



The AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards Policy

1. Introduction

The AILA Awards program has been a strong element of AILA's annual activities for over 40 years. The program underwent a review in 2015, resulting in a new program termed the AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards.

This policy aims to provide guidance to entrants, jurors, staff and executives on the agreed rules that govern the awards program.

2. Objectives

The AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards has the following objectives;

- To provide a vehicle for profiling the profession with the community and stakeholders via the media;
- To recognise achievements that display excellence in thinking, leadership and results;
- To recognise achievements across the spectrum of practise and across all scales and contexts;
- To use these achievements to effectively advocate for profession; and
- To use the program to build relationships with client groups, allied professions, and the community.

3. Overview

General

The National Landscape Architecture Awards is an integrated, hierarchical program resulting in annual awards at National level. Chapters may elect to run their Chapter program every second year if it is not deemed feasible to run annually.

Chapters will conduct their Awards programs so that there is a category which aligns with each of the National Awards categories.

Chapters wishing to acknowledge excellence outside of this structure may create additional categories, but winners in such categories will not be eligible for consideration at any higher level.

Entries in all categories are made through a common entry system.

Only awarded projects by Chapters will be considered for a National Award in the same year.

Projects awarded a Commendation by a Chapter are not eligible to be considered for a National Award in the same year.

Projects given a Commendation or no award by a Chapter may resubmit in future Awards program.

Entries may be judged at the National Awards level only once.

4. Eligibility

Eligible Entrants

Entry into the AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards is limited to a person, or a team where the landscape architectural component is under the substantive control or direction of a person, who is a:

- (i) a Registered Landscape Architect, and
- (ii) a financial Institute member, and
- (iii) If the Entrant is practice-based, the Principal of the practice which is an owner or formal licensee of the copyright in the work being entered.

Where the entrant does not own the copyright, the entry must be accompanied by a written agreement from the copyright holder stating that the work may be entered for an award.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for entry into the AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards, projects (where applicable) must have at least reached practical completion and be in all other respects complete to the point of enabling a proper assessment by the Jury, no later than 31 December in the year preceding the year of judging.

Projects that are not complete may not be considered for an award.

Conditions of Entry

Before an entry can be considered for an award the entrant must have, by the required date:

- (i) Submitted all required entry information, materials and images
- (ii) Provided all required consents and declarations in relation to the entry
- (iii) Paid all required entry fees.

Entry Guide

Detailed conditions of entry and instructions for entering the AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards are set out in the Entry Guide.

Authorship and Attribution

Entrants must provide accurate entry information and attribute all who contribute significantly to the authorship of the project (including any non-member). Any entry containing inaccurate information or incorrect attribution may be disqualified.

Specifically entries must provide the following;

- Client details and client contact
- Consultants or previous design teams when a project had earlier stages of work
- Collaborators
- Consultant team members
- Team members

Location

Except with the written approval of the President, entries will be considered in the Chapter in which the project is located, regardless of the business address of the entrant. Any project located outside Australia will only be eligible for an award in the International category at the National level.

Chapters are responsible for checking the current membership status of the entrant(s) and the eligibility of the entry according to Policy and the entry guide.

Chapters are responsible for supplying entry material to the National office for the National jury.

5. Structure of the program

The AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards has two stages, both occurring annually, where applicable. The first is a Chapter program and the second is the National program.

Conduct and Timing of Annual Programs

The following critical annual dates apply:

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|-----------|---|
| June/July | announcement/presentation of Chapter winners |
| June 30 | final date for Chapter winners and content to be supplied to National Jury |
| August 31 | final date for National Jury decisions |
| October | announcement/presentation of National winners to coincide with the International Festival of Landscape Architecture |

Award Structure

Awards in each Category are based on a two-tier system, in decreasing order of merit. If there are 2 (two) or more entries submitted into a category, then the Jury must award either an Award of Excellence or Landscape Architecture Award. *Note: if a Jury strongly feels no entry in a category should receive an award, they may apply in writing to the Chair of the National Jury for an exception, providing clear feedback as to their reasons.*

The tiers are as follows:

(a) Award of Excellence

The first and highest award in each category is the 'Award of Excellence'.

The award is given to the work judged to be the most significant for the advancement of landscape architecture in each category. There is only one winner of the Award in each category in any year.

The Jury is not obligated to award an Award of Excellence in any category.

(b) Landscape Architecture Award

The second tier is the 'Landscape Architecture Award'.

