

ABOUT: The AIA Maine Design Awards program recognizes outstanding architecture projects by our members.

SIMPLE, YET MEANINGFUL: Many of our submission questions around AIA's Framework for Design Excellence. The AIA Framework for Design Excellence is a tool developed by the AIA. This tool aims to help transform the day-to-day practice of architects to achieve a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient and healthy built environment.

The questions are designed to be simple, yet meaningful. Most are Yes/No questions that focus on design strategies and processes. In some cases, the questions provide an external link so that relevant metrics can be looked up online.

Throughout the submission, we have provided context for each of the ten measures and shared some top-line, best practices to help incorporate high-performance strategies into any project.

CRITERIA:

The sole judging criterion is design excellence. The jury is empowered to determine the extent to which design excellence is informed by aesthetic, technical, functional, contextual, sustainability, social or other characteristics. The jury may elect to honor projects by building type or other categories, or may choose to make no such distinctions.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Built Work:

- Any structure or building of any size or project type (including rehabs, interior architecture, monuments, etc.) located anywhere in the world and designed by an AIA Maine-based architect / firm is eligible.
- Associate AIA Maine-based members may submit projects that do not require the stamp of a licensed professional.
- Projects must have been completed after January 1, 2017.
- Projects that have been honored in this program in past years are not eligible.
- Work by the design professionals serving as jurors this year (or by their firms) are not eligible.

Eligibility for UNBUILT submissions:

- AIA Maine-based architects / firms are eligible to submit
- Architecture students studying in Maine or with a primary residence in Maine are eligible to submit their current student work.
- Students who graduated in the past two years who studied in Maine or with a primary residence in Maine are eligible to submit their student work.
- Architectural educators teaching in Maine or with a permanent residence in Maine are eligible to submit.
- Unbuilt architectural designs of any project type are eligible including purely theoretical projects and unbuilt client-sponsored projects (buildings, interiors, transportation infrastructure, monuments, etc.—all project types).

2024 Updates

- This year, we are excited to announce that we are piloting the Architrave Award. The Architrave Award aims to acknowledge excellence in traditional design through the thoughtful adaptation of tradition to address 21st-century needs. Works are to be designed in a style broadly considered as "traditional." This award will run simultaneously with the Design Awards program but will have a separate jury. The jury will be instructed to review these projects in the context of excellence in traditional design. Projects may be submitted for consideration in the Design Awards program or the Architrave Award, but not in both programs. The eligibility requirements, fees, and deadlines are the same for both awards programs.

DATES + DEADLINES

- **Friday, January 19, 2024** - Registration opens
- **Thursday, February 15, 2024, noon** - Informational webinar session on how to use submission software and a Q&A
- **Friday, February 16, 2024, 11:59 pm** - Early bird registration deadline (prices increase \$100 entry after this date)
- **Deadline: Friday, March 8, 2024, 11:59 pm** - Final submission deadline. All online submission material and payment must be completed by this deadline.
- **2024 Design Awards Celebration:** TBA

FEES

- \$150/entry for the first entry and \$100 for subsequent entries on or before Friday, February 17, 2024.
- \$250/entry for the first entry and \$200 for subsequent entries after February 17, 2024
- Free student entries.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Project Information

- + **Architecture Category** (Select one): Institutional & Commercial, Single Family Residential , Renovation & Adaptive Reuse , Small Projects (budgets under \$350,000), Unbuilt Professional, Unbuilt Student
- + **Client** (may be withheld if client prefers)
- + **Location of Project**
- + **Project Architect (or Project Designer for Student Entries)**
- + **Architecture Team**
- + **Consultant Team**
- + **Climate** Find your climate zone: Climate Zones Map
- + **Number of Stories**
- + **Floor Area**
- + **Site Area**

Measure I: Design for Integration

Design for Integration asks: What is the big idea behind this project? Does this project provide utility, beauty, and delight? How does the project engage all the senses for its users, and connect people to place? High impact strategies to design for integration include:

