The American Institute of Architects
College of Fellows
Path to Fellowship 2020
Founded in 1952, the College of Fellows is composed of members of the Institute who are elevated to Fellowship by a jury of their peers. Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievement of the architect as an individual, but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society.
About the College
The College was founded in 1952 and is comprised of Members of the Institute who are elevated to Fellowship by a Jury of their peers.
Fellowship is one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. [only the Gold Medal is higher].
The College is comprised of a **FOUR** member Executive Committee.
The American Institute of Architects
College of Fellows

Chancellor
Peter Kuttner, FAIA

Vice Chancellor
John Castellana, FAIA

Secretary
Frances Halsband, FAIA

Bursar
Roger Schluntz, FAIA
Missions
of the College
1. Promote Research & Scholarly Work

The Latrobe Prize

**A $100,000 Bi-Annual Research Grant**

+ EP Component Grants
Missions of the College
Mentor Young Architects & Emerging Professionals

A two-way mentoring program dedicated to lifelong learning and leadership development.
Missions
of the College
3. Sustain the College

Through Fellow Advancement & Building the College of Fellows Fund
The Submission
It’s a Story about

• Who You Are
• What You’ve Accomplished
• When It Occurred
• Why it’s Significant
• How it Benefited or was shared by the Profession
• Then Prove IT!

with Documentation and Support
The Objects
(or categories)
Design

Education, Literature, Research, or Practice

Led the Institute or Related Organization

Advancement of Living Standards

Alternative Career, Er, Service to Society
1. Design
Design, Urban Design & Preservation

a. MUST have 5 projects where candidate is “Largely Responsible for Design” with proper signoff

b. Jury doesn’t judge design

c. Jury looks for peer recognition through awards and articles
2. Education, Literature, Research or Practice
FOR EDUCATION:
Show impact through “Teaching Tools and Student Work.”

FOR PRACTICE:
Having a good firm is your job. How are you sharing with the profession?

FOR SPECIALTY PRACTICE:
Show that through design/innovation that the field is better.

May not have Honor Awards – OK, but in lieu of those, expect to demonstrate sharing with the profession.
3. Led the Institute or Related Organization

- Jury is looking for "So What?" factor. Provide quantifiable results!
- LED RELATED ORGANIZATION: Not enough just to lead it. What did you do to connect it to the AIA? Seat time is not important – what did you do?
LED THE INSTITUTE:
Jury is looking for “So What?” factor. Provide quantifiable results!

LED RELATED ORGANIZATION:
Not enough just to lead it. What did you do to connect it to the AIA? Seat time is not important – what did you do?
Advancement of Living Standards
ADVANCEMENT OF LIVING STANDARDS:

• Government industry or organization.
• Need to document the benefit to the Institute.
• How is your work affecting policies?
• How are you making things easier for architects in the profession?
Alternative Career, Volunteer, Service to Society
ALTERNATE CAREER, VOLUNTEER OR SERVICE TO SOCIETY:

• Show how contributions are significant because the nominee is an architect.
  • Volunteer work not used as a marketing vehicle.
  • Must be clear you are NOT gaining commissions through volunteer service.
Submission Composition
Sponsor Letter

Section 1: Summary Statement

Section 2: Significant Work

Section 3: Exhibits

Section 4: Reference Letters
Your Sponsor
• Must be a Fellow or an AIA member in good standing (for 10 years).

• Must provide a one-page letter of support.

• Should be your Best and Worst critic, someone that knows you very well!

• May sponsor more than one candidate, but be specific to each candidate and/or in different categories.

• Should be knowledgable about your accomplishments.
Your Sponsor
• They should be closely involved in the Submission Process.

• Their letter should speak directly and specifically to your achievements.

• They serve as a buffer between you and your references.

• Lay it all out in the letter!
Summary Statement 1.
• This is where you lay out your case. It’s your “Architectural Tombstone.”

• Focus on THREE main points, and expand them in Section 2.

• Be clear, concise and succinct, while restating claims from sponsor’s letter.

• Prove “RIPPLE EFFECT” of work.

• Local work OK, but show broad impact!

• HAMMER IT IN!
Accomplishments
2.1 SIGNIFICANT WORK

- Projects
- Jury Service
- Presentations
- Lectures
- AIA Service
- Civic & Volunteer Work

2.2 Honors, Awards & Recognition

2.3 Publications (about or by you)
Accomplishments
• Demonstrate broad influence and impact.
• You can reformat, but keep in same order.
• Group similar accomplishments together.
• Jury needs a quick visual of:
  Lectures, seminars, awards & publications.
• Work should support YOUR case first.
  • Explain any time gaps.
• Divide up different types of awards.
• Make distinction about articles:
  – about you or authored by you.
3. Exhibits
• Exhibits should support YOUR case first.
  • Show tangible results.
  • If submitting in design:
    Show a minimum of 5 projects.
  • A picture is worth 1,000 words.

