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ARCHITYPE

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT



2025 Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards

A Restorative Future for Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

The Align Mentorship
Program: Group 2 – Then
and Now

AIA Opposes EPA's New
Position on Greenhouse Gas
Deregulation



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members,

As we move into the fall season, I'm reminded of the resilience, creativity, and responsibility that define the architecture profession. Each issue of Architype is an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing our built environment and to celebrate the architects and advocates who are shaping a more thoughtful, equitable, and sustainable future.

This month, we honor the recipients of the **Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards**, recognizing the commendable work of preservation and adaptive reuse across Connecticut. These projects remind us that historic architecture, when carefully renewed, continues to serve as a cornerstone of our cultural and civic life.

We also highlight a bold story beyond our state, led by AIA CT member Centerbrook Architects and Planners, CSHL's longtime campus architect, **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's Foundations for the Future expansion**. This ambitious campus project balances cutting-edge science with restorative design, preserving historic structures while preparing for the realities of climate change. It is a vivid example of how architecture can restore, protect, and propel institutions into the future.

The **Connecticut Architecture Foundation's support of the My Architecture Workshop Summer Camp** demonstrates the profound impact of engaging young minds early. By introducing students—many from underrepresented backgrounds—to architecture and design, CAF is helping to build a more diverse pipeline of future leaders in our field.

At the national level, AIA has taken strong stances on urgent matters. From opposing the **EPA's rollback of greenhouse gas regulations** to speaking out on the **Federal Architecture Executive Order**, the message is clear: architects must have the freedom to design in ways that serve communities, protect the environment, and reflect our shared values. These positions are not abstract policy debates — they shape the climate risk our members confront in their projects and the cultural legacies embedded in public architecture.

As you read through this issue, I encourage you to consider the role you play—whether in preserving a landmark, mentoring students, or advocating for policy. Together, we carry the responsibility to protect both the physical and cultural landscapes we inherit, and to leave behind a stronger, more sustainable foundation for the next generation.

Stay inspired. Stay engaged. And keep building toward a better future.

Best always,

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

Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT, NOMA

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



To Our Valued Members,



It has been quite a summer, record-breaking heat, workplace disruptions due to new immigration policies, and pain and suffering in nearly every corner of our only home. I hope this message finds many of you in a better place since my last letter.

On a personal note, I feel incredibly blessed. Coming from Haiti over three decades ago, I arrived with hopes and dreams, not much else, probably like many who came through Ellis Island in New York. Yet, I have been fortunate to build a life for myself and to create the kind of family I once only wished for. I've had the opportunity to walk through doors that were often closed to people like me, and to others who entered our exclusive field with limited or no means. I have many to thank for the person I am today, and for the architect I continue to strive to become as I journey toward my own sunset.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic about the future. I genuinely believe the sun will rise after the storm. But maybe the sun doesn't need to rise, maybe we just need the dark clouds to clear, or better yet, to transform into rain that nourishes the gardens we depend on for strength and renewal.

As architects, we are always planning for tomorrow. We are uniquely gifted to imagine the impossible. We push the boundaries of technology, craft solutions that foster healing and learning, and, at times, stand at the edge of choices that either uplift or degrade our humanity.

At some point in our careers, we each face the opportunity to work for clients whose values we share. It isn't always easy, but we find a way. Recently, I've discovered a new purpose: being a bridge, being what some may call "good trouble", in my small circle. My involvement with AIA Connecticut has led me to reassess my own professional goals and to seek new ways to create a positive impact in the lives I touch.

Serving as your president has made me more accessible, more open-minded, and more purpose-driven. It's been an incredible journey so far, and I hope we are all preparing, as best we can, for the uncertainties life may bring, to ourselves or to our loved ones.

Lately, I've lost dear colleagues, friends, and family members. Others are facing life-threatening illnesses. These moments have made me reflect on my own mortality. Should I slow down? And just as those thoughts arise, I'll receive a text from a friend looking for a recommendation, a call from a family member asking for help or advice, or a message from a fellow architect seeking clarity about the state of our profession in today's political environment.

Then I'm reminded: we, as architects, live through our work. Through that work, we help heal. Through advocacy, we drive meaningful change. And through our collective voices, we build stronger foundations for the hopes and dreams of so many.

Stay strong. Keep architecting.

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

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A Restorative Future for Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

The venerable research institution is undergoing a historic campus expansion.



By Justin R. Wolf

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) is a biological research institution par excellence. Its Foundations for the Future expansion project will make it even better.

Located on Long Island in Laurel Hollow and Cold Spring Harbor, New York, CSHL's 110-acre campus includes the oldest operating laboratory in the country. Key advances in neuroscience, molecular genetics, cell biology, and cancer research have occurred within CSHL's facilities. Its educational programs serve tens of thousands of people—from scientists to teachers—each year. Eight Nobel Prize winners have called the institution home, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A comprehensive expansion CSHL continues to build on its rich legacy while acknowledging

a problematic era from its past. (More on that later.) Last month, CSHL topped off its new Artificial Intelligence and Quantitative Biology (AIQB) building, a 28,000-square-foot laboratory that will enhance cancer and neuroscience research while providing a home for work in the emerging field of NeuroAI.

Led by Centerbrook Architects and Planners, CSHL's longtime campus architect, and the construction and development firm Skanska, the AIQB lab's addition is part of the first phase of CSHL's \$500 million Foundations for the Future campaign. The campaign is a multi-year effort that will eventually comprise a 379,500-square-foot campus expansion. It will add wet labs (which are spaces for experiments involving liquids), conference areas, living accommodations, a two-story parking structure, and

more. CSHL expects substantial completion by early 2027.

"As we designed this major expansion, we worked to seamlessly and organically integrate with the existing campus fabric," said Todd E. Andrews, AIA, Centerbrook's principal in charge of the project. "The cutting-edge research laboratories and progressive mass timber construction are complemented by the network of exterior spaces that promote serendipitous encounters and interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists across the campus."

Foundations for the Future represents new investments in conducting "whole body science," in the words of Steve Monez, CSHL's chief facilities officer. "Our scientists are looking at what cancer does to the whole body and its impacts on the brain," he says. "They're



studying [the connections] with known brain diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia." This level of comprehensive research demands a sophisticated and interconnected campus where practitioners can "gather and share ideas," Monez says.

Such an endeavor extends to the land itself. The Foundations for the Future campaign is as much about building on CSHL's institutional legacy as it is fortifying the coastal campus against increasingly volatile climate conditions. Restoration and resilience are key components of CSHL's future.

Restoration and resilience Operations at CSHL date back to 1890. A year prior, whaling scion John D. Jones donated eight acres of land, once occupied by his family's Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Company, to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. That organization later

founded CSHL's forerunner, the Biological Laboratory.

Still standing today, next to the water of the inner harbor, is the modest but stately Jones Laboratory, the oldest operating science lab in the U.S. The timber-frame building is on a slab-like foundation of crushed shell that hovers over an active ground spring, which occasionally floods the surrounding area. Mere feet away, a crumbling 900-foot-long seawall made of granite, originally constructed in the 1850s, initially provided inadequate protection for the Jones Laboratory.

The lab's precarious setting demanded immediate attention. "One third of [the seawall] was already in the water by the time we got there. It had just collapsed," recalls Skanska project manager Jonathan Walsh. The prospect of restoring or replacing the seawall drew the attention of the Army Corps of Engineers,

the New York State Historic Preservation Office, and the Village of Laurel Hollow, all of whom had varying preferences. In an inspired feat of design-cum-diplomacy, a mix of preservation and new construction commenced.

Crews removed and re-cut the existing stones, then used them to assemble a cast of prefabricated panels around a new seawall of 18-inch reinforced concrete, capped with two feet of additional granite. The renovation also added 400 linear feet of new wall, plus valves and pipe channels to manage the site's constant downward flow of groundwater, which would otherwise cause erosion. This restorative approach was the "quicker, safer, cleaner" option, Walsh says, and yielded a more harmonious balance between the land and the bay.



