



AILA 2026
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE
AWARDS

entry
guide

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is the peak national body for Landscape Architecture.

AILA champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship. We provide our members with training, recognition, and a community of practice to share knowledge, ideas, and action.

The AILA Landscape Architecture Awards program provides a key vehicle for the promotion of the achievements and work of landscape architects in Australia.

The Awards process is an opportunity for public and peer recognition of the landscape architects work and demonstrates to industry, business, government, and the wider community the positive impact the profession has on Australian lives through the planning and design of built and natural environments.

The Awards process advances the profession of landscape architecture by encouraging excellence of its members and fostering awareness and recognition of the work of AILA Registered Landscape Architects.

For members, winning an Award provides recognition of exceptional practice. An Award is confirmation of talent, commitment, and design excellence.

This Entry Guide is written to provide advice on all aspects of entering the AILA Landscape Architecture Awards program. It is designed to help participants submit a valid entry.

In 2026 Chapter Programs will be held in:

- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales
- Northern Territory
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

For further information please contact AILA or the relevant local Chapter.

Please note: entries that do not comply with all the entry requirements may be declared ineligible for judging.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Eligible Entrants

Entry into the AILA Landscape Architecture Awards program 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:

- Full AILA Member – must be registered and a current financial member at the time of judging for both Chapter Awards and National Awards, including where judging occurs in a new financial year. Membership must also be current at the time of accepting any Award.
- If the Entrant is practice-based, the principal of the practice who is an owner or formal licensee of the copyright in the work being entered.
- AILA Affiliate (LA) financial members are eligible to enter into the Research, Policy and Communications Category only. Additional supporting material to qualify entry is required, see 2.2F in Entry Guide.

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.

1.2 Eligible Projects

To be eligible for Entry into the AILA Landscape Architecture Awards program, projects (where applicable) must have at least reached practical completion and be in all other respects complete to the point of enabling proper assessment by the Jury, no later than 31 March 2026.

If there are multiple stages to a project this should be identified within the Entry. Projects are eligible to be entered into the Awards for an unlimited period and can be entered in multiple years if unsuccessful.

Projects may be entered and awarded in more than one Category and stages of projects can be entered if the scale or breadth of work is spanning a significant period and the project has identifiable milestones. Projects entered into more than one Category must have a statement of achievement that is written for the relevant category or project phase and images may be different to reflect the context.

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

Projects commissioned by AILA through an organisation or committee may not be considered for an Award.

For projects to be considered by the National Jury, they must have already been awarded an Award of Excellence, a Landscape Architecture Award or Regional Achievement Award at the Chapter level.

AILA may refuse an Entry or remove it from consideration for an Award if AILA is of the opinion that the Entry:

- Does not comply with the terms and conditions of the Awards program;
- Is inappropriate, offensive, indecent or illegal;
- Is a potential breach of a third party's copyright.

1.3 Authorship and Attribution

Entrants must provide accurate Entry information and correctly attribute all individuals and organisations that contributed to the project. This includes ensuring that all Landscape Architect Practices involved in the project are fully and correctly listed in the Entrant practice/company name/s for publication field, whether the entry is submitted by a Landscape Architecture practice or by a Client.

Example: City of ABC and XYZ Landscape Architects or City of ABC in collaboration with XYZ or ABC Landscape Architecture with XYZ Design and 123 Green.

Accurate attribution ensures the Awards properly celebrate the collaborative nature of landscape architecture and recognises the professionals responsible for delivering design excellence.

Entries with inaccurate information or incorrect attribution may be disqualified.

Clients and collaborators must be aware that the project is being submitted.

Refer to Appendix 8.1 - Declaration on Behalf of AILA. This form is to be completed and kept by the entrant if required to present this to AILA.

Specifically, entries must provide the following, where appropriate:

- Client details and client contact;
- Consultants or previous design teams when a project had earlier stages of work;
- Cultural collaborators or partners (this may include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners as corporation, organisation or individuals);
- Collaborators;
- Project team members; and
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Country where the project is located.

