



**WORLD  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE**



**2026**

**PROFESSIONAL  
& STUDENT  
AWARDS**

***ENTRY GUIDE***

## *Celebrating excellence in design, innovation, and sustainability*

### About

The World Landscape Architecture Awards are a prestigious global awards program that celebrates excellence and innovation in the field of landscape architecture. Organized annually, the awards showcase outstanding projects that demonstrate exceptional creativity, sustainability, and impact on the environment. The WLA awards highlight the diverse range of landscapes, from urban parks and public spaces to residential gardens and ecological restoration projects, fostering a sense of community and connection with nature.

Past winners of WLA Awards include DELVA, Sasaki, dwg., Felixx, LDA Design, Lab D+H, SLA, TLS, OJB Landscape Architecture, SHUISHI 水石设计, Atelier Scale 大小景观, MKSK, OLIN, StudioPOD, Design Workshop, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, LandLAB, Baljon landscape architects, SLA, PLACE, C.F. Møller Architects, ASDISKY, Ken Smith Workshop and many others.

Previous winning projects of WLA Awards include

- The Opera Park | Cobe
- One Hive | StudioPOD
- Pier 26 at Hudson River Park | OLIN
- Renovation Plan for Second Grinding Wheel Factory Lab D+H Shanghai
- Little Island - MNLA
- Etzenrade Castle Garden | LOLA Landscape Architects + Piet Oudolf
- Karanga Jump Platform | LandLAB
- Xuhui Runway Park | Sasaki
- Bridgefoot St Park | DFLA
- The Beach at Elliot Bay (Expedia HQ) Surfacedesign, Inc.

# 2026 PROFESSIONAL AWARDS



## Eligibility

### Professional Awards

Landscape architects, urban design and architecture firms, and individual landscape architects can enter the Professional Awards.

Organisations and companies (non-profit, non-government, government, charities) may enter landscape architecture projects on behalf of the designer.

### Student Awards

Concept Design – Students should be currently enrolled in a landscape architecture or landscape design program at a university or college.

Graduate – Students who have graduated in the past 2 years (2024-2025) or who are graduating in the class of 2026.

University Studio Award – A design studio that is part of an accredited landscape design program by a government authority or professional landscape organisation (e.g. ASLA, CLARB, CHSLA, AILA, CSLA, SILA, HKILA, etc). Only Universities can submit for this category. **Universities with a juror on the WLA Student Awards are ineligible to enter this category.**

### All Awards

Projects must be a concept or built project completed during 2021-2026. A concept project should not include any built images.

Any previous entries (projects) that won an Award in the WLA Awards (2017-2025) are **not** eligible to enter the 2026 Professional Awards.

Any previously finalist (shortlisted) entries (2021-2025) are eligible in this year's WLA Awards if they meet the eligibility criteria.

**Any winners in any other awards or competitions (such as ASLA, IFLA, CSLA, AILA, Landscape Institute, HKILA, SILA, Dezeen, Architizer, etc) are eligible to be entered in the WLA Awards if they meet the other eligibility criteria.**

## Categories



### **Built - Commercial Residential Landscape**

Projects that include multi-dwelling residential designs that includes low, medium or high-rise developments that are for residential or mixed-use development (including residential). Entries for the Commercial Residential Design category include show houses, townhouse developments, apartment/condo buildings, multiple high rises, community developments, and other multi-dwelling projects.

### **Built - Private Residential Landscape**

This category seeks to recognise single-dwelling residential landscape designs of varying scales, from small to large projects. These projects can include a rooftop garden, balcony garden, private home garden, estate garden, ranch, or homestead garden for a single dwelling.



### **Built – Small Public Space**

Recognizing the importance of small-scale design projects (less than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>/21,500 sq.ft). These projects can include pocket parks, parklets, public rooftops, art installations, playgrounds, experimental and demonstration gardens, show gardens, that are accessible to the public.

### **Built – Large Public Space**

Celebrating large-scale public spaces greater than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>/21,500 sq.ft. These projects include parks, gardens, plazas, piers, amphitheatres, squares, campuses, arboretums, wetlands, shared streets.



### **Built – Masterplanning & Urban Design**

Masterplanning and Urban Design are crucial to shaping our urban environments, cities, and towns. Entries can include built work originating from masterplans, frameworks, major transit hubs, ecological/green/blue networks, urban regeneration, waterfronts, river corridors.

### **Built – Sustainability and Resilience**

Seeks to recognise innovative projects that address pressing environmental challenges through sustainable design and resilient strategies. Projects should seek to climate change mitigation or adaptation, enhance ecological health, and promote long-term community and environmental well-being.