This is a work of excellence demonstrating consummate skill that contributes to the advancement of landscape architecture. Projects given an Award are the best projects in each category that have not won the Excellence Award. More than one Award may be given in a category.

(c) People's Choice Award

Specific details to be determined at the Chapter level, leveraging off existing successful method at the first meeting preceding the National Awards program. This reduces the opportunity for conflict of interest with jury members and provides a greater opportunity to facilitate visibility of the National Jury with a longer lead time.

6. Juries

National Jury Selection

The National Jury is appointed by the President for endorsement by National Board no later than the first meeting preceding the National Awards program. This reduces the opportunity for conflict of interest with Jury members and provides a greater opportunity to facilitate visibility of the National Jury with a longer lead time.

To facilitate openness and transparency, members, Chapters and National Board will be encouraged to nominate prospective National jurors, but the final composition will be determined by the President. If the President is able to serve on the Jury, the President shall be the Chair. If the President cannot serve on the Jury, then the President will appoint a Chair.

The jury composition is to demonstrate diversity in age, gender, location and professional experience.

Landscape architects on National juries will be AILA members. National jurors will not serve more than two years consecutively.

National Jury Composition

The National Jury will comprise of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 members (additional members at the discretion of the National President) including:

- (i) minimum of 3 landscape architects who could be;
 - a. the National President (at the time of final judging)
 - b. the Chair of the previous National jury
 - c. a previously awarded landscape architect (medallist)
 - d. a regional representative
 - e. a public sector representative
 - f. a small practice representative
- (ii) minimum one allied professional, government or media representative

National Jury Process

The process of judging nominees in each category is determined by the National jury, but will generally be by consensus and include as a minimum:

- (i) consideration of all entry material for each entry against the Evaluation Criteria;
- (ii) determination of an agreed shortlist in each category, based on the submitted entry material;
- (iii) preparation of a written citation for each awarded project, agreed by a majority of National jury members.

Information on Chapter Award winners will be made available confidentially to the National jury as soon as Chapter decisions are confirmed and National jury shortlisting will occur as soon as possible after all Chapter Award winners are determined. Site visits will not occur for the National Awards.

Each Chapter jury Chair will be invited to brief the National jury during the shortlisting process. The National jury may obtain expert technical advice to assist judging of entries in specialist areas.

All decisions and outputs of the National jury will be kept strictly confidential until announced at the National Awards presentation event.

Chapter Jury Selection

Chapter juries are appointed by the Chapter President in consultation with the Awards Committee (if applicable) for endorsement by Chapter Executive prior to calling for entries.

Members and Chapter executive may nominate prospective jurors, but the final composition will be determined by the Chapter President.

Jurors shall not serve on a Chapter jury for more than three years consecutively.

Landscape architects on Chapter Juries will be AILA members.

An overall jury Chair will be appointed by the Chapter President and endorsed by Chapter Executive prior to the date for calling entries.

Chapter Jury Composition

The Chapter jury will comprise of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 members including:

- (i) minimum 3 landscape architects who could be;
 - a. the State President (at the time of final judging)
 - b. the chair of the previous jury
 - c. a previously awarded landscape architect (medallist)
 - d. a regional representative
 - e. a public sector representative
 - f. an interstate representative
- (ii) minimum one allied professional, government or media representative;

Chapter Jury Process

The judging process adopted by Chapter juries will reflect the process required of the National jury, except that shortlisting of entries is not mandatory. All entries in a category may be required to present or submit to interview (either publicly or to the jury alone) and all entries in a category may be visited (however site visits are not mandatory).

All entries should be displayed to the public where possible.

The jury processes adopted in a Chapter should be consistent from year to year.

Smaller Chapters may share a jury with a larger Chapter if the time and costs are prohibitive.

National and Chapter Jury Conflict of Interest

Jurors and their practices are not permitted to enter the awards program in the year they are participating in the program. Public sector jurors should be selected to limit the opportunity of conflict and may include interstate selection.

Jurors must declare any perceived conflict of interest regarding an entry.

In the event a conflict is identified, the juror must be removed from deliberations of that category, and not participate or have any knowledge of the deliberations or awarded projects prior to publish date. Should a jury member have conflicts across more than 3 categories they will be required to remove themselves from the jury.

Jury Guide

Detailed guidance and instructions for juries appointed at all levels of the AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards are set out in the Jury Guide.