- Design a building to lift the spirits and delight the senses.
- Write a Vision Statement that resonates with the design team, the investors, the operators and managers, the users, the community, and the client.
- Understand and take full advantage of everything the site has to offer.
- Take inspiration from architectural history. The buildings we revere today provide lessons for the aesthetics or concepts that future generations will want to keep around.
- Incorporate lessons from other disciplines—such as psychology, anthropology, and neuroscience—to appeal to universal biological proclivities and culturally specific values.
- Diagram the relationship between the design concept and how sustainability measures are integrated and complementary to the project's goals for beautiful design

- + **Project At-A-Glance Description.** 50 words or less.
- + **Project Summary.** 300 words or less.
- + **Performance Statement** (up to 3 measures). Select up to 3 measures from the Ten Measures for Design Excellence to describe how building performance strategies are integrated into the project's overall design goals. 300 words or less.
- + **Project Images**
 - + Submissions must include no more than fourteen (14) digital slides arranged in the order you wish them viewed.
 - + Please note that your first slide will be used as the project's feature image on printed scrolls, on our website, and for winning entries in publication.
 - + Each digital slide must be 6MB or less, in jpg format.
 - + A composition of drawings, images, and other illustrations may constitute one (1) digital slide as long as the composition complies with all other submission requirements.
 - + Entry must include a minimum of a site plan (including north arrow and graphic scale), floor plans, one (1) building section, and one (1) wall section if applicable to project type.
 - + Do not include any identification of entrant or project team in the digital slide section.
 - + Please note: submissions will be reviewed by jurors on a computer and/or projection screen. Review line drawing submissions & text carefully for graphic quality at this resolution.
 - + Captions are not required. Jurors will view captions where entered. Captions must not contain any reference to firm, project team, or client.
 - + Photographer Credits
- + **Project Detail Image**
 - + One additional image of a project detail can be added for consideration for our new "project detail acknowledgement."

Measure 2: Design for Equitable Communities

Design Excellence is inextricably tied to the wellness of communities. High-impact strategies to design for equitable communities include:

- Seek creative strategies to promote alternative transportation and decrease dependence on single-occupancy vehicles.
- Identify your community and work with them to define shared goals.
- Seek strategies that improve access for the physically disabled (such as wide entrances, smooth thresholds, and ramps). These features also benefit families with strollers, bicycle commuters, and those with temporary physical injuries. Efforts should be made to design for wheels, even when not required by ADA.
- Go out of your way to make the project accessible to someone who might not have otherwise benefited from it.

- + **Walk Score:** Find your project's walk score: www.walkscore.com
- + **Community engagement level:** (: No Community Engagement, Informed, Consulted, Involved, Collaborated)
- + **Universal design level:** (: Project scope did not address accessibility, Meets state / federal accessibility law, Incorporates Aging in Place, Prioritizes universal design/inclusive design for all users)

Measure 3: Design for Ecosystems

Design Excellence protects and benefits natural ecosystems and habitats in the presence of human development. High-impact strategies to design for ecology include:

- Develop a project-specific indexing framework that assesses attributes of the surrounding pre-development, quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Design landscaping composed of 100 percent native plantings, especially species that attract pollinators. Avoid all decorative turf grass.
- Integrate bird collision deterrent design strategies.
- Create natural nighttime habitat conditions by eliminating unnecessary artificial light and sounds while no humans are present.

- + **Site Environment:** (: Urban, Suburban, Rural)
- + **Is this project on a previously developed site?** (yes or no)
- + **Is Stormwater managed on-site?** (yes or no)
- + **Does landscape design focus on native plants?** (yes or no)
- + **Does landscape design promote biodiversity?** (yes or no)
- + **Does the landscape design provide habitat for local fauna and pollinators?** (yes or no)
- + **Does the site design align with dark sky standards?** (yes or no)
- + **Does project comply with recognized bird collision deterrence criteria?** (yes or no)

Measure 4: Design for Water

Design Excellence conserves and improves the quality of water as a precious resource. High-impact strategies to design for water include:

- Benchmark indoor water use and compare this number to anticipated use.
- Reduce or eliminate outdoor water use (Irrigation Reduction/ Elimination).
- Manage stormwater runoff with the goals of increasing on-site infiltration and improving water quality downstream.
- Capture and reuse rainwater on-site (stretch goal).

