

## CALL FOR PROFESSIONAL ENTRY

This category is intended to recognize practicing interior designers and the work of our Associate IIDA and Professional IIDA members.

### SIGN UP AT [IIDAOKY.ORG/DESIGN-AWARDS](https://iidaohky.org/design-awards)

ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE BY 11:59 PM FRIDAY, JULY 24TH, 2026 | EVENT ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

## INTRODUCTION

The Ohio Kentucky Interior Design Awards is an event hosted every other year celebrating the innovative, exemplary interior design projects and successes of our IIDA members across Ohio and Kentucky. For several years, our Chapter has recognized design excellence within each City Center, now elevating the program to celebrate Chapter-wide. This year's inaugural celebration will occur on Friday, September 25th, 2026, in Cleveland, Ohio.

## SCHEDULE

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Virtual Launch Party

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Call for Early Bird Entry Opens

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Call for Early Bird Entry Closes

**July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Call for Regular Entry Closes

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026:** Event Ticket Sales Begin

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Jury Review of Submissions

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** The Ohio Kentucky Interior Design Awards

## HOW TO ENTER

1. **DECIDE HOW MANY** projects you plan to enter and under which categories. There is no limit to the quantity of submissions.
2. **ORGANIZE** all documentation needed for the entry process (see ENTRY DETAILS below).
3. **VISIT** the event website at [iidaohky.org/design-awards](https://iidaohky.org/design-awards) and begin Firm Submission registration.

4. **PAYMENT** for all projects must be done at the same time. Credit card is the only accepted form of payment and is completed directly through the entry website during the registration process. Email confirmation and receipt of payment will be automatically emailed to you.
  - a. Early Bird Entry Fees: \$225.00 per entry
  - b. Regular Entry Fees: \$250.00 per entry
  - c. Firm Benefactors Receive 1 Half-Off Entry, a code will be provided.

## ENTRY DETAILS

Be prepared to fill in the following information into an online form during registration.

1. **TIMELINE:** Project entries must be built work, substantially completed since January 1, 2023, regardless of project size, geographical location, budget, style, or building type.
2. **DESIGNED BY:** Firms that operate out of multiple offices or branches, representing multiple IIDA chapters, may only submit entries wherein the primary design phases were performed by a branch in the state of Ohio or Kentucky.
3. **SUBMITTED BY:** Projects must be submitted by an IIDA member in good standing with the International Interior Design Association OH KY Chapter practicing within the boundaries of the Ohio Kentucky Chapter. The Submitting Designer must have participated on the project team. A member of IIDA Ohio Kentucky chapter leadership will be reaching out to each submitting firm to verify the Submitting Designer was active on the project design team. Note that Submitting Designers may be asked to participate in future IIDA events involving Design Award winning projects.
4. **FIRM NAME:** To keep the judging process completely fair and unbiased, *DO NOT* include any information that could reveal the name of your firm (in the narrative, on floor plans or in the photography). See *FINE PRINT* for more information on what is considered grounds for elimination of the project.
5. **PROJECT INFORMATION:**
  - a. Entry Category, Project Name, Location (\*if client name cannot be shared, describe as "Confidential Client")
  - b. Architecture or Interior Design Firm (\*if a multi-office firm, specify the location of the office that led the design of the project)
  - c. Vendor/Brand Partners: Select up to (10) project team members who assisted in the design, logistics or construction of the built space (i.e., contractors, lighting or av consultants, professional services, or other vendors that provided furniture, finishes or building products. Could include artists if relevant. Include company names.)
  - d. Please add any notes about confidentiality if you have an NDA or are not allowed to share the project on social media or other public forums.

## ENTRY DOCUMENTATION

The submission process is entirely digital; no hard copy submissions are accepted. To submit a completed entry, please assemble the following files:

### PDF PRESENTATION

- 7 (minimum) to 15 (maximum) pages.
- The first page shall be a concise description of the project and shall include: the project name, location, name of the client/owner, contractor partner, a statement of the problem, a description of the site and environment, and the design intentions and distinguishing factors of the work.
  - All project submissions must include a detailed description—with clear, project-specific examples—demonstrating how the interior designer’s professional decisions and responsibilities directly protected and enhanced the health, safety, and welfare of the building’s occupants through the design process.
- The remaining pages should contain the drawings (site plan, floor plans, sections) and photographs necessary to best represent the project and in the order the entrant would like them viewed.
  - (2) pages may feature composite images showing either project details or finish/materials palettes
- The design of the pages is at the applicant’s discretion.
- The PDF presentation shall be of Landscape Orientation, aspect ratio 1280x720 pixels.
- Label as: Firm Name\_Project Name\_Presentation

### HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES

- Your choice of the best two (2) images representing the project.
- JPEG, 300 dpi, 8x10 format.
- The photographer credit can be assigned on the entry form.
- Label as: Firm Name\_Project Name\_Image 1 and Firm Name\_Project Name\_Image 2
- These images may be used in event slideshow, posted on event website highlighting winners, and shared on social media, etc.