7. Categories

Category 1: CIVIC LANDSCAPE

Projects in this category are constructed urban landscape projects that are public in nature and capture and contribute to the culture and amenity of the urban environment.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Civic Landscape Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Civic Landscape*

Category 2: PARKS and OPEN SPACE

Projects in this category are constructed public parks and open space, or strategic open space projects that balance the demand for recreation, culture and the environment.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Parks and Open Space Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Parks and Open Space*

Category 3: PLAY SPACES

Projects in this category are constructed play spaces or strategies which promote the notion of active play and embraces the temporal elements of the active play space.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Play Spaces Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Play Spaces*

Category 4: INFRASTRUCTURE

Projects in this category are constructed landscape infrastructure projects, landscape strategies or works associated with civil infrastructure that demonstrates the successful integration of landscape values and which contribute to a future sustainability.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Infrastructure Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Infrastructure*

Category 5: CULTURAL HERITAGE

Projects in this category are constructed projects or strategies that demonstrate the restoration, conservation, enhancement, maintenance, or adaptive reuse of culturally significant sites.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Cultural Heritage Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Cultural Heritage*

Category 6: LAND MANAGEMENT

Projects in this category are constructed projects or strategies for the restoration, conservation or management of significant landscapes that demonstrate a tangible physical outcome. The project may recognise and reconcile the natural and cultural values of communities and the landscape in which they are placed.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Land Management Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Land Management*

Category 7: TOURISM

Projects in this category are constructed or strategic projects that demonstrate excellence in landscape design and demonstrate a tangible contribution to tourism, either nationally or in the local region that significantly enhances the profile of the area.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Tourism Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Tourism*

Category 8: URBAN DESIGN

Projects in this category are constructed or strategic projects that demonstrate how the design, construction management and built outcome contributes to the wellbeing of the urban setting through the improvement of social interaction, economic activity, liveability, accessibility and safety.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National /Chapter Urban Design Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Urban Design*

Category 9: LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Projects in this category are constructed or strategic projects and include strategic design and guiding policy documents and visual assessments for urban development, residential and planned communities, local community and rural or regional planning.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National /Chapter Landscape Planning Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Landscape Planning*

Category 10: RESEARCH, POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Projects in this category include published works in research and or practice that extend the knowledge base and advocacy of landscape architecture.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Research, Policy and Communications Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Research, Policy and Communications*

Category 11: COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Projects in this category include constructed projects or strategies delivered either:

- As a pro bono service (or significantly reduced fee) to the community

OR

- Projects that have positively impacted a client or community group who would not normally have access to design expertise.

Entrants should clearly demonstrate the benefit provided by the project to the community, cultural group and/or neighbourhood in which it is located or which it serves (e.g. through client letters of support explicitly referring to benefits gained). Projects will demonstrate sound principles and values of landscape architecture, and must be sufficiently focused on the role of the landscape architect as opposed to contributing to a wider community development.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Community Contribution Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Community Contribution*

Category 12: SMALL PROJECTS

Projects in this category include those considered to be 'small' in terms of size or budget. Projects are recognised that have been constrained by size or budget restrictions, but have achieved a level of invention and creativity beyond these constraints.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Small Projects Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Small Projects*

Category 13: GARDENS

Projects in this category include constructed private and public gardens that contribute to the role and understanding of the garden in contemporary society and culture.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Garden Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA National/Chapter Award for Gardens*

Category 14: INTERNATIONAL

Projects in this category include constructed or strategic projects that demonstrate a contribution to landscape architecture internationally.

Excellence Award: *(year) AILA International Award of Excellence*

Awards: *(year) AILA International Award*

Other Award Categories

From time to time National Board may resolve to include one or more special categories in the National Awards program. Any additional categories will be publicised at the time of call for entries.

Moving Projects Between Categories

If an entrant would like a project to be considered in more than one category, the project will need to be entered in multiple categories.

Juries may choose to consider projects in categories other than the category the project was originally entered in, subject to the following:

- the project must meet the entry requirements of the other category
- where the project is deemed not to meet the entry requirements for a category in which it is entered, it may be removed from that category and considered in one other category, for which it does meet the entry requirements
- the project must not be considered in more categories than it was originally entered in.

8. Criteria

Judging of entries is based on three core qualities:

- Thinking
- Leadership
- Results

These fundamentally underpin the achievement of excellence in landscape architectural endeavour. The core qualities will be applied to judging of all entries across all categories. A guiding matrix of prompts or indicators assists entrants and juries in applying the Thinking, Leadership and Results framework.