



*2026 Regional Design-Build Awards*

# *DBIA Rocky Mountain Region 2026 Design-Build Awards Prospectus*

The DBIA Rocky Mountain Design-Build Award winners set themselves apart in the industry as the nation's best design-builders. Their projects are diverse, but they share one common element — excellence. Now's the time to share your Design-Build project success by submitting your entry into the Annual Rocky Mountain Design-Build Award competition. We invite you to submit your highly successful Design-Build project(s) for our 2026 Regional Design-Build Awards competition.

## *Objective*

To acknowledge and celebrate the most outstanding Design-Build projects in the Rocky Mountain Region by promoting and recognizing the use and efficiency of Design-Build as a project delivery method.

What qualifies as a Design-Build Project?

Design-Build project delivery ultimately transfers the design and construction risk to a single prime contracting entity, such as the Design-Builder or an Engineer-Procure-Construct (EPC) contractor. Thus, winning submissions must be carried out under a Design-Build or similar contract, but the use of a DBIA-sanctioned contract document is not required.

Without a single prime contracting firm taking on design and construction risk, projects that employ integrated contract delivery methods such as Integrated Project Delivery (IPD), Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC), or Design-Assist are not eligible for awards.

*All qualified firms are encouraged  
to submit project entries.*

# *What constitutes a winning project?*

To be considered for a Regional Design-Build Award, your project must have achieved the best value for your client by meeting design and construction quality goals, maintaining the owner's budget, and attaining schedule milestones. Owner-directed change orders or schedule extensions for additional scope or unforeseen conditions do not count as cost overruns or delays under the Design-Build contract.

Winning projects will be honored for advanced and innovative applications of integrated project delivery, interdisciplinary teamwork, and problem-solving that resulted in unique design and construction solutions to project challenges.

Specifically, the project must demonstrate the successful application of Design-Build Done Right principles. [Download the Design-Build Done Right Best Practices from DBIA National.](#)

## *Other Project Eligibility Criteria:*

- The project incurred no claims or litigation (except for lien claims).
- The project is in Colorado, Utah, Montana, or Wyoming.
- Project completion occurred between January 1st, 2023 to January 1, 2026. For consideration, the project does not need to be owner-occupied.
- Firms may submit more than one (1) project for consideration. See the various award categories outlined later in the award submission criteria.
- Projects that have previously received a DBIA Rocky Mountain Region or a DBIA National award will be disqualified from future award consideration. Ideally, a firm submits a project for a Regional DBIA award first and then submits the project for a National DBIA award later in the year so that a project can be considered for both awards.
- DBIA membership is not an award criterion.

# Submission Categories

The judges will evaluate submissions for awards in the following categories. The judges will tally up to 75 points for each project's score.

## *Option 1: Design Excellence*

This award is specifically for architectural, engineering, or other specialty design firms that served as part of a Design-Build or similar (e.g. EPC) team, whether as the prime contractor (e.g. EPC contractor); lead designer under a prime Design-Builder; or specialty subcontractor's or specialty prime contractor's Design-Build design partner.

- DBIA will not consider projects performed by design firms that only serve as sub-consultants to the lead designer. Design consultants, such as engineering firms, must be contracted directly with a Design-Build specialty contractor or serve as prime design consultants under a prime specialty Design-Build contract.
- DBIA will also not accept Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) projects that utilize a multi-party agreement such that no single prime contracting entity leads the design and construction of the project.

