

The American Institute of Architects Elevates AIA Northern Virginia Member Dennis Findley, FAIA to the College of Fellows

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Arlington, Va. – The American Institute of Architects has elevated Dennis Findley, a member of AIA Northern Virginia, to its prestigious AIA College of Fellows—the Institute’s highest membership honor—in recognition of his exceptional contributions to architecture and society.

AIA Fellowship recognizes architects who have achieved a sustained standard of excellence and made significant contributions to the profession and to society on a national level. Members elevated to Fellowship carry the FAIA designation as a mark of distinction among their peers.

Findley’s elevation honors a career that has extended the influence of architecture beyond buildings to policies, communities, and individual lives. Over nearly four decades, he has evolved from a respected designer and project architect into a citizen architect and civic leader. As a caregiver to a son with severe neurological disabilities, he transformed personal experience into purpose—becoming a leading disability advocate and applying design thinking to advance systemic change.

His impact spans both the built environment and public policy. He led the \$9 million renovation of the McLean Community Center and helped initiate the “Central McLean Reimagined” master plan. Beyond project work, he played a role in advancing national caregiver legislation and contributed to Virginia’s \$1.2 billion Medicaid Waiver overhaul, benefiting more than 17,000 families. Together, his efforts demonstrate architecture’s capacity to promote dignity, access, and opportunity.

AIA Northern Virginia 2026 Chapter President Anh Tran stated, *“Dennis’s elevation to Fellowship is a powerful example of how architects can shape not only the built environment, but also the systems and policies that support our communities. His career reflects an admirable commitment to service, empathy for the experiences of others, and design excellence at the highest level. On behalf of AIA Northern Virginia, we congratulate Dennis on this well-earned honor and thank him for demonstrating the breadth of impact architects can have on people’s lives.”*

About AIA Northern Virginia

The American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia Chapter is a non-profit professional association representing more than 1,100 Northern Virginia architects, interns, and allied professionals. It encompasses 25 cities and counties in Virginia and was chartered by the [American Institute of Architects](#) in 1975. AIA Northern Virginia is one of five local components affiliated with [AIA Virginia](#). The Chapter offers professional development, networking, and outreach opportunities as well as tours and lectures to advance the knowledge of architecture and practice among professionals and promote awareness and appreciation of architecture among the public.

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