

# DDA



## DETROIT DESIGN AWARDS

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

BY **OCTOBER 15, 2025** AT

*[DETROITDESIGNAWARDS.COM](http://DETROITDESIGNAWARDS.COM)*

# 2026

# DETAILS & INSTRUCTIONS

## HOW TO ENTER

1. Visit <https://detroitdesignawards.com/Sign-In>
2. Register an account for your organization.
3. Sign in and click the "New Entry" link.
4. Fill out the form with your project details.
5. Attach your images.
6. Save your entry.
7. You may revisit and submit as many entries as you wish until **October 15, 2025**.
8. Once all projects are entered, use the "Submit and Pay" link to check out and finalize your submissions.

## PROJECT IMAGES

You must upload between 1 - 8, high-resolution image(s) along with your entry. Images submitted must be about 8 x 10 inches, at 300 DPI minimum (any image that does not meet this requirement will not be accepted). The acceptable format is JPG, with a size limitation of 50 MB per image. Please see our Photography Terms section.

To ensure anonymity, photos should be named by category and NOT the name of designer and/or homeowner submitting the project.

Example of correct image name:

- **traditionalgreatroom1.jpg**
- **traditionalgreatroom2.jpg**

When crediting a photographer, please list your photographer's name/company the same way throughout all entries.

Please note, all photos submitted are eligible for selection to represent the winning entries in the summer issue of Detroit Design. Photo selection and size/cropping is at the discretion of the art department.

## PROJECT CONCEPT STATEMENT / DESCRIPTION

Please provide a typed overview (100 - 250 words) detailing significant aspects of the finished project.

The statement should discuss design challenges, location (city name), design solutions, and other pertinent aspects, but must not mention firm name, nor individuals involved. Entrants must include the year the project was completed.

Design projects more than five years old will not be accepted. Projects should be submitted via the entry-submission form at [detroitdesignawards.com](https://detroitdesignawards.com).

## RISING STAR

Rising Star nominees must have fewer than 10 consecutive years' experience in their field and must have completed at least one significant project. Nominations must be submitted by someone other than the nominee. Nominees will be contacted for complete portfolio, résumé, and professional photo. No fee is required for nomination.

## READERS' CHOICE

"Readers' Choice Best Overall Home" is an award given to the project that receives the most votes from Detroit Design readers at [detroitdesignmag.com](https://detroitdesignmag.com).

Projects submitted in the Best Overall Home category are automatically available online for readers to cast their votes and are eligible to win the Readers' Choice Best Overall Home award.

## JUDGING

An independent panel is selected from outside Michigan. Judges are drawn from national media (print and television), respected academic institutions, private practice, and include nationally recognized names from design and architecture. Their expertise reflects a broad spectrum of related professions, including architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture. All judges' decisions are final.

## ELIGIBILITY

Entries that have won in/ were submitted to competitions other than the DDA are allowed. Entries that have been submitted previously (in other years) in the DDA (formerly DHDA) competition are allowed. Entries that have won in the DDA (formerly DHDA) competition (in other years) are not allowed to be submitted in the same category in which they already won.

## DEADLINE

**All entries must be submitted, and paid for in full, via web form, by October 15, 2025. FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)**

Entry fees are payable via our online entry form, which accepts PayPal, Visa®, MasterCard® or American Express®.

- 1 - 3 entries: \$100 each**
- 4 - 6 entries: \$90 each**
- 7 + entries: \$80 each**

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

One half the entry fee will be rebated as a voucher toward the purchase of an advertisement in the Summer 2026 special Design Awards issue of Detroit Design magazine.

**For advertising opportunities, contact [advertising@hour-media.com](mailto:advertising@hour-media.com).**

## PHOTOGRAPHY TERMS

Entrants must secure and submit royalty / reuse-free photos from their photographer before submitting images (to run in Detroit Design / [detroitdesignmag.com](https://detroitdesignmag.com) at no additional charge). Image Use Agreement for Detroit Design Awards Submissions  
By submitting materials (including images, descriptions, and other content) to the Detroit Design Awards, you grant Detroit Design magazine a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, distribute, and publish the submitted content solely for the promotion and marketing of the Detroit Design Awards program.

This includes use in print, digital, and social media formats, as well as in future editorial and promotional campaigns related to the Detroit Design Awards. Ownership of the original materials remains with the submitter. It is the entrant's responsibility to inform the photographer of these terms.

## GUIDELINES AND

## ADDITIONAL TERMS

Only entrants will receive an award. If other companies, designers, and/or homeowners contributed to the project and would like to receive an award, duplicate plaques may be purchased upon receipt of the winner letter at an additional cost of \$105. Additional contributors will not be mentioned at the awards ceremony, on award plaque, or in the magazine unless his/her company was listed as a "co-entrant."

