



DESIGN 20
SHINE 25

UMLAUF

Design Competition | **AIA** Emerging Professionals

Competition Brief

Introduction

Design Shine is a partnership between the **UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum** and **AIA Austin Emerging Professionals Committee** (AIAA EP) to explore the unexpected ways that innovative design and artistic creativity helps both designers and communities grow together.

A series of design-centered programs including an exhibition, panel discussions, a design charrette, and a design competition, will build awareness about the importance of outdoor community spaces and provide multiple opportunities to develop design solutions for outdoor spaces that can act as a showcase for young talented designers.

Design Shine seeks creative Emerging Professionals to design and build engaging installations within the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum grounds. Since the installations will be outdoors and exposed to the elements, they must be able to withstand and endure the seasonal weather. Participants are encouraged to consider the use of recycled materials and incorporate lighting in their design so the installations are as successful during the day as they are at night.

Theme | Nestled in Nature

This competition challenges designers to create installations inspired by trees that reimagine the relationship between people, nature, and architecture.

Participants are invited to explore the theme “Nestled in Nature” by drawing from natural systems such as branches, canopies, roots, and nests. Designs should feel intentional, grounded, and visually compelling.

Installations must demonstrate sensitivity to the site and existing sculptures, incorporate sustainable materials and processes, and encourage interaction through shade, movement, texture, or form. The goal is to create a piece that offers a moment of pause, play, or reflection within the garden setting.

Participation & Submission Requirements

Step 1: Attend Virtual Info Session and Q&A | July 23rd, 2025

Step 2: Registration & Application Submittal | July 28th - August 25th, 2025

Registration & Submission period opens on **July 28th**, 2025, and closes at **midnight** on **August 25th**, 2025.

Registration forms shall be completed by each team with the following:

- **Point of Contact:** Registration forms shall identify one Design Team member as the primary point of contact to whom all competition-related communications shall be directed.
- **Team Members:** Team members, other than the point of contact, can be added. All Design Team members must be included in the forms, with their contact and professional information by August 25th, 2025.
- **Application:** Fill out application and submit no later than 11:59pm, August 25th.

Step 3: Competition Entry Submission | Due August 25th by 5:00pm

The Competition Entry Submission must be completed and submitted to AIA Austin Emerging Professionals at: [Registration Link](#) or aia.austin.ep@gmail.com by Monday, August 25th, 2025.

The Competition Entry Submission must include the following items:

One (1) PDF file formatted with the following:

- Pages are to be 8.5"x11"
- Maximum of 10 pages
- Maximum total combined file size shall be 20 MB.
- The first page of the PDF should have the entrant identifying project name
Ex: 1234_submission.pdf
- The PDF **must not** include any identifying features or marks which might reveal the identity of any member of the design team or any organization that may be represented by members of the team.

The jury submission package must contain:

1. NARRATIVE:

Written overview (“narrative”) of no more than 1500 words that describes the project, the design team’s concept.

- How the design incorporates integrated lighting design, construction planning, and fabrication strategies
- Summary of project cost information and calculation provided clearly and legibly
- Identification of potential funding sources for each component of the proposed design

2. IMAGES:

Include up to five images, such as:

- Renderings, drawings, diagrams, or any images clearly communicate approximate scale/dimensions of the project
- Perspectives, plans, sections

*All digital files and forms must be submitted to AIA Austin Emerging Professionals at:
[Call for Submissions Registration Link](#) or aia.austin.ep@gmail.com*

*All final installations shall be delivered and installed at UMLAUF Sculpture Garden + Museum,
605 Azie Morton Road, Austin, TX 78702*

Winning Teams

Announcement | September 22nd, 2025

Selected teams will be notified on/around September 22th, 2025.

The jury will be rating each submission based on the following criteria:

1. **Aesthetic value of the design:**
high spectacle and strong visual impact during both day and night.
2. **Material use:**
use of common materials in uncommon ways, sustainable materials, minimizing waste.
3. **Concept & Storytelling:**
strength of concept and inspiration.
4. **Feasibility:**
demonstrates understanding of construction and site constraints: feasibility, constructability and durability (Must last at least 2 months outdoors)

Required Progress Submission | September 29th, 2025

The Selected Competition Progress Submission must be submitted via email by September 29th, 2025 to AIA Austin Emerging Professionals at: aia.austin.ep@gmail.com.

Document may be multi-page, but all pages must fit an 8.5" x 11" template.

The document must include the following:

- Your Team Name, Design Team members, and title of work.
- Evidence of correspondence with lighting design professional on project feasibility and fabrication
- Progress pictures and or designed construction plans
- Progress statement discussing the means and methods to be used for the project - including the proposed strategy for fabrication, installation, and disassembly. - Final materials list and expense breakdown.
- Provide status of expenses and outline any additional potential funding if applicable (Where is it coming from and what will it cover?)

Installation | November 20th - December 7th

Opening Night | December 9th

Resources

Previous Design Shine Years

This will be the 7th annual Design Shine competition. If you are new or were unable to visit the UMLAUF during a previous Design Shine, take a look at some of the previous year installation below:

- See all 2023 installation here:
<https://www.umlautsculpture.org/design-shine-2023>
- See all 2022 installations here:
<https://www.umlautsculpture.org/design-shine-2022>
- See all 2021 installations here:
<https://www.umlautsculpture.org/design-shine-2021>
- See all 2020 installations here:
<https://www.umlautsculpture.org/design-shine-2020>

You may familiarize yourself beforehand with a virtual tour of the UMLAUF here:

<https://www.umlautsculpture.org/takeatour>