



STUDENT CATEGORY

CALL FOR ENTRIES



DESIGN 20 AWARDS 26

Shaping Our Communities Through Design Excellence

SUBMISSION DATES

Mar 23 Submission Opens
June 5 Submission Deadline



Welcome to the AIA Honolulu Design Awards

STUDENT CATEGORY CALL FOR ENTRIES

Since 1958, the AIA Honolulu Annual Design Awards Program has provided an avenue for AIA Honolulu member architects to be recognized by their peers for their outstanding achievements and dedication to excellence in architectural design. In 2016, AIA Honolulu was proud to provide the same opportunity for students, for the first time ever. AIA Honolulu is dedicated to supporting the architectural programs of all our community's schools.

The Student Category was established to recognize student achievements in the design studio and provide a forum for student work to be celebrated beyond the academic setting.

Extending beyond these exemplary individual recognitions, the Student Design Awards aims to:

- Honor outstanding student achievements in [AIA Framework for Design Excellence](#).
- Highlight design talent in Hawaii and elevate the standard of excellence in a design studio.
- Encourage the greater design community to understand and advocate for student design projects, technologies, innovations and ideas.
- Promote camaraderie between students who are pursuing an architectural or design education in Hawaii.
- Support students' pursuit of a professional career in a design related field.

SUBMISSION FEE **FREE!** In celebration of the Student Design Awards' 10th Anniversary, competition submissions are free. *Tickets to the Design Awards Gala will be available for purchase with pricing announced closer to the event.*

2026 SCHEDULE

- Monday March 23 Call for Entry & Online Submissions Opens
- Friday June 5 Submissions Due - Must be completed/submitted/paid by 5:00 PM (HST)
- Friday July 24 Design Awards Gala at the Hawaii Theater. Winners will be announced.

ELIGIBILITY - To be eligible for this award:

- You must be currently registered as a student(s) within an architectural design program in Hawaii or have recently graduated (within 6 months from submission due date) from an architectural program in Hawaii. Qualifying design programs include 1) Environmental + Interior Design Program at Chaminade University, 2) Architectural, Engineering and CAD Technologies Program at Honolulu Community College, and 3) Bachelor of Environmental Design, Master of Landscape Architecture, Global Track, Master of Architecture, or Doctor of Architecture program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture.
- Work must be completed entirely and solely by the student(s), and must have been completed within the past two semesters prior to the entry deadline. EXCEPTION: Work from studios/classes that ended after the 2025 AIA Student Design Awards deadline on June 3, 2025 are eligible.
- Work must be architectural or three-dimensional in nature. Graphic design projects will not be considered.
- Group projects are acceptable, but recognition must be given to each team member.
- Projects submitted must be an assignment of an academic design program. Projects completed in a professional work or freelance setting are not permitted.
- Only one project is allowed to be submitted per student.
- Undergraduate students must submit undergraduate-level work.
- Graduate students must submit graduate-level work.
- Capstone projects or capstone research and Doctoral projects or doctoral research are ineligible for submission.
- Paid UH Community Design Studio projects are ineligible; however, academic UH Community Design Studio projects are eligible.
- Projects that received a previous AIA Honolulu Student Design Award are ineligible.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

There will be an Award of Excellence and Honorable Mentions for the following categories:

1. Undergraduate
2. Graduate

Number of awards at each level is at the Jury's discretion.

- Undergraduate category:
 - Chaminade University: All current and recently graduated (within one year) students of the Environmental+Interior Design Program are eligible
 - Honolulu Community College: All current and recently graduated (within one year) students of the Architectural, Engineering and CAD Technologies Program
 - University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture: All current and recently graduated students (within one year) of the Bachelor of Environmental Design program are eligible. However, work must be from 2nd year undergraduate-level design studio minimum.
- Graduate category:
 - University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture: All current students of any graduate program are eligible. Submission work must be from a graduate-level studio, however, capstone or doctoral projects and research are ineligible.

AWARD LEVELS

Award of Excellence - Requires unanimous vote of the jury that a project excels in all aspects. Reserved for those projects which stand out from all of the meritorious award winners. This highest honor recognizes projects which are deemed to exemplify excellence of architectural design on all levels of analysis, and exemplify the highest standards of student achievement.

Honorable Mention - Responds to notable achievements in one or more particular project aspects; area(s) that stood out, as agreed through consensus by the jury.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Entries will be judged for the success with which the project has met its individual requirements, with particular emphasis on [AIA's Framework for Design Excellence](#). Entries will be evaluated individually, not in competition with others. The jury uses anonymous written and visual material submitted for their analysis.

Project authorship will remain concealed throughout the deliberations of the jury. If the authorship is revealed on any of the images, plans, captions or narratives the entry will be disqualified.

2026 JURY

Juror selection is based upon locating impartial individuals who represent high levels of achievement, design quality and professional integrity. Every attempt is made to create a balanced panel that will provide fair judgment to all entries, regardless of project type, scale or requirements.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must clearly demonstrate process and accomplishment to address the judging criteria noted above.

SUBMISSION PROCESS / TASK LIST

1. Project Requirements (PDF):

Upload a document in PDF format as supplied by studio professor explaining project program requirements (if none, then provide a written explanation of the program requirements for the project). This document must include studio professor, semester, course number and information such as project timeline, project site, scope, parameters, final studio deliverables and if project was done by an individual or group, etc.

Do not upload the entire course syllabus; only upload the portion explaining project program requirements and other details as requested.

PDF file naming format: Project Name_Requirements.pdf (no student names in title)

2. Written Narrative: (DO NOT IDENTIFY the student or students in any way)

Fill in the online form explaining your design concept and highlight important features of the design (what makes this project special). Emphasize the elements of design achievement as defined in Judging Criteria by speaking to at least ONE principal from the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. Must not exceed 500 words.

3. Supporting Images/Diagrams/Graphics (PDF):

Upload a supporting graphic document in PDF format. This document is meant to graphically represent the project to the jury. Entries will be judged based on graphic content rather than graphic layout. All images and drawings submitted must be original works created by the students.

- Maximum pages allowed is 2 (two), landscape format at 11"x 17" and total file size cannot exceed 10 MB.
- No more than 8 (eight) images are allowed for the entire document.

The images may showcase the following:

- A primary overall "hero shot" or key perspectives of the project
- Site plan
- Section drawings
- Elevation views
- Feature elements, compelling details, or critical sketches that make your project stand out.
- The total word count per page should not exceed 100.
- Anonymity is a MUST: personal names are not to be visible on any pages or images.
- PDF File naming format: Project Name.pdf (no student names in title)

4. Publicity Images (4 in JPG):

Upload up to four (4) separate images to be submitted as part of the full online submittal. These images should showcase the project for publicity purposes. These images may not include any text.

Requirements: Print-quality (300 dpi) image of approximately 2400 x 4000 pixels (if possible) in JPG.

JPG file naming format: Project Name_1.jpg (in order of preference, no student names in title)
Project Name_2.jpg
Project Name_3.jpg
Project Name_4.jpg

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Each project must be individually submitted online. Payment processing is done on a per entry basis. You will create a unique login as a user and have the ability to enter multiple submissions within that account. You can go back and review and edit your submission(s) until the deadline. After Monday, June 5, 5:00 PM (HST), no changes can be made to any submissions. An administrative fee will be charged to all withdrawn projects, where AIA has been notified in advance of the request to withdraw. After Monday, June 5, 2026 no refund requests from entrants will be considered. There will be no refunds for submissions that are LATE, INCOMPLETE, or disqualified per the deadlines/guidelines of this awards program.

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