

AUSTRALIAN URBAN DESIGN AWARDS 2025

Entry Guidelines

ENTERING THE 2025 AUSTRALIAN URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

Entries will be accepted until 10 February 2025.

All entry submissions must be made online (urbandesignawards.com.au) including responses to written criteria and upload of images and drawings.

ENTRY

There are four simple steps involved in submitting your entry:

01 Create your account

To commence your submission, you must first create your account. Refer to MY ENTRIES on the awards site: urbandesignawards.com.au.

Once you have commenced a submission, you can log in and out at any time without losing your data, but we do recommend that you first complete the written responses in a Word document, before cutting and pasting into the online entry form.

02 Choose award category

There are four categories (following), which each attract entry fees. Look at the category descriptions to select the most appropriate for your project.

03 Create entry submission

Before beginning your entry submission, read the entry conditions (below). Submitting an entry means that you have read and agreed to all the Entry Conditions, including obtaining appropriate releases and authorities in writing from clients, collaborating organisations, copyright holders for entry submission materials, licensees, photographers and, where applicable, the principal/director of your organization. You will be prompted to respond to specific written criteria and upload supporting materials (images, drawings and other visual material). Remember that you can log in and out without losing submission materials.

To maintain anonymity during judging, no design practice names may appear on images, floor plans or written support materials; however, client names may be included.

Images

You must submit at least 3 and up to 10 images of your project in high-resolution format. Note that landscape images are preferred. These may be photographs and/or visualizations, although for "built outcomes," photographs are strongly preferred (image requirements for each category can be found in the category descriptions). Use the highest quality JPEG setting available. TIF images will not be accepted.

Submit JPEG images that are at least 3500 pixels wide, with a file size no larger than 20 MB. Images of at least 4500 pixels wide are preferred and will enable a higher quality print coverage. If your images are coming in above the 20 MB size limit, try re-saving them in Photoshop and reducing the JPEG compression level to 8.

Drawings, plans and elevations

You may also submit up to 5 relevant drawings in vector-based PDF format (site plan, floor plan, sections, elevations and/or any other relevant drawings or diagrams), with a file size no larger than 10 MB. Drawings should include a scale bar, key and north point.

Video content (optional)

You may submit a brief video to be used for publicity. It won't be viewed by the jury. Upload to Vimeo or YouTube and include the URL, where prompted.

04 Entry submission and payment

Once you have completed steps two and three (above) you may pay and submit your project. The first entry attracts a fee of \$435 plus GST. The system will automatically charge subsequent entries (i.e. from the same applicant) at the reduced rate of \$335 plus GST. Each submission and payment is confirmed by the issuing of a tax receipt, sent to your email address. Retain a copy for taxation purposes.

Visa, Mastercard and Amex are accepted.

CATEGORIES

For each of the four categories, the jury will award up to three winning projects. Please note, there are no commendations awarded in this program.

01 Built Outcomes

This category recognises an outstanding work of city building that exemplifies an urban design project as a catalyst, improving what exists and anticipating and guiding what might come. Projects can be of any scale, but must be built and complete, and must be able to demonstrate how they have improved the spatial qualities of a place and resulted in broader benefits focused on the public interest.

Note that exemplary projects in the discipline of landscape architecture or architecture may not necessarily be exemplary urban design projects. We seek projects that have a demonstrative impact on the betterment of public life, an outcome propelled by a public and civic agenda and a sense of the project as a wider agent in the future development of the city.

Examples of previously awarded projects:

Adaptive Reuse

Tonsley Innovation District, South Australia
Howard Smith Wharves, Queensland

Public Domain

The Goods Line, New South Wales
Goyder Square, Northern Territory

Regional

Maitland Levee and Riverlink Building, Queensland

Small Projects

Bowen Place Crossing, Australian Capital Territory

New Precinct

New Acton Precinct, Australian Capital Territory
Brookfield Place, Western Australia

Campus

Bendigo Kangan TAFE Redevelopment, Victoria

02 Strategic Design & Policy

This category recognises an outstanding work of strategic design or policy that will transform the performance of an urban place and improve the quality of life of the community. Projects can range in scale and scope, but all should be strategic, innovative and deliverable, and able to demonstrate how they will improve the spatial qualities of the urban place and result in broader benefits focused on the public interest.

