



The American  
Institute  
of Architects

# Member Benefits Guide

I  
AM  
AIA



Your  
passion  
is our  
purpose.

No matter where you live, where you practice, or where you are in your career, your AIA membership connects you to top-quality education, critical business and career resources, and a community deeply engaged in promoting the value of architecture.

You'll find like minds and provocative new perspectives among our 85,000+ members and nearly 300 chapters. Our members come from diverse backgrounds and follow many paths: Architecture, design, academia, technology, science, art, and media. They're architects, new graduates, designers, design enthusiasts, professors, solo practitioners, employees of large and boutique firms, and those on traditional, alternate, and hybrid career paths.

What they share: A passion for design, a conviction that it matters, and a commitment to improving lives through the built environment.

The AIA is committed to developing and sharing what you need for your chosen path—offering core member services such as education, career and business resources, and the combined power to advance critical legislative issues at all levels of government.

Use this guide to put the benefits of membership to work for you.

# Contents

6	AIA chapters
7	AIA membership designations
8	Continuing education
9	Advocacy
10	Industry research
11	Business and career resources
12	New to the profession
13	AIA Convention
14	Recognition
16	Member discounts
17	Publications
17	Architects Foundation
18	Contact us
19	AIA Directory



# AIA chapters

When you become an AIA member, you're immediately connected to benefits at the local, state, and national levels. That's a global community of nearly 300 chapters, giving you access to critical resources across a diverse, influential network.

- **Local and state chapters:** Most states have both local and state AIA chapters that work together to deliver a core set of benefits to members in that area. In addition to these core benefits, chapters offer additional benefits customized to support member needs in their unique local area. Your benefits through your local and state chapters include networking and education opportunities, legislative advocacy, awards programs, community awareness campaigns, and local events. Many local chapters also offer Architect Registration Exam® prep classes. Check with your chapter for more details.
- **International chapters:** The Continental Europe, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Japan, Shanghai, and Middle East chapters serve AIA members outside of the U.S. and connect them to dynamic programs and events around the globe. These chapters also act as liaisons to other international architecture organizations.
- **AIA National:** AIA National advances members' common causes, helping to set standards, raise public awareness, and advocate nationally for architects.

# AIA membership designations

Your AIA designation tells your professional story in just a few letters. It immediately shows others what you've achieved, how you connect to the profession, and what you're working toward. Visit the AIA website for full descriptions.

- **AIA** indicates that you are a U.S.-licensed architect.
- **Assoc. AIA** indicates that you are an architecture school graduate who is working in the field and who also may be working toward licensure. Faculty members in a university-based architecture program also use the Assoc. AIA designation.
- **Intl. Assoc. AIA** indicates that you are an international member with a license or equivalent from a licensing authority outside the U.S.
- **Allied members** are professional colleagues and design enthusiasts who do not hold a professional degree in architecture.
- **FAIA** indicates that you are a member who has made significant contributions to the field, met standards of excellence, and been accepted into the AIA College of Fellows.
- **Emeritus** applies to members in good standing with 15 years of successive membership and who meet age and retirement criteria.

# Continuing education

Shape your future with top-quality education from leaders in the field. You can earn AIA learning units (LUs) plus HSW, GBCI, and RIBA credits. You can also earn supplemental experience hours for NCARB's Intern Development Program.

## AIAU

Take five-star courses online, on your schedule, from anywhere in the world through AIAU, our online education portal. Courses are curated, led by top instructors, and rated highly by our community of users.

## Convention

AIA Convention is one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of architects and design professionals in the U.S. Choose from hundreds of high-quality education opportunities at this annual immersion into the latest trends and topics in architecture and design.

## Chapter conferences

Tap into continuing education opportunities and networking events through your state and/or local chapters.

## Transcript service

Take a course through AIAU, convention, or an AIA-approved CES provider, and we'll automatically update your AIA member transcript with your continuing education credit, for free. The AIA transcript is accepted by nearly all state licensing boards. NCARB accepts AIA transcripts for IDP (Intern Development Program) supplemental experience hours.

## Local chapter events

Gain new knowledge, earn continuing education credit, obtain IDP hours, and put globally important topics and trends into a regional context through chapter events.



