



Resolution Submittal Form

Complete one form for each resolution submitted.

TITLE: AIA Health and Wellbeing Policy

SPONSOR: Strategic Council

INTENT OF RESOLUTION

The intent of this resolution is to increase AIA members' value to their clients by embracing evolving knowledge and trends in health and wellbeing, by clarifying specific policies, and promoting research-based relationships of architecture's impact on human health and wellbeing. This is an ethical issue and requires related adjustments to AIA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct plus the Framework for Design Excellence. The AIA should embrace and promote architects' roles supporting health professionals plus advocate for the incorporation of health and wellbeing-related research in architecture degree programs.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION (maximum 500 word

WHEREAS. THE U.S. health industry represents \$4.5 trillion annually.

WHEREAS. U.S. health disparities diminish longevity up to 30 years in some communities.

WHEREAS. Numerous studies directly link both causal and correlated effects of architecture on human health.

WHEREAS. The World Health Organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

WHEREAS. Many architects are unaware of substantial research establishing connections between architecture and wellbeing, and do not rely on this research in daily practice.

WHEREAS. The AIA has directly studied the effects of architecture and health, and for decades had a Knowledge Community focused on architecture and health.

WHEREAS. The 2023 Strategic Council studied the intersection of architecture and wellbeing, inviting several well-credentialed subject matter experts.

WHEREAS. These subject matter experts identified several value domains, including naming architects as "health professionals," and unanimously urged the AIA to make designing for health and wellbeing, as well as urging reliance upon research as an ethical issue that underpins the Institute.

WHEREAS. The 2024 Strategic Council continues to study this domain as an overlay to all study areas to optimize health and wellbeing effects related to climate, design, equity, and value of architecture.



WHEREAS. The current 2020 AIA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct prescribes General obligations, and additional obligations to the Public, the Client, the Profession, Colleagues, and the Environment.

WHEREAS. The current 2020 Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct contains no reference to human health or wellbeing as a primary goal of practice, except as conjoined with safety and welfare, or subordinate to and as a component of environmental equity and justice.

WHEREAS. The AIA Framework for Design Excellence makes no reference to rigorous research as a basis for good design, except for applications of lessons from previous projects – a practice unheard of in medicine, law, or other learned professions.

WHEREAS. The AIA continuing education requirements emphasize health, safety, and welfare (HSW), but many programs only focus on passive and active safety alone rather than the generative or long-term effects of health and wellbeing related to design.

WHEREAS. The AIA's role is to identify broad opportunities of professional benefit, and advocating for architects as leaders in health and wellbeing increases public value of the architecture profession.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The Board and National Ethics Council will add components to AIA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct requiring a focus on wellbeing, promoting related discussions with owners, and utilizing health and wellbeing-related research pertinent to proposed design interventions.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The Board will modify the Framework for Design Excellence to include Research for Health and Wellbeing as a component.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The AIA will promote architects' roles supporting health professionals within professional limits.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The AIA will promote the incorporation of design and research for health and wellbeing in all architecture degree programs with various educational organizations, such as the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), and the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

Sponsor contact authorized to answer questions and approve changes suggested by the Resolutions Committee:

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