For more than 150 years, the American Institute of Architects has served as the voice of the architecture profession and the resource for its members as they fulfill their duties to society.

At the outset of the 21st century, the AIA and its members re-commit themselves to serving the public as designers of our built environment and as advocates for policies that protect people and strengthen our communities.

Architects give shape to the American dream.

From small towns to big cities, architects design the neighborhoods where we live, the buildings where we work, and the places where we play, celebrate, and reflect.

Architects create sacred spaces for us to worship, hospitals for us to heal, and schools for our children to learn.

Architects transform our hopes and aspirations for a better life into brick-and-mortar reality.

The architecture profession employs nearly 200,000 Americans of all backgrounds. Nearly one out of every ten dollars of our gross domestic product is tied to the design and construction sectors.

However, the work of architects is about more than just economic progress; it is essential to our well being. Architects embrace their moral and ethical obligation to uphold this public trust by designing buildings and communities that are safe, sustainable, accessible, and beautiful.
Procurement
The AIA strongly supports Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) for procuring professional design services for public projects. QBS provides owners with a selection process that is not only straightforward and easy to implement, but is objective and fair. It recognizes that design professionals play a critical role in the public building process. 48 states follow QBS procedures for procuring A/E services.

Communities
As Americans move back into cities they increasingly desire healthy communities that incorporate smart and sustainable design principles. Architects have the training and knowledge to contribute to community design that preserves urban centers and promotes managed growth—while enhancing neighborhood identity and presenting outstanding architecture. Government officials can contribute to the existing momentum by passing laws and formulating initiatives that create environmentally-sensitive, pedestrian-friendly, livable communities. Successful programs already exist in cities, towns, and counties across the country.

Schools
Architects design high performance schools that enhance student achievement, save money, and demonstrate environmental leadership. Green schools are transforming the environment in which our students learn and are the new generation of school buildings that will be centers of learning for the next 50 years. These buildings promote the health and well-being of students while saving resources through energy and water efficiency.

International Green Construction Code
The AIA supports the development, adoption, and compliance with the International Green Construction Code (IGCC). The IGCC provides model language for jurisdictions to establish baseline sustainable design requirements for new and existing buildings. These requirements may include, but are not limited to, energy and water use efficiency, materials and resource use, indoor environmental quality, building impacts on the environment, site design, and sustainable building owner/facility management education.

The AIA is involved in issues at the federal, state, and local level that are critical to architects, businesses, and our communities. Get involved at www.aia.org/advocacy.