Building sustainably on the hillside

The heart of CSHL's campus sits 180 feet above sea level, meaning it doesn't face the same threat from water as the Jones Lab. Still, the institution is taking steps to ensure the central campus endures, too. That involves building to last and building for health, in a manner that honors the built character of the existing campus.

The understated Georgian-esque form and massing of CSHL's new conjoined lab buildings, which include the three-story AIQB building, are identical to their campus brethren. Architectural solidarity and adherence to zoning requirements were

priorities during design development.

CSHL also maintains its own sewage system, which connects to the municipal system via four and a half miles of pipe. Monez says of the campus, "It's meant to be a village. ... [T]he laboratory is trying to be a good steward of the ground and harbor around us."

The AIQB lab deviates from the past in its use of mass timber. Glulam columns and beams plus cross-laminated timber floor decks comprise the AIQB's superstructure. The lumber came from the southeastern U.S. and underwent milling principally at SmartLam's facility in Dothan, Alabama. The CSHL project's

initial intention was to use wood from the northeastern U.S., but supply chain issues necessitated sourcing it from farther away. Even with that shift, CSHL and Skanska minimized the project's overall embodied carbon by working with other domestically and regionally sourced building materials.

Monez highlights CSHL CEO Bruce Stillman's eye for detail and desire for long-term stability. "He really cares about what this place is going to look like long term. We went through a lot of



different renderings. We looked at how ductwork is going to be exposed [and] what parts of the natural timber will be exposed. It has exceeded all expectations.”

Acknowledging a troubled legacy While CSHL is building on an illustrious past, not every episode of its history is worth celebrating. Starting in 1910, the institution was home to the Eugenics Record Office (ERO), a research group that pushed racist ideologies as scientific fact. The ERO promoted sterilization laws, its leaders supported the “race hygiene movement,” and the office’s findings were leveraged by the U.S. government in 1924 as part

of its efforts to limit immigration. By the late 1920s, geneticists began rejecting eugenics research, labeling it as baseless pseudoscience and propaganda. In 1939, the ERO disbanded after revelations that the Nazis had adopted its work.

CSHL has elected not to hide this scar. The full historical records of the ERO are housed in the laboratory’s archives, living on as a cautionary tale for when ideologues pervert science.

“Here to stay for the long term” Through the good and bad, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory knows its history. The institution’s collective research has transformed modern medicine and guides how the medical

community diagnoses and treats cancer. At the same time, CSHL’s ongoing campaign to more than double its built footprint reflects a desire to chart a restorative and innovative future. Projects like the restored seawall in Cold Spring Harbor, recent renovations to the Jones Laboratory, and the newly built AIQB lab are evidence of this. “We want to make sure that we’re here to stay long term,” Monez says.

[Cold Spring Harbor Photos - Attributed to Centerbrook Architects & Planners and Skansa](#)

Justin R. Wolf is a freelance writer covering architecture and design. He lives in Maine.

Elizabeth Mills Brown AWARDS



By Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT

The Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards once again spotlight the best in historic preservation, celebrating projects that embody design excellence in the restoration, rehabilitation, adaptation, and reuse of historic structures.

Named for Betty Brown – the distinguished Connecticut architectural historian, preservationist, civic leader, and author of *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design* (Yale University Press, 1976) – the awards honor her lifelong commitment to protecting

and interpreting Connecticut’s architectural heritage.

Presented in collaboration with Preservation Connecticut, the program underscores the vital role preservation plays in shaping vibrant, sustainable communities.

The 2025 Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards illustrate the power of preservation to safeguard cultural heritage while meeting modern needs. From residential projects to large-scale adaptive reuse, this year’s awardees show that when history and innovation meet, communities thrive.

The 2025 jury included Gregory Colling, AIA of Merrimack Design Architects PLLC (White River Junction, VT), Denise D’Abramo of Preservation Trust of Vermont (Montpelier, VT), and Ryan Edwards, AIA of R. Edwards & Co. (Montpelier, VT). Together, they recognized projects that represent both extraordinary craftsmanship and thoughtful stewardship of historic places.



Gregory Colling, AIA
Merrimack Design Architects PLLC
White River Junction, VT



Denise D’Abramo
Preservation Trust of Vermont
Montpelier, VT



Ryan Edwards, AIA
R. Edwards & Co.
Montpelier, VT

EXCELLENCE

*Barnum Museum
Exterior Rehabilitation*
Antinozzi Associates

*Photo: ©Peter Brown Architectural
Photography*

In downtown Bridgeport, the 1893 Barnum Museum underwent a comprehensive exterior restoration after suffering damage from storms and a tornado. This second phase of work included masonry repairs, stained glass and terra cotta restoration, wood framing, roofing, and copper dome reconstruction—all executed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. Long life-cycle materials improved sustainability, while careful coordination of trades preserved the building’s character under difficult site conditions. Now a National Historic Landmark, the museum is poised to house 18,000 square feet of exhibits within its compact footprint.



The jurors praised the meticulous restoration of terra cotta and stained glass, exceptional sequencing on a tight site, and the clear, comprehensive documentation that makes this a model of preservation practice.

EXCELLENCE

*James Dwight Dana
House at Yale University*
**Apicella + Bunton
Architects / Petra
Construction**

Photo: ©2024 Francis Dzikowski/OTTO



A National Historic Landmark designed by Henry Austin in 1849, the James Dwight Dana House was carefully renovated for Yale’s Institution for Social and Policy Studies. The project preserved original floors, fireplaces, and stained glass, while seamlessly introducing modern systems, energy-efficient windows, and accessibility features. Masonry was repaired, historically accurate finishes reinstated, and even a 400-year-old sycamore on the property was preserved. The project pursued LEED Gold certification, striking a balance between historic integrity, sustainability, and modern academic needs.

Jurors highlighted the restored fireplaces, wood flooring, and expertly concealed system upgrades, calling the work an exemplary blend of historic character and modern functionality.

EXCELLENCE



*The Pond Weed House
Historic Preservation*
**Christopher Fagan
Studio Architecture**

Photo: ©Andrew Fagan

Believed to be Darien's oldest home, the Pond Weed House (1696) was rehabilitated as an artist's residence and studio. Sensitive to its vernacular origins, the 2,400-square-foot saltbox was preserved with minimal alterations, while energy upgrades—including vapor-permeable insulation and a scaled-down HVAC system—were introduced. Extensive research informed the restoration of original features, and the project even revealed cultural markings left by past inhabitants.

The jurors praised the exceptional preservation values, noting the beautifully restored parlor and thoughtful energy upgrades. They also highlighted the innovative use of 3D models to convey the building's evolution over centuries.

EXCELLENCE + Commendation for Masonry Preservation



Oxoboxo Lofts
**Paul B. Bailey
Architect, LLC**

Photo: ©Cadan Creative Photography

The adaptive reuse of an 83,897-square-foot thread mill in Uncasville transformed the historic structure into 72 affordable housing units. Key features such as brick masonry, timber trusses, and wood floors were preserved, while new high-performance systems provided energy efficiency. Environmental remediation stabilized structures over Oxoboxo Brook, and the building's irregular geometry gave rise to unique residential layouts. Backed by historic tax credits and public-private partnerships, the project successfully balances preservation, sustainability, and community housing needs.

The jury recognized this as an outstanding example of large-scale adaptive reuse, noting the integration of accessibility and affordability alongside expert masonry preservation.

MERIT



Hotchkiss School Memorial Hall

Newman Architects

Photo: ©Christian Phillips

Originally designed in 1923 by Cass Gilbert, Memorial Hall at the Hotchkiss School was restored and reimagined for today's students and faculty. The 24,500-square-foot Colonial Revival building now accommodates 45 students and 4 faculty, with improved circulation, revitalized common spaces, and two contextual additions. Restored brick facades, windows, and ornamental details ensure durability while enhancing energy efficiency. The reinstated historic main entry reconnects the building to the school's residential quad.

