



2026 AIA Montana Student Design Awards Program

To encourage excellence in architectural design and planning and to provide an avenue through which architects may gain recognition by their peers and the public. The ultimate goal is to raise the standards of architectural design excellence for both the architectural community and the public. The 2026 AIA Montana Awards Program Committee would like to emphasize that all entrants have an equal opportunity for recognition, regardless of project type, scale or budget. The jury process has been designed to review projects on the basis of individual merit.

Schedule:

Submissions: Open April 15 – Close June 15

All entries will be received no later than 5:00 p.m. MST June 15, 2026 via an online submittal system.

Entrants will be notified by August 15, 2026 whether or not their submissions were chosen for an award.

Montana Fall Conference Awards Celebration: September 24, 2026 - Helena, MT

Eligibility and Authorship :

To be eligible for submission the student(s) must be currently enrolled OR 2 years post grad and an Associate Member of AIA MT. If the project was produced as part of a group effort, all contributing students must be named in the submission.

Student entry is free.

Publicity:

The AIA Montana Chapter will provide notification of Awards to regional and national publications.

The digital drawings, digital materials, and photographs of each winning entry will be used for unrestricted publicity. All digital photographs, digital materials, and drawings included in the submission must be cleared for reproduction for publicity and for use in articles related to not only this program, but also similar regional, national, and international programs. Entrants are responsible for any royalties, copyright, or photographic fees.

Awards:

A professional jury will evaluate the entries on their own merit. Entries will be judged individually, not in competition with each other based on the AIA Framework for Design Excellence:

Design of Integration
Design for Water
Design for Well-being
Design for Discovery

Design for Equitable Communities
Design for Economy
Design for Resources

Design for Ecosystems
Design for Energy
Design for Change

The primary resources for the jury will be the brief written material and photographs, as described herein, which are submitted by all entrants. The Awards Jury shall solely determine the number of awards. A representative of the professional jury will present the awards at the 2026 AIA Montana Fall Conference in Helena, Montana. A copy of the Award Certificate will be made available at the award ceremony or shortly thereafter.

There is a registration fee of \$20/student to attend the conference - transportation to Helena may be provided.

Student award winners will receive a cash prize.

KEY DATES:

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. MST, June 15, 2026.