

A woman with long brown hair is shown in profile, working on a white architectural model. The model is a rectangular box with internal white walls and a wooden frame structure. She is using a small tool to adjust the frame. In the background, another person is partially visible, and the setting appears to be a workshop or studio.

2023 Best of Design Student Competition

Saturday, February 11th
Gensler Newport Beach

IIDA | SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA
chapter



BEST OF DESIGN - STUDENT COMPETITION

We are excited to announce that IIDA SoCal's "Best of Design - Student Competition" is now accepting applications! We invite all Student Members of IIDA to compete for some of the largest awards available to design students in the Southern California region.

Students are invited to compete in one of two design categories - Innovation and Social Relevance. Each category offers a Grand Prize of \$5,000 and an Honorable Mention prize of \$500. Students are also encouraged to apply for the Aram Arakelian Memorial Award - \$5,000 awarded to the student who can present their ideology on the importance of involvement and giving back to the A+D community, supported by real world actions, merits and achievements. Recipients of the AAMA must also excel in either the Innovation or Social Relevance categories.

This year, students will present in-person, and will be allowed 30 minutes to present.

The Grand Prize winner from each category and the recipient of the AAMA will also receive a sponsored ticket to the 2023 Calibre Design Awards on May 12th at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where they will be celebrated on-stage.

Derek Chen, IIDA, CID, FITWEL AMB.
CoVP of Student Affairs

Jillian Potts, IND. IIDA, WELL AP, LEED GA
CoVP of Student Affairs

International Interior Design Association
Southern California Chapter, Student Affairs

KEY DATES, DEADLINES & IMPORTANT INFO

January 9th

Call for Entries distributed.

Deadline Extended to February 8th!

All materials must be uploaded and submitted.

February 9th

Accepted students will be notified of their acceptance.

February 11th

Presentations will take place in person on Saturday, February 11th at Gensler Newport Beach | 4675 MacArthur Ct #100, Newport Beach, CA 92660. Exact times will be sent out with the acceptance letter.

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must have an active IIDA Membership by the project submission deadline. ([click here](#) to apply for a Student Membership.)
- Any student currently attending a Southern California University or College and participating in undergraduate program for Interior Design, Interior Architecture or Environmental Design may apply.



REQUIRED MATERIALS

Innovation and Social Relevance Categories

ONLINE APPLICATION

- ONE 11" x 17" Digital Concept Board. This should act as a preview of what will be presented the day of the competition - it should give enough information to understand the concept.
- A brief narrative explaining the thesis of the project. This should not go onto the 11 x 17 concept board.
- Transcript (Unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- Recommendation Form: A teacher, advisor and or design professional must complete the recommendation form before your application is taken into consideration.
- Please [click here](#) to submit your online application, and [click here](#) for the recommendation form.

IN-PERSON PRESENTATION

Students must have, but are not limited to, the items below in their in-person presentation.

- Floor Plan
- FFE Plan
- RCP (Lighting must be shown)
- Four Elevations
- Two Sections
- Two 3D images (iso, axo, perspective, model, etc etc)
- Materials Palette

The in-person presentation can be delivered in any medium: digital, physical, mix medium, an unique experience, etc. It is recommended for digital presentations that a physical back-up is readily available, in the event of technical difficulties. A/V will be provided for the Social Relevance and Innovation categories, but not for the AAMA presentations. It is the student's responsibility to bring any cords or adapters needed to connect to the A/V equipment available. An IIDA representative will inform students of any special connections that may be needed, closer to the day of the event.

The Aram Arakelian Memorial Award (AAMA)

ONLINE APPLICATION

- Students must submit a 500-1000 word essay explaining their philosophy on the importance of community involvement and giving-back to the A+D industry. Students must back up their thesis with as many as THREE real life examples/personal experiences.
- In order to be eligible for the AAMA, students must also complete an application and present a project for either the Innovation or Social Relevance category. The recipient of the AAMA does not need to win in those categories, but their presentation and project will be taken into consideration during final deliberation.
- Please [click here](#) to submit your online application.

IN-PERSON PRESENTATION

- Students will be presenting their philosophy verbally. Though it is not required, students are encouraged to have visuals.





Award Categories

BEST OF DESIGN INNOVATION

Awarded to a student with a project that demonstrates new ways of approaching common (or not so common) problems that we, as designers, are asked to solve. Whether that be through furniture design, programming, daylighting and energy systems, etc..

Students are expected to support their thesis with concrete evidence that explains the advantages their design has over conventional design solutions. Students must also show that there is real-world need for this new idea.

Additionally, students will be challenged to have their project be feasible and show a basic comprehension of state code compliance (Title 24/Cal Green). Students will be required to show floor and furniture plans, RCPs, elevations and at-least two sections. Students will be required to submit an essay explaining their thesis in addition to (1) 11 x 17 sample board: a preview to what students will be presenting in the competition.

Students **must** submit a commercial interior project of any size. Exterior scope or product design projects will not be accepted.

BEST OF DESIGN SOCIAL RELEVANCE

Awarded to a student with a project that addresses social or cultural issues. The project uses the power of interior design to transform a built environment, create a user experience and impact in the community. Possible subjects to address could be: aging in place, sustainability, universal design and under-represented populations or programs.

Students must show that their design is a direct response to a legitimate problem or concern. Students must use statistics and data to substantiate the response to the design problem.

Additionally, students will be challenged to have their projects be feasible and show a basic comprehension of state code compliance (Title 24/Cal Green). Students will be required to show floor and furniture plans, RCPs, elevations and at-least two sections. Students will be required to submit an essay explaining their thesis in addition to (1) 11 x 17 sample board: a preview to what students will be presenting in the competition.

Students **must** submit a commercial interior project of any size. Exterior scope or product design projects will not be accepted.

ARAM ARAKELIAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Awarded to a student who can present their philosophy on the importance of community involvement/give-back within the A+D community.

Students are required to back this philosophy with real world examples of them practicing this philosophy - either through their involvement with IIDA, their school club/campus center, honors and awards achieved through design events, etc. Students must also explain the lessons they have learned through their experiences and how that influences their ideology as it pertains to the original question.

Students will be giving an oral presentation and will be required to submit an essay of between 500-1,000 words on their application, explaining their ideology. It is encouraged, but not required, that students bring along visuals to help explain their narrative.

Note: In order to apply for the Aram Arakelian Memorial Award, students must also submit project for the Social Relevance or Innovation categories. If the student is accepted to present for the AAMA, they must present for BOTH, however not at the same time. Scoring for the Social Relevance/ Innovation category will be taken into consideration during final deliberation.



Did I... ?

Below are questions that students should ask themselves before submitting their application and when preparing for their in-person presentation. These will be some (not all) of the criteria judges will be looking for.

INNOVATION AND SOCIAL RELEVANCE

- Does my digital concept board provide enough information?
- Does my written narrative explain the board enough or should I add or subtract?
- Does my presentation show that I'm being conscious of code compliance - ADA, Title 24, Cal Green?
- Is my design feasible? Does my design rely on magic and endless amounts of money to be built?
- Do I use real world evidence to back up the programming behind my concept and design?
- How well does my concept relate to the category I'm submitting my project under?

If there are any questions, please contact Jill Potts at Jill.Potts@interface.com.

ARAM ARAKELIAN MEMORIAL AWARD

- Did I submit a completed application in either the Innovation or Social Relevance category?
- How well does my philosophy tackle the importance of being involved in the A+D community
- Do my merits and awards support my ideology?
- Does my presentation support my ideology?
- Does my ideology present a clear path of logic?



IIDA-socal.org