Examples of previously awarded and other indicative projects:

Local Scale Policy

Hobart Building Height Standards Review, Tasmania
Linking Canberra City to the Lake, Australian Capital Territory

Design Policy

Central Melbourne Design Guide, Victoria
Better Place - An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales, New South Wales

Masterplan

Victoria Park Masterplan, New South Wales
WGV at White Gum Valley, Western Australia
ANU Acton Campus Masterplan, Australian Capital Territory

Macro Scale

Eastern Regional Trails Strategy, Victoria

03 Research & Advocacy

This category recognises outstanding work in urban design research or advocacy that has broad applicability and will improve the performance and quality of life in Australia's urban communities. The research or advocacy is to be publicly available, impartial and evidence-based, and must advance knowledge and practice.

Examples of previously awarded and other indicative projects:

Design Research

Delivering Best Practice Urban Design Through Planning, Australian Capital Territory
Greening the Greyfields
A Design Guide for Older Women's Housing

Advocacy

Designing Child Friendly High Density Neighbourhoods, Cities for Play
Design Excellence Program, City of Melbourne

04 Urban Design Champions

This category recognises individuals who have made a measurable impact on the design and performance of our cities, working collaboratively to improve the quality of life of our communities. Urban champions come from a diversity of sectors, disciplines and career stages, and have made an outstanding contribution, beyond personal or professional benefit.

Examples of potential nominees (please note this is a new category and therefore there are no previous award recipients):

A political champion
A community champion
A journalist
A public servant
An urban activist
A developer
An urban practitioner
An emerging urbanist

WRITTEN CRITERIA

Your responses to the following questions will be integral to the success of your submission.

The word limits below are maximums. Succinct responses are highly recommended. Please note the written criteria, whilst appearing similar, differs per category.

Responses to the following three items are required for all entries:

01 Project Statement

Respond to the criteria set out for the chosen category and why your entry/nominated individual should be considered for an award.

This statement should focus on the exceptional and exemplary aspects of the entry rather than attempting to address all the criteria.

[Word limit of 250]

02 Media Summary

Provide a brief summary of the project/ Individual that will be used for any media.

[Word limit of 100]

03 Category-specific Responses

Respond to the criteria set out below for the category that you are applying for. The help text has been provided as a guide for your response.

BUILT OUTCOMES

01 Outcomes: What urban outcomes has the project achieved?

The project has demonstrably delivered an improved spatial outcome for a place and resulted in broader urban benefits that:

- Are focused on prioritising public interest.
- Are place-led, responsive to context or which design with Country.
- Have agency in transforming an urban place over the long-term.
- Addresses current trends and urban challenges in Australia

[Word limit of 400]

02 Processes: What urban processes were involved?

The built project has been informed and guided by exemplary process that:

- Maximises collaboration and integration of diverse disciplines, expertise and perspectives.
- Draws on best practice and current research.
- Clearly synthesises technical and spatial analysis into compelling and creative urban design solutions.
- Successfully communicates to a broad audience and/or key decision-makers.

[Word limit of 400]

03 Advancing Urban Design: How has the project advanced urban design as a practice, discipline or precedent?

The project exemplifies a built response that advances our understanding of the value of urban design by:

- Demonstrating tactics and approaches that are replicable in other places and other contexts.
- Fundamentally altering conventional thinking and processes through inspiring, tangible and enduring change.

[Word limit of 400]

STRATEGIC DESIGN & POLICY

01 Outcomes: What urban outcomes has the project achieved?

The policy or strategy will deliver a future positive impact on urban outcomes and:

- Is informed by a strong evidence base.
- Addresses current trends and urban challenges.
- Is focused on prioritising public interest outcomes.
- Is place-led and responsive to context.
- Will lead to sustainable transformation of an urban place over the long-term.

[Word limit of 400]

02 Processes: What urban processes were involved?

Outcomes have been achieved in an exemplary way by:

- Drawing on best practice current research
- Maximising collaboration and integration of diverse expertise and perspectives
- Clear synthesis of technical and spatial analysis into compelling and creative urban design solutions.

[Word limit of 400]

03 Advancing Urban Design: How has the project advanced urban design as a practice, discipline or precedent?

- Outstanding community outcomes, advancing equality and sustainability.
- Fundamentally altering conventional thinking and processes through inspiring, tangible and enduring change.

[Word limit of 400]

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

01 Outcomes: What urban outcomes has the project achieved?

The research or advocacy raises knowledge and awareness on how to improve urban outcomes and:

- Provides robust evidence that can be utilised by others in their work
- Addresses current trends and urban challenges.
- Is focused on prioritising public interest outcomes.
- Can inform the sustainable transformation of an urban place over the long-term.

