retention challenges and strive to create inclusive workplaces, graduates with reflective habits and a language for equity become indispensable.

2. Create feedback loops.

Structured reflection and public-facing testimonies provide firms with real-time insights into how their culture is perceived by emerging professionals—creating opportunities for



Incoming BAC students tour Bruner / Cott Architects, a JUST-labeled firm, during New Student Orientation.

Photo: Beth Lundell Garver

organizations to assess and adapt their practices with fresh perspectives.

3. Embed equity in action, not policy.

The AIA Guides for Equitable Practice are most powerful when used as conversation starters in live contexts, not as static reading assignments. The “Act” section of the Guides provides clear next steps for individuals, firms, and the profession writ large. Practice ConnEx is one way to “create opportunities for authentic relationship building across a variety of identities,” integrating the Guides directly into students’ professional formation.

4. Shifting the starting line.

This isn’t just about preparing students—it’s about preparing the profession. As architecture enters a competency-based era, programs like the BAC’s New Student Orientation firm visits and Practice

ConnEx show what’s possible when equity frameworks are embedded upstream.

At the BAC, 98% of architecture graduates are employed at graduation, and 46% already hold management roles. Tomorrow’s architects will face challenges we can’t yet predict. But we can prepare them with technical skill, cultural awareness, and ethical discernment.

Cultural fluency is no longer optional—it’s a core competency for architects leading in a pluralistic world. Shift the starting line, and you shift the trajectory. Equity and excellence don’t compete—they grow together from the very beginning.

Bethany I. Lundell Garver, AIA, NOMA, is Dean and Faculty of Practice and Director of Gateway Office at the Boston Architectural College.



Building for a Better Future – 2025 Sustainable Architecture Award Winners

The 2025 Sustainable Architecture Awards celebrate architectural excellence in climate-conscious design. Honoring projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve natural resources, and elevate human well-being, the program reflects the shared mission of AIA Connecticut and Connecticut Passive House: to confront the climate crisis through innovation in the built environment.

The Sustainable Architecture Awards are presented biennially by AIA Connecticut and Connecticut Passive House. The program recognizes design excellence in resource conservation, resilience, and climate responsiveness. This year’s jury recognized four exemplary projects that demonstrate forward-thinking solutions to pressing environmental challenges.



Excellence

Slate Upper School | Patriquin Architects

Photos: Ian Christman and Patriquin Architects

Serving grades 7-12, Slate Upper School fosters student health, joy, and environmental awareness. The project achieved a remarkable Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 22 kBtu/ft² and meets Passive House-level airtightness, with an envelope design that uses continuous wood-fiber insulation and smart vapor-open barriers to reduce thermal bridging.

On-site ecological conservation was central: the design preserved 100% of sensitive habitats, restored wetlands, and supported biodiversity using native plantings and USDA Organic-certified materials. Wetland crossings minimize disturbance with low-toxicity wood and driven piles.

The site manages 100% of stormwater on-site without synthetic inputs. Certifications pursued

include Passive House (PhiUS), Net-Zero Ready, and Living Building Challenge Petals for Materials, Health + Happiness, and Beauty.

Jury

comments:

“A beautifully executed project with a strong site strategy, excellent use of natural materials, and a holistic approach to sustainability.”



2025 Jury



Naomi Darling, AIA,
Naomi Darling
Architecture



Timothy Lock, AIA, OPAL



Nina Kagan,
475 High Performance
Building Supply

Excellence



Yale Peabody Museum | Centerbrook Architects and Planners

Photo: Peter Aaron/OTTO

The Yale Peabody Museum's renovation is its most significant update since 1925. Designed for LEED Gold certification, the project reduces EUI by 50%—from 155 to 75 kBtu/sf/year—while adding over 55,000 square feet of conditioned space.

Sustainability features include a new insulated envelope, stormwater bioswales and cisterns, waste-heat recovery, and LED lighting. Native landscaping, low-flow fixtures, and double-glazed windows

contribute to a 35% reduction in indoor water use.

Inside, natural light fills the Central Gallery's indoor garden, and new communal spaces such as a glass tower boardroom overlook a revitalized courtyard. A four-story infill addition connects the museum to the Environmental Science Center, enhancing collaboration and programming.

Jury comments:

"A standout example of holistic adaptive reuse. This sensitive retrofit prioritizes sustainability and daylighting, while honoring a beloved institutional legacy."

MERIT



SCSU School of Business | OakPark Architects and Sasaki

Photo: Jeremy Bittermann Photography

This 60,000-square-foot academic building is fully electric and designed for Net Zero Energy, exceeding Connecticut's High Performance Building Standards. It includes 52 geothermal wells, a rooftop solar array, and a tight, highly insulated envelope with an airtightness of 0.107 CFM/SF.

Tall, narrow glazing reduces solar heat gain while ensuring daylight reaches deep into classrooms. Compact massing supports energy efficiency, and interior spaces foster collaboration through open corridors and flexible study zones.

Jury comments:

"A well-crafted design that balances performance and daylighting. The compact massing and integrated systems work well for a complex program."

Commendation



DEEP West District Headquarters, Black Rock State Park | TLB Architecture, LLC

Photo: Olson Photographic, LLC

This 14,200-square-foot building is set to become Connecticut's first Executive Branch Net-Zero facility. Sustainability strategies include geothermal systems, a solar array that generates 115% of building energy use, and a Trombe wall made with pozzolan concrete from recycled in-state glass.

Designed for LEED Platinum, the building also incorporates radiant floors, passive ventilation, and an airtight envelope with EUI of 28 kBtu/sf/year. Interior finishes include wood reclaimed from storm-damaged trees in Connecticut parks.

The site design manages stormwater through bioswales and retention basins, protecting nearby wetlands and streams. Together, these features support a vision of sustainable state infrastructure rooted in local materials and climate-conscious design.

Jury comments:

"A thoughtful, net-positive project that integrates local resources and passive strategies into a high-performing public facility."





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Celebrating Excellence in Architecture

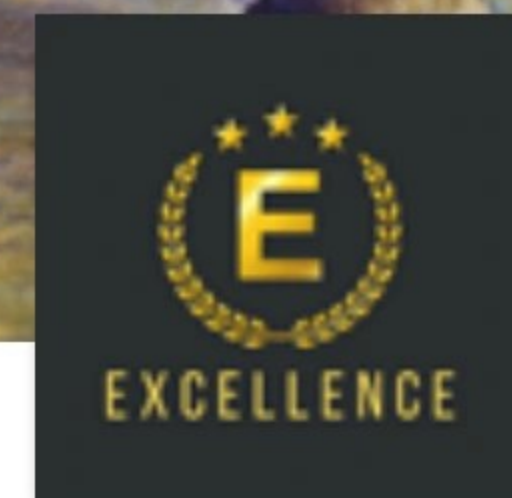
The 2025 Architectural Drawing Excellence Awards shine a spotlight on a timeless yet evolving craft: drawing. This biennial award program celebrates the art of architectural representation in its many forms—from delicate pencil sketches and moody watercolor scenes to crisp digital renderings and complex compositions. Submissions reflect a broad spectrum of real, proposed, or visionary architectural projects, each communicating spatial and emotional depth through technique, detail, and imagination.

This year's awardees impressed the jury, all past drawing award recipients, with works that not only showcase technical proficiency but also an evocative sense of place and narrative. The awarded drawings transform architectural ideas into immersive visual experiences.



Brian Varano, AIA | SPA
An Inspired Perspective

Brian Varano's masterful hand-rendered composition draws from the grandeur of St. Peter's Basilica and Square, channeling the spirit of Rome through watercolor and colored pencils. The imagined view feels intimate and contemplative, capturing what could be a quiet, rain-washed moment under a soft, shifting sky. The drawing invites viewers into



a richly detailed yet dreamlike space—where light, shadow, and memory intersect. The chosen medium gives the image a poetic sensibility, evoking emotion and wonder. Its composition is not only a beautiful work of art but a moment suspended in architectural time.