Where there is no consultant/client relationship, the details of the project 'champion' or instructing party should be provided.

1.4 Copyright

By entering the AILA Landscape Architecture Awards program, you i.e. the participant, agree that you have met all copyright obligations and you agree to protect AILA against all claims resulting from your failure to do so. Copyright obligations may apply to the materials you submit with your Entry.

AILA requires you to either own the copyright or obtain permission (a license) from the copyright owners to:

- Submit the project for consideration, and
- Allow AILA to use, reproduce, or adapt the materials as needed.

By entering the Awards program you give AILA permission to reproduce, exhibit, publish, and/or communicate the materials and information you provide about the project and use or adapt the materials, or a portion of the materials. This material will be used by AILA for the purpose of the Awards and the profiling of landscape architecture.

1.5 Moral Rights and Your Entry

Moral rights obligations may apply to the materials you submit with your Entry.

Under moral rights provisions of copyright law, Entrants must ensure that they, or the practice of which they are a Principal, are authorised to make the attribution(s) of authorship contained in the Entry. All materials submitted require an attribution. This attribution needs to include any persons requiring attribution of the materials.

1.6 Confidential Information

The entry form contains a section for inserting budget and financial information. During the Awards process this information will be disclosed to the relevant Jurors only. Entrants are able to select if a project address is required to be kept confidential for the purpose of entry promotion.

1.7 Indemnity to AILA

Copyright, moral rights and confidentiality create rights which may be legally pursued. You, as the entrant, are responsible for ensuring copyright, moral rights and confidentiality requirements are met before submitting your Entry.

1.8 Conflict of Interest

Jurors and their practices are encouraged not to enter the Awards program in the year they are participating in the program.

Jurors must declare any perceived conflict of interest regarding an Entry. In the event a conflict is identified, the juror will be removed from judging and jury discussions for all projects in that category. Refer to the Awards Policy and Jury Guide for more clarification on what could constitute a conflict of interest and the process that is undertaken by the Juries.

1.9 The AILA Landscape Architecture Awards Policy

Your Entry must meet all of the Policy requirements. Refer to AILA's Landscape Architecture Awards Policy for further details.

The key components of the Policy relating to Entry in the Awards include:

- 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 not given an Award by a Chapter may resubmit in future Awards program;
- Entries may be judged at the National Awards level only once.

2. ENTRY MATERIALS

2.1 Entering the Awards

To enter the Awards you must agree to the terms and conditions of the AILA Awards Entry Guide and AILA Landscape Architecture Awards Policy, complete an online Entry form including the supporting documentation below and pay an entry fee of \$350 + GST per entry.

2.2 Entry Snapshot and Requirements

The Entry process asks for the following information.

A. Entry snapshot, including:

The online entry form allows you to save your entry in progress and review before submission.

The following information is required as part of your entry.

- Category allocation: See list of full categories. Entrants may opt-out of category changes by the jury.
- AILA Member details: Full name, member number, practice, contact phone number and email address
- Entrant practice/company name (this may be more than one practice/organisation and will be recognised as the Entrant through promotion and certificates for winners)
- Project name
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Language Group and Country of project
- Address of project (you may elect to keep this confidential)
- Cultural Collaborators: The intent is to show respect to the Traditional Owners and First Nations Collaborators, partnering, sharing knowledge or collaborating on a project. Identification of Traditional Owner groups that were consulted and collaborated with during the project. This may be the name of a corporation, organisation or individuals.
- Project Team/Collaborators: and any others to be attributed (including consultants/collaborators or those who have authored earlier stages of the project such as master planners prior to concept design development). Company/Organisation names are preferred rather than individuals.
- Project Overview: a short description of the project, at a maximum of 100 words. The overview is used for the purpose of profiling the project and will be used to describe the project to the general public.
- Built/Unbuilt: Indicate whether your project has been constructed or remains unbuilt.
- Budget (will remain confidential and only supplied to Jury) - if relevant, a project construction budget as a lump sum and expressed as a metre squared allowance. For non-construction projects the consultancy budget should be identified. You will be asked to enter either the cost per square metre (\$/m²) or the total project cost (including construction).
- Client details: Client contact name, Client company and Client contact details. The Client company will be

recognised on the Award certificate, if applicable.