[Word limit of 400]

02 Processes: What urban processes were involved?

Outcomes have been achieved in an exemplary way by:

- Successfully communicating to a broad audience and/or key decision-makers.
- Developing the research or advocacy work in a way that builds understanding and connects diverse expertise and perspectives.

[Word limit of 400]

03 Advancing Urban Design: How has the project advanced urban design as a practice, discipline or precedent?

- Outstanding community outcomes, equality and sustainability.
- Has the potential to fundamentally alter conventional thinking and processes through inspiring, tangible and enduring change.

[Word limit of 400]

URBAN DESIGN CHAMPIONS

01 Outcomes: What has this urban champion achieved?

The nominated individual has made a measurable impact on our cities and urban design through physical outcomes and public discourse.

[Word limit of 400]

02 Processes: How have the outcomes been achieved in an exemplary way?

The nominated individual has directed or guided exemplary outcomes that have been achieved through extensive engagement and have 'worked against odds' or have required sustained commitment over time.

[Word limit of 400]

03 Advancing Urban Design: How has this urban champion shifted urban thinking and practice with a focus on the public interest?

The nominated individual has shifted urban thinking and practice with a focus on the public interest; supported community outcomes, with a focus on equality and sustainability.

[Word limit of 400]

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Unless otherwise specified, please include photos of completed projects, renders, plans, diagrams, photos of process and reports.

Built Outcomes (Min 3, Max 10 images)

- A plan or image at scale of the project site and its context before the completion of the project.
- A plan or image at the same scale of the project site and its context after the completion of the project.

Urban Design Champion (Min 3, Max 10 images)

- A photo of the nominated individual in an urban setting.

CONDITIONS

Eligibility

Entry is open to any urban design professional or organisation, but the project must be located in, or intended for, Australia. Entries are encouraged from groups and practices of all scales, specializations and locations.

Publicity and copyright

By entering, the applicant declares that they are authorized to submit this project, and that they have obtained appropriate releases and authorities in writing from project clients, collaborating organisations, copyright holders for entry submission materials, licensees, photographers and, where applicable, the principal/director of applicant's employer, including for any resultant publicity.

The Organiser does not make any claims on copyright or intellectual property of the designs entered other than the rights outlined in the following paragraph. By entering this program, the applicant agrees to absolve the Organiser from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party.

The Organiser reserves the right to exhibit or publish any or all of the entries. By entering the Awards the applicant gives permission to the Organiser to publish, exhibit and promote the content of the submission, including supporters of the Awards, where their use of submission content is specifically related to their promotion of their involvement in the Awards. Specific information about project budgets is not released for publication.

In all promotion, the Organiser will endeavour to promote the name of the firm/s that have

authored the project, and where the Organiser is made aware of their names, to the extent that the Organiser can exert editorial control, and where space permits, other contributors, such as photographers, will be acknowledged.

All entrants must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography, drawings and other information. The applicant acknowledges that the Organiser has the right to reproduce materials in whole or part without payment of release or licensing fees to the holder of publication rights or copyright.

General conditions

An entry shall be excluded from the program:

- a) if it is received after the advertised closing date (although submissions that have been commenced but not completed by the closing date may be included at the discretion of the Organiser).
- b) if it does not fulfil these entry conditions.
- c) if it is incomplete or doesn't conform to the correct format as specified under Entry (above).

The Organiser is committed to providing a quality awards program to the design industry and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information included in this document and elsewhere. However, changes in content and process may become necessary at the absolute discretion of the Organiser. The Organiser accepts no liability for any use of the said content or reliance placed upon it.

TIMELINE

Entry submissions are accepted until 5pm (AEDT) on Monday 10 February 2025.

Requests to withdraw an entry will be accepted if made in writing (info@urbandesignawards.com.au) prior to the submission deadline of Monday 10 February 2025, with refund of the entry fee less an administration charge of \$100 plus GST. After this date and up until Friday 14 February 2025 projects may be withdrawn, but the entry fee will be forfeited. After Friday 14 February 2025, projects may not be withdrawn.

The awards and commendations will be announced during the Australian Urban Design Awards presentation and celebration in Sydney on 30 April 2025.

A full report will be published on ArchitectureAu.com and LandscapeAustralia.com.

ENQUIRIES

Entries

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