AIA Rochester is pleased to solicit nominations for its annual Medal of Distinction. This award is the highest honor that AIA Rochester can confer on one of its members. AIA Rochester recognizes that both the profession and the Chapter were built and continue to prosper only because of the unselfish efforts of architects who have contributed their time and talent so that we all might benefit. Each year, the AIA Rochester Chapter may select an individual to be so honored, but an honoree each year is not required.

Established in 2003, this award was put in place to honor architects who have had substantial influence in shaping and advancing architecture in the greater Rochester, New York area. The Medal of Distinction is meant to celebrate a lifetime of achievement in architecture including service to the profession, the chapter and the community. Nominees shall be evaluated based on the level of impact that they have imparted on the architectural community though the facets of contribution to the profession, commitment to the chapter, and advocacy within the community.

**Eligibility**

All registered architects, who are current members of the AIA Rochester Chapter, are eligible to be selected for this honor. The recipient must have, at some point in their career, been involved in the active practice of the profession of architecture through private, public or educational means. Both Members and Emeritus Members of the Chapter are eligible to submit for this award.

To be considered, the individual must have made substantial contributions to the Chapter, profession, or community over a continuous ten-year period at a minimum. The service shall have been given freely and be considered “above and beyond” that which is normally expected of a professional. The ultimate goal of this service shall have been for the betterment of the community or profession as a whole.

**Submission and Consideration**

Applications must be received by no later than the date indicated on the nomination form. This is intended to give the Jury adequate time to fully research and consider all nominees. Annually, individuals will be considered after the Chapter receives a written submission by any Member-in-good-standing of the AIA Rochester Chapter. Individuals may self-nominate. In addition, the current Chapter President and Board of Directors may also present individuals for the Jury’s consideration and the Jury may consider any other eligible individual deemed worthy of the award. Nominees can be considered for up to three years after the nomination is first received. If not awarded, they may resubmit after a two-year waiting period.

**Jury**

The Chapter shall select a five-member Jury which shall meet to consider candidates for this award. The Jury shall be comprised of the following:

- Current Chapter President
- One Past Chapter President
- One Current Chapter AIA Member
- One Current Chapter Associate Member
- Current Executive Director of the Chapter
The jury shall meet as required to consider all candidates beginning a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days before the scheduled presentation of the award. In the interest of continuity, the Jury Chair should attempt to retain one member from the previous year’s jury. The Jury may select one individual by a clear majority of the entire Jury. The Jury Chairman will be selected by the President from among the appointed members of the Jury. At the completion of the Jury’s deliberations, the Jury Chairman will report the results to the Chapter President and the Executive Director, who will in turn present to the Board of Directors for their action. The Board of Directors must ratify the selection of the Jury.

Notification of Award
The honoree will be notified by the AIA Rochester Chapter President and invited to attend the AIA Rochester Chapter Annual Meeting as our guest, where they will be publicly recognized and receive their award.

Publication
The award guest of honor and their presenter, after notification, will be asked to assemble a document presenting the achievements of the honoree. The format will be at the discretion of the recipient and should be available for use at the annual awards presentation.

The name of the recipient will be published in the AIA Rochester Chapter Newsletter and in any other publication deemed to be appropriate. A press release will be sent to the Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester Business Journal, AIA New York State and AIA National. This shall occur in advance of the presentation to act as notification to the membership and as an invitation to attend the presentation.

Award
As a symbol of this recognition by the AIA Rochester Chapter, the recipient will receive a specially designed medal and a certificate, signed by the Chapter President and Executive Director, to commemorate this award.

Past Recipients
2003  Myron E. Starks, AIA
2004  John A. Fayko, AIA
2005  Bob Macon, AIA
2006  Michael Doran, AIA
2007  Stuart B. Chait Sr., AIA
2008  No Honoree
2009  Ann Chaintreuil, FAIA
2010  Frank Grosso, AIA
2011  G. William LaDue, AIA
2012  Richard M. Pospula, AIA
2013  James B. Durfee, AIA
2014  Roger Brown, AIA
2015  Jules Chiavaroli, AIA
2016  Thomas Zimmerman, FAIA
2017  Robert Healy, AIA
2018  Joseph Istvan, AIA
2019  Jennifer F. Takatch, AIA