

December 2025

ARCHITYPE

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF AIA CONNECTICUT



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spotlighting AIA
Connecticut

**Supporting &
Defending the
Architecture
Profession**

**Illya Azaroff, FAIA,
Inaugurated
as AIA's 102nd
President**

**Preservationists
Sue to Halt
Trump's White
House Ballroom**

2026

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Robert B Hurd, AIA

HEAR IT STRAIGHT FROM OUR SEASON PASS HOLDERS.



I've been a BP&R Codes Season Pass holder for several years, and it's been an invaluable resource for me. The program helps me stay current with code updates, which is essential in my work. My continued participation reflects the consistent value and reliability the pass provides year after year. I truly appreciate the convenience and peace of mind it offers.

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PUBLISHED BY AIA CONNECTICUT

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The Design Awards Gala

Photo Credit: Annadale Photography

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ARCHITYPE is a publication of the American Institute of Architects Connecticut.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



As we close out another remarkable year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a safe, healthy, and joyous holiday season, and for a happy and prosperous New Year.

2025 was truly a wonderful year for AIA Connecticut. We delivered strong programming and engaging events, created meaningful opportunities to meet and connect with members, and continued to build relationships with allied organizations throughout the state. One exciting new milestone that was announced in late 2025 was the opportunity to have AIA Connecticut represented in future episodes of America

ByDesign, allowing the public to see and celebrate the great work of architects. We look forward to finding out which firm projects have been accepted and when they will air in 2026. We also enjoyed another amazing Awards Gala, with close to 300 members and guests in attendance—an evening that highlighted the talent, dedication, and impact of our architectural community.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our 2025 President, Marc André, AIA. It was a pleasure working alongside you, and I am grateful for your leadership and commitment, as well as the dedication of the entire 2025 Board of Directors.

And to the AIA Connecticut staff, my heartfelt thanks for your dedication to keeping our members informed and for seamlessly coordinating programs and events throughout the year.

Looking ahead, I am excited to work with 2026 President Michael Ayles, FAIA, and the 2026 Board of Directors as we continue to advance our mission and serve our members.

So, what's in store for 2026?

The coming year offers new opportunities to give back to our communities, including participation in the Safety Assessment Program, which enables architects to assist in disaster assessment situations when they are most needed. We will also see updates to the Connecticut Building Codes in 2026. I encourage you to stay informed by joining us for our monthly program updates and to consider purchasing a Codes Season Pass, a deeply discounted way to attend sessions and hear directly about all the upcoming changes. Be on the lookout for the HSW sessions required for license renewal, taking place over four days in early April. Consider joining a committee, chapter or national, joining the AIA Connecticut, CAF, NOMAct or Architecture Resource Center board of directors when they post openings. All great ways to stay engaged with AIA Connecticut.

Most importantly, thank you for being part of AIA Connecticut. Whether you are an architect, designer, student, allied professional, or public servant, your engagement, creativity, and commitment make our work meaningful and impactful. I look forward to another productive and inspiring year ahead.

Happy Holidays!

Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



As my term as president comes to a close, I reflect with gratitude on what an extraordinary year this has been. Serving AIA Connecticut in this role has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life, and I sincerely thank you for the trust and support you have shown me.

At the December 11th Awards Gala, I heard powerful reflections, one on the significance of being “first” and the new challenges shaped by federal policies affecting scholarships and other efforts intended to reduce barriers for underrepresented communities, and another on the promise of a bright future for a profession that continues to evolve. Both resonated deeply with me.



In my remarks that evening, I shared that a kid born in Haiti, through a series of fortunate opportunities, ended up in Stamford, Connecticut, and that taxpayer-funded community college and public university education enabled me to chart my own path in architecture. While I did not mention that I was the first Black architect to serve as president of AIA Connecticut, it was not because that history lacks meaning. Rather, throughout my tenure I was surrounded by colleagues of diverse backgrounds, races, and genders, and the collective commitment to inclusion often felt more important than emphasizing any single milestone.

Over the past year, many colleagues, particularly those who are not Black, shared with me how important it is to build a profession that reflects our times. Many do this work quietly, without recognition, by supporting organizations such as the Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF), where I also serve as a board director and which is deeply committed to providing scholarships to reduce student cost burdens; the Connecticut chapter National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMACT), which I have supported since its inception; and organizations like My Architecture Workshop, which introduces students from underrepresented communities to the profession through early exposure and summer programs. I have also seen colleagues volunteer as jurors and mentors at institutions such as the University of Hartford. Through these experiences, I have met many good-doers and more professionals of my own background in Connecticut than ever before.

My colleagues reaffirmed my belief that architecture is not only about buildings, but also about leadership, advocacy, and service. AIA Connecticut’s strength has never rested in a single leader; it lives in its members. I have been inspired by your creativity, generosity, and dedication.

As we look ahead, challenges remain, but they are rich with opportunity. I am confident that with our incoming president, Michael Ayles, a longtime friend, and a committed board, AIA Connecticut is in excellent hands. I also extend my deepest thanks to our Executive Director, Gina Calabro, and the entire staff for their tireless work behind the scenes.

This year has been transformative for me personally, reminding me of the power of collaboration and shared accomplishment, as well as my own limits as a husband and father during personal family challenges. For the grace extended to me, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and for making this chapter the vibrant community it is.

May architects continue to lead our profession and help build a more inclusive world.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Guerrier Andre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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



Awards Gala Celebrates Excellence, Impact, and Service in Architecture



The 2025 AIA Connecticut Awards Gala took place on December 11 at the Bristol Event Center in Bristol, Connecticut, welcoming nearly 300 architects, designers, allied professionals, and guests from across the state and beyond. The annual celebration honored outstanding achievements in residential and commercial architecture, the power of design to shape business and community performance, the next generation of architectural leaders, and the individuals and organizations whose dedication continues to strengthen the profession and AIA Connecticut.

Throughout the evening, more than 50 awards were presented to architects, firms, and collaborators whose work demonstrates excellence in design, preservation, sustainability, representation, and public service. The program highlighted architecture's ability to respond thoughtfully to 21st-century needs while honoring history, advancing innovation, and enriching communities.

The evening opened with the recognition of members celebrating 25- and 50-year

milestones of AIA membership, underscoring the enduring commitment of architects who continue to shape Connecticut's built environment.

The Alice Washburn Awards recognized excellence in traditional residential architecture through the thoughtful adaptation of historic styles for contemporary living. The awards honored projects in New Construction, Additions, Renovations, Adaptive Re-Use, and Accessory Buildings.



Masonry Preservation. Merit awards recognized **Newman Architects** for the Hotchkiss School Memorial Hall and **Crosskey Architects** for the Linus Plimpton House.

The Design Awards recognize design excellence of built and unbuilt work in Connecticut or in other locations by Connecticut-based firms. In Architecture:

The Encompassing Art, Merit was awarded to **Knight Architecture LLC** for the Yale Center for British Art – Welcome Desk & Museum Shop, while **North Studio** received a Citation for Creative Use of Humble Materials for StoreStage.

In the Large Commercial, Institutional, Educational, or Multi-Family Residential category, Excellence was awarded to **Pickard Chilton** for T3 RiNo, with Merit Awards going to **Sasaki** and **OakPark Architects** for the Southern Connecticut State University School of Business, **Pickard Chilton** for The Eight, and **Amenta Emma Architects** for The Grove Residence Hall. Excellence in the Small Commercial category was awarded to **Peterson Rich Office** and **Newman Architects** for the Pruzan Arts Center at Wesleyan University, with additional Merit and Citation awards recognizing work by **Sasaki** and **Centerbrook Architects & Planners**.

