



U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development



THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS

AIA / HUD SECRETARY'S

# 2015 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

JULIÁN CASTRO  
Secretary of Housing  
and Urban Development

Affordability ◆

Community Connection ◆

Community-Informed Design ◆

Accessibility ◆



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*28 Street Apartments*

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PICTURED TOP RIGHT:

*Kings Beach Now!*

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*Kelly Cullen Community*

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*Sierra Bonita Apartments*

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# AIA/HUD SECRETARY'S AWARDS PROGRAM

## BACKGROUND

The Residential Knowledge Community of The American Institute of Architects (AIA), in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), recognizes excellence in affordable housing, community-based design, participatory design, and accessibility. Good design is a cornerstone of solid homes and thriving communities of all incomes and backgrounds. These awards demonstrate that design matters and provide examples of important benchmarks in the housing industry.

## RECOGNITION

The award recipients selected in this design program will receive significant recognition. HUD will publish and publicize the award-winning designs, and a publication piece will appear in *AIArchitect*, the online newspaper of AIA. The award-winning designs will also be celebrated at the 2015 AIA National Convention.

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*Good design is the  
cornerstone of well-planned  
homes and communities*

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## AWARD CATEGORIES

### 1. Excellence in Affordable Housing Design Award

**Nature of Award:** This award recognizes architecture that demonstrates overall excellent design responses to the needs and constraints of affordable housing. Any project in which a minimum of 20 percent of occupants are at or below 80 percent of area median income and/or utilizes any current affordable housing financing vehicle is eligible. Submissions must be for housing uses only; other kinds of projects are referred to the other award categories in this call. Submissions should describe the occupant income mix, as well as funding sources (if housing finance programs are utilized).

**Award Criteria:** Submissions will be evaluated based on the following features:

- ◆ Responsiveness to client and occupant needs.
- ◆ Increased affordability as demonstrated in occupant income levels.
- ◆ Provision of a long-term asset to the client, occupants, and the community.
- ◆ Demonstration of exceptional design skill.

### 2. Creating Community Connection Award

**Nature of Award:** This award recognizes projects that incorporate housing within other community amenities for the purposes of either revitalization or planned growth. Submissions must be mixed-use (including housing) and mixed-income (with a minimum of 20 percent of occupants at or below 80 percent of area median income). Acceptable mixed-use developments can combine any public, private, or nonprofit use with housing; housing must be included as one of the uses. Submissions should describe the occupant income mix, as well as funding sources (if housing finance programs are utilized). If funded through a special production source that has design requirements (like HUD's HOPE VI), the submission should show how the requirements were fulfilled and surpassed.

**Award Criteria:** Submissions will be evaluated based on the following features:

- ◆ Diversity and range of development functions beyond housing.
- ◆ Diversity of users for non-housing functions and housing occupants, including age, ethnicity, physical ability, and income diversity.
- ◆ Development-wide design choices that support community interaction and enhance community networks (including public and alternative transportation access, public and shared-use spaces, safe and secure access and mobility, and linkage to cultural and historical surroundings).
- ◆ Demonstration of exceptional design skill.

### 3. Community-Informed Design Award

**Nature of Award:** Community-informed or participatory design supports physical communities as they rebuild social structures and relationships that may have been weakened by out-migration, disinvestment, and the isolation of inner-city areas. The participatory design process establishes positive connections between and among residents, community stakeholders, local government officials, and designers—all while creating buildings and institutions with purposes that enhance community life. This award recognizes projects that focus on the design process as much as the resulting physical structures. Housing is not a required component of submissions, though developments must be in lower- or mixed-income communities. All submissions must describe funding sources, neighborhood characteristics, and the community participation process in detail.

**Award Criteria:** Submissions will be evaluated based on the following features:

- ◆ Extensive participation of users and/or occupants in the actual design process.
- ◆ Documentation of participatory process and demonstration of architect's or supporting organization's facilitation skill.
- ◆ Inclusion of a diversity of community members and other relevant individuals in the design process. (Both neighborhood and participants' demographic information must be described in the submission).
- ◆ Resulting design that supports participating in the long-term use of the architecture by the constituents.
- ◆ Demonstration of exceptional design skill and interpretation of community needs.

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Positive  
connections  
between and  
among residents,  
community  
stakeholders,  
local  
government  
officials, and  
civic groups...

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### 4. Housing Accessibility—Alan J. Rothman Award

This award is named in remembrance of Alan J. Rothman, HUD's late senior policy analyst on housing disability issues, who devoted his life to improving housing accessibility for the disabled. Alan, born with cerebral palsy, overcame many challenges in his life, and HUD and the AIA sponsor this award to commemorate him and demonstrate both organizations' commitment to achieving housing accessibility for all Americans.

**Nature of Award:** Projects eligible for this award must involve housing that demonstrates excellence in improving accessibility for people with ability constraints. Submissions must incorporate features that make housing accessible

for either specific or general disability, particularly those features demonstrating universal design principles, with the maximum affordability. Submissions must include housing elements, though may extend beyond housing.

