

REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY – 2026 *Living on the Edge* – Coastal Custom Residential Design Awards

1. Project Submission *(see below for Project Submission Guidelines)*

One (1) PDF upload, landscape layout, 11 inches wide by 8.5 inches high, not to exceed 8MB and 12 pages (**PDFs that exceed 8MB will be excluded**). **Do not include any reference to the firm name. Do not include the firm logo.** The PDF shall include:

- Narrative (up to 500 words)
- Scaled Plan / Plans
- Scaled Site Plan / Plans
- Photos / Diagrams

2. Project Representation Images (Hero Shot) *(separate uploads)*

Three (3) additional uploads of the Project Representation Image **that includes the firm name / logo** sized as follows:

- 1080 x 1350 px JPG format (for social media promotion)
- 1920 x 1080 px JPG format (for AIA LBSB website and event slideshow)
- 20" x 20" 600 DPI PDF format (for printing)

Representation images will be exhibited on AIA LBSB social media platforms for marketing purposes after the jury deliberates, on the AIA LBSB website, and in an AIA LBSB event slideshow. The uploaded **images should be named after the project** and not include any project description text on these images.

3. Common Application for Design Excellence from the AIA COTE Top Ten Toolkit *(optional)*

The Common Application is based on the [AIA's Framework for Design Excellence](#) which seeks to inform progress toward a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment. These are to be thoughtfully considered by designer and client at the initiation of every project and incorporated into the work as appropriate to the project scope. The Framework is intended to be accessible and relevant for every architect, every client, and every project, regardless of size, typology, or aspiration. A representative from AIA LBSB's COTE Sustaining Partner, Southern California Edison, shall have the sole discretion in determining this award.

Note: This form should be completed to the best of your ability. It does not need to be completed

in full. The Excel file is a separate upload and does not count against the total pages of your submission. [Download the 2025 Updated Common Application](#).

4. Commissioned / Non-Commissioned

Each Submission Registration must indicate if it was commissioned (paid for by a client) or non-commissioned (unpaid work).

5. Legal Disclaimer (separate upload)

Each Submission must include a signed and dated [Legal Disclaimer](#).

AWARDS

The jury will review the entries and will select projects for Honor, Merit, or Citation award recognition. The jury shall have the sole authority to determine which and how many awards are justified in each category. Each entry is considered individually and is judged on the success with which it has met its individual requirements – not in competition with other entries. Jury decisions will be based solely on the materials submitted. There will be no site visits. The jury's decisions shall be final and not subject to review. No minimum or maximum number of awards has been established. Entered projects may also be eligible for additional accolades including excellence in sustainability.

PROJECT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Each completed submission package must follow these guidelines:

- Submitted in PDF format
- PDFs in landscape layout, 11 inches wide by 8.5 inches high
- **Not to exceed 8MB** (not including Required Forms upload or Project Representation Images)
- Font 11 point or larger
- Do not reveal firm/project name on Project Submission – only on Project Representation Images
- Optional Common Application for Design Excellence from the AIA COTE Top Ten Toolkit submitted as an Excel spreadsheet

Narrative & Hero Shot (page 1)

A narrative of the project (up to approx. 500 words) which illustrates a concise picture through imaginative verbiage. On this page, also include one image that best represents the project. Include the type of project, completion date, and city in which the project is located. This is basic information provided to the jury about your project.

- Describe your project as succinctly as possible.
- Incorporate information about project intentions, program requirements, and sustainable design goals, if any. Include the context, program/scope, special challenges/unusual characteristics, and the solution/design of the project.
- Explain all design achievements that demonstrate exemplary skill and creativity in the resolution and integration of formal, functional, and technical requirements.
- Projects should reflect a strong sense of place, ecology, resource efficiency, history, and purpose as an integral part of demonstrated design excellence.
- For preservation/restoration projects, provide the jury with pertinent information to differentiate between the original architects' work and the newly altered, preserved, or restored work.

Subsequent pages

These pages should include images, photos, diagrams, site plans, floor plans, and elevations. Photos must be clear with a suggested image resolution of 125 to 150 DPI.

- Include both interior and exterior photographs that illustrate the complete project, including its relationship to its surroundings.
- You may include composite images.
- Site Plans may be drawn at any scale in any medium, but the graphic bar scale and north arrow must be indicated clearly.
- Floor Plans must clearly explain the solution.
- Historic Preservation/Restoration Projects must include a side-by-side before and after photo.
- Interior Architecture projects are required to include one exterior photo to give context to the project's surroundings.