

SILVER MEDAL*Overall Firm Excellence***Eligibility**

This award is the highest honor bestowed by AIA Atlanta on a firm for its general excellence in its practice of architecture and design. It is open to any Architecture Firm within AIA Atlanta's chapter jurisdiction. The Silver Medal honors a firm (single practitioner up to a large entity) that has sustained outstanding performance as evidenced by a consistently high level of design quality and demonstrated community, political, or AIA leadership in the interests of the profession. The firm must have been in practice for a minimum of five years, and cannot have received this award in the previous 10 years.

Candidates from firms that have offices in multiple cities should only include those activities, awards, and leadership roles that are attributed to their offices in the Atlanta chapter area.

Criteria

Competitive candidates should be able to show excellence in at least two of the following six areas:

1. The firm shall have been widely recognized, awarded, or known for the consistent quality of its designs.
2. The individuals within the firm shall have made significant leadership contributions to AIA Atlanta or its affiliated organizations (AIA Georgia, AIA NE Section, Equity in Architecture, the ADC, AFGA, NOMA, ULI, etc).
3. The firm shall have demonstrated a commitment to the continuing education of architects through participation in local, state, regional or national programs/conferences of continuing education, through employee participation as speakers, panel moderators, event organizers, etc., or through firm sponsorship of such events.
4. The firm shall have demonstrated a commitment to developing the next generation of leaders in the profession through an investment in emerging professionals' skills and leadership development, a formal program encouraging (or financially supporting) architectural licensing, engagement with one of the three architecture schools in Georgia, and/or participation in a K-12 pipeline program (Spike Studio, NOMA Atlanta, or AIA Atlanta's programs).
5. The firm shall have made significant contributions to any other civic or business area of interest related to architecture in Atlanta, Georgia or the community at large. An example might be senior leadership roles at ULI, Southface, Council for Quality Growth, design review commissions, chambers of commerce, etc.
6. To a demonstrable extent, the firm shall be committed to AIA's core values of a) building an economic, regulatory and business environment friendly to architecture, b) addressing issues of sustainability, and/or c) taking action inside the firm and in the broader industry/profession to improve issues of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Additionally, the activities made by the firm for each of these six areas of criteria should have occurred in the preceding 10 year time period.

AIA Atlanta recognizes that many modern firms engage in a diverse array of practices, such as engineering, planning, or landscape architecture. The jury for the Silver Medal will be instructed that their analysis of the contributions of the nominee will be limited to the activities of the architecture practice. Concomitantly, nominees should limit their nomination materials to only the activities of their architecture practice, and their offices in metro Atlanta.

Submission

A nomination of a firm for this award can be made by the firm itself, or by any AIA Atlanta member, AIA staff member and/or any individual who worked directly with the candidate or who was impacted by the contributions of the candidate's efforts. The nomination should highlight the Candidate's achievements and contributions and shall contain the following:

- A nomination letter, not to exceed one page, in PDF format.
- A statement on company letterhead, signed by the managing partner of the firm, that the firm is in compliance with [AIA's Statement on the Use of Unpaid Intern Labor](#), in PDF format.
- A brief biography of all firm senior leadership and a history of the firm, not to exceed four pages, in PDF format.
- A list of the firm's achievements, design and honor awards, selected images of prominent past work, key contributions to the civic excellence of their community(s) and contributions to the Institute, the profession, and community - not to exceed ten (10) pages. This section should also include a description of any individuals at the firm serving in leadership roles at any level of AIA, NOMA, the Architecture Foundation, or any other affiliated organization or professional association related to the AEC industry. Also in a PDF format.

The firms of AIA members serving on the Honors Awards Jury are not eligible for nomination for the Silver Medal.