## Categories



### Built – Institutional

Projects in this category should enhance learning environments, support well-being, and create inspiring public spaces. Whether a city halls, libraries, museum, art gallery, courts, hospital, universities, schools, education facilities, community facilities, places of worship, city botanic gardens, or other government or civic facilities.

### Built – Hospitality & Tourism

The Hospitality category seeks to honor exceptional landscape architecture in hotels, restaurants, resorts, lodges, retreats, wellness centres, tourist attractions, wineries, agrotourism attractions, cultural centres and theme parks.

### Built – Commercial

Recognising outstanding landscape architecture projects within commercial developments, including mixed-use precincts, retail spaces, office environments, and interior landscapes.



### Conceptual - Analysis and Planning

Designers often spend considerable time and effort developing documents that include significant analysis and planning for future landscapes. This category can include planning documents, master plans, post-occupancy reports, design manuals, guidelines, management plans, frameworks, planning overlays, policies, regulations, and other landscape evaluation reports.

### Conceptual – Residential Design

Residential landscape design is vital in creating the first place where people often experience landscape and nature. This category looks to honour conceptual design for single and multi-dwelling residential design (private and commercial). Entries in this category can include concepts for single houses, apartments/condos, townhouses, homesteads, ranches, multiple residential developments.



### Concept – Private Space

This category showcases the potential of conceptual and unbuilt private spaces in combining aesthetics, sustainability, and functionality. Submissions may include hotels, resorts, offices (high rise and campus), mixed use, private gardens, private tourism (theme parks, reserves, marinas), universities, schools, education facilities, health (hospitals, aged care,) airports, mixed use developments,

## Categories

renewable energy installations, water treatment, waste to energy facilities, agricultural & forestry sites (farms, private forest), industrial sites (factories, logistics hubs, ports,).

### Concept – Public Space

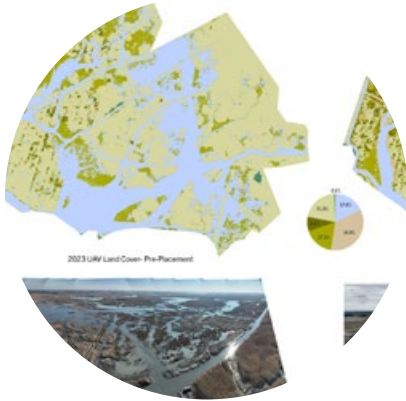
Seeks to acknowledge the visionary, conceptual and unbuilt projects exploring innovative public space design approaches. Projects may include parks, plazas, squares, streets, esplanades, memorials, playgrounds, outdoor theatres, botanical gardens, therapeutic gardens, cultural institutions, seasonal installations, public art spaces or urban interventions, public spaces for cultural gatherings, festivals, or performances, town halls, memorials, monuments, green infrastructure concepts, eco-parks or natural reserves, climate parks, waterfronts, promenades, riverfronts, beaches, public transit stations.

### Conceptual - Masterplanning & Urban Design

Projects can incorporate new visionary approaches, ideas and processes in design due to their scale and ability to provide solutions for shaping the future of cities and landscapes. Entries can include conceptual design for masterplans, frameworks, precinct plans, urban renewal plans, greenways, shared streets, community gardens, post-industrial landscapes, repurposed landscapes, linear parks, green infrastructure plans, park networks, ecological belts, neighbourhood redevelopments or districts, smart city concepts, urban mobility networks, walkability masterplans, eco-city plans, resiliency plans, biodiversity networks, public health urban design, flood resilient urban design, waterfronts, food network urban design, urban design manuals, and design guidelines.

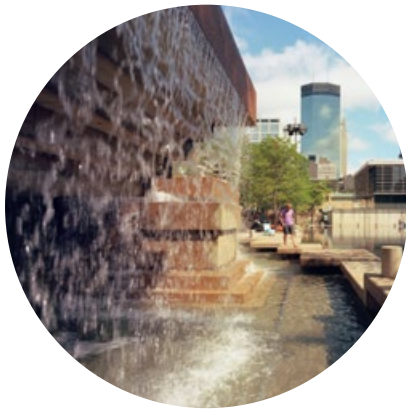
### TCLF Cultural Landscape Awards

Human involvement and occupation have affected, influenced, and/or shaped cultural landscapes. Often associated with a significant person, community, or event, they can range from thousands of acres to a tiny park or garden. Collectively, cultural landscapes are works of art, narratives of culture, and expressions of regional identity. Cultural landscapes shape our shared public memory.



