



2024

# YEAR IN REVIEW



proactive  
**Advocacy**

2

Sponsored bills  
signed by the  
Governor



# proactive Advocacy

signed bills

## **SB 1048 (Jones) – Clean-Up Copyright Legislation**

Clarified previous AIA CA legislation giving members of the public the right to view architectural drawings lodged onsite by planning departments and to review the documents online during a public hearing on a project, but not to copy the documents without the permission of the copyright holder.

This victory ensures a more efficient planning process, reduces unnecessary project delays, and protects the integrity of architectural documents. SB 1048 not only protects the copyright interests of architects but also streamlines the review process for all stakeholders involved in planning and development.



# proactive Advocacy

signed bills

## **AB 1862 (Chen) – Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Extension**

Extends the sunset on the law that allows architects, engineers, and land surveyors to form Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) by an additional eight years. Previously set to expire in 2025, this extension offers ongoing flexibility for architectural firms in their business structures.

Organizing as an LLP provides significant advantages, including limited liability protection and the benefit of pass-through income tax treatment, offering more options than a traditional corporation.

This legislation is vital for architecture firms, especially as the industry continues to evolve and adapt to changing market conditions.



reactive  
**Advocacy**

members engage

reactive  
**Advocacy**

<b>2124</b>	bills introduced
<b>80</b>	bills reviewed
<b>03</b>	committees*
<b>40</b>	of members
<b>44</b>	total recommendations

\*Advocacy Advisory Committee; Housing Steering Committee; Climate Action Advocacy Committee



code  
**Advocacy**

4

game  
changers



# code Advocacy

Leading the way in reporting  
impact of embodied carbon in  
the built environment.

## **CALGreen Embodied Carbon Measures**

First mandatory code in the United States to consider a buildings embodied carbon emissions.

AIA California was the primary driver of this effort, which included collaboration with dozens of other stakeholder organizations and individuals.

Effective July 1 2024, this was the culmination of a four-year effort.





# code Advocacy

Equipping architects with  
more code options for  
adaptive reuse.

## **Expansion of California's Existing Building Code to better support Commercial to Housing Conversion**

It brings seven new chapters to the California Existing Building code, which will equip architects with more options when they work on reuse and retrofit of existing buildings.

Reuse and retrofit of existing buildings have been shown to yield greenhouse gas reduction benefits that can take 80 years to achieve with a high performing new building.



# code Advocacy

Leading input into ICC to  
facilitate office-to-housing  
conversations.

## **ICC Adaptive Reuse Working Group**

AIA California launched this working group, looking for both near term code interpretation or code changes; as well as longer-term risk equivalency tools for design professionals to better facilitate challenging projects such as office-to-housing conversions.

Participation reflects the broad interest in this topic nationally as the group includes code officials from some of the largest cities in the country (New York, Chicago, LA, San Francisco, San Antonio, Tucson).



# code Advocacy

## **HCD Adaptive Reuse Working Group**

AB529 required the California Department of Housing and Community Development to put a code working group together to find ways to lower barriers in the code for adaptive reuse of underused commercial buildings for housing.

AIA California has been very active; responding to the shifts and challenges and utilizing our member network to contribute with 35 separate code change recommendations to support adaptive reuse commercial to housing projects in California.



# code Advocacy

Identifying code challenges to  
project delivery.

## Legislative Select Committee on Permitting Reform

Liaison between AIA California code efforts and National's AIA Code Committee. This ongoing work will include the identification of strategies and tactics to leverage our efforts with support from AIA at all levels.



# Advocacy initiatives

# 2

Legislator of the Year +  
Legislative Day in the  
Districts



# initiatives **Advocacy**

2024 Legislator  
of the Year Award

AIA California honored California state Assemblymember Marc Berman, D-Menlo Park for his work to remove barriers to infill housing construction, safe parking, and affordable housing.



# initiatives **Advocacy**

## Legislative Day in the Districts

AIA California worked with local Chapters across the state to set up meetings with their California state senators and assembly members.

