

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES DESIGN AWARDS SHOWCASE

CALL FOR ENTRIES SPRING 2027

**Early Bird Discount Project
Entry Deadline**

September 18, 2026

**Final Project Entry
Deadline**

October 23, 2026

Submission E-Upload Date

November 10, 2026

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Ellen Ochoa Middle School, Landover Hills, MD | Grimm + Parker Architects | Photo: Sam Kittner Photography

Celebrating the Power of Design

- Gain National Recognition
- Promote Outstanding Work
- Elevate Design Excellence
- Demonstrate Architectural Impact
- Set New Standards for the Future



Casa Blanca Elementary School, Riverside, CA | GO Architects, Inc. | Photo: Genevieve Wolff, GO Architects, Inc.

Open To All Types Of Learning Environments

LEARNING BY DESIGN

The Premier Source
for Education Design
Innovation and
Excellence

Celebrate, honor, and promote your work while setting new aspirational standards!

Through more than three decades of dedication to the best of educational building science, *Learning By Design Magazine* celebrates the inherent interdependence of learning and design as the fundamental basis for our experiences in life.

Enter *Learning By Design* magazine's **SPRING 2027 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES DESIGN AWARDS SHOWCASE**. This program delivers to school and university facility design leaders a comprehensive compendium featuring state-of-the-art educational facility architecture, campus planning, and interior design.

Learning By Design is not a trade publication, but rather a sought-after pure design-focused and knowledge-based trusted resource that education executives value as their armchair guide to school and college architecture and design.

Awarded projects featured in the *Learning By Design* Spring 2027 edition will be celebrated for their innovation, originality, and positive impact on the communities they serve. **Allow *Learning By Design* to showcase your achievements and inspire the next generation of educational environments.**

www.learningbydesignmagazine.com

LEARNING BY DESIGN

THE PREMIER SOURCE FOR EDUCATION DESIGN INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

Educational Facilities Design Awards

Grand Prize Award

GRAND PRIZE - UNDER 100,000 SQ. FT.
EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL
Del Mar, CA
D.H. Group
Photo: CDB Group and Cusick Photography

Jury Comments:
"The project's ability to deliver on their mission to use design and space to enhance the learning experience is a testament to the power of design in education."

Key Features:
"The project's ability to deliver on their mission to use design and space to enhance the learning experience is a testament to the power of design in education."

Photo: CDB Group and Cusick Photography

>> To learn more, see page 63.

Citation of Excellence Award

CITATION OF EXCELLENCE - UNDER 100,000 SQ. FT.
EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HARPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Chattanooga, TN
SCB Architecture & Studio
Photo: CDB Group and Cusick Photography

Jury Comments:
"The project's ability to deliver on their mission to use design and space to enhance the learning experience is a testament to the power of design in education."

Photo: CDB Group and Cusick Photography

>> To learn more, see page 61.

Honor Awards

HONOR AWARD - CLIMATE ACTION
EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TOMMY MONTGOMERY AND DANNY VASSAL
UPPER SCHOOL COMPLEX
Chattanooga, TN
Tobias Industries
Photo: Tobias Industries

Jury Comments:
"The project's ability to deliver on their mission to use design and space to enhance the learning experience is a testament to the power of design in education."

Photo: Tobias Industries

>> To learn more, see page 107.

"As a *Learning By Design* junkie, this is an incredible honor to have my project included in the magazine."

—Shannon Dowling, MA, AIA, LEED AP, Principal
Ayers Saint Gross

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | NEW CONSTRUCTION | ENTIRE BUILDING

North Bend Elementary School

HUNTER, TX

Jury Comments:
"The project's ability to deliver on their mission to use design and space to enhance the learning experience is a testament to the power of design in education."

Photo: CDB Group and Cusick Photography

>> To learn more, see page 101.

Eligibility Requirements

Open to: Architecture, Planning and Interior Design Firms, Education Institutions, Construction Companies, Landscape Architects, Manufacturers, and Facility Design Consultants.

Eligible Settings: Projects of any size are eligible for entry, including new construction, rehabilitation, and unbuilt designs. Entries may include private or public PreK, elementary, middle, combined-level, and high schools; Career Technical Education facilities; two- and four-year colleges and universities; libraries; community centers; outdoor environments; and learning spaces of all scales, from small nooks to comprehensive educational settings.