Awards of Excellence were presented to **Rolfs Elert Office** for Pond Chalet in the Accessory Buildings category and Four Winds in Additions and Renovations. Merit Awards went to **Saniee Architects LLC** for French Provincial and **Duo Dickinson Architect** for the General's Residence, with a Commendation awarded to **Vicente-Burin Architects** for Island Cottage.

The Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards, presented in collaboration with PreservationCT, celebrated design excellence in the restoration, rehabilitation, and reuse of historic structures. Excellence awards were presented to **Antinozzi Associates** for the Barnum Museum Exterior Rehabilitation; **Apicella + Bunton Architects** and **Petra Construction** for the James Dwight Dana House at Yale University; **Christopher Fagan Studio Architecture** for The Pond Weed House Historic Preservation; and **Paul B. Bailey Architect, LLC** for Oxoboxo Lofts, which also received a Commendation for



Historic Preservation and Adaptive Re-Use honors included an Excellence Award for **Dean Sakamoto Architects LLC** for Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Phase 4, and Merit Awards for projects by **Christopher Williams Architects** and **Joseph Sepot Architects**. In Planning, Excellence was awarded to **Beinfield Architecture** for the Chestnut Street Redevelopment. Residential Design Excellence was awarded to **Atelier Cho Thompson** for A House for Grandmothers, which also earned Excellence in the Small Firm Design category, and the Project of the Year, underscoring



the firm’s thoughtful approach to inclusive residential architecture.

Unbuilt Design honors included an Excellence Award for The Joinery by **Pickard Chilton** and a Merit Award for Bushnell South by **Amenta Emma Architects**.

The Drawing Awards, presented biennially, recognized architectural representation as an essential medium of design thinking and storytelling. The Excellence Award went to **Brian Varano, AIA**, of **Silver Petrucelli & Associates** for An Inspired Perspective, with Merit Awards presented to **Brendan O’Rourke, Ronald Quicquaro, AIA**, and **Maxwell Baum**.

The Sustainable Architecture Awards honored projects that address climate challenges while promoting health, durability, and environmental stewardship. Excellence Awards were presented to **Patriquin Architects** for Slate School and to **Centerbrook Architects and Planners** for the Yale Peabody Museum. A Merit Award recognized the Southern Connecticut State University

School of Business by **Sasaki** and **OakPark Architects**, with a Commendation for Eco Systems & Resources awarded to **TLB Architecture, LLC** for the DEEP West District Headquarters at Black Rock State Park.

Individual honors highlighted leadership, advocacy, and service within the profession. The Women in Architecture Awards recognized **Elizabeth DiSalvo, AIA**, of **Trillium Architects Co-operative, Inc.**, and **Julia McFadden, AIA**, of **QA+M Architecture**. Emerging Professionals Awards were presented to **Joy Ortiz-Colón, AIA**; **Aurora Perreault, AIA**; and **Grace Rykard, AIA**, honoring their early and impactful contributions to architecture and public service.

The Connecticut Treasures Award, selected through public voting, celebrated the **Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford**, recognizing the cultural and architectural significance of museums across the state. Public Service honors included a posthumous Honor Award for

Susan Godshall, Senior Vice President of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and **Caroline Tanbee Smith, Board of Alders, City of New Haven**, and **Doug Hausladen, Executive Director, New Haven Parking Authority**.

Additional recognitions included the President’s Award to **Dominique Moore, AIA**; Allied Member of the Year to **Ashley Anderson of Marvin**; and Volunteer of the Year honors to **Andrew Gorzkowski, AIA**, and **Marissa Mead, AIA**.

Together, the Awards Gala reflected the breadth, creativity, and impact of architecture across the state—honoring excellence in design while celebrating service, mentorship, and the profession’s vital role in shaping communities now and for generations to come.

Photo credits: Annadale Photography & AIA CT

Additional photos are posted on the AIA Connecticut Website.



® Bringing Excellence in Design to National Television

America ByDesign: Architecture is a nationally broadcast, half-hour television program that celebrates outstanding American architecture and the architects behind it. Airing on CBS on Saturday nights at 9:00 p.m. and available through streaming platforms, the show brings compelling architectural stories directly to a broad, public audience. Through cinematic visuals and engaging narratives, America ByDesign demonstrates how architecture shapes communities, advances sustainability, and elevates everyday life.

Each half-hour episode features a curated selection of projects designed by members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). From awe-inspiring residential homes set along lakes and coastlines to innovative spaces for education, science, culture, and collaboration, the program highlights architecture that reflects both creative excellence and social responsibility. Viewers gain insight into the design process, learning how thoughtful planning, technology, and collaboration come together to create meaningful places.

A defining feature of America ByDesign: Architecture is its exclusive relationship with AIA. Members and associates of

AIA receive first access to each episode ahead of the general CBS broadcast, providing a unique opportunity for the architecture community to celebrate peer achievements and draw inspiration from work across the country. This early access aligns with AIA's mission to promote design excellence while fostering professional growth and shared learning.

The partnership between AIA and the ByDesign series is rooted in a shared belief that design belongs to everyone. While the show spotlights professional architects and award-worthy projects, it is intentionally produced for a general audience. By presenting architecture in an accessible and engaging format, America ByDesign helps viewers understand how design influences technology, sustainability, living environments, science, and culture. The series bridges the gap between the profession and the public, reinforcing the value of architects in shaping resilient and inclusive communities.

AIA Connecticut (AIA CT) is proud to be the next AIA chapter recognized in this nationally televised series. By promoting member projects on America ByDesign: Architecture, AIA CT brings Connecticut's design excellence to a national stage. The state's architects are known for balancing innovation with historic context, environmental

stewardship, and community impact—qualities that align seamlessly with the mission of the show.

Participation in America ByDesign offers AIA CT members an exceptional opportunity to share their work beyond traditional industry channels. The program highlights not only finished buildings, but also the collaboration, problem-solving, and vision that define successful architecture.

“Architecture has the power to shape how we live, learn, and connect with our communities. Being featured on America ByDesign: Architecture allows AIA Connecticut members to share those stories with a national audience and highlight why great design truly matters,” said Gina Calabro, AIA Connecticut Executive Director.

We look forward to the 2026 episodes featuring AIA Connecticut projects, highlighting the enduring power of architecture to inspire, connect, and improve lives, and reinforcing that great design truly belongs to everyone.





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SUPPORTING & DEFENDING THE

Public Statement from the AIA Connecticut Board of Directors

The American Institute of Architects, Connecticut Chapter (AIA CT) stands with the National Organization of AIA in condemning any federal policy that attempts to minimize, dilute, or erase the professional status of architects.

To be clear, architecture is a regulated licensed profession, anchored in accredited education, years of supervised experience, rigorous examinations, and a lifelong legal and ethical duty to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

This is not opinion, it is codified, regulated, and enforced.

Any policy that pretends otherwise is reckless.

When a change in federal policy fails to recognize architects as professionals, it is not just disrespectful, it is dangerous. It undermines the long-established systems that keep our buildings safe. It trivializes the technical expertise it takes to design and coordinate structural, mechanical, environmental, and life-safety systems. And it tells the public that specialized knowledge can be ignored when politically convenient.

If the federal government decides to reform loan programs or financial structures, it should do so with accuracy and respect for the professions that safeguard our communities.

Reform should not come at the cost of de-professionalizing architecture or any other professions, or obstructing access to the education required to enter the field.