### UPLOAD

- Once your entry is complete, upload the documentation files to the following site:  
<https://iidaohky.cpbam.com/2026-IIDA-Ohio-Kentucky-Design-Awards/registration>
- Each entry must be uploaded separately.

- Once your upload is successfully uploaded and payment has been processed, you will receive an email from the IIDA Ohio Kentucky Chapter confirming it was received.
- Please remember that the submission deadline is **11:59 PM FRIDAY, JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**.

## ENTRY CATEGORIES

The jury will evaluate all projects based on the aesthetic, functional, contextual, social, and sustainable characteristics of the design. All evaluations will be based solely on the information contained in the submissions. The jury will not visit projects. The jury retains the right to award multiple awards within each category.

### LEARN

#### **K-12 / Higher Ed**

K-12 and higher education projects in public and private institutions. These spaces include classrooms, outdoor learning environments, libraries, student commons, performing arts, labs, and athletics.

### WORK - 2 Categories

#### **Small (under 25,000 sf) / Large (over 25,000 sf)**

Commercial office projects that are in the above allocated square footages, which help a corporate organization foster innovation, productivity, and employee happiness and engagement. These spaces help to embody and promote the company's culture through the design of the built and experienced work environment.

### LIVE – 2 Categories

#### **Multi-Unit Residential**

Generally projects of Commercial scale that encompass areas in which a person resides., projects for multi-unit dwellings that connect people and place to create high performance communities, and projects that offer short or long-term care and lodging for the elderly population that enhances the lives of the residents while providing healthcare support. Could also include student housing.

#### **Single-Family Residential**

Projects for single-family dwellings that utilize innovative design strategies, sustainable material and furnishing selections, highly customized design components, unique and distinctive artwork commissions, etc.

### ENGAGE

Projects that contribute to cultural and community value through spaces such as arts, humanities and performing arts centers, community centers, places of worship, governmental or civic purposes.

### HEAL – 3 Categories

#### **SMALL (under 50,000 sf) / LARGE (over 50,000 sf)**

Projects that promote health and well-being and consider physical, mental and emotional effects on building occupants. These spaces include hospitals, places for physical rehabilitation, recovery centers, dental offices, primary care facilities, etc.

#### **Wellness & Retreat**

Projects that promote health and well-being and consider physical, mental and emotional effects on building occupants. These spaces include nail/hair salons, med-spas, outpatient treatment and recovery facilities, fitness centers/studios.

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## **PLAY - 3 Categories**

### **Hotel (Boutique and Branded) / Restaurant or Bar / Retail**

Projects that focus on hospitality, restaurant and retail environments. These can include projects that focus on spaces with overnight accommodations including hotels, motels, hostels, resorts, etc. Projects can also focus on amenity spaces within the hospitality industry such as restaurants, retail and event spaces to enhance and promote an exceptional guest experience.

## **FINE PRINT**

- Judging will take place by Interior Design Industry Professionals. A panel of distinguished judges will review the project entries to determine outstanding achievement in design. The size, scope, category, or cost of a project in no way limits the eligibility or level of award. The jury will consider each project based on its own unique program, needs, and challenges.
- Winning entries will be made public at the event, submitters will not be notified in advance if their projects win an award. Awards will be given based on the discretion of the judges: a winner in each category is not guaranteed. All approved entries that follow the rules of entry will be recognized at the Awards via a slide show presentation.
- Firms have an unlimited number of submissions in each category.
- **REMINDER:** do not include any information that could reveal the name of your firm in the narrative, on floor plans, or in photography. This includes but is not limited to elements within the photographed spaces, title blocks, file names, etc. If the firm name or logo is identified in the submission documents, this is grounds for disqualification and removal of the project from judging **without a refund or ability to resubmit.**
- Double check that all entry information complies with these requirements prior to your final submission. Project narrative plans and other details of the entry will be kept confidential and shared only for the judging process. However, by submitting you accept that IIDA Ohio Kentucky has full rights to use the Project Photography at the event and for marketing purposes for the event.
- If a vertical photo is submitted as your first 'preferred' image, IIDA Ohio Kentucky reserves the right to choose an alternate landscape photo for the event presentation and marketing purposes.
- Projects must be submitted by the Architecture or Interior Design Firm that completed the projects.
- IIDA Ohio Kentucky reserves the right to eliminate any entries that do not meet the minimum submission requirements.
- IIDA Ohio Kentucky will promote and recognize winners on the IIDA Ohio Kentucky websites, newsletters, and social media. All press releases will be sent to the local media.
- A reminder that tickets to the event are **NOT** included in the cost of project entries and must be purchased separately. Tickets will go on sale July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, see website for more information.
- Projects previously submitted to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus or Louisville in the IIDA award category are eligible to be resubmitted for IIDA Ohio Kentucky Chapter awards as long as other relevant criteria outlined in this document.

- IIDA Member listed on the entry form must be in good standing as of the submission deadline, and member must have contributed to the design of the submitted project.

Have questions about your submission or want to discuss which category your project best fits? Email VP of Special Events - Kate Schneider - [iidaohkyspecialevents@gmail.com](mailto:iidaohkyspecialevents@gmail.com)