

Interior Designers

AI augmenting ideation, visualization, space planning, and project management in interior design.

EXPOSURE 45 Elevated exposure	WINDOW 5–10 yrs until change lands	ADOPTION TODAY Medium	READING The role is being reshaped. Exposure is the share of today's work AI can plausibly take on within the window.
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§ 01WHAT IS HAPPENING

What is happening to interior designers

Impact	AI tools are automating routine drafting, generating design options, optimizing space utilization, and streamlining documentation. This shifts Interior Designers' focus towards conceptual design, client engagement, ethical oversight of AI, and strategic project leadership, emphasizing human well-being and aesthetics.
Risk	Significant augmentation; emphasis on creative vision, client relationship, and AI tool mastery. The Interior Designer role will be profoundly augmented by AI. AI will handle many repetitive and iterative design tasks, data analysis for material selection, and initial documentation. Interior Designers will need to become adept at leveraging AI tools, critically evaluating AI-generated designs, focusing on strategic conceptualization, client communication, and nuanced ethical considerations in AI-driven design, particularly regarding human comfort and aesthetics.
Sector readiness	Progressive Integration & Experimental Adoption The interior design, architecture, and construction (AEC) sectors are progressively integrating AI for design optimization, visualization, generative design, and project management. Integration is cautiously progressive due to emphasis on aesthetics, human comfort, and the bespoke nature of many projects, with ongoing exploration of AI's creative and analytical potential.

§ 02 POSITION

Where you stand

- i The Interior Designer role is undergoing a significant transformation, with AI becoming an indispensable partner in every stage of design, analysis, and visualization.
- ii AI will automate iterative design exploration, provide powerful analytical insights for space utilization and performance, and streamline documentation, allowing Interior Designers to focus on high-level conceptualization, strategic client engagement, and ethical design for human well-being.
- iii Success in this field will increasingly depend on mastering AI tools, critically validating their outputs, and developing deep interdisciplinary skills to navigate the complexities of AI-enabled interior design and the creation of human-centric spaces.

§ 03 ACTIONS

15 POINTS

What this means for you

Concrete changes to how the work gets done, in the order you are likely to meet them.

- 01 **AI-Accelerated Generative Design & Space Planning.** Interior Designers are leveraging AI-powered generative design tools to rapidly explore thousands of optimal layout options, furniture arrangements, and material combinations for interior spaces based on client needs, functional requirements, and aesthetic preferences. This significantly expands creative possibilities and speeds up conceptualization.
- 02 **AI-Enhanced Visualization & Photorealistic Rendering.** Interior Designers will utilize AI to dramatically improve the speed and realism of interior renderings and virtual walkthroughs. AI can generate photorealistic images from simple sketches, enhance existing models, and create immersive virtual experiences, allowing for faster client feedback and iteration.
- 03 **Performance Optimization (Lighting, Acoustics, Ergonomics).** Interior Designers are employing AI to optimize interior spaces for natural and artificial lighting, acoustic comfort, and ergonomic efficiency. AI can simulate various design parameters and suggest adjustments to maximize human well-being and functional performance.
- 04 **Automated Documentation & Specifications Generation.** AI is streamlining the creation of interior design documentation. Interior Designers will use AI to automatically generate initial drafts of furniture schedules, material specifications, and lighting plans from design models or parameters, reducing manual drafting time.