**Important note:** If you list a co-entrant on an entry, the co-entrant's name will appear as a co-winner with your company name in the magazine and on the award plaque if your submission is selected as a winner. There is a separate opportunity on the submission form to list others who contributed to the project; this area is optional and those you list here will NOT receive an award plaque if your entry is selected as a winner. Their names, however, may be featured in the DDA magazine editorial.

If a category doesn't receive sufficient support, Detroit Design retains the right to remove the category from that year's competition. In this event, the entry fee would be refunded for the affected entries.

Failure to comply fully with contest rules may result in disqualification. Entry fee is non-refundable and will not be returned (even if entry is determined to be ineligible or disqualified). Hour Media is not liable for lost, stolen, ineligible, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, or postage-due entries.

Winning submissions become the property of Detroit Design magazine. Detroit Design retains legal / publishing rights of the photography indefinitely after publishing of the Summer 2026 Design Awards issue.

## QUESTIONS

**Contact: Maya Stephenson**

**PH:** 248-691-1800 xt 165

**E:** [mstephenson@hour-media.com](mailto:mstephenson@hour-media.com)

**Printable entry packets are available at:**  
[detroitdesignawards.com](https://detroitdesignawards.com)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**October 15, 2025:** Submission and fee deadline

**February 2026:** Winners notified

**June 2026:** Detroit Design Awards Gala and release of Detroit Design magazine Design Awards issue



# DDA 2026 CATEGORIES



## COMMERCIAL DESIGN

- Use of color
- Retail interior design (boutiques, stores, salons)
- Restaurants / bars
- Community / Office Space (kitchen, breakroom, conference room, etc.)
- Office
- Lobby
- Commercial landscape
- Historic renovation / restoration (50 years or older) \*

## HOME

- Historic renovation / restoration (50 years or older)
- Small-space remodel (up to 1,000 sq. ft.)
- Large remodel (over 1,000 sq. ft.)
- Addition project (architecture)
- Apartment / loft / condo
- Vacation home in Michigan
- Vacation home outside of Michigan
- New model home (architecture)
- Contemporary architecture (up to 4,000 sq. ft.)
- Contemporary architecture (more than 4,000 sq. ft.)
- Traditional architecture (up to 4,000 sq. ft.)
- Traditional architecture (more than 4,000 sq. ft.)
- Overall home

## DETAILS

- Millwork
- Stair & railing
- Decorative glass & mirror
- Flooring / Rugs
- Interior use of stone
- Interior use of tile
- Interior / exterior lighting
- Fireplace
- Custom cabinet installation
- Custom furniture
- Re-purposed furniture

## EXTERIORS

- Gate / fence / wall
- Exterior use of stone / tile / concrete
- Residential landscape water feature
- Residential swimming pool / spa
- Deck / patio / porch
- Outdoor fireplace
- Residential landscape design (over one acre)
- Residential landscape design (under one acre)
- Exterior use of color (paint, doors, shutters)

## INTERIORS

- Butler's Pantry
- Handcrafted Design / Locally Sourced
- Laundry room / mud room
- Specialty room (gym, music, craft, billiards, pet area, etc.)
- Wine room
- Bar
- Conservatory / screen room / sunroom
- Children's room / play space
- Powder room
- Bath (up to 150 sq. ft.)
- Bath (more than 150 sq. ft.)
- Kitchen (up to 200 sq. ft.)
- Kitchen (between 201 - 500 sq. ft.)
- Kitchen (over 500 sq. ft.)
- Traditional master suite
- Contemporary master suite
- Traditional dining room
- Contemporary dining room
- Traditional foyer
- Contemporary foyer
- Traditional living room / great room
- Contemporary living room / great room
- Traditional interior design (more than one room)
- Contemporary interior design (more than one room)
- Library / study
- Home office
- Use of a collection, antiques, or art
- Use of color
- Use of fabrics / upholstery
- Wall treatment (special paint technique, wall covering, etc.)
- Window treatment
- Closet
- Finished basement

# AS SEEN IN DETROIT DESIGN



## 01 IANNUZZI STUDIO with Elizabeth Fields Design

An elegant form and façade are balanced with a dramatic, playful interior. A layout of clustered pavilions creates a sense of the building unfolding as it is experienced. From each room, windows frame views of both the beautiful natural setting and other components of the home itself. In this way, the outside is constantly invited into the home. It's an ongoing conversation among the sublime modern exterior, the grand but warm interior, and the natural surroundings.

## 02 SERBA INTERIORS with Lucid Architecture

## 03 STERLING DEVELOPMENT CORP. with Jones-Keena & Co.

# AS SEEN ON AWARD PLAQUES