The award honors projects that achieve the owner's overall aesthetic and/or functional vision through outstanding design and cooperation with their associated Design-Build construction team partner. Please review eligibility and award criteria in the Objective section before proceeding. [Download the Design Excellence Position Statement from DBIA National.](#)

### ***DBIA's Design Excellence Position Statement considers the following:***

- **Integration** – Collaboration across the design-build project team
- **Healthy Living** – Incorporating well-being and health into the user experience
- **Community Impact** – Recognizing the project's connection to the surrounding community
- **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Addressing the project's environmental impact and adaptability in light of future climate changes
- **Responsible Design** – Focusing on material selections and details that facilitate constructibility

DBIA Rocky Mountain Region will award projects for Design Excellence in the following categories:

- **Vertical Construction**
- **Aviation/Transportation Construction**
- **Water/Wastewater**

## *Option 2: Prime, Subcontractor, and Specialty Design-Builder*

This award is specifically for construction firms that have led a Design-Build project or a specific component of a Design-Build project, whether as the prime Design-Builder, prime Design-Build specialty contractor (e.g. Mechanical or Electrical prime), or Design-Build subcontractor under a prime Design-Builder. Please review the eligibility and award criteria in the Objective section before proceeding.

- Projects performed by construction contractors under a Design-Assist, Integrated Project Delivery (IPD), Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), General Contractor/Construction Manager (CM/GC), or Design-Bid-Build delivery method will not be considered.

DBIA Rocky Mountain Region will select Design-Build contractor project awards in the following categories:

- **Vertical Construction**
  - General Construction Design-Builder
  - Specialty Construction Design-Builder – Prime Contractor or Subcontractor
- **Aviation/Transportation**
  - General Construction Design-Builder
  - Specialty Construction Design-Builder – Prime Contractor or Subcontractor
- **Water/Wastewater**
  - General Construction Design-Builder
  - Specialty Construction Design-Builder – Prime Contractor or Subcontractor

## *Best Overall Winner*

Chosen from all categories, one project will be awarded the top prize of the entire program.

# Submission Process

Submissions Due Date: February 13th, 2026 5pm MST  
Awards Announced: April 17th, 2026  
Award Celebration: The physical award will be presented at the 2026 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in May.

Submission Fee: DBIA Industry Partner/Member \$150  
Non-DBIA Industry Partner/Non-Member \$225

Judging will take place in March of 2026 by a jury of industry experts from other DBIA Regions.

Projects will be judged against Design-Build Done Right standard criteria. All entries must be received by Submission Due Date.

Submissions must be provided in the following format:

- One PDF format submission document titled with the project name.
- Responses must be in the same order as the questions listed for the award submission.
- All questions must be answered completely and submitted in the required format.
- Provide page numbers in the lower right-hand footer.
- All pages in the submission should be 8 ½" X 11" sized in portrait orientation.
- Award submissions are limited to **five (5) pages of text**, single-spaced, with no photos or graphics. **The five (5) pages do not include the Waiver Disclosure Statement.**
- Please use Arial 10-point font or larger for legibility.
- Upload up to ten (10) high-resolution photographs in .jpeg or .png format (minimum 500 KB, maximum size 1 MB per photo).
- The Signed Waiver / Disclosure Agreement must be included.
- Final PDF submittal and all supporting photos should be submitted via the following OneDrive Shared Folder link:
  - [2026 DBIA Award Submissions](#)
- Payment for award submission should be paid directly to the region. Please email Amanda Faith at [amanda@dbiarmr.org](mailto:amanda@dbiarmr.org) to confirm receipt of both the folder upload and to coordinate payment details.

To ensure a fair judging and review process, DBIA staff can only answer questions directly related to the award submission process, eligibility, and rules. Questions can be directed to Amanda Faith at 720-506-1578 or [amanda@dbiarmr.org](mailto:amanda@dbiarmr.org).