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- 05 **AI-Assisted Client Needs Analysis & Style Matching.** Interior Designers are using AI tools to analyze client preferences, inspirations (e.g., from images, mood boards), and lifestyle data to suggest personalized design styles, color palettes, and furniture selections. This enhances the initial client consultation and aligns design with client vision.
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- 06 **Intelligent Material & Furniture Sourcing.** AI tools are assisting Interior Designers in sourcing optimal materials and furniture by analyzing vast product databases for sustainability, durability, cost, and aesthetic fit. AI can also identify reputable suppliers and track lead times.
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- 07 **Focus on Conceptualization & Visionary Design.** As AI automates iterative and analytical tasks, the core value of Interior Designers will increasingly come from developing overarching design concepts, articulating compelling visions for human spaces, and pushing creative boundaries. This shifts focus to the "big ideas" and client relationship.
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- 08 **Prompt Engineering for Design & Visualization.** Interior Designers must master the art of "prompt engineering"—crafting precise and effective textual inputs to guide generative AI tools to produce desired interior forms, visual styles, or realistic renderings. The ability to articulate creative vision to AI will be a key skill.
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- 09 **Automated Compliance Checking & Code Review.** AI systems are capable of scanning interior designs against building codes, accessibility standards (e.g., ADA), and fire safety regulations, automatically flagging potential violations. Interior Designers will oversee these systems, ensuring compliance and expediting review processes.
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- 10 **Ethical AI in Design & Human Well-being.** Interior Designers will be deeply involved in addressing the ethical implications of AI in design, particularly concerning potential biases in AI-generated layouts, ensuring inclusivity, and considering AI's impact on human behavior, privacy, and psychological comfort in designed spaces.
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- 11 **Human-AI Teaming in the Design Process.** Interior Designers will increasingly collaborate with AI as an intelligent design assistant. AI provides rapid iteration, data analysis, and optimization suggestions, allowing the human Interior Designer to lead the creative direction, refine nuanced aesthetics, and make critical decisions that integrate human values and well-being.
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- 12 **AI for Sustainable & Healthy Material Selection.** Interior Designers are leveraging AI to select optimal materials for projects based on environmental impact, health implications (e.g., VOCs), and lifecycle costs. AI can analyze vast material databases and provide insights for sustainable and healthy interior environments.
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- 13 **AI-Driven Project Management & Budget Tracking.** Interior Designers will oversee AI-powered systems for project management, tracking design progress, coordinating with contractors, and monitoring budget deviations. AI can predict schedule delays or budget overruns, improving project delivery efficiency.
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- 14 **Continuous Learning & Digital Transformation.** The rapid integration of AI requires Interior Designers to continuously learn about AI/ML fundamentals, generative design software, and new computational tools. This means proactively developing digital literacy and adapting design workflows to leverage these technologies effectively.
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- 15
- Focus on Client Psychology & Experience Creation.** As AI handles more technical production, the Interior Designer's role will intensify in understanding client psychology, empathizing with their needs, and curating experiences that foster emotional connection, comfort, and functionality within designed spaces.

What is pushing this change

- 01
- Demand for Faster Design & Renovation Cycles.** Renovation and design projects have tight deadlines; AI accelerates design and planning significantly.
- 02
- Increasing Complexity of Interior Spaces (Smart Homes, Integrated Tech).** Modern interiors incorporate complex systems (smart lighting, integrated AV, IoT), requiring AI for integrated design and management.
- 03
- Advancements in Generative AI (3D Models, Images).** New AI models can generate 3D interior layouts, furniture arrangements, and realistic renderings from simple inputs.
- 04
- Availability of Big Data (Product Catalogs, Material Specs, Sensor Data).** Vast product databases, material specifications, and sensor data from smart homes provide rich inputs for AI analysis and optimization.
- 05
- Pressure for Cost Reduction & Resource Optimization.** AI optimizes material use, furniture placement, and design iterations, leading to significant cost savings.
- 06
- Need for Enhanced Building Performance (Health, Comfort, Efficiency).** AI simulates lighting, acoustics, and air quality to enhance interior comfort, health, and energy efficiency.
- 07
- Growth of Smart Homes & IoT Integration.** The trend towards digitally connected and intelligent homes provides new data streams for AI-driven design.
- 08
- Sustainability & Biophilic Design Trends.** AI assists in designing interiors that promote well-being and minimize environmental footprint.
- 09
- Aging Buildings & Adaptive Reuse.** AI tools can aid in assessing existing interiors and proposing adaptive reuse designs for aging spaces.
- 10
- Global Competition in Design & Furnishings.** Design firms globally compete for clients; AI offers tools to enhance productivity and explore new styles.

Impact by sector

The headline figure is an average. Where you work changes the picture.

