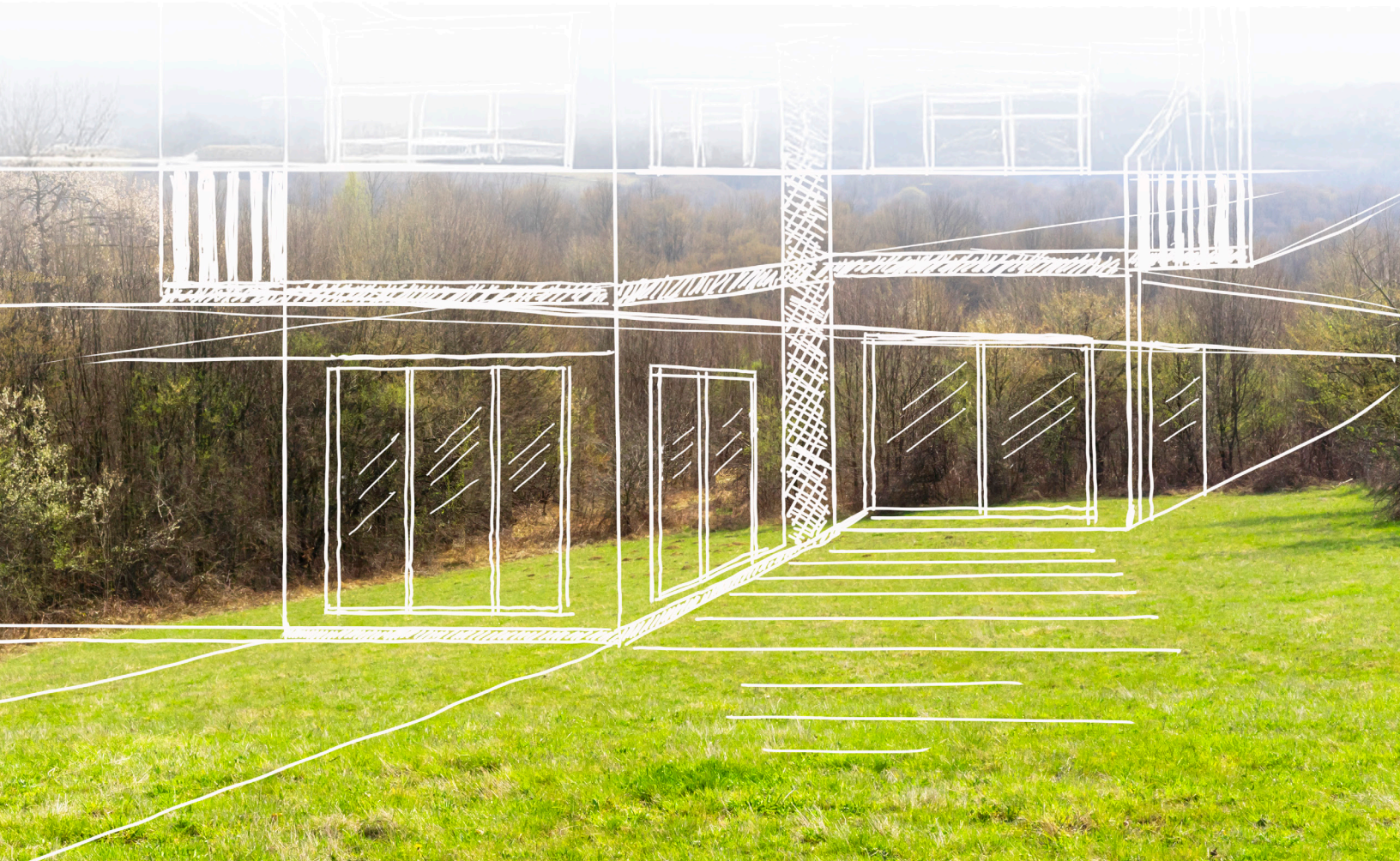
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RESILIENCE BY DESIGN SYMPOSIUM

AIA South Carolina invites architects, engineers, designers, planners, academic faculty and students, researchers, artists, builders, policy makers, and civic leaders to submit proposals for the RxD 2027: Resilience By Design Symposium focused on sustainable, resilient, and inclusive design through the theme of: Delivering Regenerative Futures.

