

Design is a team sport.

That truth has been at the core of my experience in projects of any type. Success in projects and any endeavor is rarely due to expertise alone—though expertise plays a critical role. It's not just about superior planning, though planning is vital. And it's not only about individual efforts, though those are critical, too.

The common denominator of success is teamwork.

As we confront some of the most pressing challenges of our time—climate change, advancing technology (AI), and equity in our designs and profession—we face significant opportunities and responsibilities. Fortunately, our AIASF community offers abundant expertise to help tackle these issues. We have a clear and focused strategic plan for 2025-2030 to strengthen our chapter and unite our members.

But we will only achieve our goals together - by remembering that design is a team sport.

Our mission is to connect, elevate, and advocate for our members as they create resilient, inclusive, thriving built environments. Our vision is to serve as an essential resource, advancing the profession and inspiring the design community.

To achieve this, we must embrace the strength of our partnerships. That means welcoming architects, contractors, consultants, technology innovators, city departments, and most importantly, our clients into our discussions and this space. When we broaden the voices at the table, we gain a richer dialogue, learn from each other, and create more relevant, connected, and valuable solutions.

In 2025, I encourage you to get involved - whether it's through programming, fundraising, or mentoring. I challenge you to bring a friend to the Center for Architecture + Design this year, especially someone who isn't an architect. Connect with the AEC industry by supporting a signature event. Engage with one of our Knowledge Communities focusing on issues that matter most to you.

The New Year is an opportunity to deepen our connections, prioritize inclusivity, amplify engagement, and foster community. There is a lot of exciting programming to look forward to, including ClimateTech '25, Design Awards, Housing and Healthcare Symposia, and the inaugural AIASF Golf Tournament. Show support for your peers, mentors, mentees, and friends by attending these events. What you put in is what you get back, and programs are an excellent way to stay involved in the chapter.

Let's show the world our relevance, connectivity, and value together. Commit to collaboration, bring new voices into the conversation, and take action in the coming year to make a meaningful impact. Because at the end of the day, no individual, no single effort, can meet the challenges we face. But together, we can.

Design is a team sport.