National Representative Report

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Mission/Activities:

The AIA Strategic Council is a thinktank of architects who identify emerging issues, generate new ideas, and inform the National AIA Board on what matters most to members.

News:

This year the Strategic Council worked through five study groups: Housing, Neuroarchitecture, Practice, Regenerative Design and Value. I sat in on the Practice group, which interviewed architects across the country about how they've diversified their businesses as the practice environment changes. We met as a full Council in February, April, June (in person at AIA26 in San Diego) and September.

In September we prioritized the year's recommendations and took them to the AIA Board on September 16. We're asking the Board to fund a Guide to the Future of Practice, formally support regenerative design in AIA's design standards, and keep advocating for licensure. We also reviewed the updated Code of Ethics and talked about possible term limits for Councilors.

In August the Council elected two new At-Large Representatives, a 2027 Moderator-Elect, and an At-Large Director to the AIA Board. A poll of Leadership Exchange participants ranked communicating the value of architects as the top topic to study in 2027, and we're finalizing next year's study groups this month.

At AIA26, Councilors asked how AIA could have more visibility with mayors' and governors' offices. AIA Hawaii and AIA Honolulu are already active in local government affairs, and I'd welcome your thoughts on where we could do more.

On October 12, AIA staff walked the Council through the 2027 budget. It's balanced, with chapter support rising to $3.8 million from $3.3 million. I'll share more after Governance Week, December 9 to 11 in Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Events

- November 1-3: Women's Leadership Summit, Kansas City, MO
- November 16-18: Government Affairs Forum Summit, Washington, DC
- December 9-11: AIA Governance Week, Washington, DC