Other countries are aggressively investing in their professional workforce. Meanwhile, this policy signals that the United States is comfortable undermining its own, a shortsighted move in a competitive global landscape.

Architects don't simply design buildings.

- ***We protect communities.***
- ***We manage risk.***
- ***We ensure safety.***
- ***We uphold standards that save lives.***

Diminishing this profession is unacceptable.

We stand with the AIA and every architect, educator, and student who refuses to let political convenience override the realities of professional expertise, regulation, and public safety.

This policy needs to be amended immediately.

Ask your member of Congress to urge the Department of Education to remove the cap on Federal Student Loans for Architecture Graduate Students - ACT NOW!

This statement was shared with the Connecticut Membership, sent to media outlets as well as Federal and State officials.

E ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION

Statement from the AIA 2025 President

I am writing to you about an action by the U.S. Department of Education that poses a threat to the reputational and financial future of our profession. The Department has proposed new rules for federal student lending that exclude architecture from its list of “professional degrees.”

This is not a bureaucratic reclassification; it is a fundamental misunderstanding of who we are and what we do that has real-world consequences for those pursuing advanced degrees in architecture.

While most architecture students complete accredited undergraduate degrees, those who pursue a master’s degree—as many do to advance in practice or specialize—will be directly harmed. Under the Department’s proposal, students enrolled in these graduate programs would be subject to significantly lower federal borrowing limits, capped at \$20,500 per year. If a Master’s in Architecture were classified as a professional degree under this policy, that limit would be \$50,000 per year.

For students attending schools where tuition far exceeds the cap of \$20,500 per year, this change would place the burden of financing their education squarely on private loans and personal debt.

Strengthening the business of architecture has been one of my areas of focus this year. For too long, architecture has been seen as an occupation of passion rather than a profession that creates real value. The DOE proposal will not correct that perception. There are already too few licensed architects to meet our nation’s needs, and this policy will only make it harder for talented individuals to choose architecture as their career. Fewer architects graduating from professional programs will increasingly cause a bottleneck for architecture firms looking to hire.

The progress we have fought so hard for—to build a profession that is more reflective of the diverse society we serve—will undoubtedly be diminished. We must not let that happen.

As a leading voice for the profession, AIA is actively requesting formal clarification from the Department of Education on architecture’s omission, coordinating with partner organizations across education and licensure to present a unified response, and preparing comments and policy options to restore recognition of architecture as a professional degree for federal aid purposes. We responded quickly to the issue making it clear that we will not stand by while the profession is undermined.

But AIA is not just an office in Washington. **AIA is all of us.** And this policy will severely restrict individuals’ ability to pursue architecture as a profession, meaning that the time for every member to get involved is now.

Take Action:

Write your member of Congress today urging them to push the Department of Education to classify architecture as a professional degree for federal aid purposes. In addition, ask your congressional leader for a legislative solution to this problem.

Prepare for the Department of Education public comment period in early 2026 when the proposed rule is posted on the Federal Register. You can submit your comments directly through the Federal Register website. We will notify you as soon as we learn more.

This is a critical moment for architecture. We must stand together, work together, and fight together to protect the integrity and future of our noble profession.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Lee, FAIA

2025 President, The American Institute of Architects



Illya Azaroff, FAIA, Inaugurated as AIA's 102nd President

By AIA Staff

Illya Azaroff, FAIA, was inaugurated as the 2026 AIA President on Friday, December 5, in Washington, D.C. He is the 102nd architect to hold the office.

"Changing the world is the loftiest of goals, but it is within our reach because we're architects, uniquely skilled and positioned to unite people and rally forces as no other profession can," Azaroff said during a speech at AIA's new Global Campus for Architecture & Design.

In addition to his role as an architect, Azaroff is a geographer and educator at the New York City College of Technology (CUNY). He is also the founding principal of +LAB Architect, a firm

with offices in New York and Los Angeles. Azaroff is internationally acclaimed for his leadership in disaster mitigation, resilient adaptation, and regenerative design, earning recognition as a 2023 Star of Oceana for his impactful, award-winning work in the Pacific and Caribbean.

He has served AIA in several key roles, including as the 2021 AIA New York state president, on the Strategic Council (2016-2018), and as founder of DFRR Design for Risk and Reconstruction committee at AIANY (2011-2021). Azaroff holds a Master of Architecture degree from Pratt Institute and bachelor's degrees in Geography and Architecture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"As many of you know, I've responded to disasters all over the world," he said. "It's not glamorous, and it can be a daunting process, but I consider it my calling. It's in my DNA."

He encouraged members to take AIAU's Safety Assessment Program Evaluator Training Course and "embrace your power to heal."

"Through thoughtful and empathetic design, we help transform a landscape of devastation into a place of hope and renewal, proving that while we can't control the storm, we can help guide people through it," he said.



You are the Power Behind Our Profession

The driving force behind AIA Connecticut is YOU — our members.

Everything we do is built to help you thrive in your professional journey. Staying informed, connected, and engaged isn't just beneficial — it's essential to shaping the future of architecture.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your voice, your perspective, your passion fuel our advocacy, energize our programs, and guide the evolution of architecture across Connecticut.

Our AIA Connecticut team is committed to supporting you. We're here to answer your questions, elevate your work, and stand by you as a partner in shaping what comes next.

**Stay Connected. Stay Inspired.
Stay Involved.**

Renewal Deadline is January 15th!

ROBERT A.M. STERN AND THE QUESTION OF ARCHITECTURAL GREATNESS

By Daniel Horowitz, AIA

The passing of Robert A.M. Stern has prompted a wave of tributes. My social media feeds are full of smiling snapshots of architects standing beside Stern, paired with stories of brief encounters or moments of acknowledgment. These posts do more than mourn a professional giant. They illuminate something fundamental about architectural culture. Proximity to institutional authority becomes symbolic capital. A photograph beside the master affirms lineage. It is proof that one has been recognized by a gatekeeper of legitimacy. In this way, many tributes perform double duty. They honor Stern while simultaneously reinforcing professional identities shaped through association with architectural royalty.

Writing candidly about a figure of Stern's stature carries a degree of professional risk. Our discipline remains deeply relationship-driven, and reflection that extends beyond celebration can feel uncomfortable. Yet progress requires more than mythology. It requires honest evaluation of both legacy and leadership.

Stern emerged through the Yale-Philip Johnson lineage that shaped American architectural authority during the late twentieth century. This ecosystem produced scholars, administrators, and designers of extraordinary competence, but it also reinforced hierarchies of



prestige rooted in elite access, pedigree networks, and selective authorship. Johnson's model of architectural leadership was charismatic, exclusive, and tightly networked. It elevated carefully chosen voices while sidelining many others. Stern inherited this culture and mastered it, becoming a consummate institutional navigator who moved fluently among donors, developers, boards, and academic leadership while consolidating broad cultural influence.

As a designer, Stern professionalized a version of postmodern classicism grounded in historical continuity rather than rupture. His buildings were well executed, formally disciplined, and symbolically authoritative, though rarely iconic or overly inspiring. Critics often viewed the work as conservative or nostalgic,

architecture that soothed institutional anxieties rather than challenged conventions. Clients valued precisely those qualities. Stern delivered architecture aligned with the needs of powerful patrons as reliable expressions of stability, cultural continuity, and prestige.

Where his impact becomes most indisputable is in education and scholarship. During nearly two decades as Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, Stern expanded facilities, strengthened fundraising, preserved hand drawing and typological study amid accelerating digital change, and sustained Yale's global prominence. His leadership also extended aspects of the Johnson-era academic model, a system admired for rigor but criticized for insulation from broader cultural voices and experimental agendas. Yale under Stern remained profoundly authoritative, even as it sometimes resisted the frontier-edge risk associated with more experimental contemporary programs.