# Advocacy

The AIA is your voice in policy and legislation at all levels of government. Our efforts, combined with the power of 85,000+ member advocates, help architects and design professionals protect their livelihood and make a difference.

## Federal relations

AIA helps architects and designers make a difference in Congress and with the White House on vital topics that impact your practice and your world, including tax and business issues, procurement, sustainability, historic preservation, and more.

## State and local relations

AIA chapters advocate on the legislative issues that impact the business and practice of architecture including licensing, project delivery, and qualifications-based selection.

## Codes advocacy

Members can participate in the development of building, energy, and environmental codes and standards to ensure that the voice of the architect is included in these important regulatory tools.

## AIA Advocacy Network

Be among the first to find out about—and act on—legislation that impacts your professional future, as well as special advocacy training and programs that help you speak up for architects.

## ArchiPAC

AIA's federal political action committee gives members a voice in the political process to advance our field.

# Industry research

Shape your business strategies with AIA research and market intelligence. Discover the latest practice trends and their impact on business and growth, see where the economy is heading, get compensation data for firm positions, and more.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <a href="#">Architecture Billings Index</a>     | Benefit from this glimpse into the future, with data and analysis of nonresidential construction activity nine to 12 months ahead.                    |
| <a href="#">AIA Compensation Report</a>         | Compare your compensation with national and regional averages and get guidance on salaries for your firm.   |
| <a href="#">AIA Firm Survey</a>                 | Assess your practice and operations against peers with this big-picture view of markets, services, and financial performance.                         |
| <a href="#">AIA Home Design Trends Survey</a>   | Stay ahead of the competition with highlights of trends in new home and remodeling projects.  |
| <a href="#">Consensus Construction Forecast</a> | Strengthen your strategy with this take on business conditions for the next 12 to 18 months, delivered by the nation's leading construction analysts. |
| <a href="#">AIA Foresight Report</a>            | See what's next with this report, which addresses key trends in practice and business and how these trends can affect your plans.                     |

# Business and career resources

Establish a standout presence and take your career to the next level with AIA's business and career resources. They'll help you promote your work, make it easier to do business, and streamline the hiring and job search process.

## Risk management

Browse reports and white papers on starting a firm, managing risk, financial planning, and more, directly from the AIA Trust.

## Insurance and financial programs

Browse insurance and financial programs designed to meet the needs of individual and small firms, available through the AIA Trust. Access the health care exchange, craft a custom plan of services to support you in any phase of your career, or choose long-term disability, cancer care, retirement plans, and professional and general liability products.

## Houzz

Reach the more than 25 million homeowners, remodelers, designers, and builders who use Houzz to plan their next moves. AIA's partnership with Houzz offers multiple ways to promote yourself to this large and motivated market.

## CMD Insight

What new project opportunities are approaching? What's your region's growth forecast? Find out with CMD Insight, developed for AIA members.

## MasterSpec

Get access to 2,100+ carefully researched and technically correct specifications for projects of any size, phase, type, and complexity through AIA's MasterSpec.

## Knowledge Communities

Start networking through AIA's 20+ online communities, professional interest groups where like-minded members network, stay current on the topics they care about, and explore unique interests.

## AIA Career Center

Streamline the hiring and job search process with confidential resume posting, online applications, and custom alerts. Employers who are members can also post job openings.

# New to the profession

Over 21,000 of our members are young professionals, and more are joining every day. The AIA makes you a priority with resources to help you create your path and build your leadership skills.

## Center for Emerging Professionals

Take advantage of resources, publications, groups, and events that meet the rapidly evolving needs of members who are recent graduates, transitioning to work at a firm, designing an individual path, working toward licensure, or within the first 10 years of practice.

## Networking, mentoring, and leadership opportunities

Develop new skills and advance your career through your local and/or state chapters.

## AIA Career Center

Streamline your job search process with confidential resume posting, online applications for architecture and design positions, and custom alerts.

## Transcript service

Track your continuing education activity with your AIA member transcript. NCARB accepts AIA transcripts for IDP (Intern Development Program) supplemental experience hours. The AIA member transcript is accepted by nearly all state licensing boards. When you take a course through AIAU, convention, or an AIA-approved continuing education (CES) provider, we'll automatically update your transcript with your continuing education credit.

## ARE® resources

Find local study groups and prep sessions, online study guides, and other resources for the Architect Registration Examination®.

