

blue

MICHIGAN

WATERFRONT LIFE



Michigan Blue Design Awards

SUBMIT BY **JULY 1st, 2026**
MIBLUEDESIGNAWARDS.COM

2027

Details & Instructions

HOW TO ENTER

1. Visit mibluedesignawards.com
2. Register an account for your organization
3. Sign in and click the "New Entry" link
4. Fill out the form with your project details
5. Attach your images
6. Save your entry
7. You may revisit and submit as many entries as you wish until July 1st, 2026
8. Once all projects are entered, use the "Submit and Pay" link to check out and finalize your submissions
9. Projects can be entered into multiple categories

PROJECT IMAGES

You can upload between 1 - 8 high-resolution image(s) along with your entry. Images submitted must be about 8 x 10 inches, at 300 DPI minimum (any image that does not meet this requirement will not be accepted). The acceptable format is JPG, with a size limitation of 50 MB per image. Please see our Photography Terms section.

To ensure anonymity, photos should be named by category and NOT the name of designer and/or homeowner submitting the project.

Example of correct image name:

- traditionalgreatroom1.jpg
- traditionalgreatroom2.jpg

When crediting a photographer, please list your photographer's name/company the same way throughout all entries.

Please note, all photos submitted are eligible for selection to represent the winning entries in the

winter issue of Michigan Blue magazine. Photo selection and size/cropping are at the discretion of the art department.

PROJECT CONCEPT STATEMENT/DESCRIPTION

Please provide a typed overview (100 - 250 words) detailing significant aspects of the finished project. The statement should discuss design challenges, location (city name), design solutions, and other pertinent aspects, but must not mention firm name, nor individuals involved **to ensure anonymity**. Entrants must include the year the project was completed.

Project must include body of water (lake, river, etc.) project is located on or near. **Please include the name of the body of water in the project description.**

Projects should be submitted via the entry submission form at mibluedesignawards.com.

ELIGIBILITY

Entries that have won in or were submitted in other competitions are allowed. Design projects more than five years old will not be accepted.

In order to be considered eligible,

The **property must be a waterfront home or near waterfront** areas.

The **property submitted must be located in the State of Michigan**. However, the designer(s) of the project can reside anywhere in the United States.

READERS' CHOICE

"Readers' Choice Best Overall Home" is an award given to the project that receives the most votes from *Michigan Blue* magazine readers at mibluedesignawards.com.

Projects submitted in the Best Overall Home category are automatically available online for readers to cast their votes and are eligible to win the Readers' Choice Best Overall Home award.

JUDGING

An independent panel is selected from outside Michigan. Judges are drawn from national media (print and television), respected academic institutions, private practice, and include nationally recognized names from design and architecture. Their expertise reflects a broad spectrum of related professions, and may include architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture. All judges decisions are final.

DEADLINE

All entries must be submitted, and paid for in full, via web form, by July 1, 2026. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Entry fees are payable via our online entry form, which accepts PayPal, Visa®, MasterCard® or American Express®.

1 - 3 entries: \$100 each

4 - 6 entries: \$90 each

7 + entries: \$80 each

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

One-half the entry fee will be rebated as a voucher toward the purchase of an advertisement in the Winter 2027 issue of *Michigan Blue* magazine.

For advertising opportunities, contact advertising@hour-media.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY TERMS

Entrants must secure royalty/reuse-free photos from their photographer for submitting images that will potentially run in *Michigan Blue* magazine/mibluedesignawards.com.

Photographs submitted to HOUR Media may be published in *Michigan Blue* magazine. It is the responsibility of the entrant to inform the photographer of these terms. Photographs may also be used for future marketing and promotional purposes for *Michigan Blue* or *Detroit Design*.

CATEGORIES

Projects can be entered/submitted to multiple categories. Categories are listed on the next page.

GUIDELINES AND ADDITIONAL TERMS

Plaques are available for purchase by entrants at a cost of \$115. If additional companies, designers, or homeowners contributed to the project and wish to receive recognition, duplicate plaques may be purchased upon receipt of the winner letter. Additional contributors will not be listed on the award plaque or in the magazine unless their company was listed as co-entrants.

Important note:

There can be **no more than two co-entrants per submission**.

If you list a co-entrant on an entry, the co-entrant's name will appear as a co-winner with your company name in the magazine and on the award plaque if your submission is selected as a winner. There is a separate opportunity on the submission form to list others who contributed to the project; this area is optional and those you list here will NOT receive an award plaque if your entry is selected as a winner. Their names, however, may be featured in the *Michigan Blue* magazine editorial.

If a category doesn't receive sufficient support, *Michigan Blue* magazine retains the right to remove the category from that year's competition. In this event, the entry fee would be refunded for the affected entries.

Failure to comply fully with contest rules may result in disqualification. Entry fee is non-refundable and will not be returned (even if entry is determined to be ineligible or disqualified). HOUR Media is not liable for lost, stolen, ineligible, misdirected, damaged, mutilated, or postage-due entries.

Winning submissions become the property of *Michigan Blue* magazine. *Michigan Blue* magazine retains legal/publishing rights through one year after publishing of the Winter 2026 issue.

QUESTIONS

Contact: Kayla Yucha

Phone: 248-691-1800 x 151

Email: kyucha@hour-media.com

Printable entry packets are available at: mibluedesignawards.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 1st, 2026: Submission and fee deadline .

September 2026: Winners notified

December 2026: Release of *Michigan Blue* magazine winter issue with Design Awards and Winner Placements.

MBDA 2027 Categories



HOMES (homes, cottages, condos, etc.)

- Historic remodel (50 years or older)
- Addition project
- Guest house
- Overall home
- Vacation Rental
- Boathouse

DETAILS

- Millwork
- Stair & railing
- Flooring/Rugs
- Interior use of stone or tile
- Interior/Exterior lighting
- Fireplace
- Custom cabinetry or furniture

EXTERIORS

- Gate/fence/wall
- Use of stone/tile/concrete
- Swimming pool/spa
- Deck/patio/porch
- Outdoor fireplace/firepit
- Landscape design (floral, hardscape, beach, lake access, etc.)
- Outdoor kitchen

INTERIORS

- Handcrafted furniture
- Utility room (laundry room, mud room, dedicated pet space)
- Specialty room (bar, gym, wine, music, crafts, billiards, etc.)
- Sunroom
- Guest room
- Bath (powder room, primary, etc.)
- Kitchen
- Primary suite
- Great room
- Home office
- Use of local art (nautical-themed)
- Use of fabrics
- Finished lower level

COMMERCIAL

- Restaurant/Bar
- Hotel/Inn