

LEARNING BY DESIGN

THE PREMIER SOURCE FOR EDUCATION DESIGN INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

FALL 2026 ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Early Bird Discount Deadline

March 13, 2026

Final Reservation Deadline

May 22, 2026

Submission E-Upload Date

July 9, 2026

PUBLISHED: October 2026

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF DESIGN

- Gain National Recognition
- Elevate the Quality of Design Ideas & Solutions
- Demonstrate the Strength and Scope of Architecture
- Celebrate the Value of Exceptional Design



Good design can have a profoundly positive effect on the built environment and improve learning, teaching, and life.

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 FALL 2026 ARCHITECTURE and INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE program, delivering 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.

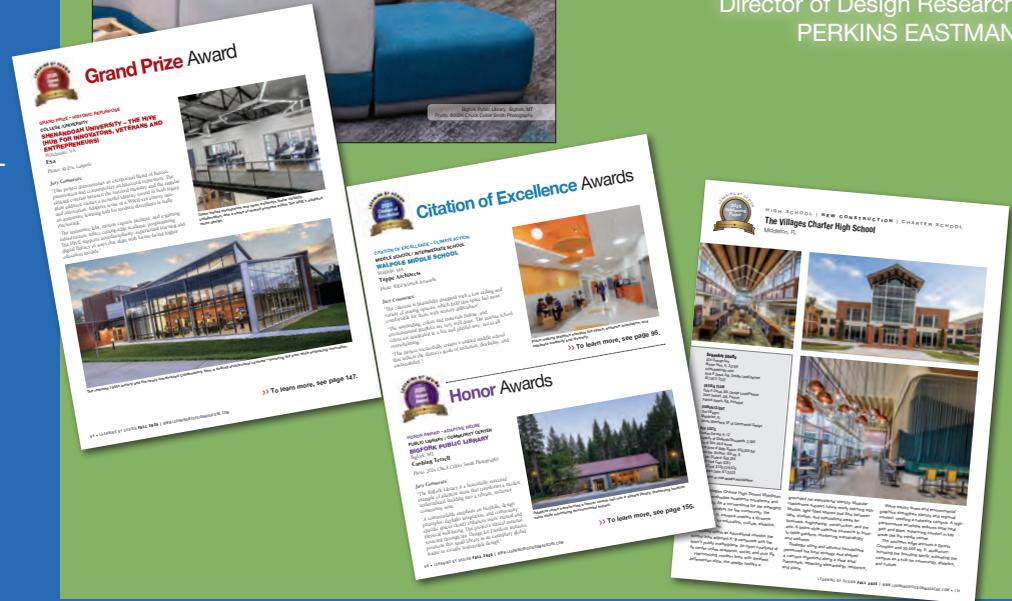
Awarded projects featured in the *Learning By Design* Fall 2026 edition will be celebrated for being innovative, and unique, and improving the quality of life for their community. **Allow *Learning By Design* to honor and promote your work while setting new aspirational standards!**

www.learningbydesignmagazine.com



“*Learning By Design*’s targeted audience is school administrators/decision-makers and designers... so, it’s a way to improve industry practice as well as get in front of potential clients.”

—Emily Chmielewski, EDAC
Senior Associate
Director of Design Research
PERKINS EASTMAN



Enter Your Work for Consideration for a Design Award

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 may be entered, whether built new construction, rehabilitation, or unbuilt. Including private or public PreK, elementary, middle schools, combined-level schools, high schools, Career Technical Education Facilities, 2-4 yr. colleges and universities, libraries, community centers, single small nooks/spaces, and outdoor environments.

For built projects, construction must have been completed within four years before the final submission deadline (July 2026). For the unbuilt, projects must have an active client, completion is scheduled within 2 years after the final submission deadline, portions of the project are under implementation, however the entire project need not be completed. To qualify as a Renovation, at least 25% of total space must be renovation.