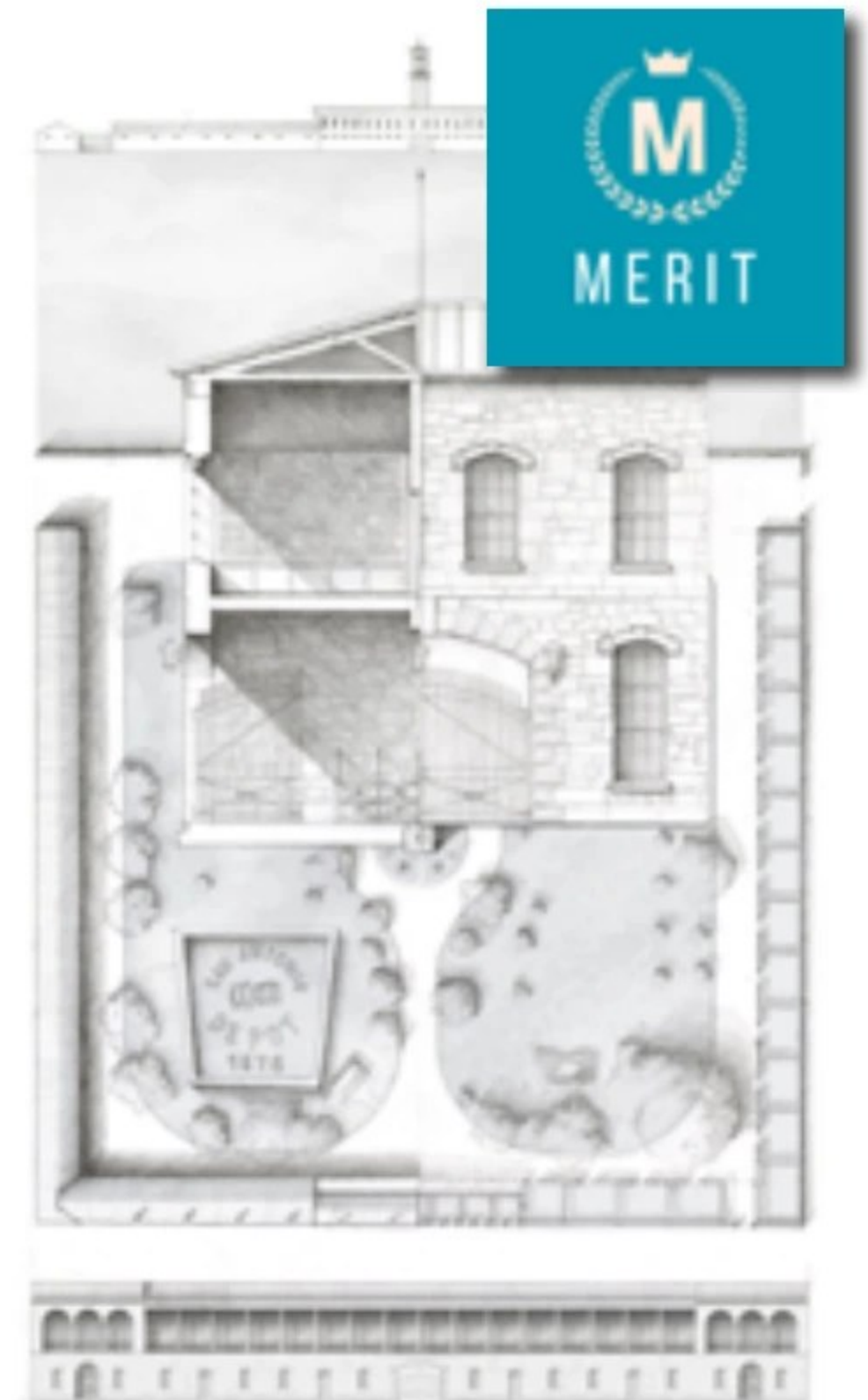
Architectural Drawing 2025



Brendan O'Rourke | SLAM Collaborative
Zoo Buildings

Depicting a serene afternoon in rural New England, Brendan O'Rourke's drawing captures the vitality of a newly imagined zoo expansion. His composition centers on a dynamic spatial experience—the "Golden Triangle"—with landscaped boardwalks and tree-lined views guiding visitors to and between

three buildings, including a treehouse canopy path. The drawing's layered forms, thoughtful lighting, and ethereal tones blend design intent with the immersive quality of the natural environment. It is both a technical rendering and an atmospheric journey into place-making.



Maxwell Baum | Pickard Chilton
Fort Sam Houston

Maxwell Baum's analytical study of Fort Sam Houston reflects a deep engagement with historical architecture. Executed in pencil, the drawing investigates the vernacular design language of early American forts. As both artistic endeavor and architectural research, the work stitches together photographic references, sketches, and classical motifs into a richly layered composition. The image captures the central gate of the fort with reverence and scholarly attention, embodying the tradition of Old School study drawings.



Ronald Quicquaro, AIA | Studio Q Architecture
City Restoration

Through Morpholio Trace, Ronald Quicquaro presents a skillful two-point perspective study of a mixed-use urban block in Torrington, Connecticut. With crisp lines and nuanced shading, the drawing provides

an engaging glimpse into early design thinking. Concept and craftsmanship align seamlessly, resulting in a rendering that is at once precise and expressive—an elegant study in proportion, depth, and form.

Celebrating the 2025 Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarships

In a significant step toward building a more inclusive future in the design professions, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut), in collaboration with the Connecticut chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA Connecticut), has announced the recipients of the 2025 Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarships.

The joint initiative is more than a scholarship—it is a commitment to amplifying diverse voices in architecture, engineering, and construction by empowering the next generation of Black and African American architects.

With fewer than 50 Black architects among Connecticut's 4,641 licensed professionals, the disparity reflects long-standing barriers to entry and advancement in the architectural profession. The Rising Black Architectural

Student Scholarship aims to help bridge this gap by offering not only financial assistance but also recognition and encouragement to Black students pursuing architectural degrees.

This year, four outstanding individuals have been selected as recipients of the 2025-26 awards: Eden Edghill, Jephthe Labonte, Johnathan Lyn, and Isaiah Solis.

Eden Edghill, a graduate student at the Wentworth Institute of Technology, brings both academic excellence and practical experience to the table. Having worked at a small architectural firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts during undergraduate studies, Eden gained early exposure to the intricacies of professional practice. This hands-on experience complemented four years of rigorous studio education, resulting in a well-rounded foundation in both creative and technical design. Eden has since expanded into the realm of interior architecture and design through a role at a Providence-based firm, where a broader spatial understanding has further enriched their skill set. Eden's current focus is on residential design, and their master's thesis will explore how modern manufacturing technologies—like CNC milling—can revolutionize efficiency and creativity in architectural design. With a passion for both innovation and practical problem-solving, Eden is poised to contribute meaningfully to the profession.



Jephthe Labonte, a third-year architecture student at the University of Hartford, discovered a passion for architecture in high school, drawn by its potential to shape communities and influence lives. As a first-generation college student from an immigrant family, Jephthe approaches education with a profound sense of purpose and determination. His academic goals are rooted in a deep desire to honor the sacrifices of his family, and his personal mission is to pave a path forward not just for himself but also for those who will follow. Jephthe's engagement with the Honor Society and the NAACP has cultivated his leadership abilities and reinforced a commitment to civic responsibility. He plans to continue his education through a Master of Architecture degree and ultimately achieve licensure. For Jephthe, receiving this scholarship is both an acknowledgment of his hard work and a doorway to expanded opportunity.



Recipients of the Rising Student Scholarship

Another rising force in Connecticut's architectural future is **Johnathan Lyn**, a high-achieving student and accomplished young professional, also at the University of Hartford. With a Bachelor of Architecture and Technology earned magna cum laude, Johnathan is



currently pursuing an accelerated Master of Architecture. His academic journey has been distinguished by a long list of accolades, including the President's List, Dean's List, and induction into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Johnathan graduated from St. George's College, where he received a physics prize and began cultivating the analytical rigor that now defines his architectural approach.

Johnathan's background is as dynamic as it is interdisciplinary. A competitive swimmer and triathlete who has represented Jamaica internationally, he brings the same dedication to his architectural pursuits. His resume includes substantial experience in architectural design and construction management, having worked with Virtuoso Architect Ltd, ADON Solutions Ltd, and most recently, as a Project Management Intern at Consigli Construction. His leadership, time management, and collaborative spirit have made him a standout in both studio and fieldwork. He is also the recipient of multiple scholarships, including the Fredrick J. Mahaffey Memorial Architecture Scholarship and the Rising Black Student Architect/Designer Scholarship. Johnathan embodies the holistic potential of the scholarship's mission: to develop not only competent designers but also visionary leaders.

Completing the cohort of 2025 awardees is **Isaiah Solis**, a fifth-year architecture student at the prestigious Pratt Institute School of Architecture. Hailing from Danbury, Connecticut, Isaiah's path to architecture began in the technical drafting classrooms of Henry Abbott



Technical High School, where he studied Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology. Although initially drawn to precision engineering, Isaiah ultimately discovered in architecture a broader platform for creativity and human-centered design. At Pratt, Isaiah has embraced a multidisciplinary perspective, engaging in projects that span digital fabrication, interior and industrial design, graphic communication, and even film.

Isaiah's capacity to collaborate across design disciplines has made him a valuable contributor to many initiatives at Pratt. His educational experience has been less about specialization and more about synthesis—bringing together art, technology, and community-focused design. Rooted in a strong appreciation for craft and storytelling, Isaiah has committed himself to using architecture as a medium for expression and empowerment. Grateful for the scholarship and the community that supports him, Isaiah continues to build a future defined by inclusive, innovative design thinking.

Together, these four students exemplify the very best of what the future of architecture can look like when access, support, and recognition are equitably distributed. They are not only academically accomplished but also deeply committed to advancing the profession and the communities they represent. The Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarship serves as a powerful reminder that talent exists in every community—and when nurtured, it can reshape the built environment in transformative ways.



2025 Scholarship Awardees

CONNECTICUT ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

By Emily Sperini, AIA

Investing in the future of architecture is vital for the continued success of Connecticut’s architectural community. Each year, the Connecticut Architecture Foundation actively raises and distributes funds to support the education of emerging architects. Since 1986 CAF has awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to architecture students enrolled in accredited undergraduate and graduate architecture programs.

