

The ICFA / Richard Frinier Design Scholarship was created to inspire and encourage students of design to create innovative outdoor living spaces for residential, contract and hospitality environments, and to introduce students to this continuously evolving and growing sector of the furnishings, textile, lighting and accessories industries as an opportunity to focus upon as part of their future career aspirations. The process of the contest and its outcome provides a conduit for students of design to explore the category of outdoor living products as a viable, enjoyable, profitable and rewarding area of design.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to undergraduate students of design, M.A. or M.F.A. students of design who will continue their studies in the 2026-2027 academic year. Students must be full-time residents of the United States and/or full-time students at an accredited university in the United States at the time of entry submission and must be available to participate in related activities should their entry win the competition. Student designers must work individually on their product design submission wholly and completely independent of others, meaning it must be their sole and separate design concept, sketches, images, story and content. Students may consult with professors or material providers in their design process, so long as the design is one of their own and not a product or result of collaborating with anyone else.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Designs will be considered for:

- products for outdoor living: furniture, textiles/materials, lighting, accessories, shade structure
- innovation and original design related to use of materials
- relevancy and timelessness of design regardless of the styling of the design
- aesthetics of form and style
- materials / textiles
- material performance to withstand the elements of nature for full-time outdoor use
- texture
- finishing
- colors / color options
- engineering and manufacturing feasibility consideration
- adaptability across residential, contract and hospitality use and markets
- emotional values and connection with target audience and end-user
- social context
- marketability / salability / story
- concept illustration including developmental illustrations.

SCORING OVERVIEW

- Concept statement, inspiration, concept development process, drawing clear picture of product solving a void or need for this outdoor market sector using design thinking, research, reasoning together with creative solutions – **25 points**
- Form / function / viability from concept to R+D, engineering, manufacturing, marketing, merchandising to sales – **25 points**
- Originality. Innovation. Creativity. Emotional connection with others and connectivity to use in outdoor living spaces for indoor/outdoor residential, contract and hospitality environments. – **25 points**
- Presentation content and quality as provided. – **25 points**

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

- All participants must submit their entries completely and electronically no later than May 31, 2026, including concept sketches, inspiration and concept development statements.
- Entry materials cannot include any reference of the student's name or school.
- The entry form must be submitted as a separate pdf file with the project.
- Submitted project entries must be able to be opened, launched and easily viewed or navigated by the jury members as a complete presentation in one singular PDF document.
- Additional and separate required images in gif/jpg/jpeg format(s) for use in various promotions and with the media must also be uploaded following all image guidelines.
- Entry submission in PDF format and required separate jpg image file(s) should be sent electronically to the following address: mmorris@ICFAnet.org.

Submissions are to be modeled in the overall impression of an actual design development presentation as would be expected by a client and target audience end user/buyer. Entrants/participants' submission should inspire, inform and compel the jury within their judging experience to select the entry as the winner of the competition.

Student participants may submit design concepts which are appropriate for indoor/outdoor living spaces and able to perform for full-time outdoor use. Student participants are encouraged to research the outdoor living marketplace, study outdoor living lifestyles and consider how indoor/outdoor furnishings, textiles, materials, lighting, accessories, shade and other design objects are best used now and for the future when contemplating, conceptualizing and developing their product design.

The PDF portion of the entry submission must include:

- official entry form submitted as a separate pdf file.
- one document in pdf format with a minimum of four pages and maximum of 10 pages featuring:
 - A brief description of the design concept with a maximum of 1,500 characters.
 - Inspiration and concept development process statement.
 - Original, hand-drawn sketches of design concept.
 - Photo-realistic 3D rendering(s) of refined and final concept alone or illustrated in its final setting in a residential, contract and/or hospitality environment as envisioned.

Imagery portion of the entry submission must include:

- one 4x6 image in gif/ jpg/ jpeg format not to exceed 5 MB file size (intended for publicity use).
- up to three 4x6 images in gif/ jpg/ jpeg format not to exceed 2 MB each for vote ballot.

TIMELINE

- The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2026. ICFA cannot be responsible for incomplete, late, delayed, missing, lost or damaged entries.
- The sixth recipient of the ICFA / Richard Frinier Design Scholarship will be selected in June 2026.
- The student will be invited to attend Fall Casual Market Atlanta as a guest of Richard Frinier and the ICFA for one or two nights between September 15 - 17, 2026, including a gathering where the award will be presented.
- Roundtrip air travel, hotel accommodations and itineraries are provided at the discretion of ICFA.
- The recipient will be presented with a waiver releasing ICFA and Richard Frinier of any responsibility of factors beyond its control.