## Intern Development Program resources

Access online information to help navigate the IDP program, find mentors, and earn credit.

## Emerging Professional's Companion

Gain experience beyond your job and earn core and elective credit with a mentor, even if you're unemployed.

# AIA Convention

It's one of the largest and most exciting annual gatherings of architects and design professionals in the U.S. The people, the ideas, the environment, and the setting all come together for an experience that will supercharge your year.

## Education

Follow an in-depth education track or create your own experience of half- and full-day workshops, deep-dive seminars, educational tours, and expo floor education that can earn you AIA LUs, plus HSW, GBCI, and RIBA credits.

## Speakers

Gain inspiration from world leaders, MacArthur “geniuses,” and billion-dollar entrepreneurs—they’ve all taken the stage as AIA keynoters.

## AIA Expo

Explore a temporary built environment of new products, technologies, and materials created by hundreds of exhibitors.

## Networking

Get in the mix at inclusive events, one-of-a-kind architectural tours, and gatherings in unique environments.

## Inspiration

Everything comes together at AIA Convention. Insider tours, inspiring seminars, visionary keynotes, and a dynamic expo floor—it’s a potent setting where you can shake up the status quo, kickstart a career change, discover new collaborators, and much more.

# Recognition

Design excellence is revealed in many ways. The AIA's 30+ award programs acknowledge and celebrate the diverse professional accomplishments and outstanding achievements of at every career stage.

## Honors Program

The Gold Medal, the Architecture Firm Award, and the AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education are among the AIA's highest honors.

## Institute Honors

This awards program recognizes a broad range of achievements in architecture, interior architecture, regional and urban design, and more.

## Collaborative and Professional Achievement

Six different awards recognize the distinguished achievements of young architects, associates, architecture teams, allied professionals, and others.

## Membership Honors

Architects and others who notably serve and advance the profession can become a Fellow, Honorary Fellow, or Honorary Member through nomination or application.

## Co-sponsored and Knowledge Community Awards

These 10 recognition programs include the Committee on the Environment Top Ten, AIA/U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Awards, the AIA/American Library Association Library Building Awards, Housing Awards, and Small Project Awards.

An AIA  
membership  
connects you to  
an international  
network  
of peers,  
leadership  
opportunities,  
and vital career  
resources.

# Member discounts

Get exclusive discounts on the products and services you use most. You'll save on Contract Documents, continuing education, master specifications, insurance, and more. Here's an overview of the discounts you'll enjoy as a member.

<b>Contract Documents</b>	Get discounts and bundle pricing on AIA's easy-to-use industry standard for documents, contracts, annual licenses, and more.
<b>AIAU</b>	Take advantage of a significant member discount on top-quality, curated education: Nearly 40% on individual courses and an additional 15% with the purchase of four or more courses.
<b>AIA Convention</b>	New members may receive free registration, young professionals get an additional discount, and students register for just \$25.
<b>AIA Advantage</b>	Get discounts on business and consumer products and services from FedEx, UPS, Hertz, Zipcar, and more.
<b>AIA Trust</b>	Tap into exclusive member rates on legal information for personal and business use, including a legal information subscription line.
<b>Trade discounts</b>	Save at popular retailers including Williams Sonoma, West Elm, and more—and pass the discount along to your clients.
<b>MasterSpec</b>	Get discounts on 2,100+ carefully researched and technically correct specifications for projects of any size, phase, type, and complexity.
<b>Industry Research</b>	Get special member pricing on research and reports including the AIA Firm Survey, the Compensation Report, and more. Many research publications, including the AIA Foresight Report, are free for members.
<b>AIA Career Center</b>	The AIA Career Center is one of the best places to find qualified candidates for your staff positions. Members save on job postings.
<b>AIA Store</b>	Save 10% on classic texts, cutting-edge books, home design products, gifts, and more online and at our Washington, D.C. store.