Praised for its skillful updates, the project was recognized for precise preservation work, sensitive additions, and a revitalized spirit that honors Gilbert's original vision.

MERIT



Linus Plimpton House

Crosskey Architects

Photo: ©Ian Christmann Photography

Built c.1863, the Linus B. Plimpton House is a Romanesque-inspired residence in Hartford's Asylum Hill Historic District. The 9,000-square-foot property was restored to residential use, showcasing original stained glass, millwork, six fireplaces, and decorative stenciling. Modern systems were discreetly integrated, and circulation patterns respected, while converting the house into two apartments for contemporary living.

Jurors commended the sensitive rehabilitation, praising the preservation of period interiors and the light-touch integration of new elements. The restored rooms were described as beautifully executed, with new interventions seamlessly and respectfully incorporated.

The Align Mentorship Program: Group 2 – Then and Now

By Beresford Pratt, AIA, NOMA

The Young Architects Forum (YAF) and College of Fellows (COF) Align Mentorship Program is a long-range initiative (think ten years, not one) that connects young architects with AIA Fellows. Developed through a series of meetings starting in February of 2019, this collaboration between the COF and YAF has engaged over 100 individuals since its pilot year.

Through a grouping system referred to as “pods”, the program pairs four to six recently licensed architects with two to three Fellows, facilitating professional and leadership development. This is as much about peer-to-peer mentorship as it is about YA to COF mentorship. The Align program is different from local mentorship programs that are already established. Instead of competing with what already works, Align supports those conversations by

building a ten+ year long standing relationship.

The program’s objectives are:

- *To support young architects in defining their legacy within the profession while navigating their career paths.*
- *To create a vehicle for mentorship and career development that connects young architects and Fellows with peers across the country.*
- *To accelerate contributions of young architects and develop regionally diverse collectives to contribute more in the future.*

The number of ‘pods’ (sometimes referred to as cohorts or groups) organized each year depends on the amount of member interest. They are organized by focus area (Practice -Institute Leadership and Design, Scholarship - Education and Research, and Civic - Community and Public) and experience level (Focused Engagement, Refinement

Effort, and Defining Legacy).

Editor’s note: In the recent AIA College of Fellows Quarterly Magazine, our 2026 President-Elect Mike Ayles, FAIA was spotlighted.



F. Michael (Mike) Ayles, FAIA, is President of Antinozzi Associates in Bridgeport, CT. His AIA career began in the mid-1990’s as an Associate AIA member

and progressed to chairing the Young Architects Forum (2004), Committee on Leadership Education (2008), and Center for Civic Leadership (2012). He received the 2005 Young Architects Award and was elevated to Fellowship in 2017. Mike joined the AIA Connecticut (AIA/CT) Board of Directors in 2019, and will serve as the 2026 AIA/CT President. Mike had past leadership roles with the ACE Mentor Program, NCARB, and Construction Institute. At home, he is serving in his 5th elected term on the town Board of Finance, serving as Chairman since 2017. Obtaining his B.Arch. from Roger Williams University, he was named the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and served on the RWU Alumni Board for a number of years.

Beresford Pratt (BP): Describe your professional and volunteer circumstances in 2019 and 2025. What has changed, and were any of those changes influenced or supported by your Align group?



IMPROVE
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Michael Ayles (MA): It's hard to believe that it has been six years since I first learned about the Align program from Ryan McEnroe. At the time, I had taken a bit of a break from AIA activities both locally and nationally, with the exception of remaining involved with NCARB as the Architect Licensing Advisor for Connecticut and submitting my application for AIA Fellowship in 2015 and 2016. Once I was elevated to Fellowship in 2017, it reinvigorated me to get involved again, and it was coincidental that I was asked by our state chapter's new Executive Director why I hadn't served locally on the AIA/CT Board of Directors. With my past national involvement, along with the composition of the chapter's leadership, it was perceived that I was not interested and did not fit the local "mold". That changed quickly in 2019 when I started my first term on the AIA/CT Board, was elected to serve a second term, and then was elected to serve on the Executive Committee

When Align started in 2019, I was an absolute no-brainer to get involved. Having my early AIA experiences serving on the Intern/Associate Committee (the former and much smaller version of the National Associates Committee) and Young Architects Forum,

I wanted to give back to those who were where I was, and maybe give a more direct one-on-one perspective and mentor opportunity than I had. This is not to say that my involvement with several AIA-based leadership committees were not gratifying, but the Align program seemed much more personal and I thought that could be very beneficial. Based on the progress and achievements of those younger architects in our initial group in 2019, I would have to say that Align has, in fact, been beneficial and rewarding on both sides ... we learn from each other. And when any of us, young architect or Fellow, have news or accomplishments to tell, we all share in the individual's success. For our group, I think the proudest achievement is that we have remained intact as a group all six years, and have even added members. Most groups I have heard about no longer meet or exist.

BP: What has being part of this Align group meant to you? If you could look forward to 5 years from now; how do you hope to continue being supported by this group?

MA: Although I don't feel like being part of this Align group has made a substantial difference to me professionally, I believe it has made at least a tangible impact on those who are part of the group with me ... and that is why I became involved. Going in, I wasn't expecting to receive much in terms of mentoring, guidance, or recommendations... I was expecting to give. It turns out that I have received more than I thought from all of our group in terms of encouragement for some of my issues, and assurances that my participation has made a difference. Five years from now, I would expect that all of us in our group will remain supportive of each other on each member's path to Fellowship. Even if that does not take place and some decide not to go that route, we are all leaders who can learn from each other. I would also hope that we can add a couple of more individuals since we are not always all available to make calls. This would at least give us a reasonable amount of diverse views and input when a couple of us have a last-minute conflict so we don't have to cancel or have 2-3 people present.



Architecture Follows: It Never Leads

by Duo Dickinson, FAIA

We are in the wake of a new era - it has happened politically, but it is now resonating in our culture.

America is leaving the role of cultural impresario and becoming cultural editor. In a hundred ways aesthetics are being closed - the closed art involves the politically associated with words like "indigenous", "marginalized" or "diversity" - the editing is to precedent.

Choices in architecture by this new order will vector to "classical" and "traditional" as the allusions to Modernism are triggers for the association of elites denigrating what has been loved. But triggers work both ways: those who say Modernism was the style of fascists see Mussolini and Franco - but Hitler

and Stalin had an aesthetic love affair with Great Empires - where Classical Architecture meant modern culture could be Greece in aesthetics and Rome in expansion.

Well expansion is American. And every new administration is American, too. But the baggage of every political reality has aesthetics in its wake.

So it is with a huge new Ball Room proposed to be grafted onto the White House (newly gilt in its interior appurtenances).

Its scale and rhythm are pure Albert Speer in scope: huge space with fraught traditional detailing. It is shocking that the allusion has no resonance with those proposing it until you realize that the follow through of buildings is not the lead of vision - it follows vision - almost no building of the

many Speer designed were built by Hitler as they waited to follow the Victory that was assumed to happen.

We may want pluralism, but winners write history, or at least early history. Pluralism lost out a decade ago and the wedges we live with deny each other - nothing combines, and the only leadership is in denial of the other half of each other, either way.

Jimmy Carter installed solar panels. Donald Trump has brought Gold into our national aesthetic.

Duo Dickinson has been an architect for more than 30 years. The author of eight books, he is the architecture critic for the New Haven Register, writes on design and culture for the Hartford Courant, and is on the faculty at the Building Beauty Program at Sant'Anna Institute in Sorrento, Italy.