Example Categories: Auditoriums/Music Rooms, Athletic Facility, Art And Design Schools, Cafeteria/Dining Hall, Career Technical Education Centers, Classrooms, Commons, Community Center, Combined-Level School, Dorm/Residence Hall, Early Childhood Center, Clinic, Elementary School, Entire Building, E-Sports Facilities, Exhibition Space, High School, Historic Preservation, Library/Media Center, Maker Space, Modular Building, Muti-Use Building, Outdoor Spaces/Playgrounds/Classrooms, Performing Arts Centers, Postsecondary School, Science Center, School Prototype, Single Spaces, Special Needs/Sensory Spaces, Sport/Fitness Facilities, STEM/STEAM, Student Union, Other.

San Bernadino High School Cardinal Child Development Center, San Bernadino City Unified School District, San Bernadino, CA | LPA Design Studios | Photo: LPA Design Studios

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

Awards 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 are a peer juried program. A pool of 4–6 architects, designers, and education professionals are drawn by recommendation of the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE), the Association for University Interior Designers (AUID), and by *Learning By Design*.

Judging Criteria

All projects will be judged and scored based on the level the submission meets the following criteria.

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

From the highest scoring projects the jury will bestow Grand Prize, Citation of Excellence, and Honor Awards drawn from the seven Award Types. All other projects deemed worthy of emulation and of contemporary standard 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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Porter-Leath Early Childhood Academy | Orange Mound, Memphis TN | RDG Planning & Design | Photo: ©Thomas Grady Photography

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Learning By Design Reaches Your Market

Circulation By Title

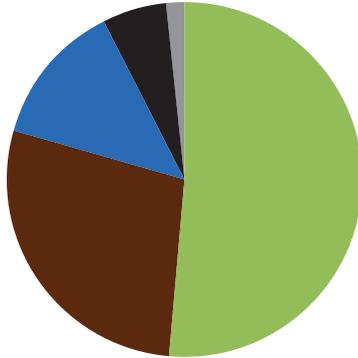
51% Public PK-12 School District (with 1,000+ enrollment) Superintendents; Public School Board Presidents; CEO's; Facilities, Construction, Building and Grounds Directors (25,724)

28% Education Studio AEC (Architectural/Engineering/Construction) and Interior Design Firms Architects, Interior Designers, Planners (14,086)

13% College/University/Community College Campus Architects, Planners, Interior Designers, Facilities Managers, Deans, Directors, Presidents, Chancellors, Business Officers (6,583)

6% Other – Consultants, Dealers, and FF&E professionals (2,904)

2% Private/Charter School/Voc-ED School Superintendents/Heads of Schools (782)



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

Unbeatable Exposure for Your Firm, Client and School!

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

- All projects are posted on LearningByDesignMagazine.com.
- Every project receives for the school a custom award certificate that is double matt mounted and encased in a 14" x 18" solid wood frame.
- A second award certificate is provided for the firm's office.
- All projects may provide a free video for gallery viewing at LearningByDesignMagazine.com, plus links to the firm's social media sites.
- Five (5) extra copies of *Learning By Design*.
- Top Award Winners receive a 6-month LBD Website Scrolling Banner.
- All Projects are featured in the *Learning By Design* Online Project Gallery 24/7/365 days of the year.
- Copies are distributed at Regional A4LE Chapter meetings.

Readers Share Each Issue With An Average of 3 Additional Decision-Makers. Giving Your Project Extra Visibility and Reach!

ENTER BY
MARCH 13TH
AND SAVE
\$300



How to Enter

1. Go online to: <https://bydesign.secure-platform.com/a> and create an account. If you are a previous *Learning By Design* participant, use your existing login details.
2. Once logged in, complete an Entry Form for your first project. If you are entering multiple projects, continue to add project registrations until all projects have been saved.
3. Finalize your Entry by making a credit card payment in the “Shopping Cart” or you may request an invoice.
4. Once your project(s) entry is finalized you will receive a confirmation of your order by email plus detailed next-step instructions for accessing and completing your project(s) Submission Form.
5. All Project(s) Submission Form(s) are due: **Thursday, July 9, 2026.**
6. Project awards notification will occur in early August, 2026, followed by receipt of a designed project publication proof page(s) for your approval. The Fall 2026 edition of *Learning By Design* will mail in October 2026.

Review Process

All projects will be submitted anonymously; project jury files or text containing firm name or contact information will not be seen by the jury.

Submission Form Requirements For the jury:

- Set of project sq. ft. size, cost, site, and demographic data points, plus a list of five design team members/partners and key firm/project contacts.
- A combination of 5 site/floor plans with explanatory captions.
- 16 photographs or renderings for unbuilt projects with explanatory captions.
- One brief firm agnostic project overview detailing specific aspects of the scope-of-work, how the project related to the six core *Learning By Design* Judging Criteria, what were the clients’ goals and were they met, the design challenges faced and overcome, and was the outcome achieved.

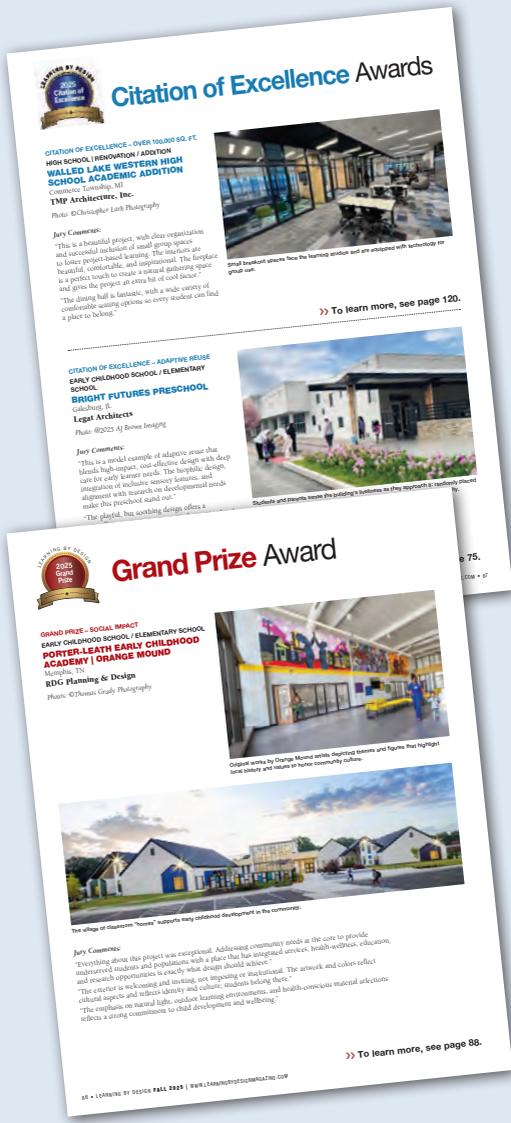
In addition, for publication:

One general public project overview plus a set number of high-resolution photos corresponding in word count and image quantity to the project’s entry fee publication page layout size.



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Project Page Layout

When you reserve your project entry you will choose the number of pages you ultimately want devoted to your project when published in *Learning By Design*.

More pages allow for more descriptive text, plus more space to publish additional or larger photographs which equates to greater exposure and storytelling.

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

Publication Entry Fees

All entries must be prepaid. Entry fees help cover judging expenses, production, and print and digital distribution. Per page discounts apply to multiple pages for one project, or when entering multiple projects. **Submit reservations before the Early Bird March 13, 2026 deadline and receive the lowest rates.**



Total Number of Pages	Early Bird Rate Deadline: March 13, 2026	Regular Rate Deadline: May 22, 2026
1 Page	\$2,100	\$2,400
2 Pages	\$2,000/page (\$4,000 total)	\$2,300/page (\$4,600 total)
3 Pages	\$1,975/page (\$5,925 total)	\$2,190/page (\$6,570 total)

The *Learning By Design* Awards projects are not just beautiful, but showcase the latest concepts in forward-thinking education design and practice and tell how teams collaborated to achieve 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

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