Though the meetings were, fundamentally, to establish relationships and develop understanding of the value of architects amongst elected officials and their staffs, Chapter members also discussed Climate Action and Housing issues, using data and talking points coordinated by AIA California advocacy staff.

# Resources

3

new +  
existing resources





# resources Practice

## **Practice Advisory: Workplace Violence Prevention Plan**

Worked with Collins + Collins to draft advisory and create a template for firms to use to meet requirements of new law July 1. [More Info](#)

## **Practice Advisory: Employee Classification**

Worked with Collins + Collins to explain different employee classifications (exempt vs. non-exempt) and specify what this means in an architectural firm setting. [More Info](#)

## **Legal Line**

Established resource for members to obtain legal information. [More Info](#)



# Climate **Action**

# 2

highlights



# climate action

## **CALGreen Embodied Education**

A 4-part education series to explain the new embodied carbon requirements effective July 1, 2024 provided a deep dive into each compliance pathway.

A collaborative effort between AIA California and other organizations to cover the code and provide case study examples, all are available on-demand in advance of and for the 2025 renewal year.

**[Access the courses here.](#)**



# climate action

## **Climate Action Quarterly Publication: *a matter of degrees***

A collection of AIA California Climate Action resources, sustainable projects, small firm resources and news.

The first *Digest* had an open rate of 49%!



# Education

8841

session attendees



# Education

courses +  
participation

8841

total attendees

790

attendees for  
intro CALGreen webinar\*

34

courses

\* This session on the new embodied carbon requirements featured highest all-time attendance for an AIA California webinar

# Education

12

# of free ZNCD courses  
for members

# Education

# courses on demand

**21**

ZNCD

**24**

climate action

**20**

accessibility





# Education

code changes

## **Comprehensive Training on Codes for Existing Building Retrofit and Reuse**

Two-hour program presented both virtually and in an in-person session; detailed coverage of the five different code compliance paths that architects can choose from when working on reuse and retrofit of existing buildings.

## **Adaptive Reuse Commercial to Housing**

Created and Presented a Program at the Net Zero Conference Anaheim, with Karin Liljegren, Simon Ha, and Webly Bowles.



**events**

**and more**



# Conferences

Monterey Design Conference

947

In-person attendees

119+

Virtual attendees

03

watch parties

08

headliners

04

emerging talent  
speakers

02

panels

15

breakout sessions



# Conferences

Healthcare Facilities  
Forum

212

in-person attendees

43

virtual attendees

02

keynotes

03

panels



# Awards

5

programs

# Awards

63

total recipients

1

Awards Celebration including  
student outreach programs at  
Woodbury University

# Awards

**1** maybeck recipient

**4** aep awards recipients

**5** california awards recipients

**9** urban design + student category recipients

**13** residential awards recipients

**31** design awards recipients



# Awards

aep awards

AIA California's Academy for Emerging Professionals Awards Program strives to advance local and regional excellence which recognizes and celebrates those who contribute to assisting Emerging Professionals and their colleagues in pursuing their personal and professional goals. The following awards were bestowed in 2024:

- Young Architect Award
- Associate Award
- Firm Mentorship Award
- Chapter Award

[Here are the 2024 Recipients](#)





# Awards

## California Awards

The AIA California Awards are the organization's most prestigious awards for individuals and firms. They are awarded in the following categories: Firm Award, Distinguished Practice Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Lifetime Achievement Award for Healthcare Facility Design, Norma Sklarek Humanitarian Award, and Honorary Membership. The following awards were bestowed in 2024:

- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Distinguished Practice Award
- Firm Award
- Norma Sklarek Humanitarian Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award for Healthcare Facility Design

[Here are the 2024 Recipients.](#)



# Awards

## design

The AIA California Design Awards strives to promote, recognize, publicize, and celebrate the value exceptional design has on the fabric of society. Whether it is a large, multi-residential affordable housing project, or a small public work, submit the work.

Each project is recognized for design excellence, as defined by the American Institute of Architects' Framework for Design Excellence principles, leading to a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment.