- Client Perspective (optional): A 100 word statement from the client on project outcomes.
- Media Contacts: Alternative media contact for entrant/project (if applicable)
- Social Media: Instagram user name for entrant for social media entry promotion
- Statement of Achievement: A 700 word statement outlining how the entry meets the Core Criteria - Thinking, Leadership and Results (refer to 5.2) in the nominated category. The statement should include focus on the key qualities of strategy, innovation, engagement and partnership; and sustainability with examples outlined in the Core Criteria Framework. Jurors understand that an Entry may not encompass all aspects of the qualities. Entries should focus on the areas of greatest achievement. It should not be a statement solely describing the project.
- Images: submit up to 20 digital images of the project. Images may be plans, illustrations and/or photographs. Hero images are not to include white or black bars, annotations, text or image montages (two or more images together). Please see 2.3 for more information on image specifications and file instructions.
- Site Plan: Include a simple illustrated site plan to give context of the entire project with its immediate surroundings. This site plan is in addition to your 20 images.
- Supporting Documentation: All supporting documentation must be provided in digital format and be succinct. For any lengthy documents, a one-page summary must be provided in addition to the full document. Entrants are to identify any documents that are not for public promotion as part of their entry. A physical copy of a book or publication may be requested for review of the jury.
- Regional Achievement Award (opt-in)
Entrants may opt in to the Regional Achievement category for projects located in regional areas. Regions are determined by the Chapter. The projects must be located in a regional location to be eligible and by providing some additional documentation to their Awards entry including:
 1. Summary - A 250 word summary of how the project has made a significant difference to improving the community and/or built or natural environments of the region.
 2. Supporting information - Indicate any relevant supplementary documentation relevant to the Regional Achievement Award by selecting the Regional Achievement attachment type in the Attachments tab during upload.
- Climate Positive Design Award (opt-in)
Entrants may opt in to the Climate Positive Design category by providing some additional documentation to their Awards entry including:
 1. Summary - A 250 word summary of the steps taken to achieve the climate positive design outcomes, focussing on climate mitigation and adaptation. Refer to AILA Awards Criteria Matrix and [AILA's climate positive design guides](#).
 2. Supporting information - Indicate any relevant supplementary documentation relevant to the Climate Positive Design Award by selecting the Climate Positive Design attachment type in the Attachments tab during upload.
 3. For built projects wanting to demonstrate low carbon landscapes and how you have lowered your projects carbon footprint please include a Positive Design Pathfinder Scorecard - this scorecard must account for everything in the project, typically including quantified materials, finishes, furniture and any relevant custom and/or special items. The jury is looking for determined effort to reduce embed construction emissions and operational emissions. To access and verify the Pathfinder Scorecard, entrants are requested to include a materials and finished plan, soft works plan and a Quantity survey or in-house cost plan or schedule including quantities.
- ShadeSmart Award (opt-in) Chapter Award
Entrants may opt in to consideration for the ShadeSmart Award to show their contribution to best practice shade and UV planning, design and innovative practice. Solar UVR causes over 95% of skin cancer as well

as heat impacts. Quality shade can provide up to 75% protection from UV radiation and reduces surface temperatures significantly. The ShadeSmart Award is a cross category award that entrants may opt in by providing some additional documentation to their Awards entry including:

1. Summary - A 250 word summary addressing the ShadeSmart Award criteria of:
 - Demonstrated best practice in policy and planning for shade and UV protection effectiveness,
 - Innovative design that delivers structured and natural shade outcomes to support healthy living, human wellbeing, and climate responsive solutions.
 - Contribution by Landscape Architects to 'ShadeSmart' research, education and/or community engagement that improves the understanding of quality shade for UV and heat protection.
 - Indicate any relevant supplementary documentation—such as shade canopy or shadow diagrams (e.g., 10-year and 30-year projections), UV protection analysis, or other supporting materials by selecting the ShadeSmart attachment type in the Attachments tab during upload.
2. Supporting information - Indicate any relevant supplementary documentation eg shadow diagrams or other materials relevant to the ShadeSmart Award by selecting the ShadeSmart attachment type in the Attachments tab during upload.

Note: Entrants are responsible for ensuring accuracy of information and all client permissions and copyright has been adhered to. Ensure that all information and spelling is correct in your Entry as this exact information will appear in publications and on winners' certificates and trophies (if applicable). All entrants must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography, drawings and other information.

B. Client Agreement

Signed client agreement form as per Appendix 7.1. This is to be retained by the entrant.

C. Additional Materials

Some Chapter Award programs call for additional material to be submitted. The relevant AILA Chapter will supply information and opportunities upon entry about any additional materials which may be used for the purpose of promotion or profiling of your entry. This may include, but not limited to project boards for exhibition, presentation to Jury days or other.

2.3 Digital Images and Documents

To ensure your project is adequately documented and presented, images should provide as much relevant information about your project as possible. Digital images will be used during the judging process and for promotional purposes by AILA including social media promotion, online gallery and sent to the media.

Include photo attributes as part of your entry and confirm which images or documents are approved for public promotion promotional purposes.

Images may be plans, illustrations and/or photographs.

A. 'Hero' images

- Five (5) 'hero' images must be submitted as part of your Entry.
- The first image will be the main image that is used to identify your project in the Awards program.
- Hero images must be in landscape orientation and a high resolution (300 dpi)
- Images must be allowed for public promotion.
- These images will be used for promotional purposes by AILA, and will also be used to inform Jurors about your project.
- Include your photo attribution when uploading your images in the designated Photo Attribution field and file name (see 2.3E)
- Images must not include white or black bars, annotations, text (with the exception of graphs or tables) or

image montages i.e. multiple images together.

- These five images will be used in the Awards Entry Gallery and Awards Winners Gallery.

B. Supplementary images

Up to fifteen (15) supplementary images may be submitted with your Entry. Whilst these images may be used for promotional purposes by AILA, their primary intention is to inform Jurors about your project.

Entrants can select when uploading these images if they are approved for public promotion. Supplementary images may include a mix of landscape and portrait images. See 2.3D for suggestions of the types supplementary images that should be provided as part of your entry.

Supplementary images for planning documents or publications may include text or collages to allow the Jury to view key elements of a comprehensive document in a concise way.

C. Image Specifications

All images should meet the following criteria:

- File type to be JPEG
- Image quality to be the maximum quality setting,
- Image size to be minimum A4; minimum 1,920 pixels wide and 1,080 pixels high, (as per standard HD resolution)
- Size of file to be a maximum of 5MB each
- RGB preferred (rather than CMYK)
- Landscape orientation for hero images
- Minimum of 300dpi

D. Image content and quantities

It is suggested the following content and quantities for images submitted for typical projects;

- 2-3 images related to site context and setting
- 2-3 images relating to different elevations
- 2-3 images of any relevant design details
- 2-3 images of before images if relevant to project

E. Image content and quantities

It is suggested the following content and quantities for images submitted for typical projects;

- 2-3 images related to site context and setting
- 2-3 images relating to different elevations
- 2-3 images of any relevant design details
- 2-3 images of before images if relevant to project

F. Image names

Images MUST be labelled properly and follow the the following format ProjectName-Image#-PhotographerName.