# Publications

Stay on top of the field and what's new at the AIA with free subscriptions to these publications. You may also subscribe to members-only publications through your state and local chapters. Please contact your chapter for more information.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>ARCHITECT Magazine</b>    | Enjoy award-winning, monthly inspiration from iconic photos, insightful interviews, leading commentary, and fascinating features. |
| <b>Residential Architect</b> | Each quarter, follow top trends in home design, technology, and sustainability.   |
| <b>EcoBuilding Pulse</b>     | Get coverage of sustainability, new materials, technology, and practices in this biannual publication.                            |
| <b>AIArchitect</b>           | Keep on top of industry, economic, leadership, and member updates with this biweekly newsletter.                                  |

---

## Architects Foundation

As the 501(c)(3) arm of the AIA, the Architects Foundation demonstrates the value of architecture through programs in resilience, health, education, and preservation. We advocate for architecture's value, champion tomorrow's design leaders, strengthen and improve today's communities, and preserve treasures of our past.

# Contact us

Have questions about your membership, benefits, or the AIA? We're here to help. Our business hours are Monday–Friday, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm Eastern.

## **During business hours**

800-242-3837

- Option 1: Contract Documents
- Option 2: Member Services/General inquires
- Option 3: Continuing education
- Option 4: The AIA Store
- Option 5: Convention

You can also visit the AIA website to chat with a representative about your general membership questions.

## **Online**

Email us at [memberservices@aia.org](mailto:memberservices@aia.org).

Visit us online at [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org).

Download this guide as a PDF at [www.aia.org/benefits](http://www.aia.org/benefits).

## **By mail**

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

# AIA Directory

Use these links to find more information on the AIA's programs and services, as well as additional resources on each topic.

## **AIA chapters**

[Chapter directory](#)

## **AIA membership designations**

[Using AIA designations](#)

## **Continuing education**

[AIAU](#)

[AIA Convention](#)

[Chapter conferences and AIA events calendar](#)

[Courses from AIA-approved CES providers](#)

[AIA member transcript](#)

[Intern transcript](#)

## **Advocacy**

[AIA Advocacy homepage](#)

[Federal relations](#)

[State and local relations](#)

[Public policy](#)

[Advocacy365](#)

[Codes advocacy](#)

[ArchiPAC](#)

## **Industry research**

[AIA Compensation Report](#)

[ABI \(Architecture Billings Index\)](#)

[Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice](#)

[BRIK \(Building Research Information Knowledgebase\)](#)

[Cities as a Lab: Designing the Innovation Economy](#)

[Consensus Construction Forecast](#)

[Deep Energy Retrofits](#)

[Energy Modeling Guide](#)

[Firm Survey](#)

[AIA Foresight Report](#)

[Home Design Trends Survey](#)

[MasterSpec](#)

[Risk management white papers](#)

[SmartMarket Report](#)

[Sustainability Leadership Opportunity Scan](#)

## **Business and career resources**

[Design and Health](#)

[Energy by Design](#)

[Materials Matter](#)

[Knowledge Communities](#)

[Contract Documents](#)

[AIA Trust](#)

[Term life insurance](#)

[Professional liability insurance](#)

[Business owners insurance](#)

[Disability insurance](#)

[Health insurance options](#)

[Long term care insurance](#)

[Auto/home insurance](#)

[Retirement plans](#)

[Travel assistance](#)

[Firm coverage](#)

[Risk management resources](#)

[Legal information service](#)

[AIA Career Center](#)

[Houzz](#)

[MasterSpec](#)

[CMD Insight](#)

[Starting and running your own firm](#)

[2030 Commitment](#)

## **New to the profession**

[ARE® resources](#)

[Intern Development Program \(IDP\) resources](#)

[Emerging Professional's Companion](#)

[Center for Emerging Professionals](#)

[AIA member transcript](#)

[Intern transcript](#)

[AIA Career Center](#)

[Volunteering](#)

[Mentoring](#)

## **AIA Convention**

[Convention website](#)

## **Recognition**

[AIA awards programs](#)

[Diversity Recognition Program](#)

[Latrobe Prize](#)

[Upjohn Research Initiative](#)

## **Member discounts**

[Contract Documents](#)

[AIAU](#)

[AIA Convention](#)

[AIA Advantage partners](#)

[AIA Trust](#)

[AIA Career Center](#)

[AIA Store](#)

## **Publications**

[ARCHITECT Magazine](#)

[Residential Architect](#)

[EcoBuilding Pulse](#)

[AIArchitect](#)

## **Architects Foundation**

[Architects Foundation website](#)



**The American  
Institute  
of Architects**

© 2015 The American Institute of Architects