# 2026 PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

## Categories



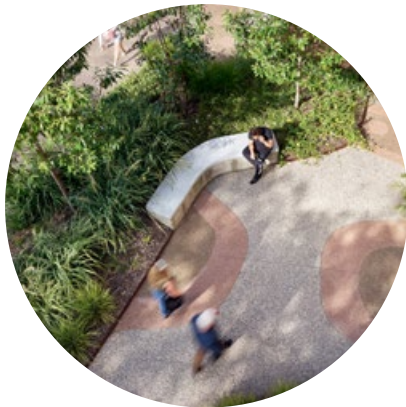
These Cultural Landscape Awards, in partnership with The Cultural Landscape Foundation, recognizes the holistic planning, design, and stewardship efforts that reveal and assign value to a landscape's palimpsest – embracing historic and cultural assets and systems in the same way that traditional practice addresses dynamic natural and ecological systems.

### **Cultural Landscape - Design Excellence & Innovation**

The Design Excellence & Innovation category recognizes achievements in transforming cultural landscapes. This award celebrates projects showcasing creativity and innovation that highlight historical significance through various design interventions.

Applicants must detail success measurements and the landscape architect's role. Projects may address historical erasure, the nature/culture dilemma, pro bono work due to budget constraints, rigid government standards, and public engagement strategies.

Projects should demonstrate how key landscape features are preserved and ensure no negative impact on the cultural landscape.



### **Cultural Landscape - Planning & Research**

The Planning & Research category honors innovative work in investigating, documenting, analyzing, and proposing design and management strategies. Landscape architects must demonstrate how they conducted research and comprehensive planning for culturally significant landscapes, and how this research shaped design and management proposals.

Applicants should highlight landscape architects' roles in the planning and/or research processes. Projects may include masterplans, historic landscape restoration studies, ecological resilience assessments, cultural landscape management guidelines, and educational strategies.



Selected projects must illustrate how research and analysis enhanced understanding of history and the landscape's cultural, ecological, and social contexts. Applications should also mention innovative methods or technologies used in analyzing and interpreting research findings.

# 2026 PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

## Categories

### Student Awards

#### Conceptual Design

A design developed during a design studio or competition that best showcases the student's work and contributes to the improvement of the environment, community or profession.

#### Graduate

Conceptual or Built Work that was developed during a design studio, competition, or research that best showcases the graduate student's work and expands upon past research or studio work.

#### University Studio

A design or technical studio that explores new ideas and contributes to the profession by improving and/or addressing environmental, social, and economic issues.

**The WLA Editor or Award Jurors may change an entry's category if it better suits another category.**



## Criteria

Below outlines the criteria for various WLA Awards categories. All submissions should focus on the landscape design either built or conceptual.

### Professional Awards

#### **Built - Residential, Public Space, Hospitality, Commercial, Institutional, Masterplanning & Urban Design**

Criteria:

- Design (Design Ideas and Resolution/Realisation)
- Innovation (The level of innovation in the project)
- Implementation (Final Constructed project)

#### **Built – Sustainability and Resilience**

Criteria:

- Design (Design Ideas and Resolution/Realisation)
- Use of sustainable design and resilient strategies.
- Development and/or Execution (how the idea and strategies were developed and/or implemented)

#### **Conceptual Award – Analysis and Planning**

The submission should focus on the analytical and planning (not the design) undertaken during the project.

Criteria:

- Analysis and Contribution (analysis, value to community, context, possible implementation)
- Innovation (The level of innovation in the concept)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the work was presented and explained)

#### **Conceptual - Residential, Private Space, Public Space Urban Design**

Criteria:

- Concept/Idea (design concept strength and rigor )
- Innovation (The level of innovation in the concept)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the design was presented and explained)

#### **Conceptual - Masterplanning & Urban Design**

Criteria:

- Concept (how cohesive are the design idea/s)
- Principles (use of creative and diverse ideas to maximise the potential of the landscape)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the design was presented and explained)

#### **WLA Editors' Award**

An exemplary project selected from all entries by the Editor representing high-quality design or initiative within the landscape architecture profession. All Entrants are eligible to be selected for this Award, and entrants are not required to register or include a separate entry.

#### **TCLF Cultural Landscape Awards**

Applicants should state how success has been measured and the role that the landscape architect played as part of a collaborative planning and design process.