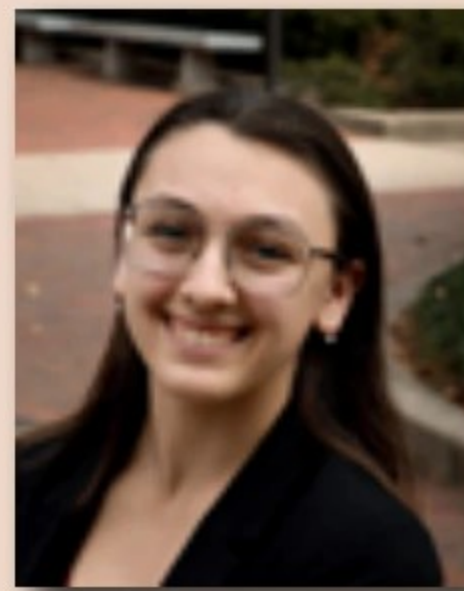
This year CAF is proud to present nine scholarship awardees made possible through generous donations and sponsors. Scholarships include the Jane and Kevin Roche Scholarship, the Hoffmann Diversity Advancement Fund, the Charles DuBose Memorial Scholarship, the Suzanne Sheng Memorial Scholarship, and five CAF scholarships.

Further information on all scholarships can be found at <https://cafct.org/scholarships/>, tax-deductible donations are accepted on the CAF website at <https://cafct.org/donations/>

CAF Scholarships

Elisabeth D’Albero

recently completed her undergraduate studies at The Catholic University of America, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Architecture. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with an Honors Track in Liberal Studies and was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Medal. During her time at CUA, she has served as a part of her university’s Student Government Association and Architecture Ambassador Program in addition to working for the school as a Fabrication Lab Technician and Circulation Director for the upcoming Student Design Build Library. She will pursue her Master of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst with an additional interest in construction.



magna cum laude. Her strong academic performance and design work were recognized with the Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Architectural Engineering Technology. She is now continuing her studies at the University of Hartford, where she will pursue a bachelor’s degree in Architectural Design + Technology. Denyshe has the goal of creating spaces that support healing, dignity, and connection in the communities she cares about.

Shane Manzi

is going to be a third-year architecture student at the University of Hartford with a focus on sustainability and construction management in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture. He has gained lots of hands-on experience through many studio projects that have honed his rendering, model-making, and presentation skills, while also opening up and exploring the creative side of architecture. He plans to attain his master’s degree in architecture at the University of Hartford after graduation, aiming to become a licensed architect. He is committed to creating creative spaces that may not look like typical buildings but also bring together communities and leave a positive impact on the environment.



Dehar Awardees

Denyshe Riley-Roach

is a first-generation Jamaican-American student who recently earned her Associate’s degree in Architectural Engineering Technology from CT State Capital Community College, graduating



Dubose Awardees

Natalia Smiarowski is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, receiving a dual degree: a Bachelor of Science in



Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Building & Construction Technology. Beginning Fall 2025, she will be pursuing a Master of Architecture and continuing her education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In the Spring and Summer 2025 semesters, she took part in the fourth year of the UMass Design Build program, focusing her work on energy efficiency, MEP systems and HERS Rating of a 600 SF single-family home. Natalia hopes to continue her interdisciplinary education as she integrates building science and architectural design throughout her academic and professional work.

Yanbo Li

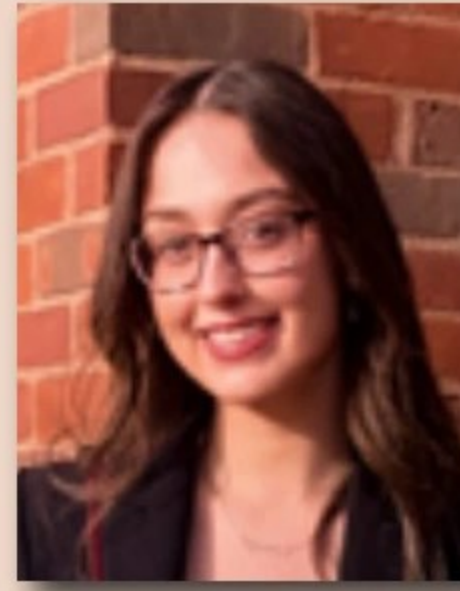
is currently pursuing an M.Arch at the Yale School of Architecture. As a first-generation American who spent parts of his childhood in China,



Japan, Indiana, and Maryland, he approaches architecture as a practice of constructing belonging and rootedness. He has previously worked in fabrication, furniture design, fine art, and real estate development, as well as at the office of GOA Architecture in New Haven. He is currently researching communitarian housing in Mexico City.

Christina Patmanidis

graduated this May, with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Design and Technology from the University of Hartford. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Architecture through the University of Hartford's accelerated graduate program. During her time at the University of Hartford, she ran the Hartford chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), serving as both Treasurer and President. In recognition of her academic performance, she has been honoured with the Solomon Ensler Award for maintaining a perfect GPA on a 4.0 scale and the Regents Honor Award for academic distinction. She has also received the David N. Labau Memorial Scholarship for graduate excellence and won the Top Project Award for the Senior Design Thesis category at the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) Exposition.



Hoffmann Awardee

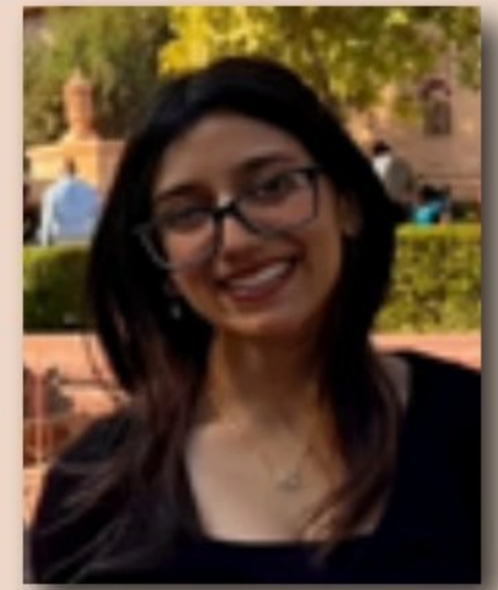
Christopher Chung

was born in Boston, MA, and spent much of his life in South Korea. He earned a B.A. in Architectural Studies from Tufts University and is currently pursuing an M.Arch at the Yale School of Architecture. Christopher holds a Certificate in Classical Architecture and Art from the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in New York and has interned with several firms specializing in high-end residential design. His experience with historical buildings and traditional design has shaped his passion for building rehabilitation and preservation. He believes that preserving and repurposing older structures is not merely about maintaining a connection to the past but about ensuring these buildings continue to serve communities for generations to come.



Roche Awardee

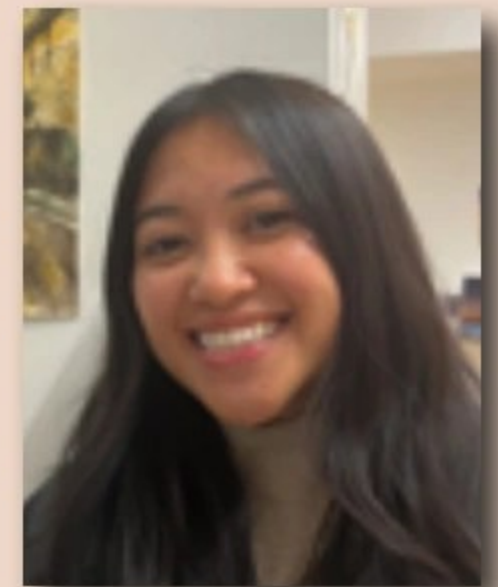
Dhruvi Patel is a first-generation student at the University of Hartford completing her B.S. in Architectural Design and Technology and pursuing her M.Arch. A consistent President's List honouree, Dhruvi is also an active member of the university's architecture community, serving on the executive boards of NOMAS and AIAS. This summer, Dhruvi is joined My Architecture Workshops in Stamford, CT as a mentor, supporting and educating young minds curious about the world of architecture. Driven by a deep interest in architecture as a form of healing, Dhruvi wants to utilize her knowledge to help people through refuge architecture. She plans to explore the influence of trauma-informed design in regions subject to violence and systemic neglect in her senior thesis. Her aspiration is to become an architect who uplifts communities by offering safety, strength, and hope.



Sheng Awardee

Jessiema Iquina

earned her Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Temple University and is now pursuing her Master of Architecture. A first-generation Filipina-American, she is an active member and peer mentor in Temple's AIAS and NOMAS chapters, working toward licensure with a focus on creating inclusive and culturally responsive spaces for her community. As a Presidential Scholar, she studied abroad in Rome in the fall of 2024, concentrating on urban renewal within the historic district.



Emily Sperini, AIA is a Connecticut Architecture Foundation board member,

What Connecticut's New Laws Mean for the Built Environment

By Gina Calabro, Hon AIACT

Connecticut's 2025 legislative session concluded on June 11 with policy developments in climate resilience, housing, and the design and construction industries.

