



WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



2025 PROFESSIONAL
AWARDS

ENTRY GUIDE

2025 PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

*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, 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

- One Hive | StudioPOD
- Nurturing Nature in the Mile-High City | Design Workshop Inc.
- 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
- Taichung Green Corridor | Mecanoo
- Quarry House | Design Workshop
- Xuhui Runway Park – Sasaki
- Mellemrummet – BOGL

Changes to the 2025 WLA Professional Awards include a change to most categories to enable the recognition of projects across a wider variety of typologies and spaces.

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Eligibility

Professional Awards

Landscape Architecture and Landscape Design Firms can enter the Professional Awards.

Organisations and companies may enter landscape architecture projects on behalf of the designer. However, they must have written permission from the landscape architect or design firm to submit the project.

Entrants can enter multiple projects but must purchase a registration for each entry.

Projects must be a concept or built during 2020-2025.

Any previous entries (projects) that won an Awards of Excellence, Merit Award or Honour Award cannot enter the 2025 Professional Awards.

Any previously finalist (shortlisted) entries can be entered in this year's WLA Awards if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Any winners in any other awards or competition (ASLA, IFLA, CSLA, AILA, Landscape Institute, HKILA, SILA, etc) are eligible to be entered in this year's WLA Awards if they meet the eligibility criteria.

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Anya Domlesky



Philip Dugdale



Jon Hazelwood



Yan Peng



Steven Petit



Ming Zhang



Charles A. Birnbaum

Jury

Anya Domlesky | Director of Research at SWA Group

Anya Domlesky is an urban designer and landscape architect, currently the Director of Research at SWA Group. She founded and runs XL Lab, the firm's innovation lab undertaking practice-based research.

Philip Dugdale | Associate Principal at Sasaki

To Philip, great design is universal. He is responsible for realizing projects that range from pop-up parklets and plazas to large-scale urban parks and waterfronts. Working across scales, he has a depth of experience leading large, multidisciplinary teams.

Jon Hazelwood | Principal & Public Realm Sector Lead at Hassell

Jon is an expert in designing complex public spaces, his ability to think both locally and globally means his approach is wholly grounded in local context and environment, whilst looking beyond this – regionally, nationally and globally – to achieve best practice and new approaches.

Yan Peng | General Manager at Wide Horizon Landscape Center

Yan Peng started her career as a designer and later became the head of landscape for a well-known real estate company in China. Currently, she serves as the General Manager of Wide Horizon Landscape Center and the Vice General Manager of the Hainan Division.

Steven Petit | Creative Director at OMGEVING

Steven Petit is a landscape architect and urban designer who has worked at OMGEVING (BE) since 2004. As creative director, Steven is responsible for the design of OMGEVING's many landscape and urban design projects.

Ming Zhang | Chief Architect (Landscape Architecture) at Tongji Architectural Design Group

Ming, Ph.D., is a distinguished professor of the national talent program, and a tenured professor and doctoral advisor at Tongji University, where he leads the Department of Landscape Architecture at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP).

Special Juror – Charles A. Birnbaum | President + CEO at The Cultural Landscape Foundation

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, is the president, CEO, and founder of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF). Prior to creating TCLF, Birnbaum spent fifteen years as the coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI).

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Categories



Built - Commercial Residential Design

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. Projects should show creativity and sustainable practices that address the needs of residents whilst also being innovative in their approach.

Built - Private Residential Design

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. Private Residential Design should create designs that are not only aesthetic but also innovative, personalized solutions that reflect the desires and lifestyles of the homeowners while respecting the landscape and its context.



Built – Small Public Space

Recognizing the importance of small-scale design projects (less than 2,000m²/21,500 sq.ft). These projects can include pocket parks, parklets, public rooftops, art installations, playgrounds, experimental and demonstration gardens, show gardens, and interior landscapes that are accessible to the public. Any landscape or design that showcases design, innovation, and resolved implementation is included. The Built Small category seeks to recognise that small projects can also profoundly impact place.



Built – Large Public Space

Celebrating large-scale projects that are greater than 2,000m²/21,500 sq.ft. These projects include parks, gardens, plazas, piers, amphitheatres, squares, campuses, arboretums, wetlands, shared streets, waterfronts, and landscape networks. The Built Large Public Space category seeks to honour projects of expansive scale that integrate natural and built elements to be innovative and positively impact the landscape and people.

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Built – Masterplanning & Urban Design

Masterplanning and Urban Design are crucial to shaping our urban environments, cities, and towns. Entries in this category should showcase the transformative impact of landscape design, which enhances the place while incorporating innovative and sustainable design principles. Projects that may be entered are greenways, riverfronts, shared streets, post-industrial, repurposed landscapes, linear parks, park networks, and ecological belts.



Built – Sustainability and Resilience

Seeks to recognise innovative projects that address pressing environmental challenges through sustainable design and resilient strategies. This category celebrates landscapes that mitigate climate impacts, enhance ecological health, and promote long-term community and environmental well-being. These projects exemplify the power of landscape architecture to create adaptive, regenerative, and resource-efficient spaces.



Built – Institutional/Campus

Projects in this category should enhance learning environments, support well-being, and create inspiring public spaces. Entries should demonstrate innovative design, sustainability, and social impact, contributing to the cultural and functional value of institutions. Whether a university campus, hospital garden, civic plaza, or museum grounds, submissions should exemplify excellence in placemaking, accessibility, and ecological stewardship, setting new benchmarks for institutional landscapes.