AIA South Carolina



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This annual event gathers design professionals and civic leaders from across the region to share research, exchange ideas, and shape the future of our communities – and to support resilience regionally.

Ideal proposals present successful strategies, original research, and inspiring frameworks that advance sustainable, resilient, and inclusive architecture as a discipline. Participants will leave with expanded knowledge, sharpened practice, and a stronger network of peers committed to resilient design in South Carolina and our greater regional community.

KEY DATES

Proposals open	November 4, 2026
Proposals close	December 1, 2026, 5:00pm EST
Selection & notification of speakers	December 18, 2026
Speaker Agreements/Confirmation due	January 8, 2027
Symposium Speaker Reception & Tour	March 30, 2027, 4:00pm-Til EST (Columbia, SC)
Symposium date	March 31, 2027, 8:30-4pm EST (Columbia, SC)

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of South Carolina Chapter Committee members based on the following:

- Strong preference for demonstration of Case Studies aligned with AIA Framework for Design Excellence, and it's defining 10 Principles of design excellence
- Substantive content with creative design strategies and practical instructional applications
- Innovativeness and originality - Relevance to the theme and to community resilience
- Overall quality and potential to contribute to a balanced symposium agenda
- Instructional level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and attendee interaction
- Experience of the speaker(s)
- Eligibility for AIA CES Learning Units, with preference for HSW-eligible content
- Applicability to architects, planners, builders, developers, students, and allied professionals

QUESTIONS?

For questions about the Call for Proposals, RxD 2027, or other opportunities to get involved with AIA South Carolina, contact:

Robert Harrahill, Executive Director, AIA South Carolina
resilience@aiasc.org

THEME: DELIVERING REGENERATIVE FUTURES

Prior RxD Symposium topics include coastal resilience, disaster response, climate change, resilience studies in architectural education, adaptability, strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation, state office of resilience updates, and resilient urban development. Regenerative Design represents the next major evolution in architecture, shifting the profession's focus from merely mitigating environmental harm to actively restoring ecosystems, strengthening human communities, and delivering net-positive impacts. This symposium seeks to explore sessions about how contemporary design can build upon existing strategies including passive design, vernacular traditions, indigenous knowledge, and systems thinking that have long worked in harmony with local climates, ecosystems, and available resources. For inspiration, read The need for regenerative design in architecture | The American Institute of Architects.

The strongest proposals will be specific, relevant and invigorating. The aim is to discuss, engage and connect through our network of professionals in ways that highlight the processes that have been traditionally successful combined with progressive ideology.

WE WANT YOU TO ADDRESS AND INQUIRE ABOUT:

- How are the concepts of Regenerative Design reshaping the field, delivery of architecture and development, and how should professionals respond?
- How can our projects more clearly reflect the COTE defined 10 principles for Design Excellence, and have we embedded these Design Excellence concepts in our firm's design processes, culture, and success metrics?
- How can the profession respectfully integrate indigenous and vernacular knowledge to challenge typologies, clients, and/or ecoregions or biomes, without extracting them from their cultural context?
- What does climate-resilient architecture look like in the Southeast? How can it be more regenerative? How can we increase our role/responsibility in shaping development?

RESILIENCE TOPICS TO CONSIDER

The following is a list of recommended keywords and discussion prompts related to the traditional Resilience topics, but we expect you to consider those through the regenerative design lens. This is to help you craft your session description within the symposium ethos. We encourage you to use the relevant keywords for the topics to improve visibility and audience engagement, and we are looking for fresh, innovative ideas and sessions that focus on making a thriving regenerative future possible.