- + **Is stormwater managed on site?** (yes or no)
- + **Is potable water used for irrigation?** (yes or no)
- + **Is potable water used for cooling?** (yes or no)
- + **Is grey/blackwater reused on-site?** (yes or no)
- + **Does the project design meet EPA "Water Sense" goals for indoor plumbing fixtures?** (yes or no)
- + **Is rainwater collected on-site?** (yes or no)

Measure 5: Design for Economy

Design Excellence will be implemented on a broad scale only if it makes sense financially. High-impact strategies to design for economy include:

- Reuse an existing building if possible.
- Rightsize the program early and keep the square footage as efficient as possible while managing design for change.
- Edit your palette: Keep the total number of materials to a minimum.

- + **Building efficiency / right-sizing:** Share your SF / Occupant ratio below (i.e. 500 SF / person).
- + **Does the project address issues of affordability?** (yes or no)
- + **Does the project reduce built area by designing spaces for multiple purposes?** (yes or no)

Page: Measure 6: Design for Energy

Design Excellence conserves energy while improving building performance, function, comfort, and enjoyment.

High-impact strategies to design for energy include:

- Benchmark and set an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) goal.
- Establish design benchmarks and targets for Lighting Power Density (LPD), Window-to-Wall Ratio (WWR), and plug loads.
- Select climate and program-appropriate passive strategies.
- Model for energy performance.
- Understand and work with behavioral patterns (automated v. manual window shades).
- Conduct a post-occupancy evaluation and commission.
- Design solar-ready buildings.

Maine Building Benchmark Data

Energy Use Intensity (EUI) = (kBTU / SF / Year)

	Baseline EUI	2030 Target EUI (80% Reduction)
Dormitory	126	25.2
Educational (K-12)	102	20.4
Educational (College)	166	33.2
Hospital	260	52
Library	157	31.4
Museum	57	11.4
Office	99	19.8
Performing Arts	57	11.4
Residential (single-family)	48	9.6
Residential (multi-family)	59	11.8

- + **How did you plan for the energy use of this building?** (Check all that apply: Did not consider, Met the prescriptive IECC 2015 (current Maine energy code), Exceeded the prescriptive IECC 2015, Modeled the performance, Measured the performance, Other)
- + **If exceeded, elaborate.**
- + **If modeled:**
 - + Modeled Net Site EUI
 - + Predicted reduction from benchmark
 - + Does the project meet the 2030 Challenge of a 80% reduction from Baseline EUI? (yes or no)
 - + Did you use the energy model to inform decisions during design? (yes or no)
- + **If measured:**
 - + Actual Net EUI
 - + Measured reduction from benchmark
 - + Percentage of project's total energy use met by renewables
 - + Explain the role and type of renewables
- + **If other, elaborate.**

Page: Measure 7: Design for Well-Being

Design Excellence supports comfort, health, and wellness for the people who inhabit or visit buildings.

High-impact strategies to design for wellness include:

- Ensure that all occupied spaces have access to an operable window.
- Give all occupants individual control over their immediate environment.
- Allow occupants to experience natural, biophilic elements through a variety of senses.
- Develop acoustical goals and a plan for achieving them.

- + **Do regularly occupied spaces have operable windows?** (yes or no)
- + **Were glazing strategies studied to optimize daylight against excess heat gain?** (yes or no)
- + **Is indoor air filtered with MERV 13 or better?** (yes or no)
- + **Was ventilation, either natural or mechanical, optimized for occupant health?** (yes or no)
- + **Was a "Chemicals of Concerns" list used to inform material selection?** (yes or no)

Measure 8: Design for Resources

Design Excellence includes the informed selection of materials and products to reduce product-cycle environmental impacts while enhancing building performance. High-impact strategies to design for resources include:

- Whenever possible, existing buildings should be reused.
- Choose one or a few chemicals of concern, such as vinyl, to avoid in the project's materials.
- Choose building products that are known to be low carbon, such as wood and other natural materials.
- Specify concrete mixes with high percentages of supplementary cementitious materials (SCM) in order to minimize high-embodied carbon Portland Cement.
- Use only FSC-certified lumber.