- Example: GreenInfrastructure-01-MarySmith
- Project names may be shortened as long as they remain clearly identifiable.
- Images 01-05 will be taken as the hero images for your project entry and used for public promotion.

Images must be named as follows:

- The first image (numbered '01') will be preferred over others, as the one that the landscape architect has nominated to represent the project, and may be used for website and other publications. This image needs to be in landscape orientation and high resolution.

- The remaining images must be named in the same way (numbered 02-05) and may be used for promotional material to promote the entry on various collateral. However, image number 01 will always be the preferred image used to represent the project in relevant AILA promotional material.
- If entering the same project into different categories please ensure a different hero image (01) is assigned to the entry.
- Supplementary images must be named in the same way (06-20).

G. Supporting Documentation

All supporting documentation must be provided in digital format and be succinct. For any lengthy documents, a one-page summary must be as a cover page in addition to the full document. Entrants are to identify any documents that are not for public promotion as part of their entry when uploading attachments. Digital copies of books or publications for the Research, Policy and Communications category should be uploaded. A physical copy of a book or publication may be requested for review of the jury.

AILA Affiliate (LA) financial members entering into the Research, Policy and Communications category must provide evidence of at least five (5) years experience in landscape architecture OR completion of an accredited landscape architecture degree. This can be provided as a statutory declaration or a copy of the degree.

Supporting documents should be labelled in the following format Materials Schedule-ABC, where:

- Materials Schedule is a clear document name that identifies the document type for the juror
- ABC is the project name
- Accepted Supporting documentation file types: doc, docx, pdf, png, jpeg, mp3, mp4,

3. STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

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

3.1 Conduct and Timing of 2026 Awards Programs

For 2026, the following critical annual dates apply:

1 June	Entries open for all Chapters and International category
3 July	Entries close for all Chapters and International category
August	Announcement of Chapter entries
September	Announcement/presentation of Chapter winners
1 September	Final date for Chapter winners and content to be supplied to National Jury
mid October	Final date for National Jury decisions
November	Announcement/presentation of National winners

3.2 Award Structure

Awards in each Category are based on a two-tier system, in decreasing order of merit, and are judged in accordance with the Core Criteria, 'leadership; thinking; results' in accordance with Section 8 of the Awards Policy. If there are two (2) or more entries submitted into a category, then the Jury must Award either an Award of Excellence or Landscape Architecture Award.

Note: if a Chapter Jury strongly feels no entry in a category should receive an Award, they may apply in writing to the National Jury Chair for an exception, providing clear feedback as to their reasons.

A. Awards 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 give an Award of Excellence in a 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 'Award of Excellence'. More than one Landscape Architecture Award may be given in a Category.

C. Regional Achievement Award

This is a cross category Award given in recognition of landscape architecture that has made a significant difference to improving the healthy communities and/or built and natural environments of regional Australia. Chapter Executives in collaboration with the Chapter Jury may determine the eligible key regions for their Chapter program. The project must be located regionally within the chapter to be eligible. The Regional Achievement Award progresses through to the National Awards and is assessed against other Regional Achievement Awards.

This Award can be given independently or in combination with an Award of Excellence or a Landscape Architecture Award. In this case it would be elevated to the National Awards to both the regional and category the project was awarded in. More than one Regional Achievement Award may be given in any Chapter. Chapter and National Juries may choose not to Award a Regional Achievement Award. Refer to section 2.2A for required entry materials and supporting documentation.

E. Climate Positive Design Award

This is a cross category Award given in recognition of landscape architecture projects that have shown significant contribution to climate positive design. The project must show a strong effort toward climate mitigation (emission reduction), climate adaptation (such as consideration for urban heat, climate resilient cities, adapting to sea level rise and long-term bioclimatic shifts) while also contributing to social, environmental, and or economic benefits. Refer to the Climate Positive Design resources on AILA's website including the [Climate Positive Design Action Plan for Landscape Architects](#).