Inspirational Regenerative Building Design (Major Theme & Topic)

- Biomimicry & Biophilia
- Nature-Positive impact through/in Architecture & Engineering
- Living Futures - from Aspiration to Application

Practice-Related Academic Resilience Research & Approaches

- Resilience Design Toolkit : Withstand, Adapt, Recover, Transform
- Healthy Construction: Material transparency, Sustainability, Innovation, and Technology in construction methods
- Modularity, prefabrication, and advanced construction/ai tools

Community-focused Resilience & Environment

- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) Investment
- Insuring Resilience & Risk: Capital Planning, Infrastructure Performance, Operational Continuity, and Long-term Asset Value...How Regenerative Design Strategies improve your insurance rates
- Bridging the climate and social injustice in vulnerable populations

Resilience in Policy/Governance

- Development and Implementation of NIST Community Resilience Planning Guides
- Policy for Community Resilience & Disaster Preparation/Response/Recovery
- South Carolina development futures: How to build ethically, equitably and without taxing your future

Following selection of Session Proposals, the Symposium Committee will likely “re-brand” the overall theme and re-title session topics for accepted proposals.

SESSION FORMAT

All sessions are 60 minutes and presented in a concurrent track. Formats may include:

- Case study: Present a project, problem, or dataset paired with questions to drive discussion.
- Lecture + dialogue: A short mini-lecture followed by structured discussion.
- Interactive workshop: Hands-on or polling-based session structured for participation.

Note: A Roundtable Panel Discussion with all Session Speakers is expected to culminate the Symposium.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Clear, compelling content

- Includes a compelling session title and detailed session description that accurately reflects your session content and captures attention.

Alignment and relevance with symposium theme

- Content connects to the conference and supports professional development across AIA's learning domain framework.

Demonstrate expertise and impact

- Focus on practical knowledge and skills attendees can immediately apply.
- Preference will be given to proposals that include both architecture professionals and subject matter experts from relevant fields.

Format and engagement

- Ensure interactive, engaging delivery, no passive lectures or sessions that promote specific products, vendors, or services.

Practical takeaways

- Include at least 4 clear, measurable learning objectives.

Need guidance on crafting compelling content, or developing learning objectives?
Check out our AIAU course: Transforming Ideas into Impactful Presentations

- Sessions eligible for Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) credit are strongly encouraged.
- Proposals that cite peer-reviewed research, original data, or established design frameworks will be given priority consideration.
- Proposals that primarily promote products, services, or firms will not be considered. Submissions must center on design thinking, research, case studies, policy, or industry challenges. Sponsors and exhibitors will have separate, clearly designated opportunities to engage the audience.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Send submission to Resilience@aiasc.org. Session proposals must include the following information:

Speaker Information (for each speaker)

- Name and contact information
- 50-word biography
- Professional headshot
- Professional affiliations or designations

Session Details

- Title
- Format
- Confirm presentation content is original; If previously presented, identify where and when, and describe how the content will be updated.
- Description (up to 500 words) that addresses:
  - Statement of Purpose and Learning Outcomes: The purpose communicates the intention and goals of the session; learning outcomes describe what attendees will know or be able to do after.
  - Relevance of Topic: Explain how this topic makes a timely contribution to housing, residential design, and the profession.
  - Impact on Practice: Describe how the session promotes best practice and provides meaningful professional development.

Learning Objectives & Units

- 4 learning objectives
- Anticipated Credit eligibility (AIA LU, HSW, GBCI, etc.)
- See link: AIA Tips and Resources to writing Learning Objectives

Audiovisual needs

POLICY

AIA invites anyone to submit a proposal and present at the RxD 2027 Symposium. All confirmed speakers will receive complimentary registration, but must register and attend the full symposium. AIA South Carolina will provide an honorarium per Speaker Session. Only one (1) honorarium per session, regardless of number of speakers, which is inclusive of travel and lodging expenses to be coordinated by speaker(s). We will encourage all speakers to attend our Pre-Event on the evening before the symposium, and plan to stay for symposium's last session "Roundtable" (no preparation required) ending around 5:00pm.

If your proposal is accepted, the title, description and learning objectives may be edited to fit AIA style guidelines. AIA retains the right to contact speakers or request adjustments to your proposal, including the possibility of combining it with another proposal.

AIA educational sessions may not promote specific products, vendors, or services.

If your proposal is accepted, you retain the copyright and all rights attendant to such copyright in your materials; however, you grant AIA permission to use your presentation and the materials you use in your presentation solely for purposes of making your presentation (in part or in whole or in different formats) available as part of AIA's symposium materials and/or in AIA educational offerings, consistent with AIA's mission and purpose.