# Submission Requirements

## **Section 1 – Overview and Eligibility (Pass/Fail)**

- Project Name
- Project Location
- Firm submitting the project for award and role
- Project Type – Vertical, Aviation/Transportation, or Water/Wastewater
- Project Submission Category – Design Excellence, General Construction Design-Builder, or Specialty Contractor Design-Builder
- Contractual Arrangement - Describe the project contractual arrangement and how it meets the criteria of Design-Build.
- Key Design-Build Team Partners
  - Owner Contact – name, title, firm, phone, and email address
  - Design-Builder Firm Name
  - Lead Designer Firm Name
  - Other Major Architect/Engineer/Designer Firm Names
  - Major Specialty Contractor Firm Names and roles
- Brief Project description (250 words)

## **Section 2 - Design-Build Approach**

### **Why this Project Should Win a Design-Build Award? (30 Points)**

This section is intended to highlight the Design-Build process and how Design-Build Done Right best practices were implemented to achieve successful outcomes.

- Explain the approach to contracting for this project, including the contract relationships between the owner to Design-Builder and Design-Builder to design consultants and specialty contractors.
- What methods or approaches were employed to engage and interact “as one team” collaboratively throughout the design AND construction phases of the project?
- Provide a narrative description of the Design-Build process along with the owner’s design, quality, cost, and schedule objectives; the Design-Build team’s project goals, the Design-Build team’s efforts to realize these goals and objectives; and the challenges and constraints of the project.
- Describe how the Design-Build Done Right best practices were uniquely implemented for project success. [Download the Design-Build Done Right Best Practices from DBIA National.](#)

### **Section 3a – Design Excellence**

#### **For Design Excellence Award Submissions Only (30 points)**

This section is intended to highlight design excellence and execution of the design in a high-quality manner.

- Describe the owner’s criteria for design excellence and how it was achieved by the team.
- Explain how overall quality expectations were set by the owner and how the design team conveyed them to the Design-Build team.
- Describe design innovations or solutions the Design-Build team incorporated into the project.
- How did the design team contribute to achieving the owner’s budget and schedule?
- Clarify how challenges were solved by the design process in collaboration with the construction team. Discuss how the design team helped the Design-Build team to execute the design vision in the construction phase.
- How was the DBIA Design Excellence Position Statement incorporated into the project: Integration, Health Living, Community Impact, Sustainability & Resiliency, and Responsible Design? [Download the Design Excellence Position Statement from DBIA National.](#)

### **Section 3b – Schedule and Cost Performance**

#### **For General Construction Design-Builder and Specialty Contractor Design-Builder Award Submissions Only (30 points)**

This section should highlight how the team achieved the owner’s project goals regarding cost and schedule.

- How did the project achieve the owner’s budget and schedule objectives?
- Give examples of how you provided the owner with the best value solutions.
- Describe any challenges the Design-Build team overcame related to cost and schedule.
- What innovations did you employ to attain the owner’s goals?

### **Section 4 – DBIA Credentials**

#### **DBIA Credentialed Team Members (Up to 5 points)**

List any DBIA credentialed Design-Build team members and their roles. Receive one (1) point per person with a DBIA credential, up to five (5) points.

### ***Section 5 – Photographs (10 points)***

- Please provide up to ten (10) images in separate, high-resolution .jpg or .png files. We highly encourage applicants to include photos of both in-progress and completed projects.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining the rights from their photographer to reprint the photographs. Ownership of a physical photo is not sufficient. Photographers normally retain the copyright of photos, so applicants should ensure that they have permission to copy and send photos to DBIA for use without limitations.
- Professional photographers must be credited. Any liability for copyright violation shall be borne solely by the applicant.
- DBIA reserves the right to publish the images online, in print, and in various DBIA presentations about Design-Build.

### ***Section 6 – Appendix (Pass/Fail)***

***Signed Waiver / Disclosure Agreement (See Next Page)***



ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**REGION**  
DESIGN-BUILD  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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720-506-1578

**WAIVER DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

On behalf of the submitting company, I understand that the contents of this entry become the property of DBIA and will not be returned. DBIA shall have the right to make all text and photos available for publication without compensation, real or implied, and without claim by nominees against the jury, DBIA or its staff, or individual DBIA members. I certified that I further understand that DBIA has the right to include information provided in this entry for a public project database.

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Printed Name Title

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Signature Date