AND use only your strongest projects!
  • If not in design, show them last.
• Speak directly about your work.
• Seek those with a direct connection to you.
• Each reference should focus on one or two points from your Summary Statement.
• Should be recognized leaders in your field.
• Should have a broad geographic range.
• Avoid “big names” offering no substance.
• Prepare a Clear & Concise Presentation.

• Secure a Strong Sponsor.

• Secure Strong & Specific References.

• Support your Summary Statement.

• Focus on Results & Achievements.

• Demonstrate Influence on Profession.
The Jury Process
2020 JURY OF FELLOWS:

- Paul Mankins, FAIA | Chair (Iowa)
- Mary A. Burke, FAIA (New York)
- Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)
- Mary Johnston, FAIA (Seattle)
- Nancy R. Trainer, FAIA (Pennsylvania)
- Steven Spurlock, FAIA (D.C.)
- Anna Wu, FAIA (North Carolina)

Jury members represent a diverse geographical and object mix.
THE JURY PROCESS:

• Candidates are presented alphabetically.

• Jurors review submission simultaneously.
  • Presenters draws attention to what does or does not support claims.
  • Presenter answers questions from jurors and makes recommendation.

• Jury discussion 10–12 minutes total.

THEREFORE it is critical that your submission be clear, concise and results oriented.

• Document YOUR influence on the profession.
The Jury Process
JURY RESPONSIBILITIES:

• Each juror reviews 1/7 th of total submissions (approximately 30 – 35 per juror)

• Presents assigned candidates.

• Each juror reviews the summary section for each and every candidate.

• Rule – a juror may not review candidates from their own firm or region or if they served together on a national board or committee.
The Jury Process
VOTING PROCESS:

• Only six jurors vote – one sits out (juror from their region or firm, or next presenter).

• Takes a minimum 4 votes for elevation.

• Unanimous vote is NOT REQUIRED.

• Ties are set aside until the end.
C. The Jury Process
WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

• Has nominee been nationally recognized?

• Has the nominee had a “ripple effect”?
  • What are those ripple effects?

• Has the nominee been active in the AIA?
The Jury Process
WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

• Strong, specific sponsor letter.

• Strong, specific reference letters.

• Well organized submission, not to exceed 40 pages. Ten point font is the minimum!

• Clear, concise summary statement that is not over-reaching.

• High quality images/exhibits.

• Consistency

• Leadership

• Results
The Jury Process
WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

Distinguished Body of Work

- Published work
- Award recognition

Notable Contributions

- Impact on other practices
  - Lecturing
- National leadership
The Jury Process
WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

Widespread Recognition of Results

- Publications
- Awards
- Requests to speak
- Requests to serve on juries

Sharing of Knowledge or Expertise

- Speaking and leading seminars
- Publications in architecture journals
- Publications in associated professional journals
- National news media coverage
- Published peer recognition
The Jury Process
WHAT THE JURY IS LOOKING FOR:

Leadership in the AIA

• National offices held.
• Local and regional offices held.
• Committee chair.
• Jury service.
• Authored articles.
• Presented at conventions.
• Demonstrate impact and results.
Myths
The following are all MYTHS!

- It’s best to get only Fellows to write reference letters.
- Your reference letters should come from members only.
  - Letters from BIG names are best.
  - You can’t get Fellowship in Object 1 unless you have a National Honor Award.

There are no Quotas!

- Number of candidates elevated.
- Number of candidates per category.
- Number of categories per component or region.
• by 5:00 p.m. EST
• Electronic Submissions Due
• Reference Letters Due

• NO EXCUSES

Uploading the submission takes time, don’t wait until 4:30 to start!

• Jury Convenes

• E-mail notification
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Submission</th>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>Elevated</th>
<th>Elevated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>279</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT 1</td>
<td>OBJECT 2</td>
<td>OBJECT 3</td>
<td>OBJECT 4</td>
<td>OBJECT 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>Candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
<td>Elevated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statistics & Resources
Go to:

www.aia.org/fellows

For

FAIA FAQ
Online Submission FAQ
Sample Submission
Best Examples

Contacts:

General Inquiries HonorsAwards@aia.org
Membership Eligibility aiamembershiphistory@aia.
Q&A