JUDGING

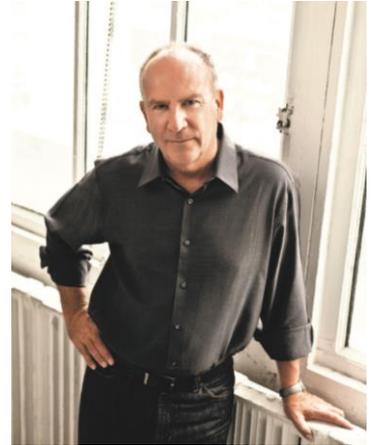
The entries will be judged anonymously and, therefore, cannot contain any references to the creator or university. Submissions that do not meet these rules will be excluded from the competition. An independent jury of well-established design industry leaders will act as jury. These juries, except for Richard Frinier, will remain anonymous until the winners are announced.

AWARD PRESENTATION

The winning student will receive a \$5,000 voucher made payable to their university, complete with the individual's personal identification, and an award certificate.

ABOUT RICHARD FRINIER

For over 40 years, American designer Richard Frinier has prolifically created thousands of designs across hundreds of collections. Since 2002 he has licensed and cobranded his creations with leading and high-profile global brands, including luxury and best-in-class manufacturers Brown Jordan, Century Furniture, Dedon, Sunbrella®, and other brands domestically and abroad. Importantly, these collections, designed for residential, contract, hospitality and resort interiors and exteriors, are marketed and sold across 80 countries generating over \$1 billion in sales worldwide for collaborating brands and cobranded partners with his most lauded and collectible designs enjoying continuous production for 10, 20, 30 and 40 years.



A master of proportion, reductive detailing and experiential design, Frinier has an acute ability to see what is missing and what can be, inspiring him to explore and pioneer new materials and construction methods, while using existing materials in interesting, efficient and compelling ways. His exclusive textile designs with Sunbrella are of particular interest to him as they collaborate exclusively in the realm of recycled-content fibers and fabric design for today and tomorrow. Highly skilled at working with craftspeople and actively collaborating on creative teams around the world, he is able to personally participate in imagining where his clients may go next while working to evolve their brands.

Renowned for bringing the quality of living indoors outside and the relaxed spirit of the outdoors inside, his vision and extreme dedication have made an indelible impact and lasting impression for his authentic, relevant and memorable designs to be enjoyed — *“Inside or outside — you decide.”*

Specified seamlessly by the trade and consumers alike for interior and exterior spaces, his sought after designs may be seen in royal palaces, luxury hotels, resorts, spas and private residences around the world. His innovative, iconic and inspiring creations evoke strong emotion in others taking them to a place they have never been before or to a place they long to be. And, his work at large has enjoyed immense success for his ability to identify and fuel such popular social trends as, *the outdoor room — resort-at-home — stay-cations — and, live-work-play environments.*

Having received over 100 design excellence and career achievement awards with his work at-large published extensively in global press and across social media platforms, career recognition includes: the International Casual Furnishings Association's - ICFA Lifetime Achievement Award, induction into the American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame, Stars of Design Award in the category of product design from the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, named among the Top 40 Influencers in Home Furnishings over the past 40 years by trade journal *FurnitureToday*, ICFA Industry Partner Award, and the Industrial Design Society of America's (IDSA) Top 20 Recognition Award for dedication to the betterment of the Society for long supporting transformational trade scholarship programs.

Frinier has gratefully received many design excellence and innovation awards for furniture, textile, lighting and accessory designs, including ICFA's Design Excellence Best of Category and Best of Show awards, multiple

IDSIA IDEA Awards, Hospitality Design Expo innovation awards, International Society of Furniture Designers (ISFD) Pinnacle awards, American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Product Excellence awards, the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture + Design Innovation awards with winning collections included in the museum's permanent archives, the International *reddot* Design Museum award with permanent collection inclusion, multiple and coveted Best-of-Year and Best-of-Decade design excellence awards and honors from Interior Design magazine, and he is humbled to have been a nominee for the Cooper-Hewitt Museum's National Design Award in the category of Product Design.

Richard and his wife and business partner Catherine Frinier are committed to supporting students of design through design contest scholarship programs to create opportunities for emerging talent at the earliest stages of their design careers helping to identify and inspire the future of design. To learn more: richardfrinier.com

The International Casual Furnishings Association supports and promotes the growth of the outdoor and casual furnishings industry through professional education, networking and development. ICFA is committed to heightening interest in and desire for quality outdoor furnishings in the consumer marketplace. The inclusive trade organization involves manufacturers, retailers, designers, sales representatives and suppliers within the membership, all working together in productive industry partnerships. For more information, please contact:

Siri Scott, Executive Director
International Casual Furnishings Association
1912 Eastchester Drive, Suite 100
High Point, NC 27265
sscott@icfanet.org

ICFA reserves the right to use entry submissions to the contest for publicity purposes and to further drive interest in student design and future student design contests. Participants agree to ICFA's Rules of Competition and agree that the decisions of ICFA, the sponsors and jury shall be final, binding and non-transferrable unless deemed otherwise by ICFA, the contest sponsors and jury. In addition, ICFA, its members and sponsors are not responsible for protecting the intellectual property of any student's competition entry.