



The Australian Institute of Architects would like to draw your attention to a number of changes to the Awards Policy that will be implemented for the 2015 National Architecture Awards program.

Please note, the Institute is considering further changes to the policy and will ensure any further changes are communicated to the members prior to the 2015 Awards Program opening for entry in November 2014.

Changes to the Awards Policy will be reflected in the *2015 Entry Handbook* and *2015 Jury Handbook*, which will be made available on our website in November 2014. In the meantime, please [CLICK HERE](#) to download the current version of the Australian Institute of Architects Awards Policy.

A summary of the key changes to the Awards Policy is listed below. These changes were proposed to National Council by the *Awards Categories Working Group (ACWG)*. The ACWG was formed to conduct a review of the Institute's Awards Categories and consisted of Andrew Wilson (Chair), Paul Berkemeier, Mark Damant, Adrian FitzGerald, Abbie Galvin, Shelley Penn, and Ross Clark. The below policy changes have been endorsed by National Council.

NEW EDUCATION CATEGORY

There will be a new national and state category of Educational Architecture, which will be separate from the Public Architecture category and have its own named award, architecture awards and commendations. The implementation of this new category is to acknowledge the high number of education projects submitted to the awards program.

The new category of Educational Architecture will be defined in the Policy as follows:

EDUCATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Projects in this category may be any preschool, primary, secondary or tertiary educational facility and/or joint research facilities in which an educational institution is a significant partner. Education projects may not be entered in the Public Architecture category.

CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Due to the implementation of a new Educational Architecture category, the Public Architecture category will be redefined as follows:

PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE

Projects in this category must be predominantly of a public or institutional nature, generally falling within BCA Class 9. It does not include projects falling within the definition of Educational Architecture or any BCA Class 9b building used primarily for educational purposes.

CHANGES TO THE SMALL PROJECT ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

To ensure transient or experimental architecture can be recognised in the awards, the category of Small Project Architecture will be redefined as follows:

SMALL PROJECT ARCHITECTURE

Projects in this category will be those considered to be "small" in terms of area or budget as determined by the Jury. Projects are recognised that have been constrained by space or cost restrictions, but have achieved a level of invention, creativity and craftsmanship beyond these constraints. This category can accommodate projects which may be over-looked against larger scale projects in other categories or may be transient or experimental in nature, such as exhibition design, set design or installations that may or may not be able to be visited by the Jury. Projects of all functional types may be considered.

Additional changes to the Awards Policy have been made to account for the inclusion of transient projects in the category of Small Project architecture.

The Awards Policy 13.3.3 NATIONAL JURY PROCESS will be redefined as follows:

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:

iii) site visits to each shortlisted entry by a majority of the National Jury members (except in relation to Category 11: INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE and projects of a transient nature in category 8: SMALL PROJECT that are not able to be visited because they have been dismantled).

CHANGES TO THE URBAN DESIGN CATEGORY

The category of Urban Design has been redefined to remove a sense of subsets within the category, by the deletion of the word 'including'. The category has also been defined to replace the word 'betterment' with 'wellbeing' and the deletion of 'city for the general'.

The Policy regarding Urban Design category will be redefined as follows:

URBAN DESIGN

Projects in this category may be single buildings, groups of buildings or non-building projects, including studies or master plans, which are public, civic or urban in nature. Awarded projects must have enhanced the quality of the built environment or public domain or ~~have lead to the betterment of the broader city for the general~~ contribute to the wellbeing of the broader community.

CHANGES TO THE ENDURING ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

It was deemed that it was not appropriate to accept direct nominations from members for the Enduring Category. Rather, all nominations should come from members (or the community) through the Chapter committees or assembled jury tasked with judging this category. This should in fact be part of their role. Maintaining an updated master-list, revisited every year, would also be recommended, and if need be, Chapter Councils (Heritage Committees where present) can be called upon to offer suggestions every year. Further guidance around the judging of this category will be outlined to the jurors in the 2015 Jury Handbook.

The wording of the Policy has also been refined to ensure the original architect is suitably acknowledged in this category.

The Policy regarding the Enduring Architecture category will be redefined as follows:

ENDURING ARCHITECTURE

Buildings of at least 25 years of age may be considered for this Award.

Buildings nominated need not be previous award winners but must be buildings of outstanding merit that, considered in a contemporary context, remain important as high quality works of architecture. Projects should be assessed in terms of national significance, technical advancement, innovation for its time, symbolic significance and /or creative leadership.

The project attribution and award citation must acknowledge the original architect(s), either individual or firm. It may also acknowledge subsequent work done by another architect in the conservation or maintenance of the original work. However, this award category is designed to recognise the enduring features of the original work, not any substantial adaptive re-use, which should be considered under Category 5: Heritage.

Members are not able to enter this category directly. Projects considered in this category will be determined by the Chapter Committee and/or assembled jury tasked with judging this category.

The original architect or any third party (including non-members and non-architects) may recommend to the relevant jury projects for consideration in this category.