*Note that there are no income requirements for this award.*

**Award Criteria:** Submissions will be evaluated based on the following features:

- ◆ Responsiveness to users with particular physical disabilities and occupancy needs.
- ◆ Exemplary or visionary design and technological responses past existing legal requirements for accessible design.
- ◆ Ability for individuals with a diversity of physical abilities beyond the occupant to utilize facilities.
- ◆ Documentation of accessibility requirements (such as ADA, Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, etc.) and their effect on design.
- ◆ Extent to which affordable techniques are addressed.
- ◆ Demonstration of exceptional design skill.

### ELIGIBILITY

For all submissions, new construction, renovations and restored developments in the United States are eligible. Only developments or projects completed after January 1, 2009, will be considered for this award. Submissions to all award categories with the sole exception of the Community-Informed Design Award must include housing or a housing element. Also, submissions to all award categories must serve low- or mixed-income occupants and users (defined by either a minimum of 20 percent of occupants earning a maximum of 80 percent of the area median income, or by the funding sources utilized); the sole exception to this eligibility requirement is the Alan J. Rothman Award, although affordability is a selection criteria.



*Note that HUD or HUD-originated funding is not a requirement for any submission, nor is the submission's use of traditional affordable housing finance mechanisms; developments that serve lower-income individuals with either market-rate or subsidized financing are eligible.*

Owners of structures and architects licensed in the United States may submit projects (located in the United States) of any size, budget, or style fitting the eligibility guidelines. An entry must have been designed by an architect who is an AIA member at the time of the project's completion. Completion is synonymous with substantial completion as defined in the standard AIA documents governing construction. The submitting architect may qualify as a member of a design team, whether he or she serves as head of the team. All significant contributors to the design of the project must be given credit as part of the submission. Project authorship must remain anonymous during jury deliberations. If authorship is revealed on any submission materials—photos, plans, or narrative—the entry will be disqualified.

Projects submitted for this award will be subject to review and clearance within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure adherence to ethical practices and overall professional conduct. All submitted materials, including documentation, photographs, plans, and digital files, will become the property of the AIA and will be considered for inclusion in its resource library.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Each entry will be judged for the success with which the project has met its individual category and design requirements. Entries are weighed individually, not against one another.

In recognition of the AIA Sustainable Architectural Practice Position Statement (which set a goal of at least 60-percent reduction of fossil-fuel energy use in buildings by 2012 and carbon neutrality by 2030), submittal information should include, if possible, the project's percentage of energy reduction and energy consumption per square foot as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Target Finder Tool and/or documentation of specific material choices to address the needs for indoor environmental quality and diversion of materials from the waste stream.

### Submission Requirements

All entries for all categories must be submitted in the manner outlined below, or the jury will not consider them. Please note that the following is an outline of the official Submission Instructions and does not include all of the award program's specific guidelines. This outline is intended only to provide a preliminary idea of what is expected.

#### 1. Project description/narrative

Provide a brief, clear description of the original design objectives. Explain the distinguishing characteristics of the work and featured design elements, along with the documentation that may be required in the specific category criteria. The jury will use the project description as a guide. Again, please address specific criteria for the award, along with how the project fits the specific category chosen, directly in this section. The narrative must be written in 500 words and 5,000 characters or less.

#### 2. Photographs

Provide all digital images in a single PDF file smaller than 4 MB. Photo submissions must include at least the following:

- ◆ One digital image showing each exposed side of the building or environment.
- ◆ One additional digital image showing the immediate context of each exposed side of the building or environment. (May be omitted if the project's relationship to its environment is clearly defined in other prints).
- ◆ Two digital images of key structures or aspects of the environment.
- ◆ For a group of buildings, one digital image of the project sufficient to illustrate the concept, including its relationship to its environs.
- ◆ For projects involving renovations or alterations, before and after digital images.
- ◆ Photographs pertinent to the specific award category:
  - public spaces and site plans for the Creating Community Connections Award;
  - participatory design meetings or charrettes for the Community-Informed Design Award;
  - and accessible design and technology features for the Alan J. Rothman Award.

#### 3. Plans

All of the following plans shall be presented with the project's images in the same **single PDF file smaller than 4 MB** to form the submission. Provide a site plan, on a small scale, showing the project and its immediate context. Also provide a floor plan(s) and one or more sections sufficient to explain design solutions. Plans can be drawn on any scale in any medium, but the scale must be indicated graphically.

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*...to recognize excellence in housing and community design.*

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*Tomorrow's  
homes will come  
from the drawing  
boards of today's  
architects seeking  
innovative design  
solutions to  
our real-world  
challenges.*

## HOW TO ENTER

### Online Submissions

All entries for the 2015 AIA/HUD Secretary's Awards will be made through the online submission website. Complete online instructions can be found by clicking the AIA/ HUD Secretary's Awards page from the general AIA awards page at [www.aia.org/HudAwards](http://www.aia.org/HudAwards)

**Deadline:** All online submissions must be completely uploaded before 5 PM Eastern Time on November 21, 2014. **Entry Fee:** \$375

**Questions?** Contact AIA at 202-626-7586 or via e-mail at [honorsawards@aia.org](mailto:honorsawards@aia.org)

*Submission deadline is Nov. 21, 2014*



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