



Demystifying AIA Fellowship

A Primer for Small Firm Practitioners

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Key Takeaways



Why Consider Fellowship?

- » Honors lifetime contributions to architecture and society
- » Earned by only about 3% of AIA members
- » Elevates visibility and celebrates achievement
- » Supports mentoring, grants, advocacy, and community impact



Who is Eligible?

- » AIA Architects or Emeritus Members in good standing
- » Minimum 10 cumulative years as an AIA Architect Member
- » Nominated by a chapter board or 5 Fellows or 10 Architect members



What is a Fellowship Object and how to choose?

- » Fellowship is awarded in one of six Objects, each defining a category of achievement
- » Demonstrate distinction, impact, and a “ripple effect” within your chosen Object
- » Align contributions with diversity, sustainability, mentoring, and the AIA Framework for Design Excellence



What are the next steps?

- » Reflect on your career to identify your most impactful contributions
- » Choose the Object and sponsor that best highlight your strengths
- » Seek support from AIA resources and commit time for an iterative process

Resources / Links

- [AIA Fellowship Overview + Examples](#)
- [Application](#)
- [Path to Fellowship](#)
- [Object Categories](#)
- [Disqualification Checklist](#)
- [AIAU Course \(Free\)](#)
- [College of Fellows Quarterly](#)
- [Session Video](#)

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

11.13.2025 **Beyond the Brand**

12.11.2025 **End of Year Wrap Up**