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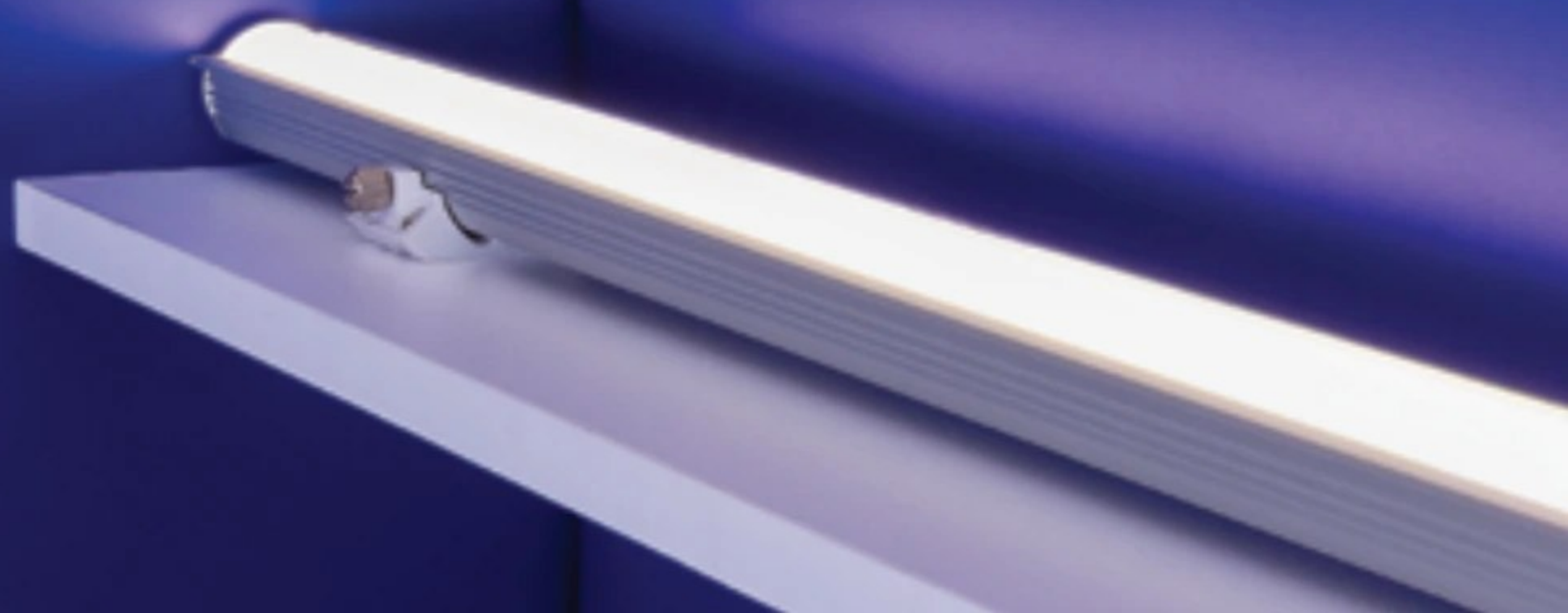
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Grants in My Architecture 2025 Summer C

By Robert Swain, AIA

Since the inception of the Connecticut Architecture Foundation in 1978, a critical aspect of CAF's mission has been supporting K-12 programs that educate and excite youth about the architecture profession. CAF's financial support for the My Architecture Workshop Summer Camp in Stamford highlights this commitment. Now in its fourth year of CAF grant funding, the Stamford based summer camp provides K-8 students with a six-week architecture immersion program that engages students' minds and imaginations through the lens of natural science, geography, math, and art, as they explore how buildings are designed and constructed.

Co-founded by Dominique Moore, AIA NOMA, Rebecca Spangler, and Angie Hunt, the visionary camp emphasizes participation by populations who historically are underrepresented in the profession, with the goal of shedding light on the pipeline of career opportunities related to architecture, engineering, and construction. To this end, the My Architecture Workshop also supports students throughout the academic year in the Stamford Public Schools. Both the summer camp and school-year engagement have impacted hundreds of area students.

Operating out of the Strawberry Hill School Barn, the ten-person summer camp staff includes several college students on break from architectural school who serve as counselors. The forty-one

campers in this summer's session were divided into three groups targeted to grade-appropriate activities in combination with opportunities for whole-group interaction. One highlight of the summer camp included seven Connecticut architecture firms' participation in full-day workshops focused on hands-on model building of iconic buildings or structures. Prior to each firm's arrival, camp staff and counselors educated campers with an overview of the selected structures, including Herzog & de Meuron's National Stadium (aka "the Bird's Nest") and Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. In addition to model building, campers participated in an expanded curriculum that provided hands-on construction opportunities, including wood framing on small residential projects - a growing interest among many students.

The success of the camp is evident in several noteworthy ways: record enrollment, increased participation by students from a wider geographic area beyond the city of Stamford, multiple returning students, and the enrollment of siblings of former students. As the initial "oldest" campers from the inaugural My Architecture Workshop Summer Camp are fast approaching the point at which future college and career considerations are to be made, many may look back at their six-week experience in the Strawberry Hill Barn as pivotal in guiding their paths.

The Connecticut Architecture

Foundation is honored to provide grant support to such an innovative camp, and the foundation is grateful for our generous donors who believe in CAF's mission of advancing the architecture profession in CT through programming that educates the next generation who will ultimately shape our built environment.



Action - e Workshop Camp



Amenta Emma Marks 40 Years of Architectural Excellence

Amenta Emma Architects is marking its 40th anniversary this year with a firm-wide celebration and a renewed strategic focus on regional growth. The Hartford-based architecture and design firm, which began with a specialization in workplace interiors for the insurance industry, now operates studios in academic, community, and workplace design and has expanded its presence across New England, including a growing office in Boston.

“When I look back at the firm’s 40-year history, I’m struck by how much has changed and by how much has stayed the same,” said Michael Tyre, President at Amenta Emma. “A pursuit of excellence and a commitment to client success have always been this firm’s north star. But the ways we live those values today would have been hard to imagine at the beginning.”

Founded in 1985 by Anthony Amenta and Robert Emma, Amenta Emma established its early reputation through great design with an exacting standard of quality in construction documentation, reducing change orders, improving project timelines, and building long-term client trust. That ethos of excellence has remained central even as the firm has broadened its definition of impact: from precision in drawings to innovation in design, inclusive team culture, and client advocacy.

Today, Amenta Emma is charting a strategic path to solidify its place as a regional design leader. The firm’s recently expanded Boston office is a key part of that effort, enabling it to pursue more projects across New England.

“When Bob and I founded the firm, we believed that great design, excellent service, and an

unwavering attention to quality would set us apart,” said co-founder Anthony Amenta. “It’s been incredibly exciting to see a new generation build on that foundation by expanding our reach, raising the design profile, and staying true to who we are.”

The firm’s work is increasingly defined by its alignment with mission-driven clients who entrust Amenta Emma with designing engaging academic facilities, innovative workplace environments, thoughtful senior living communities, and vibrant multifamily housing projects. Recent highlights include the Young Classroom at Smith College, a striking example of design and pedagogical innovation for neuro-inclusive learning; the new New York City office of Bessemer Venture Partners, a reimagined workplace that reflects today’s evolving office culture; and Canaan Parish, a community-centered housing project that brings affordability and dignity together by design.

Internally, the firm has committed itself to good works that go beyond individual projects. It has contributed to a carbon-



neutral future as a signatory to the Architecture 2030 Challenge. The firm has also achieved the WELL Equity Rating, a reflection of its dedication to promoting transparency, employee health, and a more diverse and inclusive workplace. For the past three years, AIA Connecticut has recognized Amenta Emma’s efforts with Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Awards – including the 2024 JEDI Award of Excellence.

“Excellence is something we deliver with every project, but it is also a mindset,” said Tyre. “It shows up in the quality of our design approach, the way we support each other, and how we push ourselves to get better, year after year.”

AMENTA | EMMA

Russell Sanders Retires After 47 Years with Hoffmann Architects + Engineers

Hoffmann Architects + Engineers has announced the retirement of Russell M. Sanders, AIA, after a remarkable 47-year career that helped define the firm. Sanders, who joined in 1978 as one of its first employees, rose steadily through the ranks to become President in 2019, guiding the practice through growth and resilience—even during the challenges of the pandemic.