Built – Hospitality

The Hospitality category seeks to honor exceptional landscape architecture in hotels, resorts, lodges, tourist attractions, and event spaces. This category recognizes projects that create immersive, memorable experiences while balancing aesthetics, functionality, and sustainability. Entries should showcase innovative design, ecological sensitivity, and cultural authenticity, enhancing guest experiences and reinforcing a sense of place.

Built – Commercial

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

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design, sustainability, and the ability to enhance the user experience while integrating seamlessly with the built environment.

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. Entries must include analysis and planning content, the project may be built, however most of the submission should focus on the analysis and planning component.

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 to influence future landscape architecture by 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, renewable energy installations, water treatment, waste to energy facilities, agricultural & forestry sites (farms, private forest), industrial sites (factories, logistics hubs, ports,). This category underscores the potential of landscape architecture to elevate private developments sites into models of sustainability, ecological health, and human-centric design.



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Concept – Public Space

Seeks to acknowledge the visionary, conceptual and unbuilt projects exploring innovative public space design approaches. This category celebrates designs prioritising accessibility, inclusivity, creativity, and community engagement, offering fresh ideas for urban and rural landscapes. Projects may include parks, plazas, squares, streets, waterfronts, 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. These projects reflect innovative thinking and the potential for transforming public spaces into vibrant, resilient, and inclusive environments.



Conceptual - Masterplanning & Urban Design

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 in this category can include conceptual design for city masterplans, urban renewal, 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, food network urban design, urban design manuals, 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.

These Cultural Landscape Awards, in partnership with The Cultural Landscape Foundation, recognizes the holistic

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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. These efforts protect a landscape's integrity and authenticity, fostering deeper understanding and engagement by uncovering neglected histories and marginalized communities.



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.



Criteria

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

Built - Residential, Public Space, Hospitality, Commercial, Institutional/Campus, 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

May include unbuilt (or not implemented) Analysis and Planning projects that were developed for clients, competitions and may include masterplans, frameworks, urban design plans, policy work, conservation plans, research analysis, town planning, transport planning, development guidelines.

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

May include conceptual and unbuilt design projects that were developed for clients and competitions and can include any form of conceptual design (landscape, design, installation)

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

May include conceptual and unbuilt projects that are master plans or 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. Refer to the category descriptions for more information.



Awards

Recognition

- Built and Conceptual categories - Award of Excellence (1 per category) - WLA Award Trophy, Featured Project on WLA during 2025.
- Built and Conceptual categories – Outstanding Award (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2025.
- Built and Conceptual categories – Honourable Mention (up to 2 per category) - WLA Award Certificate, Feature Project on WLA during 2025.
- TCLF Cultural Landscape Awards - WLA Award Trophy, Feature Project on WLA during 2025.
- Editor's Award - WLA Award Trophy, Feature Project on WLA during 2025.

Finalist Entries

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

Jury's Discretion

The selection of the Awards is up to the jury's discretion. They may decide not to award all awards. (e.g. Award of Excellence, Outstanding Award, Honorable Mentions) due to quality of entries or low entry numbers.

Publication

All entrants are eligible to be published on the WLA website during 2025. The Editor has discretion on the publication of submissions.



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.
- 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 5-digits and should not include the #.

[ORDER #68088]

Sample Order Number Only
Use your Order Number from the Email

- 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.
- The WLA Awards Declaration form shall be completed and submitted in pdf format.
- **Submissions must be in English**

Submissions Email

- The Awards submission should be submitted via email to awards@worldlandscapearchitect.com by the deadline.
- The Entry Submission File should be in pdf format and an email attachment and maximum 10Mb. The file name should have the entry number, entry name (15 characters) and category. E.g. 70125-Garden Rooms-Built-Residential.pdf The entry file should be five (5) separate pages (not spreads).
- Include the WLA Awards Declaration as a pdf file as an attachment, and the file name should include the entry number. E.g. 68126-WLA Awards Declaration.pdf
- Include the Entry Number, Project Name, 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.
- Include one 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.
- Before submitting, ensure that you have thoroughly checked the pdf files (Entry Submission File and the Awards Declaration) before submitting. We will no longer accept updated or revised entries.
- **Do not** send file links to file services such as Wettransfer, QQ, Weixin, Dropbox, Onedrive or similar. The files should be an attachment to the Submission Email. Files as links will not be accepted.



Fees

Registration Entry Fees

Award Categories
\$250AUD (approx. 165USD, 160EUR, 1150CNY) per entry

Entry Registration Fees can be paid in the WLA Shop via Alipay, Paypal or Credit Card.

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

Purchases of multiple entries will receive separate emails with additional order/entry numbers within 24-48 hours. In order to receive multiple entry numbers please purchase minimum 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Deadlines

Registration & Submissions Deadline

Registrations must be purchased before

Friday April 4, 2025, at 11:59PM Sydney Australia 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 24 hours prior to the deadline to avoid not receiving entry numbers.



FAQ

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ)

What is include 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 Declaration (word format) - a company representative can sign the declaration.
- 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 with 24 hours after purchasing, please contact 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?

One registration allows you to submit for one entry for one category. E.g. You wish to enter two projects in the same or other category, then you need to purchase two (2) registrations.

Can I enter my project in more than one category?

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

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 (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 2025, 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?

This information should be included in the Entry Submission Email (the template is provided in the registration). Do not include your company name, designers name, collaborators 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

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 text or images of the Submission Document.

Naming your firm, client or any associated party such as photographer means disqualification.

4. How to make the Submission Document file size under 10Mb

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 10Mb 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