Residential Interior Designers	AI for generative layouts, personalized style recommendations, and automated product sourcing for residential projects. Focus on client lifestyle and emotional connection.
Commercial Interior Designers (Office, Retail, Hospitality)	AI for space planning optimization (workflow, density), material selection for durability/maintenance, and compliance checking for commercial spaces. Focus on functionality and brand.
Healthcare Interior Designers	AI for optimizing patient flow, material selection for hygiene/stress reduction, and designing for specific patient populations. Focus on well-being and safety.
Kitchen & Bath Designers	AI for generative layouts, material selection optimization (durability, cost), and appliance integration. Focus on functionality, ergonomics, and aesthetic appeal.
Lighting Designers (Specialized Interior Focus)	AI for simulating light distribution, optimizing fixture placement, and suggesting energy-efficient solutions. Focus on ambiance, visual comfort, and sustainability.

Skills to build

The skills that keep the human part of this work valuable as the routine part is automated.

- 01 **Conceptual Design & Creative Vision.** The ability to develop unique design concepts, articulate a clear aesthetic vision, and guide AI towards desired functional and stylistic goals for interior spaces.
- 02 **AI Tool Proficiency & Prompt Engineering.** Skillfully crafting inputs for AI tools (e.g., text, parameters) and effectively using various generative AI and analysis platforms for interior design.
- 03 **Aesthetic Judgment & Curation.** The inherent ability to discern beauty, proportion, color harmony, and material balance, and to rigorously select and refine AI-generated outputs.
- 04 **Client Psychology & Needs Analysis.** Deep understanding of client lifestyles, emotional responses to space, and translating unspoken needs into tangible design solutions.
- 05 **Space Planning & Functional Design.** Expertise in optimizing spatial layouts, ensuring efficient flow, maximizing usability, and creating functional and aesthetically pleasing interior environments.

- 06

Ethical AI & Human-Centric Design. Understanding the ethical implications of AI in design (e.g., bias in generative models, privacy in smart homes) and ensuring designs promote human well-being and inclusivity.
- 07

Material & Furniture Sourcing (AI-augmented). Ability to use AI tools for researching, selecting, and specifying materials and furniture based on performance, cost, and aesthetic criteria.
- 08

Adaptability & Continuous Learning. Willingness to explore new AI technologies, adapt design workflows, and continuously update skills in a rapidly evolving interior design landscape.

§ 07 INSTRUMENTS

12 ENTRIES

Tools in use

KINDS OF TOOL WORTH KNOWING

- 01

AI-Powered Generative Design Software (Interiors). Software that uses AI to rapidly explore and generate numerous design options for interior layouts, furniture arrangements, and material palettes based on specified parameters.
- 02

AI-Enhanced Visualization & Rendering Tools (Interiors). Tools that leverage AI to accelerate the rendering process, enhance realism, and create immersive virtual walkthroughs or augmented reality experiences for interior designs.
- 03

AI for Space Planning & Layout Optimization. AI tools that analyze functional requirements and spatial constraints to suggest optimal layouts, circulation paths, and furniture placement within a room or building.
- 04

Intelligent Material & Furniture Sourcing Platforms. Platforms that use AI to analyze vast product databases, compare materials/furniture based on attributes (sustainability, cost, style), and identify suppliers.
- 05

AI for Lighting & Acoustic Simulation. Software that uses AI to simulate and optimize lighting conditions (natural/artificial) and acoustic performance within interior spaces.
- 06

Generative AI for Design Documentation & Mood Boards. Large Language Models (LLMs) and other AI tools used to generate initial drafts of material schedules, lighting plans, design narratives, or mood board descriptions.

NAMED TOOLS ALREADY IN USE

- TestFit (AI for layout) / Autodesk Forma (AI for conceptual planning)**

VISIT

AI-powered generative design tools for early-stage space planning and interior layout optimization.
- Enscape (with AI rendering features) / V-Ray (Chaos Cloud with AI denoising)**

VISIT

Real-time rendering and visualization plugins for interior design software, integrating AI for faster, more realistic output and denoising.
- Spacemaker AI (now Autodesk Forma) / Archistar (AI for development potential)**

VISIT

AI tools for urban planning and architectural conceptual design whose principles are being adapted for large-scale interior space optimization.

