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38th | **CALIBRE**
Annual | Design Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES



IIDA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER PRESENTS 2026 CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Calibre Design Awards honor exceptional achievements and design excellence in commercial interior design within Southern California, and celebrate the collaborative teamwork effort essential for achieving remarkable design innovations.

The Submission Period for the 38th Calibre Design Awards will be from December 8, 2025 - January 23, 2026. Final Submissions are due by Friday, January 23rd, 2026 at 5pm PST. No exceptions or extensions will be taken after the final submission time. All project photography must be submitted by the final submission time.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The Calibre Design Awards are open to any firm based in Southern California with a minimum of one (1) IIDA Associate or IIDA Professional Member. IIDA Memberships must be in good standing and current through the end of 2026. Self-employed design professionals who are IIDA Members are also eligible.

HOW TO ENTER

The online submission form will go live on December 8th, 2025. The submission link will be published on the IIDA Southern California website [here](#). To learn more about The Calibre Design Awards Gala, including tickets & sponsorship opportunities, please click [here](#).

ENTRY FEES

There is no limit to the number of entries a designer or design firm may submit. Fees must be paid in full at the time of submission for each entry and are non-refundable under any circumstance.

Submissions Period: December 8th, 2025 to January 23rd, 2026

First Submission Fee: \$350

Subsequent Submissions Fee: \$275/each

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Projects must be located in Southern California and must have been completed between June 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025. Projects previously submitted are not eligible to be resubmitted again. No changes will be accepted once the project is submitted, including adding or deleting team members. Photography must be included with the submission and cannot be submitted separately or later than the due date.

All projects submitted shall exemplify the following principles in their design: Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Sustainability.

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Work Extra-Large: 50,000 + sq. ft.

Work Large: 25,001 - 49,999 sq. ft.

Work Medium: under 25,000 sq. ft.

Work Small: 10,000 sq ft and under

Public & Community Spaces: Government, civic, institutional, courts, transportation, worship, museum, galleries, public libraries, and community centers.

Education: Pre-school, elementary, secondary educational facilities, colleges and universities, long distance learning facilities, trade schools and institutes.

Health Environments: Hospitals, clinics, hospice/palliative care, cancer centers, pediatric care, long term care facilities, medical office buildings, mental health facilities.

Small: 25,000 SF and under

Large: 25,000 SF and over

Hospitality & Retail: Hotels, retail (point of sale, store, boutique, dispensaries), restaurants, country clubs, day spas/aesthetic clinics, and salons.

Multi-family Housing: Lobbies, communal and amenity spaces (indoor/outdoor).

Un-Built/On the Boards: Un-built projects including projects 'on the boards' including, design, strategy, and research. The project must be currently contracted by a client (no hypothetical projects allowed) and include a minimum of 3 team member firms.

People's Choice: People's Choice for any submission entered in the 10 categories. Voting will be online by all current IIDA SoCal members during a designated timeframe. To be considered for People's Choice, the entrant must complete an additional 50 word summary narrative that briefly describes the project challenge and team's solution. Winner will be announced live during the awards program.

SUBMISSION CONTENT

The Project Team shall consist of the Submitting Designer/Design Firm, the Client, and the GC. Winning teams shall receive their project award on stage.

***NEW!**

An additional 3-5 Project Contributors (not associated with the Design Firm, Client or GC) can be recognized in the submission. These contributors can include, but are not limited to, consultants, manufacturers, artists and/or specialists. For these project contributors, additional custom-engraved crystal awards will be available for purchase after the event.

The following information is required for each Team Member:

Company name, Contact name, Profession/Specialty and Contact email address.

Please be sure to enter the correct spelling and full name of each company. Company names cannot be changed after submitting. Examples of additional Team Members are the general contractor, important subcontractors, furniture manufacturers or dealers, or design consultants.

Submissions will be judged anonymously. Submissions are to include answers to 3 questions. The answers may include the name of the client or project, but must not include the names of the design firm or other team members to maintain anonymity during judging. However, if you are submitting your own firm's office, you may not include the design firm as the client or a team member in either the narrative or the photos.

Question/Requirement #1 – Project Summary Statement (Maximum 50 words)

Please provide a brief project summary to assist our juror's review of your project. Note, this summary will also be used during the 'People's Choice' award voting. Do not reference your design/architectural firm name in the description.

Question/Requirement #2 – Design Challenge (Maximum 250 words)

Please provide a description of the project's design challenge and the primary design concept implemented. Please highlight any project concepts that take into consideration innovation, regenerative/sustainable and wellness design, and any social/societal impacts. Do not reference your design/architectural firm name in this description.

Question/Requirement #3 – Design Solution (Maximum 500 words)

Please provide a statement of specific solutions to the design challenges, such as: originality, suitability of the design to the project challenges, successful incorporation of highlighted concepts noted in question #1, and how the team collaborated to resolve the challenges. Do not reference your design firm name in this statement.

Images – You may submit up to six hi-res images and a video of the completed project. Renderings are not allowed. The images must be supported by the narrative. One of the images must be a floor plan of the space. Images must be hi-res JPEGs at a minimum size of 8" x 10" at 300dpi. You will be asked to choose the featured image to be used in promotional materials – this image must be in a horizontal aspect. We recommend it be a representative interior shot. Images may contain the name and/or logo of the client.



AWARDS GALA

Winning projects will be announced at the Calibre Design Awards Gala in May 2026. Awards will be given to the team members listed in the Submission. No additional awards will be available for purchase. The nominating design firm will be responsible for delivering the awards to the team members not present at the Gala. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for more information about the 38th IIDA Southern California Calibre Design Awards, including Tickets & Sponsorship Opportunities. Click [here](#) for more information.