Stern's historical scholarship stands as one of his most enduring contributions. His documentation of American modernism preserved vast portions of architectural memory and clarified how political, economic, and institutional forces shape the built environment. Through teaching and writing, he safeguarded the intellectual infrastructure that continues to support architectural discourse today.



Honoring Stern requires acknowledging an essential distinction. Great architecture often arises from the margins. It emerges from those grappling directly with urgent challenges and constrained resources, rather than solely from the citadels of power. There is greatness rooted in innovation, which grows from friction and experimentation, and greatness rooted in stewardship of conventional values, the building of institutions, maintenance of tradition, and preservation of intellectual platforms. Stern's contributions lay firmly in stewardship. He did not seek to redefine architectural formal language but rather built and fortified the organizational frameworks through which contemporary architectural culture continues to function.

Architectural education now faces conditions unimaginable to previous generations, including climate emergency, digital hybridity, interdisciplinary practice, and the need for expanded inclusion beyond elite pipelines.

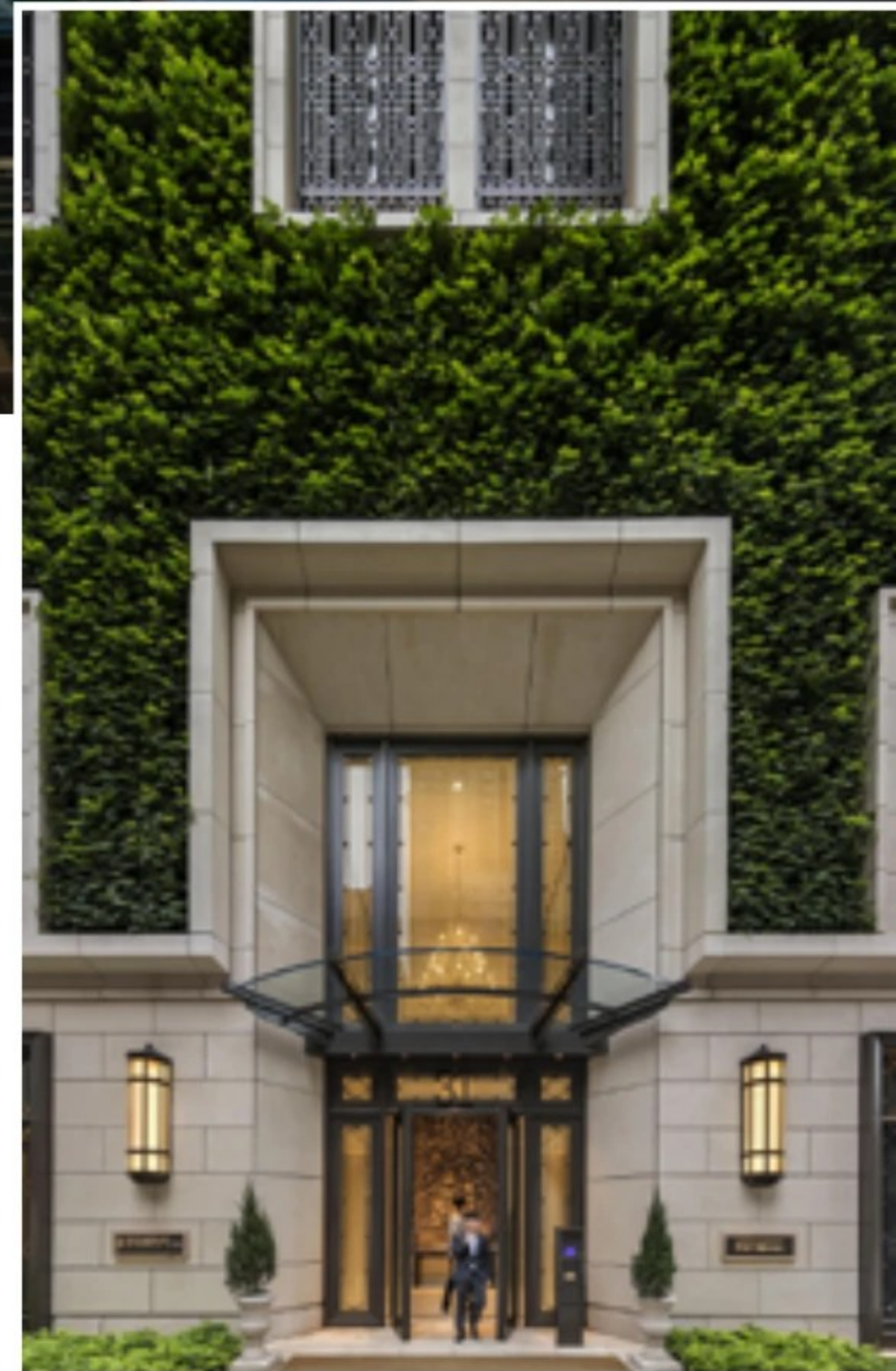
Recent federal policy proposals to reclassify architecture's professional status only heighten concerns about access to an already tightly gated discipline.

Robert A.M. Stern's legacy reminds us that architectural greatness does not wear a single face. It emerges across many roles, including designer, historian, educator, administrator, and steward. It is shaped as much by institutional power as by creative ambition and social concern. Recognizing these distinctions allows us to honor the past without canonizing it uncritically, while advancing a more open, diverse, and imaginative architectural future.

Daniel Horowitz AIA is the Director of the Graduate Architecture Program at the University of Hartford. He is also the founder of the non-profit Architecture Is Free Foundation.

Editor's Note: Memorial and Remembrances

The Yale School of Architecture will be collecting remembrances of Dean Stern, to be shared with his family, to be posted online, as well as for



potential publication in Constructs. Please send your remembrances, photos, and thoughts to arch.info@yale.edu Information on Dean Stern's memorial will be shared when it becomes available.



Frank O. Gehry, FAIA Architect of Iconic Buildings Dies at 96

Frank O. Gehry, FAIA the celebrated Canadian-American architect whose daring, sculptural designs reshaped city skylines and sparked what became known as the “Bilbao effect,” died December 5, 2025, at his home in Santa Monica, California. He died after a brief respiratory illness at the age of 96.

Born Frank Owen Goldberg on February 28, 1929, in Toronto, Gehry moved with his family to California as a teenager. After serving briefly in the U.S. Army, he studied architecture at the University of Southern California, and later city planning at Harvard Graduate School of Design, before establishing his own firm in 1962. Gehry gained early attention in the 1970s and ‘80s through experimental works, including innovative furniture lines, but he became globally renowned for buildings that merged sculpture and architecture. His renovation of his own Santa Monica home, transforming a modest bungalow into a striking, deconstructivist landmark, foreshadowed the sweeping forms that would define his mature style. Among his most iconic works is



the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (1997), a titanium-clad building whose sinuous curves redefined what a museum - or any building - could look like. He also designed the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, a landmark of contemporary architecture that seamlessly marries function and artistry.

Over a career spanning six decades, Gehry’s oeuvre ranged widely, from museums and concert halls to residential towers and cultural centers around the world. He was widely credited with transforming architecture’s possibilities, helping to establish

a new paradigm where buildings could be both functional spaces and expressive, sculptural works. Though Gehry’s forms often invited controversy - some critics called them whimsical or ostentatious - his influence was profound. His bold vision expanded the boundaries of architecture, inspiring a generation of architects to think beyond conventional geometry and orthodoxy.