Among the most transformative laws was the passage of HB 5004, the **Connecticut Green Economy Act** (Public Act 25-125), which solidifies the state's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The law sets enforceable benchmarks for 2030 and 2040 and compels all state agencies to adopt zero-carbon electricity by the end of this decade. It also creates a Clean Economy Council to oversee tax rebates for green construction, carbon sequestration initiatives, solar canopy installations, and workforce development—with supporters underscoring its relevance to improving air quality in regions like Fairfield County, which continue to suffer from ozone pollution.

Environmental resilience was also addressed through **SB 9**, a law signed on June 10 that requires climate-resilient design for coastal and flood-prone construction. It introduces mandatory flood-risk disclosures and compels developers to reconsider shoreline development in light of long-term environmental impacts. The legislation elevates expectations for architects and builders, who must now incorporate more robust flood mitigation strategies and resilient materials into their designs.

Licensing and professional oversight saw important changes with the passage of **SB 1357** (Public Act 25-111), a bill that

strengthens the authority of Connecticut's Architectural Licensing Board. Signed into law on June 11, the act empowers the Board **to address the unauthorized or misleading use of the word "architect" and its derivatives** in business names, advertising, and digital media.

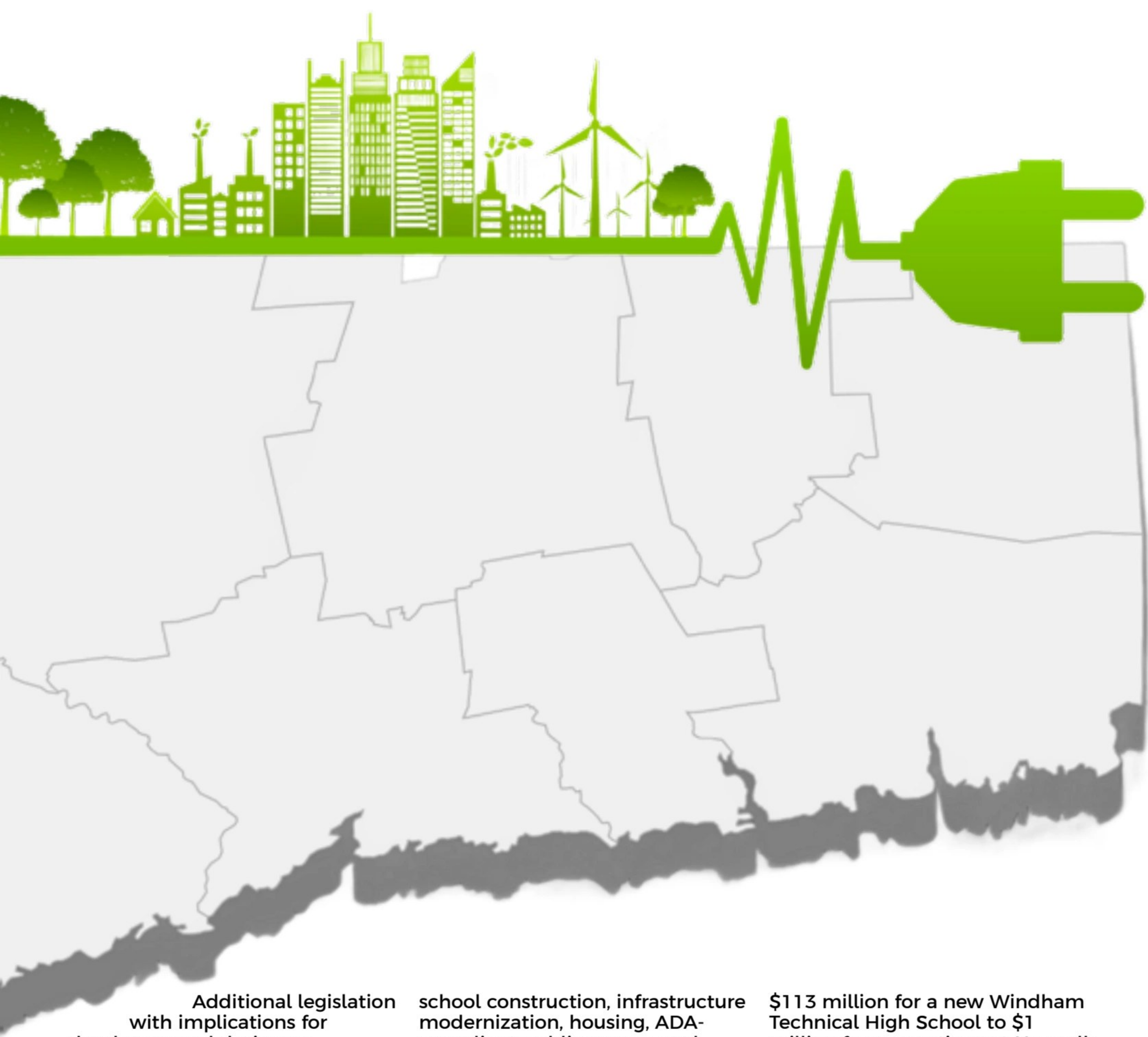
The legislation clarifies that terms such as "architecture," "architectural design," and "architectural consulting" may not be used by individuals or entities that are not properly licensed, unless explicitly exempted. This aims to eliminate confusion in the marketplace and prevent unlicensed individuals or firms from implying professional credentials they do not hold. For example, a company offering drafting or design services may no longer market itself using phrases like "architectural solutions" or "architectural services" unless those services are overseen by a licensed architect.

The expanded language reinforces that **"architect"** is a legally protected professional title that cannot be used casually or commercially by those without proper licensure. This clarification comes in response to increasing concerns about public confusion—particularly in online platforms, marketing materials, and design-build services—where terms like "architectural" are often used loosely, creating the false impression that services are being provided by licensed professionals. By tightening these definitions, the legislation safeguards consumers and upholds the credibility and professional standards of the architectural field.

As this new authority goes into effect, licensed practitioners and firms will need to review their branding, websites, and communications to ensure compliance, while unlicensed design professionals will need to reassess how they describe their services in the marketplace.

Housing policy was another legislative focal point, though not without controversy. **HB 5002**, an omnibus housing reform bill that included a statewide ban on hostile architecture in public spaces and eliminated parking minimums for transit-oriented developments, was ultimately vetoed by Governor Lamont over concerns about local control.

In contrast, **SB 1444**, aimed at encouraging the adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial properties, was signed into law on July 8. Beginning in October, the law permits as-of-right conversion of non-industrial commercial buildings with less than 50% occupancy to residential use. These projects bypass public hearings and special permits, requiring only local summary review within 65 days. The law also includes a three-year property tax freeze post-conversion and fast-tracks eligible projects through the state's Greyfield Revitalization Program.



Additional legislation with implications for developers and designers includes **HB 7027** (Public Act 25-146), which allows the use of condominium deposits to fund construction. **HB 7028 and 7029** authorize the conveyance of specific state-owned properties for housing or development purposes.

Connecticut lawmakers also approved a comprehensive, bipartisan bonding package that will inject over \$6.6 billion into construction and capital projects across the state over the next two years. As reported by the Hartford Courant, the initiative unlocks substantial funding for

school construction, infrastructure modernization, housing, ADA-compliant public spaces, and critical agency upgrades.

In the first year alone, \$3.2 billion is allocated, with \$3.4 billion planned for the second—supporting more than 30 state agencies and educational institutions. Notable allocations include over \$500 million for school construction, \$200 million for housing initiatives, \$20 million for municipal spaces over two years, and \$40 million for accessibility upgrades at state parks.

The funded projects vary widely in scale, ranging from a proposed

\$113 million for a new Windham Technical High School to \$1 million for renovations at Norwalk Community College.

Despite the ambitious scope of the package, uncertainty remains. Final decisions on project approvals lie with the State Bond Commission, and persistent skilled labor shortages could pose challenges in delivering on the program's full potential. Still, the legislative green light marks a major step forward for Connecticut's construction and design industries, offering multi-year opportunities across both public and private sectors.

Official Statement Regarding the Department of Consumer Protection's License Renewal Process

AIA Connecticut CEO/Executive Director Gina Calabro made this statement at the July 18th Connecticut Architecture Licensing Board meeting, with a copy to be filed with the Department of Consumer Protection.

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) wishes to formally express concerns regarding the recent changes implemented by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) in the architectural license renewal process, specifically related to the submission of continuing education (CE) credits.

While we fully support and understand the importance of continuing education and the requirement to comply with CE standards, we are concerned that the significant procedural change in how these credits are reported was not communicated in advance to the thousands of licensed architects across the state. The lack of prior notice has caused confusion and concern not only with Connecticut based architects but also those who hold reciprocal licenses.

It is important to note that there was a 90-day window between the end of the CE reporting period on April 30th and the issuance of license renewal notices in June. During that time, DCP could have informed licensees of the new CE submission procedure. Early notification would have allowed architects sufficient time to prepare and comply with the new process, avoiding last-minute complications.

Furthermore, under the applicable statute, the DCP and the State Architectural Licensing Board are expected to collaborate on such matters. This coordination is essential to ensure a transparent and orderly licensing process that serves both the public and the professional community.