The Climate Positive Design Award will be assessed against other Climate Positive Design Award entries. This Award can be given in combination with another Award and in this case it would be elevated to the National Awards as both categories the project was awarded in. More than one Climate Positive Design Award may be given.

The Jury may choose not to Award a Climate Positive Design Award. The entries may be awarded at a Chapter Level initially depending on the number of entries received. Refer to section 2.2A for required entry materials supporting documentation.

F. ShadeSmart Award

AILA's partnership with the Cancer Council & Cancer Institute NSW is an important opportunity for Landscape Architects to lead quality planning and design for Shade and UV skin cancer prevention in Australia through the delivery of sustainable public spaces and healthy communities. Skin cancer will affect 2 in 3 Australians in their lifetime.

The ShadeSmart Award is a cross category award where projects are acknowledged for their contribution to best practice shade and UV planning, design and innovative practice. The award winners design will reinforce the pivotal role that LA's play in the design of public spaces and advocating for sustainable and healthy communities and demonstrate leadership in sustainable and climate responsive practice at a time of national and international focus. The ShadeSmart Award is open for nomination in all Chapters. The ShadeSmart Award can be awarded at Chapter and National levels. Refer to section 2.2A for required entry materials and supporting documentation. Entrants are encouraged to access [AILA's ShadeSmart training resources](#) before submission.

3.3 National Program

Entries who have received an Award of Excellence, a Landscape Architecture Award, a Climate Positive Design Award, a Regional Achievement Award, or a ShadeSmart Award at a Chapter level will proceed as a nominee to the National Awards.

Consideration of your project by the National Jury does not require a re-submission or a new Entry. The uploaded Chapter Award package and Jury citations form the Entry.

Only Chapter awarded projects from the current year are eligible for the following National Awards of the same year. Projects can not be withdrawn by the entrant after they have progressed to the National Award level.

3.4 Chapter Program

All Chapters are encouraged to host Chapter-based Awards annually. Chapters may choose to run biannually or combine with other Chapters – pending their level of activity.

Projects must be entered in the Chapter where the project is located.

2. AWARD CATEGORIES

4.1 Overview

Award Categories are consistent across all Chapters and at the National level.

Categories are designed so that winners of the Awards of Excellence, Landscape Architecture Awards at the Chapter level progress as nominees to the National Landscape Architecture Awards.

Every Entry must nominate one Category only in which the project is being entered. If an Entrant would like a project to be considered in more than one Category, the project will need to be entered into multiple Categories (and multiple Entry fees paid).

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

- The entrant must not have opted-out of category changes;
- 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, unless one or more of the other categories has 5 or less eligible entries;
- Jurors will nominate any proposed category changes to the National or Chapter Jury Chair prior to Jury Day.
- Entrants will be notified prior to the Awards announcement of their category change.

4.2 Award Categories

Awards of Excellence and Landscape Architecture Awards will be considered in the following Categories:

Category 1: HEALTH and EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

Projects in this category are constructed landscape projects in and surrounding institutional spaces including educational, health or aged care facilities. Projects in this category demonstrate how the design contributes to the usability and operation of the facility and the wellbeing of the user.

Excellence Award: (year) AILA National/Chapter Award of Excellence for Health and Education Landscape Awards: (year) AILA National/Chapter Landscape Architecture Award for Health and Education Landscape

Category 2: 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 around them. Projects will demonstrate how the landscape architecture has contributed to the overall outcomes.

Excellence Award: (year) AILA National/Chapter Award of Excellence for Civic Landscape Awards: (year) AILA National/Chapter Landscape Architecture Award for Civic Landscape

Category 3: 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 Award of Excellence for Parks and Open Space Awards: (year) AILA National/Chapter Landscape Architecture Award for Parks and Open Space

Category 4: 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 Award of Excellence for Play Spaces Awards: (year) AILA National/Chapter Landscape Architecture Award for Play Spaces

Category 5: 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 future sustainability.

