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**AIA Connecticut Announces New Sustainable Architecture Award on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day**

*The award recognizes design projects that reduce emissions, energy use, and water use while still remaining a comfortable and healthy environment.*

(April 16, 2020, New Haven) The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) in collaboration with Connecticut Passive House (CPH) unveils a new Sustainable Architecture Award recognizing architects who are creating durable, comfortable, and healthy environments within the built industry that show reduction in Green House Gas emissions, energy use, or water use.

The award will be formally announced on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and attempts to raise the public awareness of the current climate crisis and the massive role played by construction, facility maintenance, and operations of the built environment. It also honors the climate change initiatives of AIA Connecticut and Connecticut Passive House to secure a more sustainable and environmentally thriving future. Award information is available at <https://aiact.org/the-sustainability-award/>

"Since the combination of the world's existing building stock and new construction account for more than 40% of the contributions of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents to the atmosphere; there is a lot that we can do to help slow Global Warming. We need to start recognizing the great work that is already being done and show the public its value and the many benefits," said Leonard Wyeth, AIA CPHD and co-chair of the AIA Connecticut Design Committee.

The week of April 20-24 will mark Sustainable Architecture Week, offering daily educational webinars and conversations on sustainability in design, as well as green building and net zero carbon initiatives.

"This is one of the many initiatives AIA Connecticut has created to bring awareness to sustainability and climate change, and a wonderful opportunity to increase public awareness of how architects are encouraging ethical, responsible, and sustainable design," said Gina Calabro, Executive Director/CEO of AIA Connecticut. "The AIA Connecticut Board of Directors adopted a *Climate Declaration* to raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergencies and the urgent need for action among our members and stake holders."

Recipients of the 2020 Sustainable Architecture Awards will be selected in July. This award will be included at AIA Connecticut's Annual Awards Gala, held in November of this year.

*About AIA Connecticut:*

AIA Connecticut, a statewide chapter of the American Institute of Architects, based in New Haven, Connecticut, serves the architectural profession, encourages design excellence, and works to improve society through a concern for the quality of the built and natural environments. Members commit themselves to the highest standards of practice and code of ethics that addresses responsibilities to the



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public, clients, the building industry, and the art and science of architecture. Our membership of close to 1,600 is comprised of architects, associates working towards licensure, students, and professionals in affiliated fields. For more information on AIA Connecticut's *Climate Declaration*, [click here](#) or visit AIA Connecticut's website at [www.aiact.org](http://www.aiact.org)