A graduate of Ohio State University, Sanders quickly established himself for his technical expertise and commitment to quality. By 1989, he was named Director of Technical Services, a role in which he shaped Hoffmann's rigorous quality assurance program. In 2011, founder John J. Hoffmann, FAIA, invited him to take an ownership stake, paving the way for Sanders to assume the presidency eight years later.

"Russell has given more to this company than anyone," Hoffmann reflected. "He built the standard by which we measure success. His retirement leaves big shoes to fill, even as his legacy carries on."

Over the decades, Sanders contributed to some of the firm's most iconic projects, including the restoration of the Chrysler Building, Rockefeller Center, Lincoln Center's Opera House, the U.S. Capitol dome, and Yale University's Paul Rudolph Hall. He also provided expert guidance after natural disasters and historic crises, from assessing damage in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina to evaluating conditions at Ground Zero after September 11.

His commitment extended beyond the firm's walls. As a founding member of Hoffmann's Diversity and Inclusion Committee,



Sanders helped secure the inaugural AIA Connecticut J.E.D.I. Award in 2021. He supported initiatives such as the Hoffmann Diversity Advancement Scholarship and the firm's student loan repayment program. Sanders also volunteered at Habitat for Humanity build days and career fairs, reflecting his dedication to community service.

Beyond his technical leadership, Sanders became a mentor to generations of young architects, guiding them through the firm's demanding drafting standards and real-world construction challenges. Colleagues remember him as a leader defined by trust, accountability, and authenticity. His influence, they note, lies not only in the projects he helped restore but also in the relationships he built across the industry and within the firm.

As he steps into retirement, Hoffmann transitions to new

leadership under Presidents Craig Hargrove, AIA, and Avi Kamrat, with Larry Keenan, AIA, PE, directing technical services. Sanders departs proud to see Hoffmann grow from a small start-up into a nationally respected leader in building enclosure rehabilitation.

After 47 years, Sanders' influence will continue to shape the firm he helped build, ensuring that his commitment to excellence, mentorship, and integrity remains central to Hoffmann's mission for years to come.



AE Design Group, LLC Announces Cynthia Reyes Malinowski to Partner

AE Design Group, LLC (AEDG), a leading architecture and interior design firm specializing in research laboratories, medical office buildings, industrial design, and commercial projects, is proud to announce that Cynthia Reyes Malinowski, AIA has been named Partner.

Cynthia has been an integral part of AEDG since 2007, bringing more than 18 years of architectural expertise to the firm. Recognized for her visionary approach, technical precision, and dedication to client collaboration, she has led the design and delivery of numerous high-profile projects, including biomedical research laboratories in New Haven and medical clinic renovations throughout the Hartford and New Haven regions.

“Cynthia’s leadership and design talent have elevated our work and deepened our client relationships,” said Daniel S. LaMontagne, AIA, Managing Member of AE Design Group, LLC. “Her promotion reflects not only her significant contributions to our growth, but also our shared commitment to architecture that is innovative, sustainable, and responsive to the communities we serve.”

As Partner, Cynthia will continue to lead the design and construction administration of AEDG’s projects, while also mentoring the next generation of design leaders at the firm.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Cynthia embraces her heritage through music, food, and language. After relocating to the United States following

high school, she earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Hartford. She is a registered architect in both Connecticut and New York and a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Cynthia advocates for sustainable technologies in urban environments and champions the advancement of women in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction

(AEC) professions. Fluent in both English and Spanish, she brings an additional layer of versatility and connection to her practice.

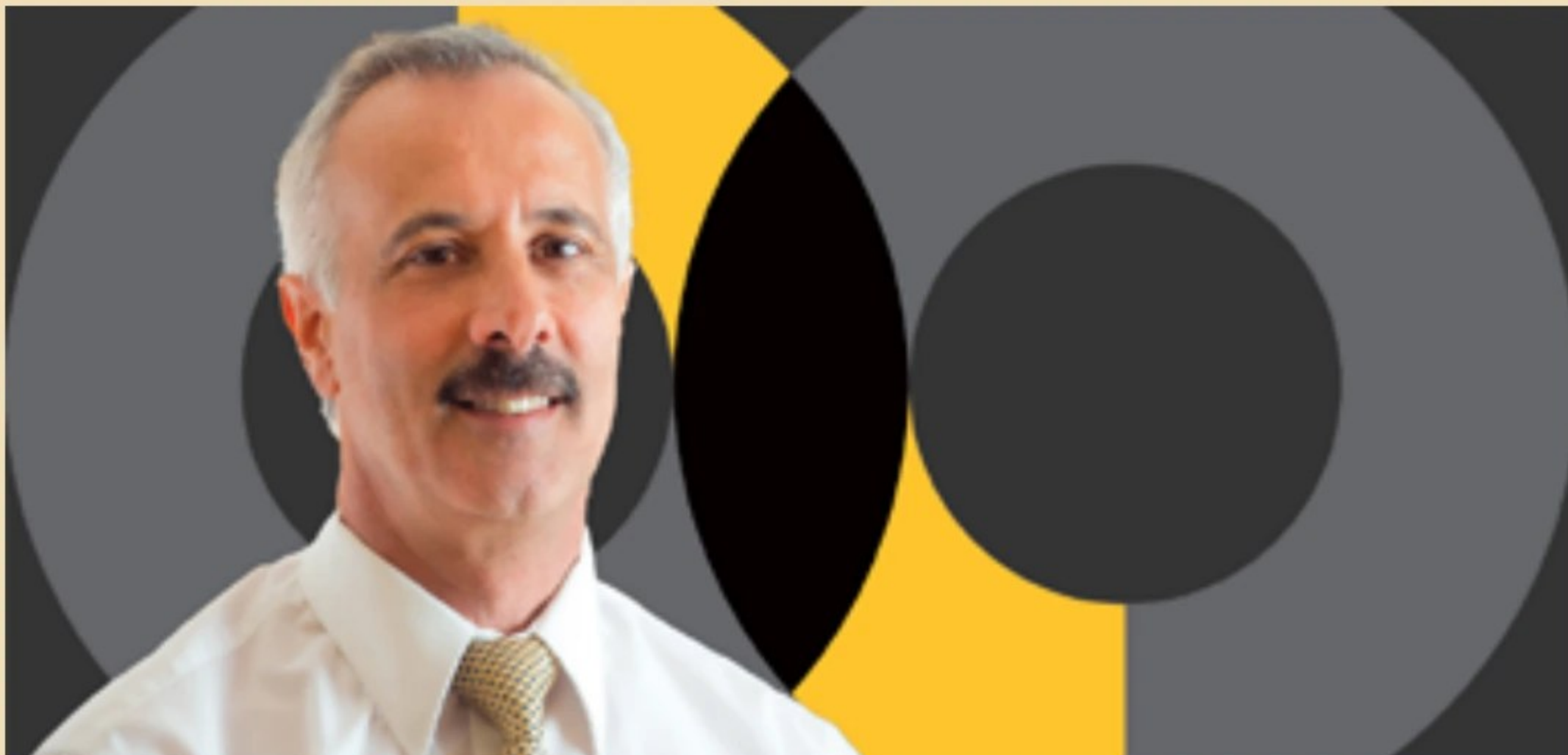
Centrally located in Southington, Connecticut, AE Design Group, LLC provides innovative design solutions that reflect each client’s vision while positively shaping the built environment. Founded in 1984 by Joseph S. Eddy, the firm transitioned to a Limited Liability Company in 2016 under the leadership of Daniel S. LaMontagne, AIA. Cynthia, who began her career under Mr. Eddy, played a key role in ensuring a smooth business transition and supporting the firm’s continued growth.



Today, AEDG serves repeat clients across biomedical research, medical office, and commercial sectors. While the firm occasionally undertakes residential projects, its portfolio is rooted in commercial design – ranging from interior renovations to ground-up construction. AEDG currently employs three licensed architects, three technical staff, and two administrative staff.