Fohlio (spec & sourcing) / Material Bank (AI features for search)

VISIT

Digital specification and sourcing platforms that leverage AI for material and furniture search and selection based on project requirements.

IESVE (with AI analytics) / cove.tool

VISIT

Building performance analysis tools that integrate AI for optimization across lighting, acoustics, and other interior environmental factors.

ChatGPT / Midjourney (for conceptual text/images)

VISIT

Generative AI models that can assist in drafting design narratives, producing conceptual images from text, or streamlining documentation.

§ 08 EXAMPLES

5 EXAMPLES

In practice

Ways people in this role are already using AI, and what they get from it.

Generate Space Layouts for a New Office

EXAMPLE 1

HOW

Input client needs (e.g., number of employees, team structures, collaboration needs) and floor plan constraints into an AI-powered generative design tool. The AI will rapidly generate thousands of optimized office layouts, including workstation arrangements and meeting areas.

GAIN

Expands creative possibilities exponentially, accelerates the space planning phase, and helps discover highly efficient and functional layouts.

Optimize Lighting Design for a Living Room

EXAMPLE 2

HOW

Interior Designers can use an AI-enhanced lighting simulation tool. The AI analyzes a room's design and natural light, then suggests optimal placement and type of artificial light fixtures to achieve desired ambiance and energy efficiency.

GAIN

Significantly improves energy efficiency, enhances visual comfort, and ensures optimal lighting levels for various activities within the space.

Automate Material Board Creation

EXAMPLE 3

HOW

Interior Designers can input project parameters (e.g., client style preference, budget, functional needs) into an AI tool that autonomously curates and arranges a virtual material board with fabric swatches, paint colors, and finish samples, ready for presentation.

GAIN

Dramatically speeds up the process of creating material presentations, ensures consistency, and allows more time for client interaction.

Create Photorealistic Interior Renderings

EXAMPLE 4

HOW

Provide an AI-powered rendering engine with a 3D model of an interior space. The AI automatically applies realistic textures, lighting, and shadow effects, generating photorealistic images or virtual walkthroughs with significantly less manual effort.

GAIN

Accelerates visualization, enables rapid client feedback, and enhances the presentation of design concepts with compelling realism.

Personalize Furniture Selection for a Client

EXAMPLE 5

HOW

Interior Designers can input client lifestyle data, aesthetic preferences (e.g., images of desired styles), and budget into an AI-powered furniture selection tool. The AI will autonomously recommend furniture pieces that perfectly match the client's needs and style.

GAIN

Streamlines furniture sourcing, ensures highly personalized selections, and improves client satisfaction by finding perfect matches for their style and needs.

§ 09 CONTEXT

How this role compares

Three neighbouring roles chosen to show the direction of travel.

Junior Draftsmen (Routine drafting) / Space Planners (Basic layout)

MORE EXPOSED

AI IMPACT

Very High (AI can autonomously generate floor plans and furniture layouts; generative AI automates iterative drafting.)

WORK MOVES TO

Role redefinition towards overseeing AI outputs, troubleshooting AI models, or specializing in manual tasks requiring high aesthetic judgment or bespoke solutions.

Computational Designers (Interiors) / AI Generative Design Specialists

DIFFERENT SKILLS, GROWING

AI IMPACT

Foundational (They design and build the AI algorithms and software that interior designers will utilize for generative design and analysis.)

WORK MOVES TO

Deep expertise in AI/ML algorithms, computational geometry, software engineering, and interior design theory for intelligent space creation.

Art Curators / Furniture Makers (Traditional Craft)

COMPLEMENTARY, LESS EXPOSED

AI IMPACT

Low-Moderate Augmentation (AI assists in data analysis for trends; AI helps with material simulation), but core aesthetic discernment, bespoke craftsmanship, and unique artistic creation remain paramount.