For built projects, construction must have been completed within four years of the final submission deadline (November 2026). For unbuilt projects, an active client commitment is required, with project completion scheduled within two years of the final submission deadline. Portions of the project may already be under implementation; however, the entire project need not be completed at the time of entry. To qualify for the Renovation category, at least 25% of the project's total area must consist of renovated space.

Example Categories: Auditoriums and Music Rooms; Athletic and Sports and Fitness Facilities; Art and Design Schools; Cafeterias and Dining Halls; Career Technical Education Centers; Classrooms; Commons; Community Centers; Combined-Level Schools; Dormitories and Residence Halls; Early Childhood Centers; Elementary Schools; Clinics and Health Centers; Entire Buildings; E-Sports Facilities; Exhibition Spaces; High Schools; Historic Preservation Projects; Libraries and Media Centers; Maker Spaces; Modular Buildings; Multi-Use Buildings; Outdoor Spaces, Playgrounds, and Classrooms; Performing Arts Centers; Postsecondary Schools; Science Centers; School Prototypes; Single Spaces; Special Needs and Sensory Spaces; STEM/STEAM Environments; Student Unions; and Other Educational Facilities.

Enter today at: <https://bydesign.secure-platform.com/a>

Award Types

- Grand Prize and Citation of Merit Award Entire Environment >100,000 sq. ft.
- Grand Prize and Citation of Merit Award Entire Environment <100,000 sq. ft.
- Climate Action Honor Award
- Unbuilt Project Honor Award
- Adaptive Reuse Award
- Renovation, Historic Preservation Honor Award
- Single Space <2000 sq. ft. Honor Award
- Outstanding Project Award

Awards Judging

The *Learning By Design* Awards is a peer-juried program. A distinguished panel of 4–6 architects, designers, and education professionals is selected through recommendations from the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE), the Association of University Interior Designers (AUID), and *Learning By Design*.

Judging Criteria

All projects will be evaluated and scored based on how effectively they address the following criteria:

- Design Challenges, Innovation and Solutions
- Functional Design/Effective Space Planning
- Sustainability and Social Impact
- Next Generation Learning
- Interior Architecture/Design
- Community Impact and Engagement
- Judging Components

From the highest scoring projects the jury will select Grand Prize, Citation of Excellence, and Honor Awards across the seven Award Types. All other projects demonstrating exceptional merit, innovation, and design excellence will receive an Outstanding Project Award.

Personalized commemorative certificates will be given to all award recipients.

“Learning By Design has been incredibly beneficial to assist me and my facilities team in the development and refinement of our educational specifications and facility standards to fully support educational pedagogies to maximize student learning and achievement. The knowledge we gained by this resource was instrumental to help us successfully implement six bond programs totaling \$5.2 billion in renovations and new construction to support the growth over the years of the third largest K12 school district in the state of Texas. I highly recommend all parties involved in educational facilities to subscribe and invest their time in reading this publication.”

—Roy J Sprague, AIA, NCARB, ALEP, LE Fellow
Retired Chief Operations Officer, Cypress Fairbanks ISD
Senior Vice President
Prolégo Consulting Solutions

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Expedition Elementary School, Bethel School District, WA | NAC Architects
Photo: ©2025 Benjamin Benschneider

Learning By Design Reaches Your Market

Circulation By Title

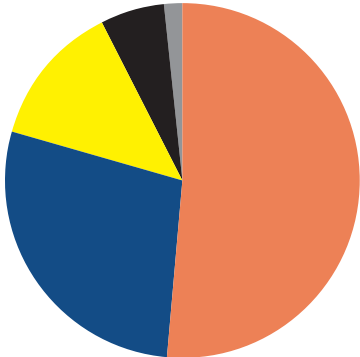
53% Public PK-12 School District
(with 1,000+ enrollment)
Superintendents; Public School
Board Presidents; CEO's;
Facilities, Construction, Building
and Grounds Directors (23,979)

26% Education Studio AEC
(Architectural/Engineering/
Construction) and Interior
Design Firms Architects,
Interior Designers, Planners
(11,557)

13% College/University/
Community College
Campus Architects, Planners,
Interior Designers, Facilities
Managers, Deans, Directors,
Presidents, Chancellors,
Business Officers (5,717)

6% Other – Consultants, Dealers,
and FF&E professionals (2,644)

2% Private/Charter School/
Voc-ED School
Superintendents/Heads of
Schools (1,029)



The circulation of *Learning By Design* is specifically focused to develop business for architecture and design firms.