Gene Torone Transitions from SLAM Construction Services President to President Emeritus



After 29 incredible years with SLAM Construction Services (CS), Gene Torone will be transitioning his role as President-to-President Emeritus. Having been instrumental in establishing our CM division in 1996, Gene has created the success and reputation that we hold today. Gene will shift away from day-to-day operations, continuing to focus on business development and support key client projects and existing relationships.

SLAM is excited to announce that Matt Ciaglo, AIA has been appointed as the new President of SLAM CS. Matt has been with SLAM for 25 years, has strong leadership qualities, and deep experience across all SLAM markets. As a licensed architect, Matt has a unique perspective for carrying forward the Plan Design Build vision that Gene started.

Congratulations to Gene and Matt as a new era at SLAM CS begins!



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Upcoming ARE 5.0 Changes

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 NCARB Competency Standard for Architects. 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. Learn more about these changes, as well as changes to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®).

Updated ARE 5.0 Test Prep Video Series

As of April 2025, there are now only three item types on the exam: multiple choice, check-all-that-apply, and hotspot. This update is now reflected in the ARE 5.0 Test

Prep Video series, a resource that offers exclusive insight into each ARE 5.0 division with information on content, sample questions, and suggested references. Start watching to learn more about each exam division.

Webinar: What to Know Before You Schedule an Exam

Join NCARB experts for a live webinar on September 24 at 3 p.m. ET! Senior Programs Manager Nick Respecki, AIA, NCARB, ICE-CCP, and Assistant Vice President of Customer Relations Casandra Walker, MBA, MSHRM, will share strategies for navigating test scheduling, accommodations, rescheduling, and other logistics while preparing for your next ARE 5.0 exam.





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Preparing for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) is a significant step in every architect's professional journey – and it deserves a smarter, more supported approach. Smarter ARE Prep offers just that: an accessible, flexible, and community-driven platform built specifically for individuals pursuing licensure.

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AIA Members receive exclusive rates – \$750 per year (with a 7-day free trial) or \$75 per month (with a 2-day trial). Non-members can join with a Public Annual Pass at \$950 per year or a Monthly Pass at \$95. No matter your membership status, you can try before committing.

One of the program's standout features is its commitment to community support. Each week, students can join live Zoom office hours hosted by AIA experts. These sessions offer a chance to ask real-time questions, get feedback, and stay connected – something often missing in other online test prep solutions.

Another key advantage? Practice exams that work like the real thing. With hundreds of fresh questions, you can choose between full-length mock exams or short study bursts of 10 or 25 questions. These features help you sharpen your test-taking strategy while building confidence under pressure.

Students can also learn at their own pace, making PrepARE perfect for both long-term planners and last-minute crammers. Personalized attention, expert guidance, and peer engagement are built into the experience – and many of these resources are available completely free.

Whether you're just beginning your licensure journey or are ready to tackle your final division, Smarter ARE Prep gives you the tools, structure, and support to move forward – smarter and stronger.

With affordable pricing for both AIA members and non-members, plus free resources and weekly support sessions, PrepARE is redefining what exam prep looks like.

Learn more [here](#)

Strategic Council Newly Elected Leaders



2026-2028 At-Large Director to the AIA Board of Directors: Jeff Seabold, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP



2026-2028 At-Large Representative to the AIA Strategic Council: Samantha Markham, AIA



2026-2028 At-Large Representative to the AIA Strategic Council: Carl Sergio, AIA, NOMA



2026 Moderator of the AIA Strategic Council: Jessica O'Donnell, AIA, NCARB



2026 Moderator-Elect to the AIA Strategic Council: Matt Barnett, AIA

The AIA Strategic Council's mission is to better equip AIA membership with research-based insights to navigate the evolving landscape and long-term evolution of the architecture profession.

It advances the profession by informing the AIA Board of Directors and other AIA bodies of important professional issues and opportunities.

The includes surveying the profession and informing AIA goals, objectives, strategies, and the AIA 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The council meets in assembly to deliberate and forms small groups to explore topics and develop recommendations for the board's consideration.

The AIA Strategic Council is a think tank dedicated to producing forward-thinking research on behalf of the architecture profession. 2025 is a milestone for this group—the AIA Strategic Council's 10-year anniversary.



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2026 BUILDING AND FIRE CODES AMENDMENTS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Office of the State Building Inspector and the State Fire Marshal have officially opened the public comment period for the 2026 Building and Fire Codes Amendments.

Public input plays a critical role in shaping state codes that directly impact safety, construction standards, and emergency preparedness. The feedback gathered during this process allows regulators to refine proposed amendments, balance industry needs, and ensure consistency with national best practices.

Stakeholders—from builders and architects to homeowners — are encouraged to review the draft amendments and participate actively in this public process and provide feedback. The comment period opened on August 28th and will remain open until October 11, 2025, offering more than six weeks for individuals to share input before final adoption.

A public hearing on the proposed amendments is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025. This hearing will provide an opportunity for testimony and discussion on key updates to building safety, fire prevention measures, and state code compliance.

Accessing the Draft Amendments

The draft documents and related materials—including the Notice of Intent to Adopt, fiscal analyses, and regulatory flexibility notices—are available on the official Building and Fire Code Adoption Process webpage. To view these materials, click the link titled “View the Draft Amendments for Public Comment.”

How to Submit Public Comment

The agencies have received several inquiries about the submission procedure, leading to



2026 Connecticut State Building Code

Michelle Gilman
Commissioner

Omarys Vasquez
State Building Inspector

DRAFT
ISSUED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
AUGUST 28, 2025

CONNECTICUT
Administrative Services

updated guidance now posted under the “Public Comment and Testimony” section of the webpage.

To submit a comment, participants must:

- Email their statement to DAS. CodesStandards@ct.gov.
- Include “2026 Public Comment” in the subject line.
- Clearly reference the code book and code section number being addressed.

Providing this information ensures comments are properly cataloged and reviewed during the adoption process.

Supplemental Fire Safety Guidance Released

In addition to the proposed amendments, a new document titled “CT Emergency Response Capabilities Requirements for Single-Exit Buildings” has been uploaded to the 2026 State Fire Safety Code Adoption page. Located in the “Documents” tab, this supplement expands on the Single-Exit Buildings appendix, offering guidance specific to emergency response readiness.

For more details, or to access documents and instructions, visit the [Office of the State Building Inspector’s Building and Fire Code Adoption Process page](#).



Public
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AWARDS
Nominations



Recognizing the impact and influence an individual or group can have on Connecticut architecture.

The AIA Connecticut Public Service Award acknowledges:

Individuals, organizations, or architects who serve as elected or appointed officials, public administrators, or institutional leaders in or outside the architecture profession, who have made significant contributions to the improvement of Connecticut's built environment.

Contributions may include advancement or development of laws, regulations, policies, or initiatives that promote excellence in architecture; made an impact on historic preservation, or educated the public on design.

Nominations are submitted by **AIA Connecticut members.**

Nominations must be submitted through the **nomination page.**

Nominations close on **October 3, 2025.**

NOMINATE HERE >

Chris Arelt, AIA Wins Sketch Challenge at AIA Conference of Architecture



Chris Arelt displays the commissioned illustration of one of his own projects, which he received as the Grand Prize winner of a sketch challenge held at the recent AIA Conference on Architecture in Boston. Photo submitted.

Creativity met quick thinking when architect Christopher Arelt, AIA of Nautilus Architects sketched his way to victory at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Conference on Architecture in Boston.

The competition, Blueprints & Brews, challenged architects to draw spontaneous concepts spun from a wheel of prompts — anything from “a building shaped like a lobster” to “Fenway Park as a floating structure.” Armed with just a white pencil and a blue

cocktail napkin, participants had minutes to bring these wild ideas to life.

Chris’ winning sketch, sparked by the prompt “a door at the edge of the world,” captured a flying car soaring through a VertiStack® Clear-style door into a galaxy of stars and planets. His imaginative entry stood out among six rounds of designs, earning a prime spot on the event’s playful showcase: the Wall of Wicked Smart Design.