We would also like to highlight that many of our members have contacted their legislators to express concern about how this change was implemented, particularly given that the process is governed by statute. While there is no disagreement with the continuing education (CE) requirements themselves, there are significant questions as to why the new system does not allow for the upload of documentation—such as transcripts or spreadsheets—to verify CE credits. This is especially troubling considering that the regulations explicitly recognize CE credits from organizations such as AIA, NCARB, and OEDM, all of which maintain established processes aligned with Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) standards. Allowing documentation uploads would support compliance and transparency and would eliminate the need for additional audits of properly documented CE activities.

AIA Connecticut stands ready to work with the DCP and the Licensing Board to ensure better communication, clarity, and compliance in future renewal cycles.

Thank you

Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT
CEO/Executive Director





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179D ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR ARCHITECTS



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The “Big Beautiful Bill” Becomes Law: What It Means for the Built Environment

The “One Big Beautiful Bill” was signed into law on July 4, 2025, following its passage in the Senate (July 1 by a narrow 51–50 vote) and in the House (July 3, vote 218–214)

While the “One Big Beautiful Bill” provides substantial tax benefits and incentives for architecture, construction, and real estate sectors, it also includes key drawbacks and sunset provisions that affect long-term planning. Here’s a clear breakdown especially relevant for architects, design firms, and the broader built environment.

Effects and Impacts on the Built Environment & Architecture Profession

Pros

- The State and Local Tax deduction cap is raised to \$40,000 for 2025 (and incrementally to 2029), which benefits architects and firms in high-tax states. The deduction falls back to \$10,000 in 2030, with phase-outs beginning above \$500,000 income.
- The Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction is raised to 23% and made permanent, offering significant savings for architects operating as passthrough entities.
- Tax incentives for developers and investors can translate into more development and construction activity, increasing demand for architecture, engineering, and design services.
- With immediate expensing available, design firms can upgrade technology (CAD/BIM software, hardware) more aggressively.
- The bill introduces a new investment deduction for nonresidential facilities used in production/manufacturing – if placed in service by 2031 and begun after January 19, 2025. This may spur new project activity in commercial buildings tied to industrial, infrastructure, or housing developments.

Cons

- **Phase-Out of Section 179D Energy-Efficient Building Deduction**
 - Section 179D offers tax deductions for energy-efficient commercial building design, widely used by architects and engineers working on government and institutional buildings.
 - Under the new bill, 179D will begin to phase out after 2026 and fully sunset by 2029, unless renewed by Congress.
 - This removes a major incentive for sustainable building design and reduces the financial viability of incorporating advanced energy systems in schools, public buildings, and other government projects.
- **Bonus depreciation (100%) is made permanent, but other key provisions like the increased SALT deduction and pass-through deduction enhancements (Section 199A) are only extended through 2029.**
 - Firms may face a tax hike starting in 2030 unless these are extended again, which injects long-term uncertainty into business planning.



• **Weakened Incentives for Sustainable & Clean Energy Design**

- The bill curtails or eliminates:
- Solar tax credits for residential and small commercial projects.
- Federal rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades.
- Only large-scale storage, geothermal, and hydro receive continued support.
- Reduces client interest and budget allocations for green building features unless required by local code or ESG mandates.

• **Limited Support for Affordable Housing and Urban Design**

- The bill contains no new housing credits or incentives and cuts funding to HUD-related grant programs.
- This means less federal support for mixed-use, low-income housing, and adaptive reuse projects.
- Design firms focused on community development may see fewer funded projects and RFPs from public entities.

• **Risk of Audits for QBI Use**

- While the Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction is expanded and made more generous (now 23%), complex eligibility rules remain.
- Pass-through firms must continue navigating IRS scrutiny, especially if they provide “specified services” (e.g., architecture) where income thresholds affect eligibility.

• **Documentation & Compliance Gaps**

- The bill removes several miscellaneous deductions (meals, travel, union dues, certain legal expenses), which were helpful to smaller design firms and consultants.
- Also, limitations on deductibility of R&D expenses for design software tools (unless tied to product development) remain.
- Higher effective tax burden for firms that heavily invest in innovation or staff development.

Planning Steps for Firms & Professionals

1. Model taxable income and entity structure to optimize use of Section 199A, Section 179, and bonus depreciation.
2. Update capital budgets with immediate expensing strategies.
3. Review project pipelines to identify those eligible for QPP treatment.
4. Develop succession and ownership transition plans accounting for permanent estate/gift exemptions.
5. Monitor clean energy policy changes relevant to architectural specifications, client sustainability goals, and building codes.

Editors Note: Join us for the 179D Energy Efficient Building Tax Deductions for Architects program on September 17th from 3:30pm - 4:30pm for, hosted by the Professional Practice Knowledge Community. Free for AIA Members, \$45 for Non-members

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) AXP Update

Effective November 18, 2025, NCARB is making several changes to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®). These updates are designed to align the programs with the NCARB Competency Standard for Architects and to address common administrative impediments faced by candidates on the path to licensure.

UPCOMING AXP CHANGES

In addition to minor program updates and clarifications, NCARB is making several changes to the AXP. The structure of the AXP will remain the same, including the six experience areas and the required hours. All changes are reflected in a new version of the AXP Guidelines, which you can download now—this version of the Guidelines will go into effect on November 18.

[DOWNLOAD NEW AXP GUIDELINES](#)

NCARB will implement several changes to the AXP, including:

- Refreshed descriptions of each of the program's six experience areas to better align with the Competency Standard.
- Replacing the five-year reporting requirement with a new reporting policy that will allow candidates to gain 100% credit for experience up to one year old, and 75% credit

for all experience older than one year. As part of this change, many candidates will gain additional AXP credit for experience previously reported for 50% credit. This change will not impact experience reporting for licensed architects, who are not subject to the reporting requirement.

- Expanding accepted providers of learning unit (LU) credits in health, safety, welfare (HSW) continuing education for credit towards AXP.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CHANGES.

ARE CHANGES

In addition, NCARB is expecting to launch minor updates to the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) in April 2026. The changes will focus on minor adjustments to a small subset of the exam objectives outlined in the ARE Guidelines in order to align them with the Competency Standard.

NCARB will also make formatting changes to the exam's case studies to improve the testing experience.

More information about these changes will be available in Fall 2025.



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Strategic Council Update

The summer is flying by, and the Strategic Council study groups are diligently advancing their areas of focus. Study group report-outs are slated for August and December so that we can focus efforts during our September Council Assembly by prioritizing our collective recommendations.

Earlier this month, the Council elected Samantha Markham, AIA and Carl Sergio, AIA as our two new At-Large Representatives for 2026-2028. The next round of Council elections will be held in early August, for the three positions of 2026 Moderator, 2026 Moderator-Elect/2027 Moderator, and the At Large Director on the AIA Board.

Our communications group is gathering content for our 2025 Year In Review Journal, which is slated to be released in December 2025. This edition will also have a special section focusing on the efforts and impact of the past 10 years of the Strategic Council.

Last April, the Council asked for feedback on members' perceptions of the most pressing professional or industry 'pain points'. Here are the top responses we received- how do these resonate with you?

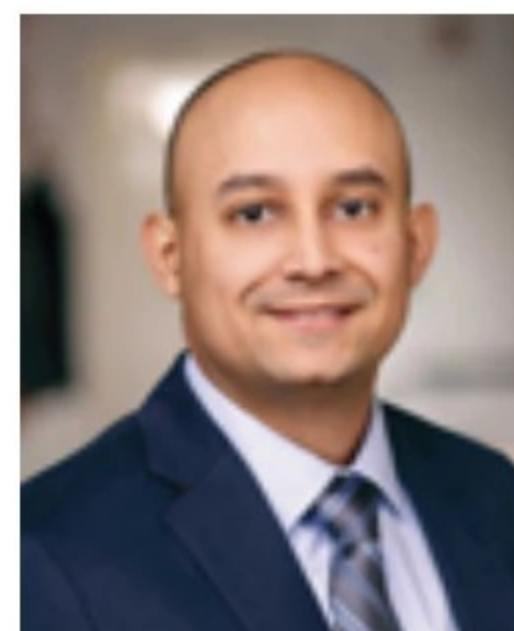
AIA STRATEGIC COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT THEMES - JULY 2025	
Q: What would you identify as the most critical professional or industry-related challenges or areas of concern that you are currently encountering, either at the individual or firm level?	
Unrealistic client expectations of delivery schedule, project cost, and outcomes.	
Contractors and Developers hold the keys to starting projects instead of architects, we are becoming an afterthought.	
Competitive Fees to continue to inspire the best talent.	
Not enough experience with different sectors, meaning larger projects. Our focus is efficiency based and expertise in one sector of fit out spaces.	
Slow to no proactive adoption of technological advancements or digital platforms.	
There isn't enough experience with being on site, learning how things work, not engaging enough with the clients specifically.	

I want to spotlight the work of the Climate Responsive Design & Leadership workgroup, who continues its monthly publication of Climate Corner, with two to three additional issues planned before the final 2025 presentation in September. This July, they focused on designing a for a circular economy - a building industry where construction waste is recycled, remanufactured, or reused to make new buildings, thus reducing the total new raw material needed and reducing the amount of waste going to landfills. A link to their PDF can be found [here](#). In preparation for their August issue on

Regenerative Design, CRD&L interviewed 2025 AIA President-Elect Illya Azaroff, FAIA, on Wednesday, July 9th, providing an in-depth exploration of the topic, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable architectural practices.