Unmatched Exposure for Your Firm, Client and School!

All featured projects receive maximum national exposure to more than 45,000+ education decision makers, **PLUS these FREE marketing enhancements:**

- All projects are showcased on LearningByDesignMagazine.com.
- All projects receive a custom award certificate for the school.
- A second award certificate is provided for the firm's office.
- All projects may submit a complimentary video for viewing in the online gallery at LearningByDesignMagazine.com, along with links to the firm's social media channels.
- Five (5) additional copies of *Learning By Design*.
- Top Award Winners receive a six-month LBD Website Scrolling Banner.
- All projects are featured in the *Learning By Design* Online Project Gallery 24/7/365.
- Additional copies are distributed at regional A4LE chapter meetings.

Readers share each issue with an average of three additional decision-makers — expanding your project's visibility, influence, and reach.

**ENTER BY
SEPT. 18TH
AND SAVE
\$300**



How to Enter

1. Create an account (or log in with your existing account if you are a previous LBD Awards participant) at:
<https://bydesign.secure-platform.com/a>
2. Once logged in, complete an **Entry Form** for each project you want to submit, and be sure to save each one.
3. Finalize your entry by paying by credit card through the shopping cart, or requesting an invoice.
4. Once your entry is finalized, you will receive an email confirmation of your order along with detailed instructions for accessing and completing the Submission Form for each project entered.
5. Project Submission Forms are due by **November 10, 2026**.
6. Project Award notifications are expected in early December 2026. Publication proofs will follow, and the Spring 2027 edition will be mailed in April 2027.

All projects will be reviewed anonymously. Any firm names or contact information included in project files or text submissions will be removed from jury materials and will not be visible to the jury.

Submission Form Requirements

For Jury Review

- Project data, including square footage, cost, site information, and demographic information, plus a list of up to five design team members/partners and key firm and project contacts.
- Up to six site plans and/or floor plans with explanatory captions.
- Up to 16 photographs or, for unbuilt projects, renderings with explanatory captions.
- A brief, firm-agnostic project overview describing the scope of work; how the project addresses the six core *Learning By Design* judging criteria; the client's goals and whether they were achieved; the design challenges encountered and how they were overcome; and the project's overall outcomes.

For publication:

A general-public project overview, plus a specified number of high-resolution photographs corresponding to the publication package selected, including the required word count and image quantity for the project's page layout.



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Project Page Layout

When reserving your project entry, you will select the number of pages to be devoted to your project in *Learning By Design*.

Additional pages provide more space for project descriptions, photography, and storytelling, allowing you to showcase your work in greater depth and reach a broader audience.



1 Page: 3 photos / 200 words • **2 Pages:** 4-6 photos / 400 words • **3 Pages:** 5-7 photos / 600 words

Publication Entry Fees

Entry fees help cover judging, production, and print and digital distribution costs. Per-page discounts apply to multi-page entries and multiple project submissions.

Submit reservations before the Early Bird September 18, 2026 deadline and receive the lowest rates.

Total Number of Pages	Early Bird Rate Deadline: September 18, 2026	Regular Rate Deadline: October 23, 2026
1 Page	\$2,100	\$2,400
2 Pages	\$2,000 per-page (\$4,000 total)	\$2,300 per-page (\$4,600 total)
3 Pages	\$1,975 per-page (\$5,925 total)	\$2,190 per-page (\$6,570 total)



The *Learning By Design* Awards projects do more than showcase outstanding design—they highlight the latest concepts in forward-thinking educational environments and professional practice. Each project tells the story of how collaborative teams came together to achieve design excellence.

Each issue of *Learning By Design* reaches the members of The Association For Learning Environments (A4LE); The American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Education (AIA-CAE); The Association for University Interior Designers (AUID); and district capital expenditure professionals as tracked by School Bond Finder.

Questions? Contact Sarah Klinge: sarah@learningbydesignmagazine.com | P: 216.374.8561

CALL LEARNING BY DESIGN FOR ENTRIES

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Designquest Media LLC.
30559 Pinetree Rd., Ste. 210
Cleveland, OH 44124

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TOGETHER, WE SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LEARNING



The Coalition for the
Advanced Understanding of
School Environments



Enter Early and Save!

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Outstanding
education facility
architecture and
interior design
projects do
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themselves...
BUT WE DO!

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