

Report

from the Strategic Council

From:

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To:

AIA Hawaii, AIA Honolulu, AIA Maui
December/ November Board Meetings

Mission: *The AIA Strategic Council advances the architectural profession by informing the AIA Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. The Council has an outward and forward-focused vision with an emphasis on long-term goals and outcomes.*

What Does the Strategic Council Do? To learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council, click [HERE](#).

From the Councilor

It has been my pleasure servicing as Hawaii's Strategic Councilor. Welcome Wayne Goo as you 2026 Councilor.

From the Moderator + Vice Moderator

Members of the Council took part in the October AIA Leadership Exchange Calls where we provided a recap of 2025 and a preview of 2026. Those slides are attached to this monthly report for reference.

Our 2025 Year in Review Journal is anticipated to be released mid-November. In there, you will find an overview of the Council's activities and initiatives throughout the year along with final executive summaries from each of our seven study groups. A big thank you to the Communications team for their efforts on that publication.

We are excited to welcome our cohort of 22 new Councilors for the 2026-2028 term. We held our virtual onboarding session in early October and look forward to our preliminary study group meetings in November.

We extend a deeply appreciative Thank You to our 2025 Bethune Fellows cohort. Your contributions to the Council over the past 3 and 4 years have truly made a meaningful impact on the future direction of the Council and AIA. Whether your next steps are leadership positions in a Knowledge Community, a Component, or outside of AIA in another organization, we are excited to see what you do next!

Keep an eye out for the next monthly report from the Council, which will be in January of 2026. That report will cover our refined 2026 areas of study under the larger umbrella topics of: Regenerative Nation, Housing, Practice, Value, and Neuroarchitecture. Focused areas of study will be refined through generative discussions with the Board and Council during Governance Week. We welcome feedback and comments on these topics - please reach out to your state Councilor or the Moderators to share your thoughts.

Jessica M. O'Donnell, AIA 2025 Moderator + **Abigail R. Brown, FAIA** 2025 Vice Moderator
Special thanks to our **committee chairs** who help guide our work and inform our decision-making process:
Jeff Seabold, FAIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), **Mary Womble, AIA** & **Marc Mondor, AIA** (Communications Co-Chairs), and **Mike Daly, AIA** (Elections Chair).

Institute News

AIA SELECTS CAROLE WEDGE, FAIA, NOMA, LEED AP, AS THE NEXT EVP/CEO

The AIA Board of Directors voted unanimously to select Carole Wedge, FAIA, NOMA, LEED AP, as the next AIA Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer. Carole served 17 years as CEO of Shepley Bulfinch and brings experience and vision that align directly with AIA's mission to empower and inspire architects to improve society and transform the world. She will begin her transition into the CEO role on December 1, 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

AIA CONDEMNS DEMOLITION OF THE WHITE HOUSE EAST WING AND CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE

The AIA has released a statement expressing deep concern that the full demolition of the White House East Wing stands in direct contradiction to earlier public assurances that the project "*will be near it but not touching it and it will pay total respect to the existing building.*" The demolition of the East Wing without full public engagement or clarity undermines the very process that the design and preservation professions developed to protect our civic architecture.

The AIA calls on decision-makers to halt any further irreversible alteration of the historic fabric, to publish full documentation of the project's scope, budget, schedule and procurement path, and to reopen meaningful engagement with the professional community and the public. More information can be found [here](#).

AIA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS AWARDS GRANT FOR AIR-PURIFYING BUILDING FAÇADE RESEARCH

The AIA College of Fellows awarded the 2025 Latrobe Prize – a \$150,000 grant – to a nine-person research team to explore how building facades can enhance human health by functioning as air purifiers. The research team focused on two primary goals: identifying the optimal filter for the system through iterative testing and fabricating a proof-of-concept fresh-air bus shelter. More information on the research team and the College of Fellows Latrobe Prize can be found [here](#).

AIA ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION MATCHING GRANT TO THE ARCHITECTS FOUNDATION TO RENEW AND PRESERVE THE OCTAGON

AIA and its philanthropic partner, the Architects Foundation, announced a \$4 million matching grant to renew and preserve The Octagon, the 225-year-old National Historic Landmark located near the White House and the AIA Global Campus for Architecture & Design. This transformative gift underscores AIA's dedication to safeguarding architectural heritage and will ensure The Octagon's continued service as a museum and center for design, preservation, and sustainability. More information can be found [here](#).

AIA CONVENES HOUSING INDUSTRY LEADERS TO ADDRESS HOUSING SHORTAGE CRISIS

The AIA recently convened leaders from key nationally focused housing organizations at the AIA Housing Summit to foster collaboration, gather insights, and inform housing policies. Held at the District Architecture Center, this summit brought together CEOs, Vice Presidents, and senior leaders from nearly 20 national

housing organizations in response to AIA's 2025 National Housing Survey, which projected a shortfall of 4-7 million housing units, a deficit expected to grow by an additional 2 million within the next five years. More information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
November 3-5	Women's Leadership Summit	Atlanta, GA	Registration
December 3-5	AIA Governance Week	Washington, D.C.	

For more events, visit the AIA events page at: <https://www.aia.org/community/events>

Feedback

We value your input! If you have questions or ideas for the Strategic Council, email us at StrategicCouncil@aia.org. To learn more about the work of the Strategic Council, please visit the [Strategic Council webpage at AIA.org](#).

Attachments

- Strategic Council – October 2025 Leadership Exchange Call slides