

AIA Northern Virginia Announces 2026 Design Award Recipients

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Arlington, Va. – The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Northern Virginia) announced the winning projects in its annual Design Awards program during a gala held at Virginia Tech Innovation Campus – Building One on Thursday, June 25. AIA Northern Virginia architect members were recognized with awards for their designs of both built and conceptual/unbuilt work.

Receiving almost 100 entries this year, two distinct jury panels comprised of Charlotte, NC area architects gave 23 awards across nine categories. This year, two awards for Responsible Design were also given.

During the Gala, awards were given to architects whose projects include and demonstrate a level of good design principles of the 21st century. There are three different award levels in each category, and all of the awards recognize and celebrate the achievements AIA Northern Virginia members have created in the design of the built environment.

“The AIA Northern Virginia Design Awards are an annual celebration of the vision and excellence of our local architects who are shaping the future of our region. Showcasing the most outstanding projects, the program shines a spotlight on the extraordinary design talent of our chapter. Through these awards, we recognize the individuals and teams whose work elevate our communities and demonstrates the power of design to inspire and connect,” said Chase Eatherly, AIA, 2026 Design Award Committee Co-Chair and Associate Principal at HCM in Alexandria, VA.

“The breadth and quality of work submitted for this year’s AIA Northern Virginia Design Award consideration was exceptional,” said jury member Ryan Doherty, AIA of Progressive Companies. *“Across all categories, we saw projects that were thoughtfully integrated into their context, respectful of their surroundings, and focused on improving the human experience. The most successful entries demonstrated how design can enrich communities, support environmental stewardship, and transform everyday spaces into places that inspire, connect, and endure.”*

The 2026 AIA Northern Virginia Design Award Winners are:

Civic/Cultural Architecture:

- Award of Merit: Joy Evans Therapeutic Recreation Center submitted by DLR Group
- Award of Merit: West Point Golf Clubhouse submitted by Jacobs / EwingCole (Joint Venture)
- Jurors' Citation: Baltimore Ravens, Under Armour Performance Center submitted by ZGF Architects

Commercial Architecture:

- Award of Merit: Geerhouse submitted by Studio Twenty Seven Architecture
- Jurors' Citation for Responsible Design: Union Market Residential submitted by HCM

Conceptual | Unbuilt Architecture

- Award of Merit: Net-Positive Infectious Disease Laboratory submitted by HDR
- Award of Merit: Jamjoom Specialty (Rehabilitation) Hospital submitted by HDR
- Jurors' Citation for Responsible Design: USDA Dairy Forage Research Center submitted by HDR

Education Architecture:

- Award of Excellence: Virginia Tech Academic Building One submitted by SmithGroup
- Award of Merit: Bowie State University, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Communication Arts and Humanities submitted by Perkins&Will
- Award of Merit: E.A. Fernandez IDEA Factory submitted by Page, now Stantec

Historic Architecture:

- Award of Excellence: Howard University Historic Myrtilla Miner Building submitted by Studio Twenty Seven Architecture
- Award of Merit: The Collection at R Street submitted by Teass \ Warren Architects
- Jurors' Citation: Georgetown Renovation submitted by EL Studio

Interior Architecture

- Award of Merit: Inspīr Embassy Row submitted by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners
- Award of Merit: Crowell & Moring Chicago Office submitted by Perkins&Will

Residential Architecture

- Award of Excellence: Exeter Road House submitted by Robert M. Gurney Architect
- Award of Merit: Hempstead House submitted by Robert M. Gurney Architect
- Jurors' Citation: Kent Residence submitted by EL Studio
- Jurors' Citation: Split Influence House submitted by Cook Architecture

Small Project Architecture

- Award of Merit: Chapman Stables Loft submitted by EL Studio
- Award of Merit: Flint Hill Writer's Retreat submitted by Reader & Swartz Architects

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- Award of Excellence: Innovation District Pump Station submitted by Hickok Cole

Get more information about this year's winners at www.aianova.org/award-year/2026/

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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