AIA Potomac Valley

For Immediate Release
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AIA Potomac Valley Celebrates Architectural Excellence and Innovation at 2026 Design + Leadership Awards

Edgemoor House II Earns Top Residential Honor; Modern Cottage Recognized for Sustainable Design and Adaptive Reuse

College Park, MD, October 28, 2026 – The American Institute of Architects Potomac Valley (AIAPV) celebrated architectural excellence at its 2026 Design + Leadership Awards on Thursday, October 22, at the College Park Aviation Museum Operations Center. The event recognized architects, clients, and consultants whose collaborative work advances design quality, sustainability, and the built environment throughout the Potomac Valley region.

Edgemoor House II, designed by Anne Decker Architects, received the Gold Award for the best residential project. Modern Cottage, designed by Fowlkes Studio, received the PV Award for best exemplifying the principles of AIA's Framework for Design Excellence.

Situated on an unusual pie-shaped lot, Edgemoor House II creates a private sanctuary through a striking interplay of solid and void, light and shadow, and carefully framed connections to the landscape. Its protective front façade, dramatic entry sequence, and expansive glazing balance privacy with openness.

The jury praised the project's sophisticated integration of architecture, landscape, and environmental performance. Clerestory windows bring natural light deep into the home while preserving privacy, and carefully composed volumes create sheltered outdoor spaces. Refined materials, particularly the artfully detailed wood veneer walls, complement an integrated sustainability strategy incorporating geothermal energy, solar power, rain gardens, and native landscaping. Together, these elements create an elegant residence where design excellence and environmental responsibility reinforce one another.

Modern Cottage transforms an outdated split-level home through a resource-conscious expansion that preserves its existing structure and foundations rather than pursuing demolition. A reimagined entry and central stair connect all three levels, while a raised

roofline, expressive dormers, and carefully positioned windows introduce generous natural light and improve the home's proportions.

The jury commended the project's thoughtful reinvention of an existing residence through restrained interventions, refined detailing, and efficient use of space. The reconfigured living areas enhance openness and functionality, while the design respects the scale and character of the surrounding neighborhood. By prioritizing adaptive reuse, conserving resources, and maximizing natural light, Modern Cottage demonstrates how modest architectural interventions can achieve meaningful design and sustainability benefits.

Edgemoor House II also received an Honor Award, while Modern Cottage was one of four Merit Award recipients. Four additional projects received Commendation Awards. A total of 41 projects were submitted for evaluation by a jury of accomplished architects.

PV Award
The **PV Award** honors the project that best aligns with AIA's Framework for Design Excellence, aiming to contribute to solutions for today's most significant challenges.

- *Modern Cottage* by Fowlkes Studio

Gold Awards
Gold Awards represent the highest recognition in design, awarded to the "Best in Show" projects from the pool of submitted projects.

- **Gold Award, Residential**
  Edgemoor House II by Anne Decker Architects

Honor Awards
Honor Awards recognize projects with exceptional design quality and distinctive character.

- *Edgemoor House II* by Anne Decker Architects

Merit Awards
Merit Awards highlight projects demonstrating superior achievement in design.

- *Exeter Road House* by Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect
- *Hempstead House* by Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect
- *The Lookout by Fowlkes Studio*
- *Modern Cottage* by Fowlkes Studio

Commendation Awards
Commendation awards honor projects with distinctive features the jury felt deserved recognition.

- *The Campagna Center* by Winstanley Architects & Planners
- *The Oliver* by GTM | Architects DC
- *Watergate East Lobbies* by McInturff Architects
- *The Westerly* by Torti Gallas + Partners

For more information about the winning projects and all submissions, visit https://aiapv.org/2026_Design_Awards_Winners_Gallery.

Student and Emerging Professional Design Competitions
The 2026 Design + Leadership Awards also recognized students and emerging professionals through design competitions sponsored by the Potomac Valley Architecture Foundation (PVAF). Participants selected underutilized spaces in Maryland and proposed ways to better serve communities, improve their aesthetic appeal, and promote environmental sustainability. Entries were evaluated for creativity and innovation; sustainability; contextual integration and site sensitivity; feasibility; and visualization and communication**.**

- Winner's Gallery: Emerging Professionals and Students Design Competition

AIA Potomac Valley's 2026 Design + Leadership Awards were supported by sponsors Lee/Shoemaker PLLC, American Cedar and Millwork, Moody Graham, Think Make Build, and WDG Architecture.

AIA Potomac Valley provides leadership, communication, education, and advocacy in support of architects and their constituencies in the Potomac Valley region. We empower members to advance their roles in service to society; act as a collective voice to help cultivate the future of the architectural profession; foster innovation and sustainability in design; and are a knowledge resource to members and the public, raising awareness of the value of the architecture profession. The chapter serves roughly 700 members in Allegany, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington counties in Maryland. For more information about AIA Potomac Valley, please visit https://aiapv.org.

Founded in 1857, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) consistently works to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities. Through more than 200 international, state, and local chapters, AIA advocates for public policies that promote economic vitality and public wellbeing. For more information about AIA, please visit https://www.aia.org.

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