WORK MOVES TO

Deep knowledge of art history, aesthetic principles, and curating physical collections (Art Curators); Mastery of traditional crafting techniques and creating bespoke, handmade furniture (Furniture Makers).

Closing judgement

For Interior Designers, AI is not merely a tool but a radical force of transformation that will fundamentally redefine the creation of human spaces. It will autonomously handle the mundane, amplify creative exploration exponentially, and streamline documentation, compelling designers to pivot to indispensable human empathy, profound spatial artistry, and ethical oversight. The future of interior design is an intensified human-AI partnership, where well-being and aesthetic harmony are paramount.

Evidence and revisions

What the exposure figure rests on, what changed when it was last revised, and the published work cited for this role.

SCORE

45 (held)

WINDOW

5-10 years (unchanged)

The 4 October 2026 review held the score.

Microsoft's AI applicability score for the matching occupation is 0.21, in the upper half of 785 US occupations; Anthropic's observed-exposure data records almost no Claude usage on this occupation's tasks; the US Bureau of Labor Statistics places it in the 'high' AI-exposure tier; BLS projects employment to grow 2.7% over 2025–35. Taken together this is consistent with our previous figure of 45, which we have held.

MEASURES BEHIND THE SCORE

US Bureau of Labor Statistics · *Employment Projections 2025–35 and AI Exposure Categories* (27 August 2026)

AI-exposure tier: High. Projected employment change 2025–35: +2.7%. Matched to Interior designers.

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Microsoft Research · *Working with AI: Measuring the Applicability of Generative AI to Occupations* (10 July 2025)

AI applicability score 0.21 (percentile 71 of 785 occupations) for SOC 27-1025.

PUBLISHER PDF ARCHIVED COPY

Anthropic · *Anthropic Economic Index report: Cadences* (26 June 2026)

Observed exposure 0.00 for SOC 27-1025 (no meaningful Claude usage recorded on these tasks).

PUBLISHER PDF

UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology · *Assessment of AI capabilities and the impact on the UK labour market* (28 January 2026)

UK context: around 70% of UK workers are in occupations with tasks AI could perform or enhance, above the US average; a one-standard-deviation rise in exposure was associated with a 3.9% fall in UK job postings.

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<https://www.careerguard.ai/sources>

§ 12 APPENDIX

Method and sources

Each report was written from a large body of published research and then, in October 2026, re-scored against occupation-level evidence: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics AI-exposure classification and 2025–35 projections, Microsoft Research's AI applicability scores and Anthropic's observed-exposure data, cross-checked against the reports listed in the Evidence section above. The organisations and publications below are the standing literature behind the narrative sections. Every source, with dates, licences and archived copies where we are permitted to hold them, is catalogued in the research library.

Scores are revised by blending the previous editorial figure (60%) with a composite of the three occupation-level measures (40%), capped at fifteen points per revision and rounded to the nearest five. The window shifts one notch when a score moves ten points or more. Hand adjustments are recorded with their reason in the revision log.

I GLOBAL AND MACROECONOMIC IMPACT OF AI ON WORK

World Economic Forum

The Future of Jobs Report series — Employer survey of expected job growth and decline, skill shifts and technology adoption (2020, 2023 and 2025 editions); *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Entry-Level Work* (2026).

AI governance and transformation reports — Frameworks on ethical AI, talent strategy and industry transformation.

McKinsey Global Institute

AI, Automation and the Future of Work series — Research quantifying automation potential by task, sector and demographic, from "Jobs Lost, Jobs Gained" to "Agents, robots, and us" (2025).

Industry-specific reports — Financial services, healthcare, manufacturing and others.

PwC

Global AI Jobs Barometer — Annual analysis of job postings and productivity by AI exposure (2024–2026 editions).

Upskilling Hopes and Fears survey — Employee perceptions and readiness.

Microsoft Research and Anthropic

Working with AI (2025); *Anthropic Economic Index* (2025–2026) — Occupation-level usage data from Copilot and Claude conversations, the two observed-usage measures behind the 2026 revision.