For my part, the AIA of the Future team is reviewing the organization as a whole and discussing what partnerships could be formed to strengthen our relationships beyond the profession. Our recommendations for the next steps on this topic will be presented during the September presentation.

Members of the AIA of the Future and Architect of the Future study groups have been invited to join the July Young Architects Forum (YAF) AdCom call to talk about their findings and how they align with the goals of the YAF.



My door is always open to hear from you.

Paolo Campos, AIA, NOMA Strategic Council Representative 2024-2026

Building Connections:

Connecticut Nears Completion of 2026 State Building and Fire Codes



The development of the 2026 Connecticut State Building and Fire Codes is entering its final stages. Throughout the code revision process, the Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI) and Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) received over 90 Code Change Proposals. Progress on the draft faced significant delays, primarily due to the unusually late release of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code, which was not published until August 2024.

On May 14, the Codes and Standards Committee approved the draft amendments, which are now under review by the Department of Administrative Services' legal team. Once the legal review is complete, the draft will enter the public comment phase. During this period, stakeholders and members of the public will have the opportunity to review the proposed changes and provide input. Public hearings are anticipated to be held in September 2025.

Among the most notable changes in the 2026 codes are new provisions for fire protection of lithium-ion and lithium-metal batteries; and two new appendices: one permitting single-stair residential buildings up to five stories, and another providing performance criteria for three- and four-family dwellings similar to those found in the International Residential Code.

These appendices are being introduced in response to Public Act 24-151, which aims to support increased housing options in light of the statewide housing shortage. The single-stair provision follows a national movement seen in jurisdictions like Seattle, New York City, and Honolulu.

However, the adoption of these provisions will not be statewide. Municipalities must demonstrate adequate firefighting capabilities and submit certification to the Office of the State Fire Marshal before implementing these design options.

Following the public comment period and resolution of any submitted feedback, the code package will be submitted for legislative review, which includes a 45-day review period anticipated in the winter. Final adoption of the 2026 Connecticut State Building and Fire Codes is projected for mid-2026.

To stay informed on the status of the 2026 code adoption process, including upcoming public hearings and release of draft documents, you can sign up for the Code Adoption Listserv by emailing das.codesstandards@ct.gov.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Omarys C. Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and "V".

Omarys C. Vasquez, AIA, NOMA
State Building Inspector

Omarys.vasquez@ct.gov

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce D. Beinfield, FAIA

Bruce D. Beinfield, FAIA, Norwalk architect and Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture, passed away on Friday, June 27th, after a hard-fought battle against pancreatic cancer. He was 73 years old.

He is survived by his wife Carol; his three children, Alex, Carolyn, Suzanne, and their spouses; seven grandchildren; his sisters Harriet and Liz; his first wife, Kathleen; and a beloved community of extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his sister, Lynn.

He was born on February 12th, 1952, to Marjorie and Dr. Malcolm Beinfield, a renowned surgeon. He was raised in Westport, CT, and after graduating from Staples High School in 1970, he began his western chapter, heading to the University of Colorado, Boulder for his undergraduate degree, then to the University of Colorado, Denver, where he earned a Master of Architecture with Honors in 1977. He carried his Colorado years with him all his life. It was there that he discovered how architecture could channel and create emotional energy; it was where he obtained the illustrious Colorado ID that he carried in his wallet until his last day; and he would forever remain a diehard Colorado Buffs football fan.

In 1983, Bruce and his wife Kathleen moved “home”, to Rowayton, Connecticut, and that same year, he founded Beinfield Architecture. He devoted his life to harnessing architecture to make a positive impact on his community. He never designed merely for convenience or efficiency, but for people and context, using architecture to honor the traditions, rituals, and mythology of a place. Norwalk,



particularly Rowayton and South Norwalk, was the greatest beneficiary of his vision, and most recently, he dedicated his efforts to redesigning Darien’s Corbin District. He designed thousands of homes, offices, apartment buildings, and museums, endowing each place with some Bruce magic. Beinfield Architecture has received more than 100 design awards, including 44 AIA awards, each a testament to the creativity and unyielding dedication of Bruce and his team. He was at his desk, drawing and designing, until the very end.

He was funny, creative, expansive, and he always thought for himself. He was often a

man of few words, but when he spoke, people listened. He loved Pink Floyd, clams, and rare cheeseburgers. He loved his family, gardening, nature, his home, his rituals, and the life he built for himself. His work will forever be his greatest passion, and the world is more beautiful because of it.

His firm, Beinfield Architecture, PC, stated: “He will be deeply missed, and we are incredibly proud of him. For as long as we are able, we will honor his legacy – his thoughtfulness, his gift for placemaking, and his way of fully engaging with the world while gently challenging it. He will forever remain in our hearts.”

IN MEMORIAM

Timothy Perot Greer, AIA

Timothy Perot Greer, age 68, of New Canaan, CT passed away peacefully on July 2nd, 2025, in Islesboro, ME, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born on April 16th, 1957, in Seattle, WA to Dr. Alexander and Dorothy Greer.

Tim grew up in Spokane, WA where he attended Saint George's School. His winters consisted of competitive ski racing around the Pacific Northwest, but most notably in Sun Valley, ID. Tim graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from Yale University in 1979 and a Master's Degree in Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1982, where he was a recipient of The Graham Foundation Scholarship Thesis Award. Tim's early architectural career included roles at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Gwathmey Siegel, Philip Johnson / John Burgee, and Butler Rogers Basket in New York City, as well as Roger Ferris & Partners in Westport, CT before Tim founded his own firm, T.P. Greer Architects, in New York, NY and New Canaan, CT in 2010.

Tim had a tremendous passion for his work and always said that he never wanted to retire because he truly loved what he did. His projects spanned both residential and commercial designs in the New York City area, and also included homes, offices, apartments, hotels, and retail stores around the world. Tim donated his architectural services to the clubs he loved, including the Country Club of New Canaan and the Union Club of New York, as well as Christ Church of Dark Harbor, ME.

Tim's artistic talents also extended to painting. He took great joy in creating (and occasionally selling) beautiful abstract watercolors, particularly on weekend afternoons with his daughter. Tim's watercolors regularly decorated the walls of his architectural projects over the years.

Outside of architectural and artistic pursuits, Tim was a consummate athlete. He grew up playing squash in Spokane, WA on the court that his father built on their property. At Yale, Tim played on the varsity squash team. While in college, he also ran the New York marathon twice and the Boston marathon (finishing in under 3 hours). In his 20s, Tim summited all five glaciated peaks in Washington state (most often with his father or brother). Throughout his life, Tim won many different squash tournaments, both singles and doubles, at the Union Club of New York and the Country Club of New Canaan. He frequently played alongside his sons, his brother, or his nephew. Tim was also an avid cyclist and skier (skiing all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe). In everything that he did, Tim had a cheerful spirit. He had a playful sense of humor, especially with his three children. They will miss



his nicknames, his catchphrases, his terrible accents, his "dad-jokes," and most importantly his unwavering sense of optimism and support for their endeavors.

Tim is survived by his mother, Dorothy Greer of Spokane, WA, his wife, Caroline Gillespie Greer, his previous wife, Kathryn "Kim" Matthews and their children, William, Henry, and Anne Greer, his brother, Dr. William (Tracy) Greer, his sister, Elizabeth Greer. Tim was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Alexander Greer.

The family requests donations be made to the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN).

Pickard Chilton Announces Completion of The Eight, A Landmark Office Tower in Bellevue, Washington

Pickard Chilton announces the completion of The Eight, a 25-story, 799,933 gsf office tower that now defines the skyline in Bellevue, Washington. Pickard Chilton served as the project's design architect.

Developed by Skanska Commercial Development, the project at 10770 NE 8th St. reconnects the urban fabric through the introduction of a new public realm that prioritizes open space, pedestrian pathways, and design guided by elements of placemaking.

"The massing, color, structural expression pays homage to the natural beauty and the architectural heritage of the Pacific Northwest," said Anthony Markese FAIA, RIBA, LEED AP, Principal at Pickard Chilton. "The Eight's unique faceted tower form and sunlit public plaza were envisioned as a prototype for the catalytic transformation of a key site in the heart of Bellevue, Washington."

The tower is situated on the northwest side of the site to maximize ground-level open space along NE 8th St. Curated local retail, a bustling office lobby, and a publicly accessible lobby lounge called the "Living Room" open directly onto the plaza, blending interior and exterior space and fostering a sense of place. An independent pavilion is designed as a carbon-efficient, heavy timber structure anchoring the eastern edge of the site. At a pedestrian scale, the pavilion nestles into the site, integrating ramps, accessible pathways, and inviting community open space. A lively mural by local artist Baso Fibonacci lines the western street edge as a new, vibrant passageway.

The Eight's signature tower design is rooted in structural expression, sustainability and the creation of public open space. Pickard Chilton designed the building to have a side core, allowing for open, column-free floorplates, 14-foot ceilings, and maximized views. Diagonal braces emerge from a structural diaphragm below grade to wrap around the faceted tower and create a robust lateral system capable of resisting the regional seismic forces. The unique structure and the program within are celebrated by exposing the braces at strategic, terraced active-use spaces along the façade, creating a dynamic, exuberant expression.