As Grand Prize winner, Arelt received something particularly meaningful: a commissioned illustration of one of his own projects by freelance artist Ron Schiding. He selected Nautilus Architects’ Greystone residence, a modern shoreline home that blends contemporary design with classic New England character.

The illustration will soon hang at the firm’s Old Lyme headquarters.

Sponsored by Clopay® Corporation, Blueprints & Brews was more than a lighthearted sketch-off. Organizers designed it to spark creativity, foster connections between architects and manufacturers, and highlight the playful side of design.

For Arelt, though, the victory was both personal and professional — a reminder that inspiration can strike just as easily on a napkin as on a drafting table.



QA+M Architecture Welcomes New Professionals to Their Team



Anna Shakun, AIA, LEED AP (Associate | Architect), Aubrey Espanta (Interior Designer), and Lyndsey Giudice (Design Professional).

Each of them brings fresh perspectives, creativity, and expertise that will help us continue creating thoughtful, human-centered designs.

Welcome Aboard, Anna, Aubrey, and Lyndsey!



Kate Schmucker and Dominic Cavallo also officially joined QA+M Architecture as full-time team members.

After excelling as interns with us while completing their studies at University of Maryland (Kate) and Roger Williams University (Dominic), they've consistently shown exceptional design talent, professionalism, and a drive to learn and grow in the field of architecture.

QA+M is extremely happy to have them on board full-time and look forward to supporting their continued growth and success in the field.

Welcome to the next chapter, Kate and Dominic!



Newman Architects Announces Promotions and Welcomes New Team Members

Newman is proud to announce the promotions of Katelyn Chapin, Cait Toczko, and Matt Jurgens! Katelyn, Cait, and Matt continue to make significant contributions to the advancement of Newman's design, sustainability, technical quality, office culture, organization, and management through their work.

Katelyn Chapin AIA, Senior Project Manager, was promoted to Senior Associate. She joined Newman in 2022, bringing twelve years of experience programming, planning, and designing projects for educational clients. Katelyn continuously demonstrates exceptional leadership and significant contributions to programming, planning, and designing projects for educational clients.

Cait Toczko WELL AP, LEED GA, ASSOC. IALD, Senior Lighting Designer, has been promoted to Associate. Since welcoming Cait to Newman in 2022, she quickly became an integral part of our firm, developing and delivering effective lighting solutions to a wide variety of project types. Cait uses both her background in architecture and her knowledge of the impact of lighting on health and wellness and ecological theories in lighting to generate human-centric, sustainable designs that complements our design work.

Matt Jurgens AIA, Project Manager, was promoted to Associate. Joining our team in 2024 and bringing more than a decade of experience managing and executing projects for higher education institutions and residential clients, Matt jumped into project work at Newman with ease, implementing design and documentation standards and project specifications enhances our office's ability to serve our higher education clients with rigor and consistency.



Newman also welcomed new additions to the team who have joined their firm this past spring and summer.

Joe Ilardi and Karen Sutin each bring a decade of residential and commercial experience to bolster the capabilities of our housing practice.

Faith Kosior, Associate AIA, a recent graduate from Clemson University, expands the capacity of our educational team serving Fairfield University.

And **Nico Cao**, a current M. Arch student at Yale, has joined as a summer intern.

NEWMAN

Congratulations to James DeMaio - 2025 40 Under Forty Honoree!

From starting as an intern in 2016 to becoming our Vice President of Business Operations, James has been a driving force behind Pat Munger Construction Company's growth and success.

He's led initiatives that mentor future leaders, strengthen operations, and expand our footprint, all while giving back to the community through volunteer work and local leadership roles.

His hard work and impact was recognized by the Hartford Business Journal!

Congratulations James!



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DESIGN FREEDOM, CLIMATE RISK, AND THE WHITE HOUSE EXPANSION

BY KATHERINE FLYNN



Matt Toddy, AIA, is the founder and principal of Elevation Studio in Columbus, Ohio, as well as a member of AIA's Board of Directors in the capacity of 2025–2027 at-large director. He serves on the board's Government Affairs Committee.

Amid several recent federal-level decisions that have the potential to impact architects' work, we caught up with Toddy on what's happening and what architects can do to get involved and make their voices heard.

The president issued an executive order setting official federal design preferences for federal buildings. What is design freedom and why is it important?

This is, obviously, a topic that's very important to us as designers and as architects. Unfortunately, this is not the first time we've dealt with this issue. We had a similar conversation during the first [Trump] administration.

Any sort of executive order that would limit design freedom is problematic because it stifles the very nature of what we do as architects. It limits innovation and limits material choices on projects, but most importantly, it limits the cultural impact of our civic spaces.

So instead of having freedom to let the context or the culture take precedent, we have to put those things aside and [adhere] to a prescribed set of design criteria. It's not good for the outcome, it's not good for the community, and it's not good for the long-term health of the spaces we're designing. Public architecture should honor the identities and aspirations of the people it serves, and this is difficult to achieve when architects are required to achieve arbitrary design parameters.

What are AIA and the design community's concerns with the proposed 90,000-square-foot White House expansion?

I would categorize the concerns into two main categories. One deals entirely with process. We have to confront the reality that the announcement of this expansion to the White House did not follow any conventional process—for example, qualification-based selection through the GSA.

The other category goes back to the design aspect: the nuance of what is being designed and how it's being designed. My understanding of the project to date is that it has been prescriptive: Here's an addition to a historic building that is protected from a design standpoint. There has not been any opportunity for various entities to weigh in or provide input on the design. That's also problematic, because here, we have an example of a very small group of people making decisions that in almost any other setting would be subject to committee review, preservation review, public input—all these things. We're not seeing that with this particular project.

AIA released a statement on Aug. 13 strongly opposing the EPA's deregulation of greenhouse gas emissions. How might deregulation of greenhouse gases make architects' work more difficult?

I really think this question comes down to risk. At the end of the day, a lot of our job, as architects, is to minimize risk. That can mean personally, in our own businesses, but when we talk about the health, safety, and welfare of the public, we're talking about the risk to the communities that we are a part of. Rolling back greenhouse gas [regulations] will only make the work that we do harder. It's going to reduce predictability, and it's going to make our work riskier and more expensive.

I think in very broad terms, it's apparent that the less that we are doing to control our emissions and our work to mitigate our carbon footprint in the environment, the harder we're making it in the future to build the buildings that we need in a way that's affordable and efficient.

It's always easier to worry about the present time and not the future, but this is really a case of: The future is kind of staring us down. If we don't act, or if we just let these things happen, our lives are going to become a lot more difficult in the future.

What is the best way for architects to get involved in advocacy at a federal or local level?

We need our members to be engaged at all levels. What that could look like is taking a seat on a commission or a board. It could also look like just finding time to meet with your local representative or state senator or U.S. rep or U.S. senator. Know who these people are, know where their offices are, and pay a visit. Stop in, say "Hi," introduce yourself, leave a card, all those things.

A good example: We had a chance to have coffee with one of our central Ohio state representatives just this week. We learned about some upcoming legislation that we want to support as an organization,

and we're building a relationship with this representative. That's going to pay dividends down the road, because now we have an ally in the legislature. It took several weeks to get it organized, but the conversation was great, and it's going somewhere. My recommendation would be to figure out who these people are, get to know them, and build a relationship—just to have an advocate or at least an open door. We have our advocacy day, Capitol Hill Day, in February every year. That's a great way to start the conversation, but it needs to be more than just one day a year where there's a few hundred of us in D.C. It really takes time for these relationships to develop, and we need them in place to have advocates on the Hill, in the state house, in the city council chambers to be able to make change and make enough noise when things come up that we have something to say about.

Is there anything in the advocacy landscape, especially from your perspective as a small firm owner, that you think architects should be aware of or that might not be getting enough attention currently?

It's a tough question because I think there are a number of issues that receive a lot of attention, but that doesn't make them any less important. Housing continues to be a number one priority for a lot of architects. Climate action and resilience remains a number one priority for a lot of architects,



justifiably so. Those are really important issues. We are doing a lot at the federal level to work on those particular issues.

