



## 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 Projects can not be withdrawn by the entrant after they have progressed to the National Award level.

Projects given an award by a Chapter may not resubmit in future Awards program. If no award has been received, then a project may resubmit.

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
- Aboriginal Country in which the project is located

### **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 and cannot submit their project into any other category.

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:

December	Project completion by December (year preceding judging)
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
Sept	end of first week of September for National Jury citations (to ensure we make publishing deadlines for media)
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 and are judged in accordance with the Core Criteria, 'leadership, thinking, results' in accordance with Section 8 of this policy and the corresponding criteria and indicators within the Jury Guide. 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 Chair of the National Jury for an exception, providing clear feedback as to their reasons. An award must be granted at a National level where there are more two (2) or more entries in a category.*

The tiers are as follows:

#### *(a) Landscape Architecture Award of Excellence*

The first and highest award in each category is the '*Landscape Architecture 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*

Chapters can decide if they want to hold a People's Choice Award and they way in which they run the process.

## 6. Juries

### National Jury Selection

The National Jury is appointed by the AILA Board at the earliest possible convenience following the conclusion of the preceding National Awards ceremony. This reduces the likelihood of conflict of interest with Jury members at the Chapter level (and subsequently the National) and provides a longer lead time to profile the National Jury.

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 can 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 (2) years consecutively.

### National Jury Composition

The National Jury will be endorsed by the AILA Board and comprise of a minimum of four (4) and maximum of seven (7) members and include:

- (i) minimum of three (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 LA from a firm who has previously won an award of excellence
  - d. a regional representative
  - e. a public sector representative
  - f. a small practice representative
  - g. an academic
- (ii) minimum one (1) allied professional, government or media representative
- (iii) additional members can be added at the discretion of the Chair and by resolution of the Board.

### 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.

All decisions made by the National jury throughout the judging process will remain confidential. Any questions raised by members contrary to this must be facilitated through the Jury Chair and guided by the National President/Board

Winners will have a citation prepared by the jury, but no other feedback written, or verbal will be provided to entrants.

### **Chapter Jury Selection**

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

Chapters will invite members to nominate to be on the jury.

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 (3) years consecutively.

Landscape architects on Chapter Juries will be AILA members.

### **Chapter Jury Composition**

The Chapter jury will comprise of a minimum of four (4) and maximum of seven (7) members including:

- (i) minimum three (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
  - g. an academic
- (ii) minimum one (1) 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 and utilise digital social media resources to promote the projects

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.

All decisions made by the Chapter jury throughout the judging process will remain confidential. Any questions raised by members contrary to this must be facilitated through the Jury Chair and guided by the National President.

Winners will have a citation prepared by the jury, but no other feedback written, or verbal will be provided to entrants.

#### **National and Chapter Jury Conflict of Interest**

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 three (3) categories they will be required to remove themselves from the jury.

A signed, conflict of interest pro forma (attached to the Jury Guide) must be returned to the Jury Chair and be made available to the National Board upon request.

#### **Jury Guide**

Detailed guidance and instructions for juries appointed at all levels of the AILA Landscape Architecture Awards are set out in the Jury Guide and should be read concurrently to this policy document

## 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 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 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*

It is recommended that previous award-winning projects are reviewed if greater clarity is required on the types of projects that are recognised in each category.

### **Other Award Categories**

From time to time the National 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 call for entries and is entirely at the discretion of the National Board

### **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, unless one or more of the other categories has 5 or less eligible entries

## 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 is available within the Jury Guide and provides criteria and indicators to assist entrants and juries in applying the Thinking, Leadership and Results framework.