### Student Awards

#### **Concept Design**

Criteria:

Design (Design Ideas; Resolution/Realisation; Implementation)

- Innovation (The level of innovation in the project)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the design was presented and explained)

#### **Graduate**

Criteria:

- Graduate Design (Rating of the level of design resolution - is it graduate level)
- Innovation (Does the design create new work)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the work was presented and explained)

#### **University Studio**

Criteria:

- Explore new ideas or create innovation
- Contribution (Does it further the profession?)
- Presentation & Supporting Information (how the work was presented and explained)

Refer to the category descriptions for more information on the projects that can be entered in each category.

## Awards

### Professional Awards

Built and Conceptual categories

- Award of Excellence (1 per category) - WLA Award Trophy, Featured Project on WLA during 2026.
- Outstanding Award (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award PDF Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2026.
- Honourable Mention (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award PDF Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2026.

TCLF Cultural Landscape Awards & WLA Editors Award

- WLA Award Trophy, Feature Project on WLA during 2026

### Student Awards

Concept Design, Graduate and University Studio categories

- Award of Excellence (1 per category) - WLA Award PDF Certificate, Featured Project on WLA during 2026.
- Outstanding Award (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award PDF Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2026.
- Honourable Mention (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award PDF Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2026.

### All Awards

Finalist (Shortlisted) Entries

All finalist entries will receive a PDF certificate, which will be provided after the winners are announced.

Publication

All entrants are eligible to be published on the WLA website during 2026-27. The Editor has discretion on the publication of submissions.

No Additional Fees

There are no additional fees for the awards beyond registration. Unless you wish to order additional trophies (see below).

Additional Trophies

We understand that the Winners may be multiple designers or a client requests a trophy. You can order additional Award Trophies at additional cost (trophy + admin fee + postage).

## Submission Requirements

### Submission Document

The Awards submission should include the following:

- A maximum five (5) pages (A3 format – landscape orientation) using **the WLA template will only be accepted** (which is supplied as a download link via email after purchasing an entry registration)
- Project Description Page is the first page is one (1) page of text (maximum 500 words – no images)
- Images Pages are the next four (4) pages with project images (multiple images can be placed on each image page).
- A plan should be included with each submission for the jurors to understand the scale and spatial design.
- Captions - Each image can include a 25-word maximum caption. The captions are optional.
- No large amounts of text on images. Place names, legends/index, labels, etc are acceptable.
- Complete the page footer which must include the Project Name (the name of the project), Category and the Entry Number.
- The entry number (this is the order number provided via email) and project name shall be shown in the locations as per the template. Your entry number is 6-digits and should not include the #.

**[ORDER #261234]** Sample Order Number Only  
Your Order Number is Your Entry Number

- Do not change the font, font style or font size in the template for any text including the footer
- No company or designers names or recognisable graphics/logos within the text or images.
- Awards submission shall be **less than 10Mb** in pdf format. The pdf file only needs to be screen resolution (96 dpi) for juries to review.
- **Submissions must be in English**

### Submission Information

You are required to submit via the WLA Awards website

- The Entry Submission File should be in pdf format and an email attachment and maximum 15Mb. The file name should have the Entry number, Entry name (15 characters) and category. E.g. 92125-Garden Rooms-Built-Residential.pdf The entry file should be five (5) separate pages (not spreads).
- You are required to provide the Entry Number, Entry Name, Design Company/Designer Name, Collaborators (Architect, Engineers, Client as applicable) and Image Credits(Photographer, Rendering Company, etc as applicable) as text in the submission email. Not as a separate text file.
- Provide one Hero/Feature image (minimum 1200 pixels wide at 150 dpi in jpg format) that best represents your entry. This will be used for the finalist list and promotions.
- You are required to agree to the terms and conditions of entry and verify ownership of the project.
- Before submitting, ensure that you have thoroughly checked the pdf files (Entry Submission File) before submitting.

### Submissions Checklist

1. Entry Submission PDF file
2. One (1) Hero/Feature project image in jpg format
3. Every File (Submission and Hero/Feature Image) has been named with Entry Number, Entry Name (only 15 characters) etc (see above)
4. You have all the information required for the submission including design company, collaborators, photographer, etc.

**Note: No resubmission or updated submissions will be accepted. Please check your documents and information prior to submitting via the WLA Awards website.**

[awards.worldlandscapearchitect.com](https://awards.worldlandscapearchitect.com)

## Fees

### Professional Award Categories

*Non WLA Member* – \$300AUD (approx. 200USD, 170EUR, 1400CNY) per entry

*Partner Member* – \$270AUD (approx. 180USD, 155EUR, 1265CNY) per entry

*Sponsor Member* – \$240AUD (approx. 160USD, 138EUR, 1125CNY) per entry

WLA Members receive discounts of 5-20%. To find out more about memberships, go to <https://worldlandscapearchitect.com/memberships/>

**You need to purchase a membership before purchasing your registrations.**

Membership is not required to register or enter the WLA Awards.