- + **Did the project incorporate existing structure or infrastructure?** (yes or no)
- + **Primary Structural System** (: Wood Stud Frame, Steel Frame, Cast Concrete, Heavy Timber / CLT, Podium (non-combustible base + wood frame), Other)
- + **Building Embodied Carbon (metric tons).** Use this link to find the Metric Tons. of Embodied Carbon Dioxide: <http://buildcarbonneutral.org/>
- + **Was a Whole Building Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) conducted?** (yes or no)
- + **Was local and/or recycled a consideration for materials selection?** (yes or no)
- + **When considering "chemicals of concern," you can either choose an established list, such as the ILFI Living Building Challenge Red List, or create your own.** (yes or no)

Measure 9: Design for Change

Reuse, adaptability, and resilience are essential to Design Excellence. High-impact strategies to design for change include:

- Assess the probability and type of hazards over the service life of the building and evaluate the consequences of building at a specific site.
- Determine how projects can support immediate recovery in the first days and weeks of crisis and facilitate long-term return to normalcy.
- Talk to clients about their performance goals for the project during a disaster event—continuity of operations, community resource, quick recovery, or temporary relocation?

- + **What is the designed lifespan of the building?** (: 30 year - Market rate stick frame, 50 years - Typical single family, 200 years - Concrete, Steel, or Heavy timber, 1000 years - Solid Masonry)
- + **Was the building designed for disassembly and/or with flexible future use?** (yes or no)
- + **What are the most likely threats to this building?** (: Flooding, Drought, Power outages, Fires, Other)

Measure 10: Design for Discovery

Design strategies and best practices evolve over time through documented performance and shared knowledge of lessons learned. Design for Discovery is all about what the designer can learn from the finished product.

High-impact strategies to design for change include:

- Ask for utility bills and calculate actual measured EUI.
- Call the owner and ask for feedback (preferably every other month after occupancy and at least once after one year).
- Share mistakes and the strategies for fixing them with everyone. (This could be the project team, the office, or the profession at the local, regional, or national level—or even internationally, if significant.)

- + **Was a post-occupancy evaluation conducted on this project?** (yes or no)
- + **If you would like to share any lessons learned from your project, you may do so here.**

TERMS & CONDITIONS AND AFFIRMATIONS

Terms and Conditions

Information and illustrations for any project receiving an award or chosen for inclusion in any award citation will be taken from the information and materials submitted by the Entrant. There may be no further communication with an entrant prior to the announcement of an award. Accuracy, therefore, is essential.

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Right to disqualify or revoke

AIA Maine reserves the right at its sole discretion to disqualify a submission or revoke an award for any reason, including if it determines that the submission does not contain truthful information, is contrary to the standards or policies of AIA Maine, or if it could reflect negatively on AIA Maine.

By clicking below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the above terms and conditions.

I agree

Client/Owner Authorization *

I declare, acknowledge, and affirm that I have received authorization from the client/owner to submit this project into the AIA Maine Design Awards program.

yes

Client/Owner Confidential?

Would the client/owner like to remain anonymous?

Yes, the client/owner information is CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLICATION

No, the client/owner information may be used.

*Please note: if your project receives an award, we will ask you to get your client to sign a release form for publication.

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

The AIA Stands for universal respect for human dignity and the unbiased treatment of all persons in employments, civic, and business transactions regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical abilities, or religious practices.

I affirm that I uphold these values in all my business practices.

yes

Unpaid Labor Declaration

I declare, acknowledge, and affirm that I do not utilize, employ, or otherwise engage labor that is unpaid, including working students, and neither does any firm of which the I am an owner or manager, in part or in whole. I acknowledge this wording shall cover all persons working under my employ or that of my firm, regardless of position or title. I also recognize that exceptions recognized by federal law (such as legally defined internships or educational cooperative programs) or by the AIA Rules of the Board are exempt from this Policy. I understand that the Project my firm was involved in is being submitted for this award and I have no objections to this submittal.

yes

Approval and submission

By submitting this entry, I affirm that the submitting firm and all architecture firms involved in the project agree that the information and/or materials being submitted are complete and accurate.

I agree

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Is the submitting architect an AIA Maine Member or part of an AIA Maine Firm?

yes

Submitting Architect Name: