

M I D W E S T  
**DESIGN**  
A W A R D S

SUBMIT PROJECTS THROUGH 11:59 P.M. ON JULY 31

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**MIDWESTDESIGNAWARDS.COM**

# 2026 AWARD CATEGORIES

## BEST IN SHOW

Single best project from all submissions

## COMMERCIAL DESIGN

Commercial building architecture

Lobby

Office

Restaurants/bars

Retail interior design (boutiques, stores, salons)

## DETAILS

Custom cabinet installation

Custom-designed object

Decorative glass & mirror

Fireplace

Interior/exterior lighting

Interior use of stone

Interior use of tile

Millwork

Stair & railing

## EXTERIORS

Deck/patio

Exterior use of color (paint, doors, shutters)

Exterior use of stone/tile/concrete

Outdoor kitchen

Residential landscape design

Residential swimming pool

Specialty Structure (greenhouse, conservatory, ADU, "She Shed", etc.)

## HOME

Addition project (architecture)

Apartment/loft/condo

Contemporary architecture (up to 4,000 sq. ft.)

Contemporary architecture (more than 4,000 sq. ft.)

Historic renovation/restoration (50 years or older)

Lakeside home

Multigenerational design

New build (completed in 2025 or newer)

Overall home

Remodel - small space (up to 1,000 sq. ft.)

Remodel - large space (1,001 - 2,500 sq. ft.)

Remodel - whole home (more than 2,500 sq. ft.)

Sustainable design (net zero, tiny home, electrified, EDUs, infill housing, etc.)

## HOME (CONT.)

Traditional architecture (up to 4,000 sq. ft.)

Traditional architecture (more than 4,000 sq. ft.)

Vacation home in Minnesota

Vacation home outside of Minnesota

## INTERIORS

Bar

Bath (up to 75 sq. ft.)

Bath (76 - 150 sq. ft.)

Bath (more than 150 sq. ft.)

Biophilic design

Butler's pantry/scullery/back kitchen

Children's room/play space

Closet

Contemporary dining room

Contemporary foyer

Contemporary interior design (more than one room)

Contemporary living room/great room

Contemporary primary suite

Finished basement

Garage

Guest suite

Home office

Kitchen (up to 200 sq. ft.)

Kitchen (201 - 300 sq. ft.)

Kitchen (301 - 400 sq. ft.)

Kitchen (more than 400 sq. ft.)

Laundry room/mudroom

Library/study

Porch/screen room/sunroom

Powder room

Specialty room (gym, music, craft, billiards, pet area, home theater, etc.)

Traditional dining room

Traditional foyer

Traditional interior design (more than one room)

Traditional living room/great room

Traditional primary suite

Use of art, antiques, or collection

Use of color

Wall treatment (special paint technique, wall covering, etc.)

Wine room

## HOW TO ENTER

Begin by visiting [MidwestDesignAwards.com](http://MidwestDesignAwards.com), then click on the “submit project” button (available during open entry period only). You may then create a new account or use an existing account for your organization. Once an account has been created, and after you’ve signed in, click the “New Entry” link and fill out the form with your project details and attach your images. Remember to save your entry. You may revisit and submit as many entries as you wish until 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2026. Once you’ve entered all of your projects, use the “Submit and Pay” link to check out and finalize your submissions.

## PROJECT IMAGES

Each entry must be accompanied by at least two (2), but no more than eight (8), high-resolution image(s). Image(s) 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 50MB per image. Please see our Photography Terms section. Although not required, we recommend submitting one horizontal image, as these are often used in the awards program for winning projects.

Please upload your images via the online submission form.

## DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted, and paid for in full, via the online submission form by 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2026.

## FEES

1-3 entries: \$100 each

4-6 entries: \$75 each

7+ entries: \$50 each

Entry fees are payable via our online entry form, which accepts PayPal, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Fees are non-refundable. Please note that these charges will show on your financial statement as “Hour Media.”

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

50% of your entry fee will be rebated as a voucher toward the purchase of a print advertisement in the Spring 2027 issue of *Midwest Design*.

For advertising opportunities, contact Lori Miller (612-371-5880 or [lmiller@greenspring.com](mailto:lmiller@greenspring.com)).

## PHOTOGRAPHY TERMS

Entrants must secure and submit royalty / reuse-free photos from their photographer before submitting images (to be used during the Midwest Design Awards Gala and published by Greenspring Media and its affiliates at no additional charge). All photography submitted

may be published free of charge by Greenspring Media with free usage in print and online for one year from the announcement of the award winners at the Midwest Design Awards Gala. It is the entrant’s responsibility to inform the photographer of these terms.

If you are listing your photographer’s name and that photographer took photos that you are entering in more than one category, please list your photographer’s name / company the same way throughout.

## PROJECT CONCEPT STATEMENT / DESCRIPTION

Please provide a typed overview (100-250 words) detailing significant aspects of the 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. If submitting the same project in multiple categories, we suggest editing the description for each to be specific to that particular category. Projects should be submitted via the entry submission form at [MidwestDesignAwards.com](http://MidwestDesignAwards.com).

## BEST IN SHOW

All projects submitted will be entered into the Best in Show award category, which is awarded to the singular project with the highest average score.

## JUDGING

An independent panel is selected to judge. Judges are drawn from national media, respected academic institutions, and private practice, and include nationally recognized names from design and architecture along with *Midwest Design*’s editorial team. Their expertise reflects a broad spectrum of related professions, including architecture, building, remodeling, interior design, and landscape design. All judges’ decisions are final.

## ELIGIBILITY

Previous first-, second-, and third-place winning projects in the Midwest Design Awards are not eligible to enter in the same category in which the entry previously won. Entries that have won in, or were submitted to, competitions other than the Midwest Design Awards are allowed. The address of the project or company must be in the state of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Projects must have been completed within five years of July 31, 2026. *Midwest Design* reserves the right to disqualify any entries.

## GUIDELINES / ADDITIONAL TERMS

Projects may have an entrant, and up to two co-entrants. Additional contributors, such as designers, architects, etc. will not be listed on the award, mentioned at the awards ceremony, or listed in the magazine, unless listed as a co-entrant.

Only one physical award will be produced for winning projects. It will list the entrant, and the co-entrants, in the order they were entered. Additional awards may be purchased by the primary entrant company, following the gala.

**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 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 if your entry is selected as a winner.

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). Greenspring Media is not liable for lost, stolen, ineligible, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, or postage-due entries.

Winning submissions become the property of Greenspring Media. Greenspring Media retains legal / publishing rights through one year after publishing of the Spring 2027 *Midwest Design* magazine. If a category does not receive enough entries, the project entries in that category will be declined and fully refunded.

## QUESTIONS?

For questions regarding the program, or for entry submission assistance, please contact us at: [marketing@greenspring.com](mailto:marketing@greenspring.com)

Printable entry packets are available at [MidwestDesignAwards.com](http://MidwestDesignAwards.com).

## IMPORTANT DATES

### JULY 31, 2026

Submission and fee deadline

### SEPTEMBER 2026

Finalists notified and Midwest Design Awards Gala tickets on sale

### DECEMBER 10, 2026

Midwest Design Awards Gala

### FEBRUARY 2027

*Midwest Design* issue with Midwest Design Awards winners

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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