The jury may give an award where less than five nominations are received. It is not mandatory for the jury to give an award.

No more than one award is to be made annually at National level or by any Chapter. This award is not given at Region level. No commendations are given in this category.

JUDGING OF THE SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

Further guidance will be offered to all juries in relation to the judging of the Sustainability Category in each Chapter / region. Such advice is to assist them judge this category efficiently and, offer some acceptable methodology which can be adopted should this be appropriate. The reasoning is that the high volume of entries in this category makes it an overwhelming task on some juries. Further guidance around the judging of this category will be outlined to the jurors in the *2015 Jury Handbook*.

AWARDING OF NAMED AWARDS

Although not proposed by the *Awards Categories Working Group (ACWG)*, it was deemed that further clarity around the awarding of Named Awards was required to ensure the policy is being interpreted as originally intended.

The Policy regarding Named Awards will be redefined as follows:

13.3.1 OVERVIEW

AWARD STRUCTURE

(a) Named Awards

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

The award is given to the work judged to be the most significant for the advancement of architecture in each category. The award carries the name of a respected person and represents the pinnacle of projects in each category. There is only one Named Award per national category and one winner of the Named Award in each category in any year.

Juries will determine a Named Award in every category (except Category 10: Sustainable Architecture) where at least 5 entries are eligible for consideration.

Projects awarded a Named Award at National level are not eligible for any future awards program.

Names adopted shall be approved by National Council and those used at one level may not be used for Named Awards at any other level.

Names adopted are to be reviewed at not more than 25 year intervals, and may be retained after such review.

Named Awards will not be awarded in Category 11: Enduring Architecture, Category A1: COLORBOND Award for Steel Architecture, and within the subcategories of the International Architecture category.

13.3.5 AWARD CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 10: SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

This category recognises projects which excel as architecture, and also display innovation and excellence in terms of environmental sustainability. Juries will assess the environmental performance in terms of the Institute's Environment Policy (Supplement: Sustainable Design Strategies for Architects).

Members are not able to enter this category directly. All Awards entries may be considered in this category. Entrants are required to provide information regarding the sustainable design of the project as part of the entry process.

Upon review of all entries, the relevant Jury will determine a shortlist of entries for consideration in this category. Juries will determine a Named Award in this Category where at least 5 entries have been shortlisted for consideration.

Other non-building projects that contribute to the advancement of architecture and to the goals outlined in the Environment Policy may also be considered for this Award.

RE-SUBMISSION OF UNSUCCESSFUL ENTRIES

Although not proposed by the *Awards Categories Working Group (ACWG)*, A recent change to the awards policy indicates that members are no longer able to directly enter *Category 10: Sustainable Architecture*. All award entries may be considered in this category.

This change in the policy raised the question of whether those entrants successful in *Category 10: Sustainable Architecture*, but not successful in their original category of entry should be eligible to resubmit in a future Awards program. It was deemed that the entrant should be allowed to resubmit if they are unsuccessful in their original category of entry.

The Policy regarding the resubmission process will be redefined as follows:

13.3.1 OVERVIEW

REGIONAL, CHAPTER, INTERNATIONAL AREA AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The National Architecture Awards is an integrated, hierarchical program resulting in annual awards at National, International Area, Chapter and, in some Chapters, Regional levels. Chapters may opt to conduct a Regional program or not.

Regions and Chapters will conduct their Awards programs so that there is a category which aligns with each of the National Architecture Awards categories. The International Area will conduct its Awards program with the following categories exclusively: Small Project Architecture, Commercial Architecture, Interior Architecture, Residential Architecture and Public Architecture. The award structure and conditions specified above for the national architecture awards, namely the three tier system of Named Award, Architecture Award and Commendation, also applies for the State and Territory Chapters, unless otherwise specified. All Named Awards at State and Territory level must align with a national category. A Region, Chapter or International Area category may align with more than one of the National Architecture Awards categories.

Regions and 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. Regional or Chapter categories not aligned with one or more of the categories described in 13.3.5 AWARD CATEGORIES will be identified as a Prize or Medal, as appropriate (eg President's Medal).

Entries in all categories are made through a common online entry system. In Chapters where a Regional program applies, entrants may opt to be first considered at either the Regional or Chapter level.

Projects awarded Named Awards and Architecture Awards by Chapters will be considered for a National Award in the same year. Projects awarded Named Awards and Architecture Awards by Regions may be considered for a Chapter Award. Projects awarded Architecture Awards by the International Area will be considered for a National Award in the International Area category.

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

Projects given a Commendation or no award by a Chapter, Region or the International Area may resubmit in one future Awards program.

Projects may be resubmitted where the project has received a Named Award or Award in Category 11: Sustainable Architecture at any level (National/Chapter/Region), but received no Named Award or Award in any other category at any level. In this instance the project will not be eligible for consideration in Category 11: Sustainable Architecture at any level (National/Chapter/Region) where the project has previously been awarded in this category.

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