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

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

Category 6: 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 Award of Excellence for Cultural Heritage

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

Category 7: 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 Award of Excellence for Land Management

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

Category 8: 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 Award of Excellence for Tourism

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

Category 9: URBAN DESIGN

Projects in this category are constructed or strategic projects that demonstrate how the design, construction management and built outcome of the landscape, contributes to the wellbeing of the urban setting through the improvement of social interaction, economic activity, liveability, accessibility and safety. Projects will have a specific focus on how landscape architecture has contributed to the urban design outcome.

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

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

Category 10: 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 Award of Excellence for Landscape Planning

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

Category 11: RESEARCH, POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Projects in this category may include published works, or unpublished Doctoral or higher degree manuscripts or reports in research and or practice that extend the knowledge base and advocacy of landscape architecture.

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

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

Category 12: 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 Award of Excellence for Community Contribution

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

Category 13: 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 Award of Excellence for Small Projects

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

Category 14: 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 Award of Excellence for Gardens

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

Category 15: 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 Landscape Architecture Award

Note: The AILA International Award of Excellence and the AILA International Award acknowledges the work of AILA members residing outside Australia and Australian-resident members undertaking commissions overseas. Projects entered in this Category must be located outside the eight State and Territory jurisdictions of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Other Award Categories

From time to time, the AILA Board may, by resolution, include one or more special Categories in the National Awards program. Any additional Categories will be publicised at the time of calling for entries and is entirely at the discretion of the AILA Board.

Similarly, Chapters may resolve to include one or more additional Categories in the Chapter Awards program that apply only in that Chapter. Winners in these Categories do not progress to the National Landscape Architecture Awards.

5. JUDGING CRITERIA

5.1 General

Judging for the Awards is a challenging process. The following core judging criteria guide the jury in their decision-making process and have been developed to ensure equitable outcomes for all.

To further ensure consistency of outcomes, the Chapter Jury Chairs will attend a briefing with the National Jury Chair prior to the commencement of judging. The National Awards Jury may consult with the Chapter Jury Chairs to be

briefed on matters taken into account in the initial judging at Chapter level.

5.2 Core Criteria

Judging of entries is based on three Core Criteria:

- Thinking
- Leadership
- Results

And includes key qualities including:

- Strategy
- Innovation
- Engagement and Partnership
- Sustainability (social, environmental and economic)

These core criteria fundamentally underpin the achievement of excellence in landscape architectural endeavour. It is essential that you will have used these core criteria to identify and describe your Entry's achievements.

Entries will be assessed by the jury on the basis of the criteria that they represent. Jurors understand that an Entry may not encompass all aspects of the criteria. Entries should focus on the areas of greatest achievement. The core criteria and qualities framework of: Strategy, Innovation, Engagement and Partnership and Sustainability will be applied to all entries across all Categories.

The framework (see 7.1: Core Criteria Framework) provides an initial series of 'prompts or indicators' for the key qualities to assist entrants in explaining/assessing how a project may have achieved the criteria worthy of recognition. These prompts/indicators are not meant to be exhaustive, and it is expected that there will be projects that exhibit achievements in other areas. Your submission should concisely articulate these for consideration by the Jury.

5.1 Jury Process and Site Visits

Site visits are not mandatory at the Chapter or National level.

Site visits are not scheduled nor a formal part of the jury process due to logistic and time constraints. Jurors are to rely heavily on submitted material on their assessment for equity purposes, and however difficult, discard experiences from any incidental site visits.

If site visits are undertaken, Entrants for short listed projects may have the opportunity to present to the Jury, in an open public forum. Regional entries may present by video link.

6. ENTRY FEES

6.1 Fees

The Awards Entry fee is charged per entry. The cost per entry in 2026 is \$350+GST.