"Our collaboration with Pickard Chilton resulted in an iconic building that features light-filled, engaging spaces for everyone—from office workers to residents and visitors—to connect, gather, and thrive in the heart of the city," said Charlie Foushée, Executive Vice President and regional manager for Skanska USA Commercial Development's Seattle region.

The Eight incorporates numerous impactful sustainable design and construction methodologies. Its high-performance enclosure, designed to exceed



the city's energy code, is emphasized with dark-painted metal components, evoking a traditional steel structure. Access to daylight, inspiring views, and fresh air is prioritized via the street level plaza, open rooftop and seven tenant terraces. The Eight is the third LEED v4 Core & Shell Platinum project in Washington and Bellevue's first. These attributes led the project to generate one of 2024's largest lease deals on the West Coast.

PICKARD CHILTON

JCJ Architecture Announces New President, Key Leadership Transition



Scott Celella



Barry Goldstein



Peter Stevens

JCJ Architecture announces leadership transition at the senior executive levels of the firm. After more than 37 years with JCJ, including over two decades in the role of President, Peter Stevens, LEED AP, will transition to Principal/President Emeritus, effective June 30, 2025. Scott Celella, CSI, CCCA, LEED AP, who has served as the firm's Chief Operating Officer since 2002, will assume the role of President, and JCJ's Western Region Managing Director, Barry Goldstein, AIA, will step into the position of Chief Operations Officer. James E. LaPosta, Jr., FAIA, LEED AP, will maintain his presence in the role of Chief Architectural Officer, a position he has held since 2002.

With decades of consistent executive leadership, Celella's transition to the role of president marks an evolution that maintains alignment with JCJ's long-term vision, fostering a culture of growth, supporting future leaders, and enhancing project delivery capabilities to position the firm for its continued success.

Peter Stevens joined JCJ in 1988 as Director of Business Development. He assumed the role of President in 2001 as the firm transitioned after 65 years of practice to its third generation of ownership. Under Stevens' stewardship, JCJ has charted a pathway of growth that includes multiple acquisitions, new locations in New York City, Phoenix, Boston, Tulsa, and Las Vegas, as well as strategic investments that have positioned JCJ as one of the top design firms in the country. Stevens' leadership was key to the firm's transition from closely held principal ownership to a 100% ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) structure, as well as the growth and stability of the ESOP over the last 13 years.

Scott Celella has served as JCJ's COO for two decades and has been a valued team member for 30 years. A respected leader in the industry, Celella is known for his exceptional problem-solving skills, his ability to engage clients, and his keen insight into

the project design and delivery process. Joining the executive leadership team of Celella and LaPosta will be Barry Goldstein, AIA. Goldstein, who currently serves as JCJ's Western Region Managing Director, will officially step into the COO role on July 1, 2025.

Also stepping into an executive leadership position is Barry Goldstein, who has been the Managing Director of JCJ's Western Region for two years. Before joining the firm, Goldstein held key senior-level positions at several architecture firms and spent five years as owner of an Arizona-based design practice.

As the firm enters this new chapter and approaches its 90th anniversary in 2026, clients and employee owners alike can continue to expect the same high standards in design and project delivery, as well as the unwavering commitment to service that is a hallmark of JCJ's practice.

JCJ ARCHITECTURE

TimberHP Exits Chapter 11 with Strengthened Balance Sheet



TIMBERHP

INSULATE BETTER. LIVE BETTER.™

Company emerges with \$21 million in new working capital; Cianbro remobilized on-site in Madison for completion of TimberBoard manufacturing line.

TimberHP, the sole manufacturer of wood fiber insulation in North America, announced today its successful emergence, uncontested, from Chapter 11, allowing the recapitalized company to operate from a position of strength as it executes its strategy for long-term growth.

Exiting reorganization, the company has officially reincorporated as TimberHP, Inc. and has retired the previous corporate name, GO Lab, Inc. The change of legal name symbolizes an exciting fresh start for the company, with a strategy that calls for rapid execution across key areas of TimberHP operations.

In Madison, Cianbro Corporation, the general contractor at the mill,

has remobilized on-site and is nearing completion and operation of the manufacturing line for the company's third product, TimberBoard. TimberHP expects to have certified TimberBoard available for sale by the end of the year.

"We are very grateful for the broad support that we have received from creditors, financial partners, the Finance Authority of Maine and other lenders, which has enabled us to successfully complete our restructuring with an exciting opportunity for growth moving forward," said Matthew O'Malia, TimberHP CEO. "Our team demonstrated incredible commitment and resilience through this transition period, and our improved

liquidity and balance sheet provide the chance to execute on our plan to make TimberFill, TimberBatt and TimberBoard mainstream insulations of choice for residential, light commercial, and multifamily development projects."

Sales of TimberFill and TimberBatt, which continued uninterrupted during the Chapter 11 court process, are projected to grow substantially post-exit, as TimberHP ramps up production with recently improved products, and the company uses its improved financial position to implement its marketing plan and build out its sales force across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.



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Showroom Virtual Tour



Viking Construction Scholarship Awarded to Newington’s Evan Pigott

Evan Pigott of Newington, CT, a 2025 graduate of Newington High School, has been awarded the 2025 Viking Construction scholarship. Pigott will use his scholarship towards earning a degree in Construction Management from Central Connecticut State University. Evan hopes to work as a project manager in the construction industry and eventually start his own construction company.

Currently, Pigott works as a laborer at Sil/Carr Corp., a demolition and concrete company based in E. Windsor, CT, dismantling and loading dump trucks for the company. This experience has helped spark his interest in construction as a full-

time career. In addition to several academic awards, Pigott was selected as Offensive Player of the Year in football and a Rising Star in lacrosse. He also was named to the All-Conference football team, competed in track and field, and was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club.

Evan volunteered with the New Britain Board of Education’s Lego community service program assembling Lego kits for the elementary schools, and for the Newington High School’s “Stuff-a-Cruiser” program to collect Christmas gifts for families in need. He also mentored and coached fifth and sixth grade football players.

Viking created this scholarship in 2012 to support the general community and, as much as possible, those pursuing construction-related careers. To date, the company has committed \$56,000 to students.



Silver Petrucelli & Associates

SPA is pleased to recognize two of our summer employees

A returning intern from last summer is Elisabeth D'Albero of North Branford who recently graduated with a Bachelors of Architecture from The Catholic University of America and will complete her Masters of Architecture at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

Joining Elisabeth is Jason Ripley of Prospect who is earning his Master's in Architecture Design and Technology at the University of Hartford. We are excited to be part of the architectural journey for these two talented young people.



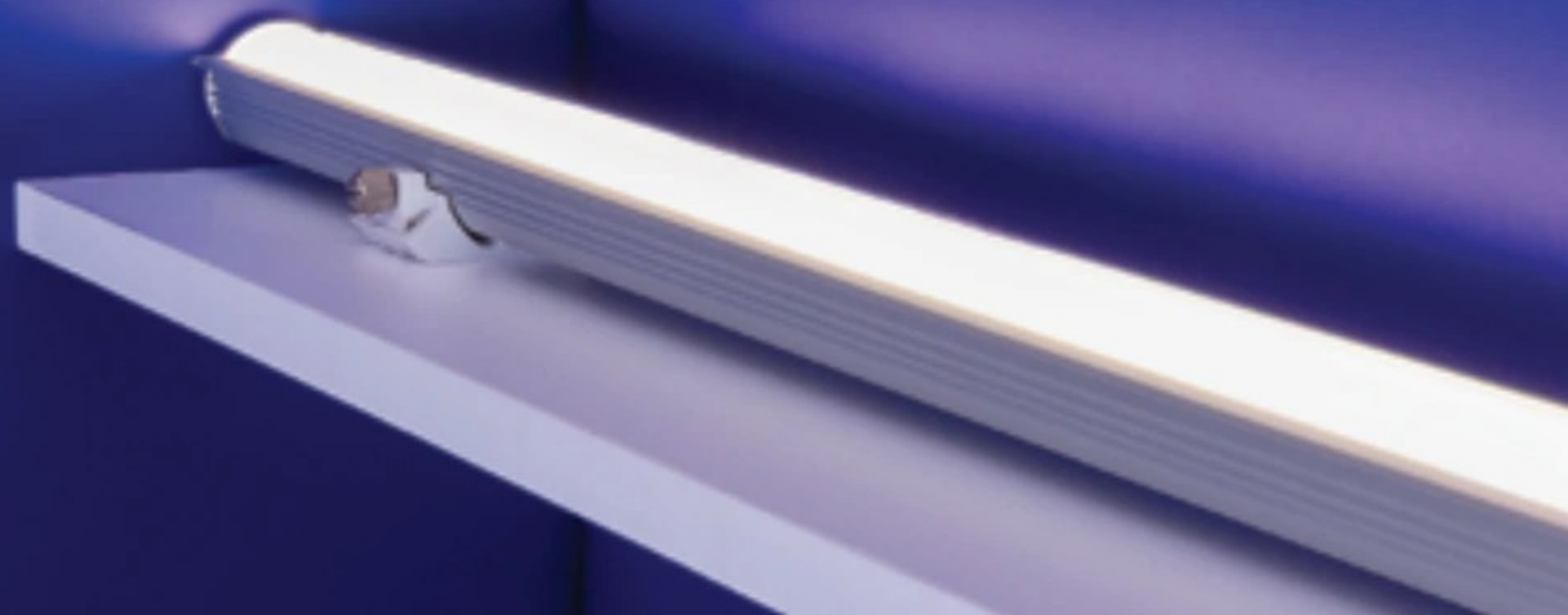
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National News

JULY 2025 AIA CONSENSUS CONSTRUCTION FORECAST

NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDING SPENDING TO REMAIN SLUGGISH THROUGH 2026, WITH NO TURNAROUND IN SIGHT.