The following awards were bestowed in 2024:

- 5 Honor Awards
- 12 Merit Awards
- 14 Citation Awards

[Here are the 2024 Recipients.](#)



# Awards

## Maybeck

Named for Bernard Ralph Maybeck, the California architect who has influenced designers for over a century, the Maybeck Award recognizes outstanding achievement in architectural design as expressed in a body of work produced by an individual architect over a period of at least 10 years.

[Read about the 2024 Recipient.](#)



# Awards

## residential

AIA California believes in celebrating the most intimate of structures—the places where we all live and play and feel the most comfortable and secure: the residence. Each entry is judged on the success with which it has met individual requirements. Jury decisions will be based solely on the materials submitted. Criteria includes quality of design, resolution of the program or idea, innovation, thoughtfulness and technique.

The following awards were bestowed in 2024:

- 1 Honor Award
- 7 Merit Awards
- 5 Citation Awards

[Here are the 2024 Recipients](#)



# Awards

urban design awards +  
student urban design

AIA California's Urban Design Awards recognizes excellence in the creation, improvement, and sustainability of our physical environment by Architects and Landscape Architects.

In 2023, AIA California Expanded this awards program to include a Student Category.

The following awards were bestowed in 2024:

- 6 Urban Design Awards
- 3 Student Urban Design Awards

[Here are the 2024 Recipients.](#)

# Culture

“Promote and ensure accountability for the creation of diverse, equitable and inclusive practice communities in which all contributions are valued.”\*

**\*2023-2026 AIA California Strategic Plan**



# #CultureShift

## #culturepledge

AIA California Board adopted #cultureshift to encourage the profession to confront the challenges facing our workforce and reimagine the professional culture with vigor and passion.

This ongoing effort asks firms to take the **#CulturePledge**:

Our firm believes in a workplace model that creates a culture of trust and respect, and serves employees and other stakeholders, as it charts a path towards ongoing relevance in a changing, challenging profession. We seek to maximize human resources through a commitment to transparency in our practice and demonstrate authentic and significant cultural change that will lead to a more satisfied workforce, a more successful practice, and a more resilient community.



# #CultureShift

pledge to

1. recognize and celebrate unique strengths
2. cultivate a collaborative environment
3. prioritize employee well-being modern benefits & flexible work arrangements
4. opportunities for growth and skill development
5. promote lifelong learning
6. commit to diversity goals
7. reward career accomplishments
8. inspire collective success
9. transparency in pay scales, contract terms, and design processes.
10. address environmental and social issues





**#CultureShift**  
#culturepledge

**21**

firms committed to

**10**

culture precepts

# ABC Series

architecture  
belonging  
connection

3  
112

programs\*

attendees

\*women in architecture  
small firms  
culture shift  
edi + culture

# Committee

membership engagement

35  
407

committee  
s  
volunteers



emerging  
**Professionals**

**supporting  
licensure**



# ARE Study Hub

AIA California's Study Hub is a pathway for emerging professionals to study and pursue licensure. These free statewide ARE study sessions and virtual study groups serve as a hub for education, connection, and community.



# ARE Study Hub

18 sessions  
1236 total attendees

[View](#) all AIA California hosted sessions.

California Architectural  
**FOUNDATION**

California  
**Architectural Foundation**

CAF is dedicated to developing architecture education programs and initiatives that inform the public on the value of design, explore innovative ideas, and honor outstanding achievements within California.

CAF focuses on four areas of impact: the Future of the Profession, Architectural Education, Design & Practice, and Community Engagement.

California Architectural

FOUNDATION

# Fundraising

scholarship distribution

**\$150,000**

raised for ongoing programs  
+ scholarships

**\$32,640**

scholarship funds distributed



# Programs

## **Statewide Internship Program: California Architectural Practice Experience Program (capX)**

Connects firms with emerging professionals, both in school and on the experience-only path, for paid internships, job shadowing, workforce readiness. This year seven firms and twenty-four students participated.

## **Architecture by the Book**

Architecture by the Book© is a K-8 education initiative that connects architects, firms and AIA components with local schoolchildren and the community at large to share the profession of architecture and why architecture matters. Reached 800 underrepresented girls at 21 school sites in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2024.



Thank you  
**2024**

**2025**  
**here soon**