AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley

2026 Zebby Awards

Nomination Application



Presented every two years, the Zebby Awards recognize individuals, teams, firms, and organizations whose leadership and exemplary service advance the architectural profession in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The awards honor Zeb William Rike, a 1936 architecture graduate of the University of Texas and a founding member of AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley, for his devotion to South Texas and the chapter. During more than 40 years of practice in our community, Mr. Rike completed over 600 architectural projects at home and abroad.

Award Category Select one category per form. See descriptions on page 2.

- ☐ 01 Affiliate / Allied Member of the Year
- ☐ 02 Emerging Architect Award
- ☐ 03 Associate Member of the Year
- ☐ 04 Educator / Mentor of the Year
- ☐ 05 Student Award
- ☐ 06 Architecture Firm of the Year
- ☐ 07 Contractor of the Year
- ☐ 08 Consultant of the Year
- ☐ 09 Client of the Year
- ☐ 10 Artisan Award
- ☐ 11 Community Impact Award
- ☐ 12 Volunteer / Chapter Service Award
- ☐ 13 LRGV-AIA Honorary Membership
- ☐ 14 Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominee Information

Nominee name

Firm or organization, if applicable

Contact person, if applicable

Phone | Email

Address | City / State / ZIP

Nominating Chapter Member

Member name

Firm or organization

Phone | Email

Address | City / State / ZIP

Nomination Packet

Attach a one-page summary of the nominee's background, accomplishments, and qualifications for the selected award. Include recognition from other organizations, if applicable.

Supporting exhibits: up to three 8.5 x 11-inch pages of photos or drawings; maximum exhibit file size 5 MB.

Submit by November 13, 2026

Email the completed form and attachments to **info@lrgvaia.org**
Subject line: 2026 ZEBBY AWARD SUBMISSION: [Award Category]
The chapter may choose not to award a category if a qualifying nomination is not received.

AIA Lower Rio Grande Valley

ZEBBY Awards: Recognizing Outstanding People, Firms & Organizations		
#	**AWARD CATEGORY**	**AWARD DESCRIPTION**
01	**Affiliate / Allied Member of the Year**	Recognizes an individual Affiliate/Allied member of the AIA LRGV chapter who demonstrates outstanding leadership, participation, and service to the chapter. The award honors contributions that strengthen relationships, support chapter activities, and advance the architectural community in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
02	**Emerging Architect Award**	Recognizes an individual AIA architect member of the AIA LRGV chapter within the first 10 years following initial licensure who demonstrates exceptional professional achievement, design contributions, leadership, or community service. Eligibility is measured as of the nomination deadline.
03	**Associate Member of the Year**	Recognizes an individual Associate AIA member of the AIA LRGV chapter who demonstrates outstanding leadership, professional growth, and service to architecture and the community. The award celebrates initiative, collaboration, and meaningful contributions at any stage of Associate membership.
04	**Educator / Mentor of the Year**	Recognizes a faculty member or practitioner in the Rio Grande Valley who has made a meaningful impact developing students, AXP candidates, and emerging professionals in the Valley.
05	**Student Award**	Recognizes an architecture student from the Rio Grande Valley for leadership, service, or design achievement. Student can be studying in the Rio Grande Valley or elsewhere.
06	**Architecture Firm of the Year**	Recognizes an architecture firm whose body of work, professional leadership, and contributions to the community demonstrate sustained excellence and advance the quality of architecture in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Nominations should address the firm's broader achievements and impact beyond a single project.
07	**Contractor of the Year**	Recognizes a general contractor or construction firm whose work demonstrates exceptional project delivery, craftsmanship, and collaboration in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The award honors construction leadership, thoughtful execution of architectural intent, and strong working relationships with architects, consultants, trades, and clients.
08	**Consultant of the Year**	Recognizes an individual, team, or consulting firm whose specialized expertise and collaboration make outstanding contributions to architectural projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Eligible disciplines include engineering, landscape architecture, acoustics, and other professional consulting services. Nominations must identify the services provided and their contribution to the project's success.
09	**Client of the Year**	Recognizes an owner, developer, contractor, school district, or institution that championed and supported design excellence in the Rio Grande Valley. This lets us celebrate great projects through the people who made them possible.
10	**Artisan Award**	Recognizes an individual or team whose exceptional craftsmanship elevates the design and experience of a built project in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Contributions may include custom millwork, metalwork, masonry, decorative finishes, or other specialized work. Nominations must identify the artisan's specific contribution and collaboration with the architect/project.
11	**Community Impact Award**	Recognizes a group or organization outside architectural practice whose civic leadership, advocacy, education, or stewardship makes a significant contribution to the built or natural environment of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The award celebrates efforts that advance public appreciation of architecture and improve the quality of community life.
12	**Volunteer / Chapter Service Award**	Recognizes an individual (member or non-member) who has given exceptional time and effort in support of chapter programs and events.
13	**LRGV-AIA Honorary Membership**	Recognizes an individual of distinguished character who is not eligible for Architect or Associate membership and has provided sustained, exceptional service to the architectural profession in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The recognition honors a lasting commitment to advancing architecture and its value to the community.
14	**Lifetime Achievement Award**	Recognizes an architect whose career reflects sustained excellence, leadership, and service to the profession, the chapter, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. May be awarded only when warranted.