

Honorary Membership

Principles Underlying Election to Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership is one of the highest honors that The American Institute of Architects can bestow upon a person outside the profession of architecture. Election to Honorary Membership is to be voted only if the accomplishments of the nominee are truly outstanding and of national significance.

The Bylaws of The American Institute of Architects (Section 2.61) provide:

“A person of esteemed character who is not eligible for membership in the Institute but who has rendered distinguished service to the profession of architecture or to the arts and sciences allied therewith, may be admitted to Honorary Membership”.

Nominees must not be eligible for membership in the Institute, including individuals who:

- Are eligible by education or experience and are employed, enrolled or participating in circumstances recognized by licensing authorities as constituting credit toward architectural licensure, or
- Are employed under the supervision of an architect in a professional or technical capacity directly related to the practice of architecture, or
- Have a professional degree in architecture, or are faculty members in university programs in architecture and who are actively involved in research, administration, or the teaching of architecture, or
- Have an architectural license or the equivalent from a non-U.S. licensing authority and demonstrate honorable standing in the profession in the locale in which they are licensed

The Institute requires that the achievements of each nominee for this honor be considered most carefully by those who submit nominations and by the Jury for Honorary Members which awards the honors.

Because the Jury must rely solely on the submission to speak for the achievements of the nominees, great responsibility lies with the nominator and references of the nominee. The nominators should feel certain that the nominee's achievements have sufficient distinction to make them notable contributions to the advancement of the profession or its allied arts and sciences. They should remember that the age, personality, and popularity of the nominee do not, of themselves, constitute a notable contribution, and Honorary Membership is not an award for the nominee's industry or success.

Staff members also, to be deemed worthy of Honorary Membership, should be recognized as having made significant contributions to the Institute which result in distinguished service to the profession. The longevity of service, age, personality, and popularity of the staff member do not, of themselves, constitute a notable contribution.