



Opus Newton, Newton, Mass. Photo: Andrew Ruggie. © Perkins Eastman

environments *for* aging

DESIGN SHOWCASE

AN ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF SENIOR LIVING DESIGN SINCE 1997

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

— Presentations due Dec. 16 —

ANNOUNCING THE 31ST ANNUAL EFA DESIGN SHOWCASE



***Environments for Aging** magazine* will convene an esteemed panel of industry experts to review projects from across the nation and recognize exceptional environments that advance the design of spaces for aging populations—from skilled nursing residents to active adults.

THE EFA AUDIENCE

For more than 30 years, *Environments for Aging* has served an audience of planners, architects, interior designers, community owners and operators, and other professionals immersed in the planning, design, construction, and ongoing operation of senior living communities. The magazine is the industry's premier source of insight, information, and inspiration, delivering to readers the latest senior living design news and in-depth coverage of new projects and trends.

Environments for Aging reaches more than 15,000 print subscribers, with additional exposure to thousands of digital subscribers across our family of design publications, including *Environments for Aging*, *Healthcare Design*, and *Hospitality Design*. The Design Showcase also receives expanded distribution at leading industry events throughout the year.

Conference Distribution: *Environments for Aging* Conference + Expo, NeoCon, HEALTHTAC, Senior Living Point, and Healthcare Design Conference + Expo

All projects selected by the jury will be featured in the Spring 2027 EFA Design Showcase, published in both print and digital formats.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Who is eligible to submit?

Senior living community owners/operators as well as architects, interior designers, builders, developers, and other project team members (excluding vendors) working in the senior living or long-term care market.

Are there requirements regarding the age of the project?

All projects must have been completed (or expected to be completed) after December 31, 2023. Projects that were previously published in the EFA Design Showcase can't be resubmitted under the same construction category.



Construction Categories

- New Construction
- Remodel/Renovation
- New Construction and Remodel/Renovation
- Addition
- Project in Progress
- Conversion (adaptation of an existing structure into a senior environment)
- Unbuilt/Conceptual Design Only
- Interior Design Only

Examples of Eligible Settings include:

- 55+/active adult communities
- Adult day services
- Alzheimer's/dementia care
- Amenity spaces
- Assisted living
- Congregate/group homes
- Continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs)
- Hospice
- Independent living
- Multigenerational campuses
- Post-acute/rehab
- Senior community centers
- Seniors-only housing/apartment complexes
- Senior-driven urban infill/revitalization projects
- Skilled nursing
- Specialized medical spaces (e.g., geriatric cancer care, mental health, emergency care, etc.)
- Wellness/fitness centers



Photos: Opus Newton, Newton, Mass. Photo: Andrew Ruggie. © Perkins Eastman

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Submission Process

Prepare your presentation for jury review: Due 12/16/26

Upon entering your project, you will receive a submission guide and PowerPoint template for preparing your presentation. Your presentation must include a project narrative, images, floor plans, and responses to jury questions. Submissions are anonymous. Firm names should not appear within your presentation.

Submit your materials for publication: Due 12/30/26

Using our provided worksheet, you'll submit your print-quality photos/renderings, project narrative, firm/community contact information, design team members, and project size/cost. We will utilize these materials to create your Design Showcase feature.

All selected projects will receive an award designation seal once jurors have completed their review. A proof will be provided to participants for review and approval.

Program Criteria

Projects will be evaluated on the following:



Design & Aesthetics

Architecture, interiors, materials, lighting, color, craftsmanship, beauty, residential character, sense of place



Resident Experience & Well-Being

Quality of life, dignity, independence, resident-centered care, belonging, joy, memory support, connection to nature, outdoor living



Innovation & Problem Solving

Creative responses to project challenges, innovative design solutions, technology, new approaches, and thoughtful rethinking of traditional senior living environments



People & Community

Staff experience, family relationships, community connection, intergenerational engagement, inclusivity, hospitality



Performance & Impact

Operational and staff efficiency, care outcomes, sustainability and environmental performance, measurable results, and demonstrated project impact



AWARDS & RECOGNITION



A jury of industry experts, including architects, interior designers, providers and consultants, will review and evaluate all submitted projects. Projects must meet program criteria to be selected and published. Projects meeting the jury's threshold for publication will be designated Jury Selected Projects and published in the 2027 Design Showcase. High-scoring projects will advance to jury discussion, during which jurors will determine Awards of Merit, Honorable Mentions, Finalists, and Jury Distinction Awards.

2027 AWARD LEVELS

MORE OPPORTUNITY. GREATER RECOGNITION. NEW LOWER RATES FOR 2027

RECOGNITION BENEFITS					
Award designation seal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Digital seal to use for your own marketing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project promotion on all EFA social media platforms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 copies of the magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Premium placement within the Design Showcase	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Recognition at the 2027 EFA Conference + Expo	✓ On stage	✓ On stage	✓ Project mention	✓ Project mention	
Bonus editorial coverage	✓ Print	✓ Print	✓ Online	✓ Online	
Complimentary full conference registrations (value \$1400 each)	✓ Two registrations	✓ One registration			
A beautiful glass engraved award	✓	✓			
Access to professional photos from the awards program for your own use	✓	✓			

SUBMISSION FEES

SELECTED BY THE JURY. PUBLISHED IN PRINT. SEEN BY THE INDUSTRY.

Every Jury Selected Project earns a place in the Spring 2027 print and digital editions of *Environments for Aging's* annual Design Showcase.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$375 for each project submitted will be invoiced in December. Projects accepted by the jury will be published in the Spring 2027 issue, and a publication fee (based on the number of pages selected to be published) will be invoiced at that time. **We do not allow cancellations following receipt of your presentation.** Please note: If submitting jointly with another organization, invoicing can be split accordingly.



→ **One-page layout**
2-3 images
250-word narrative
Publication fee: \$2,750

Deadlines:

Presentations due: December 16, 2026
Jury review: January 2027
Publication date: April 2027

Interested in submitting a project?

Contact:

Donna Hidalgo
210.419.9017
donna.hidalgo@forgelive.com



→ **Two-page spread**
4-6 images
400-word narrative
Publication fee: \$4,000

2026 AWARD OF MERIT WINNER OPUS NEWTON



Opus Newton, Newton, Mass. Photo: Andrew Rugge, © Perkins Eastman