Stanford Digital Economy Lab and Stanford HAI

Canaries in the Coal Mine? (2025–2026); *AI Index Report* (annual) — Payroll evidence on early-career employment in exposed occupations; annual measurement of AI capability, investment and adoption.

Deloitte

Human Capital Trends series — Workforce, talent and HR technology trends.

Tech Trends series — Emerging technologies and their business implications.

Accenture

Technology Vision series — Forward-looking analysis of emerging technology, with emphasis on AI.
Fjord Trends — Design, innovation and human experience in a digital world.

Boston Consulting Group

AI/ML insights and industry solutions — "The AI Revolution in the Workplace" and related research.

EY

AI and workforce reports — Adoption, talent strategy and ethics.

IBM Institute for Business Value

AI and automation studies — Business models, workforce evolution and leadership.

OECD

AI Policy Observatory — International data and policy on AI, labour markets and skills.
Employment Outlook — Labour-market trends including technological impact (2023–2026 editions).

International Labour Organization

Generative AI and Jobs: A Refined Global Index of Occupational Exposure (2025) — Task-level exposure gradients for every ISCO occupation; successor to the 2023 global index.

International Monetary Fund

Staff Discussion Notes on AI and work (2024, 2026) — Complementarity framing: where AI augments and where it substitutes.

UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Assessment of AI capabilities and the impact on the UK labour market (2026) — UK occupational exposure and job-posting evidence.

Brookings Institution

AI and automation research — Economic and social implications, displacement and skills.

Yale Budget Lab and Goldman Sachs Research

Tracking the Impact of AI on the Labor Market; AI and the US labour market (2026) — Aggregate labour-market monitoring; macro displacement estimates.

Oxford University (Oxford Martin School)

The Future of Employment — Frey & Osborne and subsequent research on susceptibility to automation.

MIT Technology Review

AI & Work — Reporting on AI research and its implications for industries and jobs.

Gartner

Hype Cycle for Artificial Intelligence — Maturity and adoption of AI technologies.
Future of Work reports — Workplace models and talent strategy.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment Projections 2025–35; AI Exposure Categories; Occupational Outlook Handbook — Ten-year employment projections and, from the 2025 cycle, an AI-exposure tier for every detailed occupation.

Indeed Hiring Lab

AI at Work Report (2025) and posting-market updates — Skill-level transformation estimates and job-posting trends by occupation.

II CORE AI AND MACHINE-LEARNING RESEARCH

OpenAI

Research papers, blog and API documentation — Large language models, generative AI, safety and societal impact.

Google DeepMind

Research papers and blog — Reinforcement learning, AI for science, AGI and ethics.

Meta AI

Research papers and blog — Large language models, computer vision, AI for social good.

Hugging Face

Transformers library and model hub — Open-source state-of-the-art NLP models.

TensorFlow and PyTorch

Documentation and community forums — Core frameworks illustrating practical capability.

arXiv

cs.AI, cs.LG, cs.CV, cs.CL — Pre-print research.

NeurIPS and ICML

Conference proceedings — Top-tier academic research.

ACM and IEEE

Journals and proceedings — ACM Computing Surveys; IEEE Transactions on AI.

Kaggle

Datasets and competition solutions — Applied machine learning on real-world problems.

The Alan Turing Institute

Research and reports — Responsible and applied AI.

III ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE AI DEPLOYMENT

NIST

AI Risk Management Framework — Voluntary framework for managing AI risk.

European Commission

AI Act — Risk-tiered legal framework for AI.

Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI — Principles for responsible development.

Partnership on AI

Research and best practice — Responsible AI development.

AI Now Institute

Annual reports — Social implications: power, inequality, rights.

ACM FAccT

Proceedings — Fairness, accountability and transparency.

Data & Society

Publications — Social implications of data-centric technology.

WIPO

Conversation on IP and AI — Intellectual-property implications of AI.

IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of A/IS

Ethically Aligned Design — Recommendations for ethical AI design.

Center for AI and Digital Policy

Policy briefs — Accountable AI policy.