I would like to flip the question around and say that, you know, I'm plugged in where I'm plugged in. I get to be a part of some really important conversations as a part of the federal advocacy team. But we need people to be our ears and eyes locally because we only have so much bandwidth. So, if there's an issue that's happening in your neck of the woods, I want to know about it and see if we can be connectors, or if we can help support in some way.

I'm in the Midwest. We have different issues than folks in the Southwest. I'd like to know: What are architects facing in Phoenix? What are architects facing in southern California? That's not my lived experience, and I can't advocate for those things as a member of the federal government affairs team unless I know about them.

So, my request would be: Please connect with me, connect with our committee or with our staff support team and tell us what's going on in your area so that we can be aware and provide support.

Katherine Flynn is Director, Digital Content at AIA.



AIA OPPOSES EPA'S NEW POSITION ON GREENHOUSE GAS DEREGULATION

AIA STRONGLY OPPOSES THE EPA'S ANTI-SCIENCE DECISION TO RESCIND THE LONG-STANDING FINDING THAT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ENDANGER PLANETARY, ECOSYSTEM AND HUMAN HEALTH.



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) strongly opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) anti-science decision to rescind the long-standing finding that greenhouse gas emissions endanger planetary, ecosystem and human health.

This move by the EPA represents a step backward in our nation's global leadership to combat climate change. Architects, through their designs, consultations, and collaborations, significantly influence the built environment—an industry responsible for roughly 40 percent of carbon emissions. This positions the design and construction sectors as pivotal players in the global fight against climate change. By uniting as a community, these professionals have the power to shape a more sustainable future, driving forward meaningful action and progress.

No matter what the EPA implements, AIA is committed to partnering with the private sector,

state and local communities, property owners, and developers to champion the creation of innovative, cutting-edge buildings.

AIA will continue to advocate for legislation that supports carbon reduction in the built environment. Through programs like the Framework for Design Excellence and the 2030 Commitment, AIA provides resources and support to help architects implement sustainable design practices and achieve carbon neutrality in their projects.

AIA believes the proposal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of the public and this action hinders the architectural profession's efforts to create a more sustainable and resilient built environment. AIA will submit public comments opposing the EPA's proposed rule.

AIA STATEMENT ON FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE EXECUTIVE ORDER



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) opposes the Administration's executive order, "Making Federal Architecture Beautiful Again," which effectively mandates the use of classical architectural styles in the design of federal buildings. This directive would replace thoughtful design processes with rigid requirements that will limit architectural choice.

The order establishes classical and traditional as the preferred architectural styles for federal buildings. Any alternative would require presidential approval. In addition, the presidential-notification requirement adds bureaucratic hurdles that will delay projects, increase costs, and create an unnecessary barrier that eliminates many meaningful design options. For buildings in Washington, D.C., classical architecture becomes the mandatory default, entirely removing local input.

Each era of America's architectural legacy has honored the past while addressing contemporary needs through diverse design solutions. Restricting federal architecture options to styles from antiquity ignores this natural evolution and limits our freedom to create

buildings that truly serve modern communities.

The GSA's Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture have successfully steered federal building design for six decades, resulting in buildings that are functional, economical, and appropriate to their surroundings while maintaining design excellence. The AIA therefore urges the Administration to rescind the executive order and focus instead on strengthening and updating the GSA's Guiding Principles so that they can continue to address current needs and emerging challenges as they have for the better part of a century.

Federal buildings should reflect the community and regional character while maintaining high design standards. America deserves federal buildings that inspire and serve our communities through excellent design that respects both our heritage and our future. Local input must remain central to federal building design decisions, allowing communities the freedom to shape structures that will serve them for generations.



AIA ADVOCATES FOR PRESERVATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN PROPOSED \$200 MILLION WHITE HOUSE EXPANSION

AIA has issued a formal recommendation to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House regarding the proposed \$200 million East Ballroom addition to the iconic structure.

WASHINGTON – August 5, 2025 – The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has issued a formal recommendation to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House regarding the proposed \$200 million East Ballroom addition to the iconic structure. Drawing upon its century-long commitment to protecting the architectural integrity of the White House, AIA underscored the need for a transparent, preservation-focused approach to the ambitious project.

“For over 100 years, AIA has embraced our role as a perpetual guardian of the White House’s architectural integrity,” the letter states, referencing a directive established by President Theodore Roosevelt himself. “This responsibility guides our recommendations to ensure that any modification to this national treasure honors its historical and symbolic significance.”

A Call for Rigorous Oversight of the East Ballroom Project

AIA noted that while the project has secured private funding, the White House belongs to the American people and demands the highest standards of stewardship. In line with the Framework for Design Excellence, the Institute recommends a process that ties



each major decision to preservation, performance, safety, and access—safeguarding historic character while improving resilience and usability. The organization outlined five key recommendations to guide the project’s execution:

1. **Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS):** Given the magnitude of the project and the symbolism the White House carries for all Americans, AIA recommends a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process to identify the most qualified architect or design team for this project.
2. **Historic-Preservation Review:** AIA urged alignment with preservation standards, including the Secretary of the Interior’s guidelines, to protect the neoclassical design and historic sightlines of the White House.
3. **Transparency and Public Accountability:** To foster trust, AIA emphasized the importance of clarity in funding, procurement, and design processes, allowing the public to participate meaningfully in discussions about the addition.
4. **Proportionality of Design:** The proposed 90,000-square-foot addition must harmonize with the White House’s scale and architecture, ensuring the final

design complements its historic character.

5. **Collaboration and Expertise:** AIA pledged collaboration with the Committee, offering insights into energy-efficient design and resilience strategies.

AIA’s recommendations are grounded in its Framework for Design Excellence, which links design decisions to measurable outcomes for preservation, building performance, occupant health and safety, and long-term stewardship. AIA reiterated its readiness to assist the Committee with expertise and support to maintain the White House’s position as both a functional institution and a museum for the American people. “This is more than an addition to a building,” AIA wrote. “It is a transformation to an irreplaceable symbol of our democracy—guided by a process that is preservation-first, performance-driven, and accountable to the public.”

View AIA’s recommendation to the Committee for the [Preservation of the White House](#).

SEP

12 Women in Architecture (WIA) Meeting
NOMAct | Habitat for Humanity Build

HisTOURy | A Midcentury Night's Dream

17 I79D 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 with Kurt Green

The Emerging Professionals Committee - ARE Study Group

19 Napkin Sketch Competition Entry Deadline

Emerging Professionals Friendly Firm Award Deadline

22 Napkin Sketch Competition Voting Opens

26 Napkin Sketch Competition Voting Closes

Connecticut Architecture Conference + Expo (CACX'25)

OCT

1 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (E.D.I.) Knowledge Community Meeting

2 Tour: CT's First Fossil Fuel-Free Technical High School

3 Public Service Awards Submission Deadline

Building Performance & Regulations (BP&R) Meeting

4 HisTOURy | Modernism in Litchfield County: A Tour of Historic Home Interiors

7 Small Firms Exchange (SFx) Meeting

9 AIA Connecticut Board of Directors Meeting

10 Women in Architecture (WIA) Meeting

AIA CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

Series:	Scales	No.
Item Number:		
Product Name:		

From Compliance to **PERFORMANCE** *A Deeper Dive into the Energy Code*

Connecticut's energy code is evolving — are you ready?

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- Integrating Passive House standards & residential energy modeling
- Commercial & residential requirements: documentation, air leakage testing, HVAC & lighting controls
- Strategies for renewable energy integration & load management systems

Presenters:

Omarys Vasquez, AIA, NOMA | Connecticut State Building Inspector

Peter Zvingilas | Assistant Director of Regulatory Compliance, Office of the State Building Inspector

Fred Wajcs, PE | Energy Code Consultant

October 30
11:00am - 4:30pm
Courtyard by Marriott
Orange, CT



Connecticut
Building Performance & Regulations
Knowledge Committee

4 HSW Credits
4 OEDM Credits