Consensus	Actual \$	Forecast % Change	
		2025	2026
Dodge Construction Network	2024		
	Nonresidential Total	1.7	2.0
S&P Global, Market Intelligence	Commercial Total	1.5	3.9
	Office	6.9	5.5
Moody's Analytics	Data Centers	31.7	19.5
FMI	Retail & Other Commercial	-3.1	1.8
	Hotel	3.0	6.0
ConstructConnect	Warehouse	5.8	1.4
	Manufacturing	-2.0	-2.6
Associated Builders and Contractors	Institutional Total	6.1	3.8
	Health	4.3	4.3
Wells Fargo Securities	Education	5.0	3.2
	Amusement & Recreation	9.9	1.3
Markstein Advisors			
Piedmont Crescent Capital			
Free Agent Economist			

There is some good news and some bad news in the latest outlook for nonresidential construction spending on buildings, according to the latest AIA Consensus Construction Forecast. First the good news: In spite of stubbornly high long-term interest rates, inflation rates stalled above the Federal Reserve Board's target, falling consumer confidence scores, disappointing levels of home building activity, rising tariff rates for many inputs to construction, and construction labor shortages exacerbated by restrictive immigration policies, the outlook for the remainder of the year and into 2026 is largely unchanged from where it was at in the beginning of the year.

The bad news: The outlook for spending, entering the year, was very pessimistic.

The consensus is that overall spending on nonresidential buildings not adjusted for inflation will increase only 1.7% this year and grow very modestly to just 2.0% next year.

The commercial sector outlook is about on par with the broader industry, with a projected 1.5% increase this year rising to 3.9% in 2026. Spending on the construction of manufacturing facilities – the industry bright spot in recent years – is expected to decline 2.0% this year, with an additional decline of 2.6% next year. Institutional facilities are expected to be the strongest sector with projected gains of 6.1% this year and another 3.8% in 2026.

[View interactive data from the Consensus Construction Forecast](#)

WCAS ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC GROWTH INVESTMENT IN AIA CONTRACT DOCUMENTS



Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe (“WCAS”), a leading private equity firm with a 45-year track record of building exceptional technology companies, announced that it has made a majority investment in AIA Contract Documents (“ACD”), the leading risk management and workflow platform for the architecture, engineering and construction industry (“AEC”).

WCAS is partnering with The American Institute of Architects (“AIA”) and existing investor True Wind Capital, a private equity firm focused on partnering with management teams to build leading technology businesses in growing markets. Together with WCAS, both AIA and True Wind will continue as investors, board members and key strategic partners to ACD. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

For more than 135 years, ACD has been the gold-standard for AEC legal documents and the industry’s trusted thought leader. Today, with its extensive blue-chip customer base, ACD’s industry standard contracts and forms facilitate transparency, improve efficiency, and reduce risk for the entire AEC ecosystem, including architects, contractors, engineers, attorneys,

and owners. Furthermore, ACD has developed innovative technology solutions to support key contract workflows, and WCAS’s investment will enable further advancements in technology to drive ACD’s growth and better serve the AEC industry amid expanding risk, increasing digitization, and the emerging use of artificial intelligence.

Stephen Ayers, interim Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer of AIA said, “We are thrilled that WCAS has made a majority investment in ACD. They have an excellent reputation, and we look forward to them bringing their decades of technology investing experience to ACD’s future. We believe this transaction will benefit AIA’s members as well as the broader AEC industry for decades to come and look forward to our continued strategic partnership with the company.”

WCAS was advised by Cantor Fitzgerald and Ropes & Gray. AIA Contract Documents and True Wind Capital were advised by Houlihan Lokey, Piper Sandler, and Gibson Dunn. The American Institute of Architects was advised by Blank Rome.

WIA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

JUNE 13 | HOTEL MARCEL



2025 Leadership Summit Empowers Architects to Shape Their Careers and the Future of Practice

The 2025 Leadership Summit, hosted by the Women in Architecture Knowledge Community, returned with great success and a renewed focus on leadership and career development within the architecture profession.

Designed for professionals at all stages – whether advancing their own careers, launching new firms, sustaining established practices, or mentoring the next generation – the Summit emphasized the

critical importance of leadership across all roles and firm sizes.

Throughout the day, attendees heard from firm leaders representing a wide spectrum of experience. Speakers from newly launched practices to long-established firms shared their stories, offering insight into the challenges they faced, the lessons they learned, and the victories they achieved in their careers and businesses.

Participants also engaged in an interactive, skill-building session that encouraged reflection and growth, helping them develop greater confidence and clarity in their leadership roles. Through conversations and hands-on exercises, the program explored themes such as effective communication, career strategy, negotiation, financial understanding, strategic thinking, business development, and fostering equitable and inclusive practice.

The Summit concluded on a high note, with attendees leaving inspired and empowered, armed with a practical toolkit to carry forward into their firms, their communities, and the future of architectural practice.



COFFEE MEETUPS

JUNE 20

The Women in Architecture Knowledge Community successfully hosted another in their series of recurring Coffee Meetups, offering informal yet enriching opportunities for connection and conversation across four locations throughout the state.

Open to individuals of all genders in the architecture and allied professions, these gatherings welcomed not only members of the Knowledge Community but also colleagues, interns, and anyone interested in engaging with the profession on a more personal level. Attendees appreciated the chance to exchange ideas, share experiences, and build meaningful connections in a relaxed setting.

The meetups took place at the following welcoming venues:

- Hartford Area** - Victus Coffee
- New Haven Area** - Fepo Café
- Fairfield Area** - Norwalk Art Space
- Middlesex Area** - Ashlawn Farm Coffee, Old Saybrook



ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

JUNE 25TH

POWDER RIDGE MOUNTAIN PARK & RESORT

The sun was shining, the bags were flying, and the competition was fierce at the 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament held at the breathtaking Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort. On a beautiful—but undeniably hot—day, participants from across the professional community came together to toss, score, and celebrate another fantastic year of cornhole camaraderie.

The day featured not only the high-energy tournament but concluded with an enthusiastic

awards ceremony, where champions were crowned—and everyone walked away a winner in fun and memories.

Whether seasoned cornhole veterans or enthusiastic newcomers, all participants embraced the challenge and the chance to connect. The 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament proved once again that a little friendly competition and a stunning venue make for an unforgettable experience.





CHARTING THE COURSE: NAVIGATING THE 2026 CODE CHANGES

JULY 24TH

CROMWELL MARRIOTT

Architects Gain Early Insights into the 2026 Connecticut State Building Code

A sold out half-day educational session recently brought together members of the design and building community to explore the upcoming changes in the 2026 Connecticut State Building Code, scheduled to take effect next year. The program offered critical guidance on how these revisions will impact architectural design, documentation, and construction practices across the state.

The session was led by Omarys Vasquez, AIA, State Building Inspector for the State of Connecticut, alongside

Peter Zvingilas, Assistant Director of Regulatory Compliance, and Mike Fuschi, Construction Services Supervisor. Together, they delivered a comprehensive overview of the most impactful updates and provided early direction to help professionals prepare for implementation.

With the next code cycle already in progress, this session served as a timely and valuable opportunity for architects to build a solid understanding of what to expect from the 2026 code and how it will be applied to a wide range of project types.



AUG

22 Design Awards FINAL Registration & Submission Deadline



SEP

1 Labor Day - AIA Connecticut Office Closed

4 Building Performance & Regulations (BP&R) Meeting

8 Public Service Awards Registration Opens

Committee on the Environment (COTE) Meeting

10 Small Firms Exchange (SFx) Meeting

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Knowledge Community Meeting

11 AIA Connecticut Board of Directors Meeting

12 Women in Architecture (WIA) Meeting

14 HisTOURy | A Midcentury Night's Dream

17 179D Energy Efficient Building Tax Deductions for Architects

18 Emerging Professionals (EP) Community Meeting

Sustainability in Action: A Tour of CT DEEP's Western District Headquarters

Committee on Design Presentation: Iterating Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture

AIA CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

Series:	Scales	No.
Item Number:		
Product Name:		

CACX'25

PRESENTED BY **AIA** Connecticut

September 26th | Mohegan Sun



Keynote Speaker
8:00am

Ashley Rigby

MBA, WELL AP, ACC, CPRC
Goldinage

From Straight Lines to
Shifting Tides: Retiring
Limiting Beliefs Through
Promotions, Plateaus &
Pivots

AIA Connecticut
**Annual
Meeting
Lunch**



REGISTER