Should your Entry win at Chapter level, it will automatically progress to the National Award and no further fee is required.

6.2 Method of Payment

Online payment is available – via credit card. Award entries must be paid for prior to judging.

6.3 Refund Policy

Entrants are not eligible for a refund if the Entry does not meet the requirements of this Guide (refer to Section 1.2: Eligibility), or in the event that the Entry is withdrawn after the closing date.

6.4 Administration Fee

Updates to entries requested after the Chapter Awards reveal events, including changes to certificates or entrant/client information, may incur an administration fee of \$90.

7. FRAMEWORK

7.1 Core Criteria Framework

THINKING					
LEADERSHIP					
RESULTS					
Strategy	Innovation	Engagement and Partnership	Sustainability		
Thoughtful, exemplary and coherent strategy	Proactive advocacy for cultural practices, working with cultural knowledge and new and worth-repeating ideas	Contribution to culturally responsive engagement processes and working with stakeholders effectively and creatively	Social	Environmental	Economic
			Contribution to healthy, inclusive, and robust communities	Contribution to resilient natural and built environments	Contribution to economic conditions that enhance quality of life
<p>For example</p> <p>Use of international and Australian Indigenous Design Chapters</p> <p>Educate clients and project teams on culturally responsive processes</p> <p>Clearly communicated goals and objectives</p> <p>Identification of relevant constraints and opportunities</p> <p>Exemplary research and investigations</p> <p>Intelligent investment of resources</p> <p>Proactive advocacy in challenging environments</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>For example</p> <p>Respecting and acknowledging the sharing of cultural knowledge</p> <p>Develop an understanding/ connection to Country</p> <p>Establish a vision for Country</p> <p>New planning and design process</p> <p>New use of technology</p> <p>New policy directions</p> <p>New project areas for landscape architecture</p> <p>New roles for landscape architects</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>For example</p> <p>Early engagement with First Peoples</p> <p>Establish consent with the appropriate First Peoples to work with Country</p> <p>Ensure First Peoples lead the cultural aspects for the project</p> <p>Ongoing authentic and continued cultural engagement throughout the life of the project i.e. (sketch design to hand-over)</p> <p>Working with the community, agencies, government, media, professions, science and technology, industry, business and others</p> <p>Engaging in partnerships with others and advocating for change</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>For example</p> <p>Empowering First Peoples through enabling self-determination</p> <p>Improved outcomes through First Peoples knowledge</p> <p>Fostering connection and public life</p> <p>Fostering good health</p> <p>Fostering experiences that enhance quality of life</p> <p>Educating and informing</p> <p>Expanding accessibility of quality social interaction</p> <p>Social or climate justice</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>For example</p> <p>Re-establishing and strengthening Country through cultural practices</p> <p>Embedding culture within fabric of design materials</p> <p>Climate Positive design outcomes</p> <p>Reducing operational and greenhouse gases</p> <p>Restoring natural systems and protecting and increasing biodiversity</p> <p>Managing and mitigating urban heat</p> <p>Resilience for both a drier and flood prone future</p> <p>Consideration for long-term bioclimatic shifts</p> <p>Reuse and recycling of resources</p> <p>Effective use of renewables</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>For example</p> <p>Develop outcomes that benefit First Peoples community and Country</p> <p>Creating vibrant places</p> <p>Making communities more viable and connected</p> <p>Effective use of limited capital resources</p> <p>Other</p>

8. APPENDIX

8.1 Declaration on behalf of Client or Owner



AILA Landscape Architecture Awards Declaration by/on behalf of Client/Owner

The Entrant is responsible for ensuring this is completed. AILA does not require this form to be submitted as part of your entry. This form should be retained by the Entrant as it may be required at a future date if requested by AILA.

I support the submission of this project in the AILA Chapter & National Landscape Architecture Awards. I also agree to be the nominated person who may be contacted by the Jury if the project is short listed and more information is required.

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Project Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____