### Student Award Categories

Concept Design & Graduate - \$25AUD

University Studio - \$150AUD

Entry Registration Fees will be available from the WLA Awards website and payment via Alipay, Paypal or Credit Card.

<https://awards.worldlandscapearchitect.com/shop/>

Purchases of multiple entries will receive separate emails

## Deadlines

### Registration & Submissions Deadline

**May 8 - 11:59 pm Honolulu time**

**Please pay attention to deadline time in relation to your timezone. Late entries are not accepted due to misunderstanding the deadline time (timezone).**

Remember to purchase multiple entries at least 48 hours prior to the deadline to avoid not receiving entry numbers.

## FAQ

### Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

#### **What is included in the registration package (files)?**

You will receive an email with a link to download the WLA Awards Entry Registration Package in rar or zip format (each format includes the same files). The file will include the following:

- WLA Awards Template (indesign, powerpoint, pdf, jpg formats - you only need one to create your submission in pdf format. (Reft to Tips for more information)
- WLA Awards Entry Guide (pdf format) - this is a detailed guide of the WLA Awards with some tips
- WLA Awards Entry Example (pdf format) - this provides you with a mockup of an entry.

#### **I can't find my order/entry number?**

The order number you receive after purchasing a registration entry is your entry number and can be found in the first email you receive. If you do not receive your order email within 24 hours after purchasing, please contact [awards@worldlandscapearchitect.com](mailto:awards@worldlandscapearchitect.com)

A purchase with multiple entries will receive separate emails with additional order/entry numbers within 24-48 hours.

#### **How many times can I enter my project with one registration?**

Each registration allows you to submit one entry per category. E.g., if you wish to enter two projects in the same or different categories, you need to purchase two (2) registrations.

#### **Can I get a refund?**

Refunds will incur a \$25 fee for Professional Registrations and a \$5 fee for Student Registrations. This is to cover the payment fees of our payment gateway. Alternatively, we can put you on a register for the following year; you may have to pay a fee if the registration fee has increased.

#### **Can I enter my project in more than one category?**

Yes, you can enter your project in more than one category, we suggest you may be better off entering it once in the most suitable category.

#### **Which category should I choose?**

We suggest that you enter the category that best suits your project or what is the highest use of the project.

#### **Can I put images on the first page?**

No, the first page is for text only. No images, graphics, logos or other representations should be placed on the first page.

#### **Can I put text on the images?**

Text can only be put on images to provide labels or critical information such as labels (diagram or plan titles, building names, street names, legend text, etc) on a plan or diagram or an image caption(25 words or less) . No long text such as paragraphs, etc. should be placed on images. Any entry with long paragraphs (greater than 25 words) of text on the image pages will be disqualified with no refund of entry registration fee.

#### **Can I put more than one image per image page?**

Yes, you can please have as many images on one page (excluding the first page) as you wish. However, we suggest that you selective

#### **Do I need a plan in my entry submission?**

Yes. For 2026, we now require you to supply a plan as part of your submission. This is provide context and an understanding of the design and spatial arrangement.

#### **Where do I name my company, client, collaborators names?**

You include this information when completing your Entry Submission on the WLA Awards Website.

Do not include your company name, designer's name, collaborator's name, client name or identifying marks (logos, text) in the WLA Awards entry submission. Any entry that includes your company or designers name will be disqualified.

#### **Do you have a question?**

If you have any further questions, please submit them via email to [awards@worldlandscapearchitect.com](mailto:awards@worldlandscapearchitect.com)

## Tips

### 1. Check the criteria

Make sure to check the criteria of the Award category and write your submission text to address the criteria.

### 2. Check the footer/submission details.

Double check the text (Award category, Entrant Number, Entry Name) appears on every page.

### 3. Check that your company or designers names or recognisable graphics/logos are NOT in the Entry Name, Text or Images of the Submission Document.

Naming your firm, client or any collaborator in the title, text or images means disqualification.

### 4. How to make the Submission Document file size under 15Mb

For Indesign:

Goto File -> Adobe PDF presets and select *Smallest File Size*, then go to the Compression Tab and select Image Quality -> High or Medium. This should create a file under 15Mb but maintain the image quality for on screen viewing.

For Photoshop:

Use the File -> Export As and change the settings for JPG or PNG for 1200 pixels wide at 100dpi.

For Adobe Reader:

Use the File -> Save As Other and select Reduced Size PDF

