

2020 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



These guidance notes explain our entry requirements, what should be included in your entry form and how your entry will be judged. The judges need to understand the best attributes of the building work as well as the relationship that existed between the project teams and local authority building control, so:

- Please think carefully about which category to enter & ensure you address the general & category specific criteria
- Fully explain why your building project, company or employee is special and why they deserve an LABC Building Excellence Award.

Entry Requirements

1. Projects entered for the 2020 awards must have been completed between 1 January and 31 December 2019
2. Entries can be made by LABC surveyors as well as customers. All entries made by persons other than LABC surveyors will be validated by the relevant Building Control Team prior to submission to the judging panel
3. All entries must be made via the LABC online form. Entries in any other format will not be accepted. The online form can be found at www.labc.co.uk/awards
4. A minimum of 50 words per criteria must be written as part of your supporting statement with 100 words written on why the project/company/constructional professional should win (unless stated otherwise on the entry form). Statements shorter than this will not be accepted
5. Entries are only accepted where the building control work was carried out by a local authority building control team.

General Criteria

1. Building Regulation challenges and how you overcame them (What challenges did you face in meeting the regulations? i.e. because of site conditions. How did the site teams and the building control team work well collaboratively? Were communications between teams effective? Did you receive the right information before and during the project)
2. Performance & Sustainability (The use of renewables, BREEAM, SBEM, low air leakage, good expected running and life-cycle costs).
3. Site & Project Management (Were the sites safe and healthy? Were there active waste management strategies? Did sub-contractors maintain your high standards?)
4. Innovation & Problem-solving (Were innovative products used or new ideas implemented? Were new technologies used and were creative designs/solutions/approaches applied to tricky situations?)
5. Inclusivity (Where applicable is there evidence of an inclusive approach which exceeds Part M of the building regulations? Does the design incorporate the needs of a wide range of users? What design guidance was used and was there any involvement of access professionals or access groups?)

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6. Why your project/company/site agent should win (What's special or unique about them? What makes the project/company/site agent stand out? Were projects delivered on time and on budget? Was the client happy with the project?)

Category Specific Criteria

In addition to the general criteria, judges will also need to see examples and references to further category specific criteria as follows:

1. Best extension or alteration to an existing dwelling

This may include extensions, loft or garage conversions and full scale renovations. Extensions must be attached to the main house, standalone buildings on the same plot do not qualify for this category.

Specific Criteria - Continuity with existing building – compliance with building regulations - Impact on surrounding area & improved efficiency of the existing building.

2. Best local builder or traditional craftsman

This recognises good quality general builders or specialists in local craft skills that work predominantly on domestic extensions, alterations and refurbishment projects.

Specific Criteria - Vernacular building reflecting local traditions and construction materials - Consistency of high-quality craft skills - A history of repeating good quality work - Local, small scale projects in the domestic market-References/comments from building control team and/or customer/s.

3. Best change of use of an existing building

This recognises work to change a building from one use to another which could be commercial to homes, barn conversions, or industrial to commercial.

Specific Criteria - Improvement in the original use - Improvement in aesthetics.

4. Best individual new home

This recognises high quality one-off new build homes and could include 'self-build' or premium single unit developments. This category is for single unit sites, single houses on a multi plot site won't be eligible.

Specific Criteria - Outstanding project that goes above and beyond the level seen on a day-to-day basis – High quality finish and detail.

5. Best new housing development

This category may be split by the judges into small and large volume depending on the entries received. This recognises new private housing sites but not individual homes.

Specific Criteria - Response to site constraints - External appearance and internal planning - Layout grouping and landscaping - Attention to safety, security and accessibility.

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6. Best social or affordable new housing development

This recognises developments of any scale by organisations developing new social or affordable homes.

Specific Criteria - Involvement of the community - Affordability of maintenance - Response to site constraints - External appearance and internal planning - Layout grouping and landscaping - Attention to safety, security and accessibility.

7. Best public service or educational building

This recognises any new build or extension to a building used for health, leisure, sports, tourism, defence, transport, prisons, schools, universities, colleges and nurseries etc. and includes extensions, new builds and refurbishments.

Specific Criteria - Level of community involvement - How the local community has received the development - Community initiatives or special projects linked to the scheme - Design or materials that enhance the public usability. Quality project management (time constraints etc.) - Sensitivity to the local environment - How the design supports the educational purpose of the building.

8. Best commercial project

LABC may divide commercial entries into two categories, small and large, based on size and value to ensure that smaller commercial projects stand a chance against large scale developments. This recognises any building used for retail, hospitality, offices, industrial, farming, warehousing or other commercial use, including refurbishment, fit-out and redevelopment.

Specific Criteria - Quality project management (time constraints etc.) - Sensitivity to the local environment - How the design supports the commercial purpose of the building.

9. LABC Construction Professional of the year

This recognises a specific person rather than a company. Nominations for this should be for a construction professional such as a site agent, architect, designer or plan drawer that has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority and commitment to excellent buildings.

Specific Criteria - Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC surveyors - Evidence of build quality, management of safety and control on site or evidence of excellent design and detailing - Examples of technical awareness and good communication - Evidence of particular issues or problems resolved - References/comments from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.

10. Best Partnership with a local authority building control team

This category recognises excellence in working within official partnerships with LABC as part of LABC's Partner Authority Scheme.

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Specific criteria- Evidence should be provided that the partnership in question (which must be registered as an official partnership under the Partner Authority Scheme) has been longstanding and has gone beyond the 'normal' working relationship. Entries should include information about; the relationship with Local Authority Building Control, the length of the formal partnership and details of other Local Authority Building Control teams who have been involved as the site inspecting or plan checking authority, consistent high standard of work and the value of the partnership. How did you overcome challenges together? What are the strengths of the partnership and the benefits for the client? What is special or unique about the partnership?

Photographs

Photographs are a very important part of the entry, so please ensure that the ones you submit are good quality and relevant to the category you are entering. All photos must be at least 300dpi or 2000 pixels and be in JPEG format, a maximum of 6 photos can be uploaded using the online entry form or alternatively you can upload 5 photographs and the plan of the project. Please refrain from using wide angle lenses.

- For site based entries we'll need a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 good quality photographs taken in daylight (e.g. before and after photos for change of use projects) or alternatively you can upload 5 photographs and the plan of the project.
- For the Construction Professional of the year we'll need a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 photos including a head and shoulders shot of the individual as well as photos of the site and a plan of the project if necessary.
- For the Best Partnership category we'll need a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 photos including photos of a range of building projects that the partners have worked on together and plans of the project if necessary.
- For Best Local Builder we'll need a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 photos including the company logo in JPEG format as well as photographs of building projects and a plan of the project if necessary.

Should you need any assistance in completing the form please call the Awards Team on 020 8616 8120.