



AIA
Cleveland

RE: 2019 AIA Cleveland Design Awards

Cleveland Design Community and Friends,

The AIA Cleveland Design Awards committee is pleased to announce that the 2019 Cleveland Design Awards will be held on Friday, November 1st. Over the past few years, this annual celebration has grown from 150 to over 500 attendees. With any event this size, new challenges can present themselves each year. In order to continue this positive event trajectory and to host an exciting program for the Cleveland design community, the AIA Cleveland Design committee hit pause to re-evaluate the event. We reached out to members and attendees for their feedback on previous awards ceremonies. We listened, and with the help of an event planner we took action! Below are examples of a few of the exciting changes and improvements you can expect at the 2019 Cleveland Design Awards!

Venue:

We have taken stock of all of our recent venues and have ranked them based on cost, location, functionality, and amenities. With very few “new” options remaining that can accommodate the size of our group and stay on budget, we looked at re-visiting past venues. The Hilton Downtown Cleveland rose to the top in all categories and was universally considered a favorite from those who provided feedback. Therefore, this year we are pleased to be back at the Hilton.

Keynote:

We are continuing the trend of hosting spectacular keynote speakers and jury chairs with Lawrence Scarpa, FAIA, from the internationally known architecture firm, Brooks+Scarpa. Mr. Scarpa has received more than 100 major design awards including the Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, and both the National and State of California Architecture Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects. The kickoff to the event this year is his pre-program keynote address.

Service:

We are pleased to inform you the number of bars and bartenders have increased and we have moved to a ticket-based drink system to help ensure short waits in line.

Program:

This year we have revamped the Design Awards program to shorten its length and to put the emphasis on award winners. A shorter program means more time for networking, and more networking, means more fun with colleagues and friends.

Entertainment:

One of the exciting changes for this year’s celebration is the hiring of a professional musical trio who will be playing through cocktail hour and during the event ceremony itself. Members of this trio have made appearances playing alongside the Cleveland Orchestra. Additionally, the after-party entertainment will most certainly be a draw...changing from our typical DJ to a live band playing hits from the past few decades. Oh, by the way, did I mention this band is made up of AIA Cleveland members?

As you can imagine, planning for this event is no small undertaking. The Design Awards committee meets in March of each year to begin the process. Our committee is very passionate about the Design Awards and is thrilled with these new changes. We hope you are too.

Please put Friday, November 1st in your calendar and plan to join us for what will be our most exciting event of the year!

Sincerely,

Adam Yaracs, AIA
Design Awards Co-Chair

Design Awards Committee:

Beau Bock, Helen Cherry, Kate Csontos, Gwendolyn Frank, Aaron Hill, Steve Kordalski,
Patty Lampert, Melanie Lewis, Matt Lindsay, David Maniet, Nick Slaughterbeck,
Christopher Toddy