



# 2026 HONOR AWARDS

## RECOGNITIONS HONOR AWARDS

### **GOLD MEDAL**

The Gold Medal is the highest honor that AIA Detroit can bestow on individuals. It is conferred by the AIA Detroit Board of Directors in recognition of most distinguished service to the theory and practice of architecture or to AIA Detroit. The Gold Medal is open to an individual AIA Detroit member, or two individual AIA Detroit members who have created a singular body of distinguished architectural work.

The Gold Medal can be awarded posthumously and no more than one may be presented each year. While serving on the AIA Detroit Board of Directors, Board members are ineligible to be nominated for this award.

**Nominations for the Gold Medal must include a portfolio that showcases the Nominee's distinguished service to the practice of architecture, along with a letter of nomination/recommendation.**

### **WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE AWARD**

The Women in Architecture Honor Award acknowledges a woman whose contributions extend beyond design to include advocacy, mentorship, and leadership in advancing gender equity within the architectural profession. This award honors individuals who have challenged barriers, amplified underrepresented voices, and fostered a more inclusive and equitable future for architecture.

While serving on the AIA Detroit Board of Directors, Board members are ineligible to be nominated for this award.

**Nominations for the Women in Architecture Award must include a letter of nomination outlining the candidate's qualifications, impact, and story. At least one additional letter of recommendation is required. Additional materials demonstrating the Nominee's achievement in advancing gender equity within the architectural profession, which may include images, are welcome, but not mandatory.**

### **CHARLES BLESSING AWARD**

Presented to any individual. This award is in recognition of someone who shows leadership in planning and civic issues and exemplifies the vision, commitment, and the accomplishments of Charles A. Blessing, FAIA, the visionary Detroit city planner, architect, engineer, and educator who committed himself to the pursuit of a higher quality of life for all.

While serving on the AIA Detroit Board of Directors, Board members are ineligible to be nominated for this award.

**Nominations for the Charles Blessing Award must include a letter of nomination/recommendation. Additional materials supporting the nomination are welcome, but not mandatory.**



## 2026 RECOGNITIONS HONOR AWARDS

### CONTINUED

#### **YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD**

Architect members of AIA Detroit who have been licensed to practice architecture fewer than 10 years by the submission deadline are eligible to be nominated. This award is conferred by the AIA Detroit Board of Directors in recognition of proficiency and exceptional contributions to the profession by young architects. One or more award may be presented at the discretion of the jury.

Because of the time sensitivity of the Young Architect Award, AIA Detroit Board of Directors are eligible to be nominated for this award.

**Nominations for the Young Architect Award must include some form of resume and portfolio of professional work and volunteer experiences, as well as the year the Nominee became licensed.**

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBER AWARD**

Presented to an Associate AIA Detroit Chapter member in recognition of emerging professionals who have made significant contributions to the profession of architecture, the community and/or the AIA Detroit Chapter. Candidates must have experience working in the architectural profession, completed an undergraduate degree in architecture, and have been an Associate Member of the AIA Detroit Chapter no more than 10 years.

Because of the time sensitivity of the Associate Member Award, AIA Detroit Board of Directors who are Associate AIA members are eligible to be nominated for this award.

**Nominations for the Associate Member Award must include a letter of nomination/recommendation. Additional materials supporting the nomination are welcome, but not mandatory.**

#### **HONORARY ALLIED AWARD**

Presented to a non-architect not eligible for AIA professional membership. This award is in recognition of someone of esteemed character and has rendered distinguished service to the profession of architecture and fostered or promoted excellence in architecture. One or more award may be presented at the discretion of the jury.

**Nominations for the Honorary Allied Award must include a letter of nomination/recommendation. Additional materials supporting the nomination are welcome, but not mandatory.**

Both AIA Detroit members and individuals of the Metro Detroit design community are encouraged to offer nominations for any award listed here.

**Please send all nominations to [awards@aiadetroit.com](mailto:awards@aiadetroit.com) by May 18, 2026. Be sure to include contact information for the individual you are nominating!**