At the time of his death, Gehry was remembered not just for landmark buildings, but for showing how architecture can transform cities - physically, culturally, and emotionally. The “Bilbao effect” that began with the Guggenheim Museum helped revive a once-industrial city, illustrating the power of design to stimulate renewal.

His passing marks the end of an era - but his buildings, wildly imaginative and often defiant of convention, will stand for generations as a testament to what architecture can achieve.



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Preservationists Sue to Halt Trump's White House Ballroom

President Donald Trump is being sued by the National Trust for Historic Preservation seeking to stop construction of a new White House ballroom, arguing the project threatens one of the nation's most significant landmarks and bypasses long-standing preservation and public-review requirements.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, seeks to halt further work on the ballroom until the project undergoes independent design and environmental reviews, includes public comment, and receives explicit congressional approval. The lawsuit follows the demolition of the East Wing, which the Trust says occurred without legally required oversight.

At the heart of the complaint is a preservation argument: that the White House, as a nationally treasured and symbolically irreplaceable structure, is subject to stricter protections than ordinary federal buildings. The Trust argues that allowing major alterations without review sets a dangerous precedent for historic sites nationwide.

"No president is legally allowed to tear down portions of the White House without any review whatsoever," the lawsuit states, adding that the public must have an opportunity to weigh in on changes to such a historically significant property. The Trust

contends the administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act and the National Environmental Policy Act and exceeded constitutional authority by failing to consult Congress.

The group is asking the court to block any additional construction until the administration completes reviews that, it says, should have occurred before demolition began. The Trust also notes it wrote to the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, Congress and the National Park Service in October urging a pause but received no response.

Trump has long argued that the White House lacks adequate space for large events, saying guests are often relegated to tents outdoors. The White House maintains the president has "full legal authority" to renovate and modernize the building, a claim echoed by spokesman David Ingle, who said Trump is acting as past presidents have.

Preservationists counter that comparison. While many presidents have renovated the White House, Trump's ballroom would represent the most extensive structural change since President Harry Truman's postwar reconstruction. Truman sought and received congressional authorization, consulted preservation and engineering

experts, and created a bipartisan oversight commission.

Federal law cited in the lawsuit states that no structure may be erected on public grounds in Washington, D.C., without "express authority of Congress." The Trust argues that law applies regardless of Trump's claim that the project is privately funded.

"This public involvement is particularly critical here," the complaint says, "where the structure at issue is perhaps the most recognizable and historically significant building in the country."

The lawsuit names Trump, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and the General Services Administration as defendants.

In Washington, D.C. Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin introduced legislation to preserve the White House. The AIA is working with Congressman Raskin's office on The People's White House Historic Preservation Act. Carole Wedge, the AIA's executive director, told AN this "legislation will ensure that any future alterations to the White House, including large-scale projects like the East Ballroom addition, are subject to transparent review and public accountability processes that reflect the building's historic and symbolic significance to the American people."



Governor Lamont Signs Long-Debated Housing Bill

After nearly six months of political wrangling, Gov. Ned Lamont has signed a sweeping and long-debated bill intended to boost affordable housing across Connecticut, marking the state's most significant housing legislation in decades.

The bill's path to becoming law was unusually complicated, involving hundreds of impassioned emails from advocates and opponents, a gubernatorial veto, extensive negotiations among lawmakers, a special legislative session, and a brief delay caused by an administrative oversight.

The measure, which passed both chambers of the General Assembly in November, reflects a compromise from an earlier version Lamont vetoed in the spring. While revised, it still represents a major shift in how Connecticut approaches housing development.

The new law asks towns and cities to submit housing growth plans and offers financial incentives to municipalities whose plans meet state standards. It makes it

easier for developers to convert commercial properties into residential housing, encourages development near public transit, and eliminates mandatory parking minimums for small apartment buildings. The legislation also expands the use of fair rent commissions, promotes public housing construction, and bans so-called "hostile infrastructure" designed to prevent people who are homeless from sitting or lying down in public spaces.

The saga began when lawmakers passed an earlier version of the bill that included numeric affordable housing targets for every municipality. Although there were no penalties for failing to meet those targets, the provision drew criticism from local officials and some lawmakers who argued it undermined local control over zoning decisions. Lamont, whose administration had initially supported the language, ultimately sided with those concerns and vetoed the bill.

Following months of negotiations, the governor and

legislative Democrats reached a compromise in early November. The revised framework allows towns to set their own housing goals, subject to approval by the state Office of Policy and Management. Municipalities with approved plans—or those meeting certain alternative criteria—become eligible for funding through a new Housing Growth Program. Lawmakers also adjusted provisions related to parking requirements and commercial-to-residential conversions to address concerns raised by local officials.

The new law aligns with priorities long identified by AIA Connecticut, which has made affordable housing a strategic focus. The chapter has advocated for expanding the supply of safe, high-quality, and sustainable housing by addressing policy barriers such as restrictive zoning, supporting increased funding, and promoting design and construction approaches that reduce costs and timelines, with the goal of strengthening equitable, resilient communities and long-term housing stability.

CAF 2025 Annual Appeal

CONNECTICUT
ARCHITECTURE
FOUNDATION

By Nancy Clayton, AIA

This year, the need for financial support for architecture students is greater than ever. The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that **the “professional” status of architecture degree programs will be eliminated as of July 2026. Therefore, federally backed loans for B.Arch. and M.Arch. students will now be capped at \$20,500** – significantly less than tuition and living costs. This change will limit educational opportunities for aspiring architects.

As we approach year-end, I invite you to support architectural education here in Connecticut. Your contribution to the Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF) creates meaningful opportunities for the next generation of architects. Through scholarships and grants, we help students of all ages and champion programs that strengthen our profession. **The students we support today will become the architects, collaborators, and colleagues we work alongside tomorrow.**

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and firms across the state, in 2025 we awarded:

- **\$53,200 in twelve scholarships** to architecture students with a connection to Connecticut.
- **\$11,200 in grants** supporting programs that inspire and educate—including **K-12** architecture programs in classrooms and at summer camp and spring break programs; ARE study courses and **licensing** exam costs for aspiring architects; and podcasts on WPKN that enlighten the **general public** about what architects do.

A gift of any size to the CAF 2025 Annual Appeal is more than a donation—it’s a vote of confidence in the future of architecture in Connecticut. Your generosity helps to shape the next generation and to keep our profession strong. Thank you to all who have already given!

Warm wishes for a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year,



Nancy Clayton, AIA
President, Connecticut Architectural Foundation



To contribute to the 2025 CAF Annual Appeal: Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to make your tax-deductible gift. Or mail your contribution, payable to:

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Deborah Costantini, AIA Retires from Hoffmann



Hoffmann Architects + Engineers announces the retirement of Deborah J. Costantini, AIA, Senior Architect. Her last day with the firm is December 19, 2025, marking twenty years of service.

Debbie Costantini joined Hoffmann in 1997 as a Project Manager, applying her degree in architectural engineering from Roger Williams University to building enclosure rehabilitation projects. After two years, she left her position to care for her two young sons, then returned to Hoffmann in 2007 as Project Architect. In 2014, in recognition of her leadership and technical knowledge, Costantini was promoted to Senior Architect. Three years later, founder John J. Hoffmann, FAIA offered Costantini ownership stakes in the company, and she became a shareholder. Since then, she has helped shape the growth and direction of the firm and has become Hoffmann's senior specialist in roofing, leading project teams and training emerging professionals in the nuances of technical details and forensic investigation.

Costantini has led more than 80 projects with Hoffmann in her two decades with the firm, from universities and hospitals to corporate headquarters and government facilities. A member of the Board of Directors at the Construction Specifications Institute Housatonic Chapter, she has been recognized for her meticulous attention to detail and collaborative approach to project delivery. She enjoys sharing her technical expertise with young people and has volunteered at architecture summer camps, classroom programs, and career fairs, as well as with Habitat for Humanity.

"Deb has been a pillar of architectural excellence, sharing her unmatched expertise in roofing solutions and innovative design," notes Erin L. Kesegi, AIA, co-leader of Hoffmann's Connecticut office. "Her positive presence in the office will be deeply missed, but as she embarks on retirement, her legacy of knowledge, guidance, and team spirit will continue to inspire."

Benjamin J. Robinson, AIA, co-leader of the Connecticut office,

agrees: "I've been fortunate to work alongside Debbie for nearly 20 years. On a technical level, her meticulous attention to detail, deep proficiency, and architectural expertise have been invaluable and will truly be missed. On a personal level, Debbie's kindness, her willingness to listen, and her thoughtful guidance have left a lasting mark on all of us at Hoffmann. I wish her joy, health, and happiness in her well-deserved retirement."

Congratulations to Deborah on her retirement!



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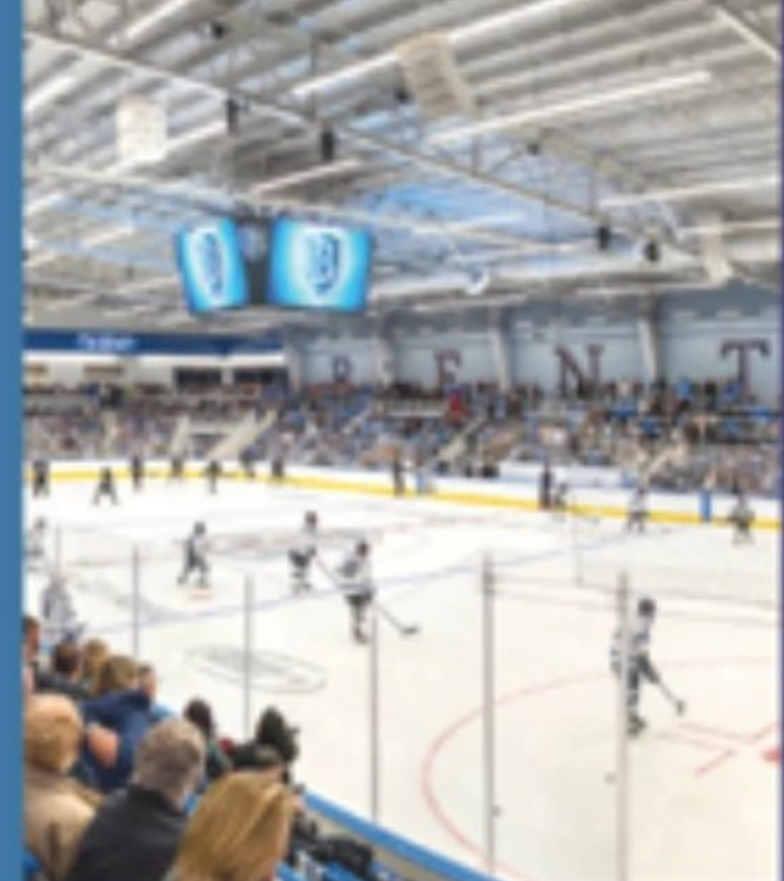
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Tanner White Architects

Highlighting the Importance of Personalized Residential Design

In a housing market increasingly shaped by personalization, sustainability, and long-term thinking, residential architecture is taking on renewed importance. Homeowners are no longer focused solely on square footage or style; they are seeking spaces that support daily life, adapt over time, and reflect a deeper sense of place. For Tanner White Architects this shift aligns closely with a philosophy that design should be as purposeful as it is beautiful.

Residential architecture continues to drive growth within the design profession, according to the American Institute of Architects, with sustainability, energy efficiency, and adaptable layouts emerging as top priorities. As expectations evolve, Tanner White Architects has seen growing interest from clients who want homes that balance thoughtful craftsmanship with modern functionality—spaces designed to endure rather than impress briefly.

At the core of the firm's work is the belief that architecture extends beyond aesthetics. Each project is approached as a lived environment, shaped by how people move through spaces, gather with family, and connect to their surroundings. Drawing on years of experience designing

custom homes, renovations, and additions across Connecticut, the firm emphasizes functionality, longevity, and context as essential design principles.

"Each home tells a story," said founder, Tanner White. "Our goal is to make that story one of comfort, creativity, and connection – while ensuring that every space we design stands the test of time."

That philosophy is evident across the firm's diverse portfolio, which includes modern coastal residences, refined suburban homes, and traditional New England estates. While the architectural styles vary, the process remains consistent: close collaboration with clients, careful attention to site conditions, and a commitment to maintaining architectural integrity. Design decisions are guided by how natural light enters a space, how rooms relate to one another, and how the home fits within its neighborhood.

Sustainability plays an increasingly central role in this work. Tanner White Architects incorporates energy-efficient materials, passive design strategies, and environmentally conscious planning whenever possible, reflecting a broader industry shift toward responsible building

practices. Equally important is longevity—creating homes that remain relevant and functional decades into the future.

Beyond design, the firm places strong emphasis on education and process. Clients are guided through zoning, permitting, and construction considerations, supported by tools such as advanced 3D modeling that help translate ideas into tangible outcomes. This approach demystifies architecture, making the experience more accessible and collaborative.

As residential design continues to evolve, Tanner White Architects maintains that good architecture is not defined by trends or scale, but by its ability to improve everyday life. Thoughtful design, the firm argues, has the power to elevate how people live—quietly, intentionally, and for years to come.



edmSTUDIO Announces New Partners



Ryan F. Schicker, AIA

edmSTUDIO is proud to announce that Christopher Wante, AIA, Timothy Widman, AIA and Ryan F. Schicker, AIA have joined Tim Eagles, AIA as partners in edmSTUDIO.

Their expertise, talent, and visionary leadership have been instrumental in shaping our success - and this partnership reflects our shared commitment to design excellence, collaboration, and innovation.

Together, the partners will continue to elevate edmSTUDIO's mission: delivering innovative, human-centered spaces that inspire and endure.

At edmSTUDIO, our purpose is simple: to work collaboratively, deliver designs that exceed expectations and have fun along the way. We're a group of curious architects and designers who believe that every detail matters.

Whether it's a bold new idea or a subtle refinement, we know that it's the details that make all the difference. From the first conversation to the final ribbon-cutting, we're passionate about creating spaces that are functional, beautiful and deeply meaningful.



Christopher Wante, AIA



Tim Widman, AIA



Christian Rae Studio Celebrates 2025 HOBI Award Wins

Showcasing Award-Winning Design and Craftsmanship

Christian Rae Studio has been honored with four 2025 HOBI Awards (Home Building Industry Awards) – recognizing the best in residential design, craftsmanship, and innovation across Connecticut.

These awards highlight the meaningful collaborations between their studio and the exceptional builders and technology partners who bring their designs to life.

Congratulations to Christian Rae Studio and the collaborating builders and integrators whose craftsmanship and innovation helped elevate these designs.

Award-Winning Projects include:



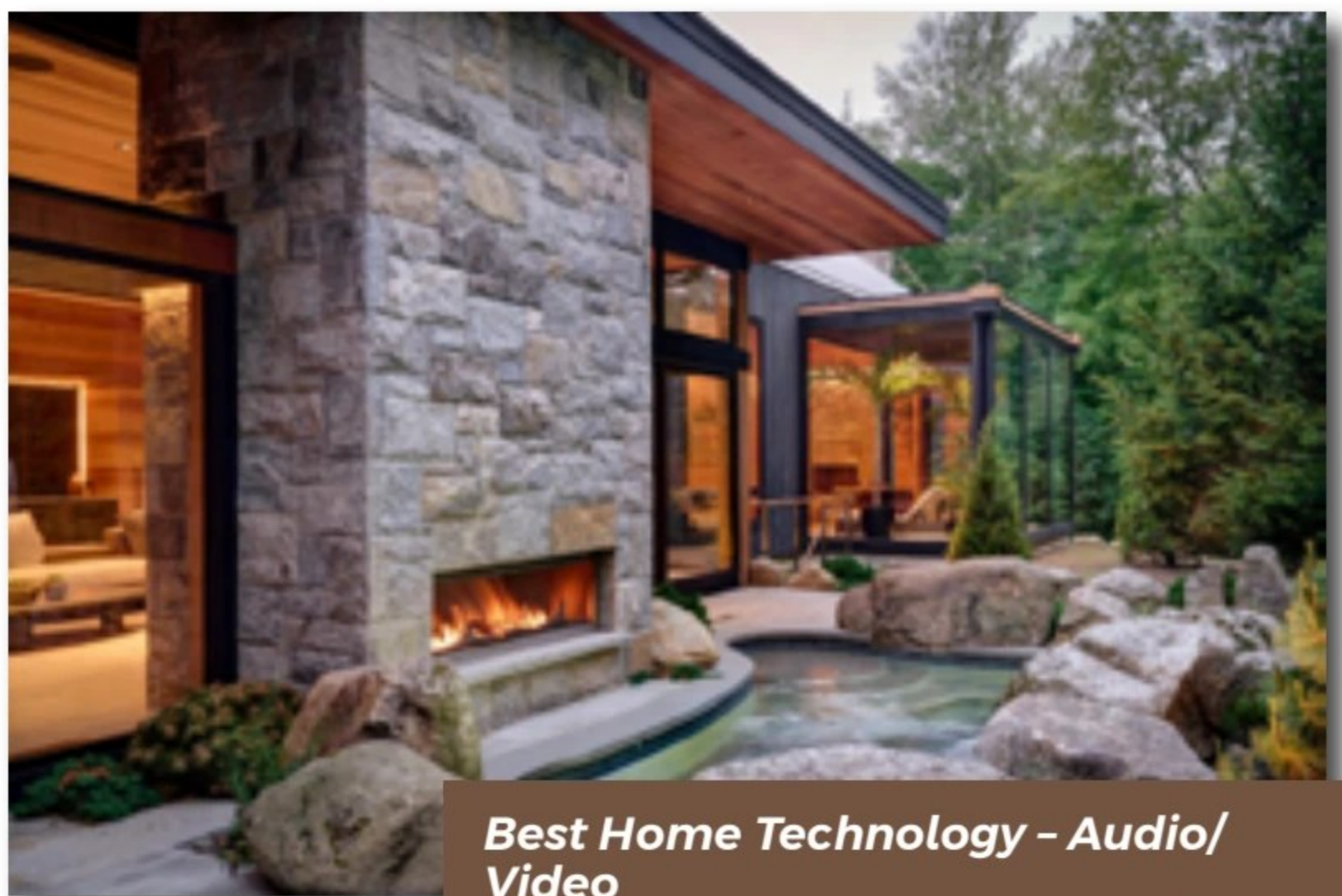
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Greenwich /LoParco Associates



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Easton /Garrett Wilson Builders



Best Spec Home \$4-5 Million
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Able Construction



**Best Home Technology - Audio/
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Woodland Wellness Project - Easton
/Smarthome & Theater Systems

CHRISTIAN RAE STUDIO

NCARB's FY25 Highlights

NCARB is pleased to share the [Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report](#), which highlights the advancements and progress made toward achieving the six strategic objectives outlined in NCARB's Strategic Plan. Thanks to the dedication of the entire NCARB community, NCARB expanded and enhanced its services and programs.

FY25 was a transformative period for NCARB, marked by significant progress in its commitment to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare while expanding access to architectural licensure.

This year's Annual Report includes:

- A visual timeline highlighting key efforts and achievements from July 2024 to June 2025, along with in-depth quarterly updates on services and initiatives.

- An overview of NCARB's organizational structure, business updates, current NCARB Bylaws, and financial statements.
- Volunteer reports featuring highlights from the Board of Directors and committees.

NCARB is proud of the progress achieved throughout FY25 and looks forward to continued advancements in the regulation of architecture in the years ahead. This Annual Report highlights numerous opportunities for growth and outlines what stakeholders can expect as NCARB works with the community to envision the future of licensure.



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Our West Hartford team working hard at Westmoor Park

GWWOrks: A Year in Review

GWWOrks began the year with its annual American Red Cross blood drive, where the Baltimore team volunteered in January. As warmer weather arrived, community service efforts moved outdoors. Throughout the spring, team members planted trees, harvested vegetables, and participated in park cleanups across the region.

In April, volunteers supported Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, Maryland—a long-time client and the largest independent nonprofit nature center in the region—by assisting with event setup for one of its many community programs. In recognition of Earth Day, the team partnered with the Friends of Patterson Park to help clean one of Baltimore’s oldest parks. GWWOrks also collaborated with Civic Works Baltimore’s Community Landscaping Program to prepare land and plant trees in East Baltimore’s Johnston Square neighborhood.

Community engagement continued through the summer months. In July, the West Hartford team returned for its third volunteer day at Westmoor Park, an agricultural education center featuring a demonstration farm, gardens, meadows, and trails. Volunteers spent the morning weeding, pruning, and maintaining the park grounds. At the same time, the Baltimore team volunteered at First Fruit Farms in Freeland, Maryland, harvesting 40,000 pounds of cabbage that were distributed to food banks across Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

In the fall, GWWOrks put its commitment to sustainability into action by volunteering with Second Chance, where team members prepared reclaimed wood for resale. Additional efforts included tree planting in Central Baltimore’s Barclay neighborhood, contributing to long-term environmental and community benefits.

As the year concluded, GWWOrks focused on spreading holiday cheer and meeting essential needs. Volunteers delivered gifts and holiday essentials to 52 children at Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School through the Baltimore Family Alliance and supported New Haven’s New Reach Gift-A-Family program. The firm also collected jackets and cold-weather gear for the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools’ Warmth & Joy Campaign, helping ensure students arrived at school warm and ready to learn.

GWWOrks is proud of its contributions throughout 2025 and looks forward to continuing its tradition of service and community partnership in 2026.



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National News

DESIGNING A FUTURE THAT THRIVES

AIA PRESIDENT EVELYN LEE, FAIA, NOMA, REFLECTS ON A YEAR OF RENEWAL AND POSSIBILITY.



There are seasons in our lives when the pace of the world slows just long enough for us to understand the meaning behind our work. This year has been one of those seasons for me. A year when the conversations felt deeper, the responsibilities felt heavier, and the possibilities felt closer than ever before. A year when I saw, with renewed clarity, that architects do far more than shape the built environment. We give form to the future.

When I began my journey as the 101st President of the American Institute of Architects, I carried with me both the weight of history and the promise of what could be. I knew our profession stood at a turning point. I knew the Institute needed to rediscover its center, its trust, and its purpose. And I knew that the path forward would not be built only on policy and process, but on something more elemental: a shared belief in who we are and what we can become.

So, this year, we did the quiet, essential work of reconstruction. We asked ourselves hard questions. We looked inward at our governance, our frameworks, and our long-standing ways of operating. Through the ongoing efforts of the Governance Task Force and the Strategic Planning Committee, we began to carefully align the organization with the realities of practice today. These efforts are not loud. They are not finished. They do not seek attention. But they form the roots of an organization prepared to meet a rapidly changing world with steadiness and conviction.

We also renewed AIA's headquarters—a project that feels less like a renovation and more like a promise that we will embody the values we champion. A promise that AIA will evolve with the same thoughtfulness and creativity that we ask of every client and every community. The building reflects



our aspirations, a living testament to the power of design to restore, to reimagine, and to remind us of what is possible.

And then there was the work that awakened something even deeper: the AIA Housing Summit. A moment when we welcomed leaders from every corner of the housing ecosystem to confront one of the most urgent challenges of our time. This gathering felt different. It felt human. It felt honest. It felt like a collective breath taken together, an acknowledgment that while architects cannot solve the housing crisis alone, we cannot allow ourselves to be on the sidelines of that conversation. This summit reminded me that architects carry a rare ability to bridge worlds that do not often meet. We bring together community and policy,



creativity and practicality, vision and responsibility.

Throughout the year, as I met architects across the country and around the world, I heard stories of hope and resilience, disappointment and reinvention, uncertainty and ambition. I spoke with emerging professionals standing at the threshold of their careers, with firm leaders shepherding their practices through change, and with educators imagining new futures for architectural learning. Every one of these conversations affirmed that our profession is not static. It is alive. It is evolving. It is reaching for something more.

That spirit is why I continue to believe so deeply in my vision for AIA, and its members, to thrive. “Thrive” is not a campaign. “Thrive”

is a posture. “Thrive” is a refusal to shrink in the face of complexity. “Thrive” is a commitment to stretch, to question, to learn, and to lead. “Thrive” invites us to replace fear with curiosity, scarcity with possibility, exhaustion with purpose. It reminds us that architects are at our best not when we are merely surviving the pressures of our profession, but when we allow ourselves to imagine boldly again.

Serving as your 101st President has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I carry immense gratitude for the trust you placed in me, for the honesty you shared, and for the hope you allowed me to witness in so many corners of our profession. I will continue to support AIA and leave this role with a full heart and a clear belief in our direction.

We stand at an inflection point, but we do not stand alone. We stand together, guided by the collective understanding that architecture has always been about more than buildings. It is about people. It is about possibility. It is about the courage to envision a future that does not yet exist, and the discipline to draw it into being.

- *We are a profession built on imagination.*
- *We are a profession built on resilience.*
- *We are a profession built on the belief that a better world is possible.*

And together, with a shared commitment to thrive, we will continue to design it.



2026 AIA AWARDS



Architecture Firm Award 2026: Duvall Decker

In a celebration of purpose-driven design, Duvall Decker has been honored with the 2026 AIA Architecture Firm Award. This recognition highlights the Mississippi-based firm's unwavering commitment to architecture as a vehicle for social change, community advocacy, and design excellence.

Founded in 1998 by Anne Marie Duvall Decker, FAIA, and Roy Decker, FAIA, the practice has established a powerful model for how architects can serve communities, particularly those with limited resources, by creating spaces that foster dignity, equity, and public good.

At the heart of Duvall Decker's philosophy is the belief that architecture is an act of service. This ethos permeates their portfolio and has earned wide recognition. As Billie Tsien, FAIA, of Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, writes, "The focus of Duvall Decker is one of design as an act of service. There is no better exemplar."

Their practice moves beyond conventional models through deep, empathetic listening and a commitment to addressing complex community needs. Kelle E. Menogan Sr., former vice president of Tougaloo College, notes that the firm's distinction lies in its "skill and compassion to truly listen to and understand the complex needs of a client."

Duvall Decker has built an ethical, community-centered practice that demonstrates how thoughtful design can catalyze revitalization and empowerment. Marlon Blackwell, FAIA, describes their work as "architecture as a radical act of service," while Carol Ross Barney, FAIA, observes that few firms so fully integrate advocacy into every aspect of practice, making their architecture a lasting expression of civic responsibility.

Photo credit - Sully Clemmer Photography



Whitney M. Young Jr. Award 2026: Michael Ford, FAIA, NOMA

AIA has named Michael Ford, FAIA, NOMA, as the recipient of the 2026 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award. This prestigious honor celebrates an architect who exemplifies the profession’s social responsibility by actively addressing critical issues like inclusiveness and equity. Ford, known widely as “The Hip Hop Architect,” has earned this distinction through his visionary work merging hip hop culture with architecture to inspire underrepresented youth and create pathways into the design profession.

Photo credit - Q11 photography



Edward C. Kemper Award 2026: Vivian Lee, FAIA

AIA has bestowed its highest service honor, the Edward C. Kemper Award, upon Vivian Lee, FAIA, a design principal at Gensler. This award recognizes an architect who has made significant, impactful contributions to the profession through dedicated service to AIA. Lee’s profound influence as a mentor and her tireless advocacy for equity, diversity, and inclusion have reshaped the architectural landscape for the better.

Photo credit - Aydin Arjomand



AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Architectural Education 2026: Sarah Whiting, Assoc. AIA

Sarah M. Whiting, Assoc. AIA, a transformative leader in architectural education, has been awarded the 2026 AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education. This prestigious honor, presented jointly by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to architectural education for at least a decade.

Photo credit - Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard Staff Photographer



Gold Medal Award 2026: Shigeru Ban, Hon. FAIA

Shigeru Ban revolutionized architecture with renewable materials like paper and timber, creating resilient, sustainable designs like disaster shelters and the Cardboard Cathedral. As an educator for over 30 years, he empowers students through hands-on projects, showcasing architecture’s potential for sustainability and service.

Photo credit - Shigeru Ban Architects



AIA SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: SAP Training

Get certified to assess buildings for safety after a disaster.

One of the best ways architects, engineers, or certified building inspectors can support communities after a disaster is serving as building evaluators through the Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Training Program.

This training is the standard of certification, providing leadership, advocacy, and training to architects who are interested in volunteering their professional skills in times of crisis.

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to consistently and safely assess structures for habitability and will receive a nationally recognized CAL OES registration ID card from the state of California.

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The AIA Connecticut Office will be closed from December 25th to January 2nd



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Building Performance & Regulations (BP&R) Meeting

EDI Knowledge Community Meeting (IN-PERSON)

9

Women in Architecture (WIA) Knowledge Community Meetings

13

Allied Advisory Meeting

14

Defining Code Philosophy and Literacy

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Emerging Professionals (EP) Community Meeting

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Learning from Leaders: Award Winners Share Their EDI Strategies

Committee on the Environment (COTE) Meeting on C. Scale with Jack Rusk

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Professional Practice Knowledge Community Meeting

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Committee on Design Meeting

AIA CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

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AIA Leadership Summit 2026

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February 11–14, 2026
Washington, D.C.

One of AIA's best-attended leadership events, this annual gathering offers a unique platform to engage in critical policy discussions with lawmakers while strengthening leadership skills as AEC professionals and AIA chapter leaders.

Over four days, you'll connect with nearly 700 AIA members, volunteer leaders, and chapter executives from across the country to align advocacy with leadership, apply best practices in association management, and amplify your impact.

