

# LABC Building Excellence Awards 2015 Judging Criteria



These guidance notes explain how your entry will be judged.

The judges will need to understand the best attributes of the building work or relationship that has existed between the teams, so:

- Please think carefully about which category to enter
- Use the entry form to select the most appropriate characteristics from the multi-choice list
- Add short, relevant notes to make clear any unique factors supporting the entry in the further information boxes.

**For the site based entries we'll need 6 good quality photographs taken in daylight, relevant to the project (e.g. one landscape exterior image of the final project and before and after pictures for change of use projects). For the Best Site Supervisor we'll need a head and shoulders shot of the individual and for the Best Partnership and Best Builder we'll need the company logo in JPEG format. Please refrain from using wide angle lenses. All images can be uploaded with the online submission as 300dpi/high resolution – if you need any help please call the Awards Team on 0207 091 6873/6869**

Once your project has been entered, it will be assessed by a panel of building professionals using the following criteria:

## **General Criteria**

1. **Building Control Quality** - Relationship between client and building control team - Good project team work - Design, craftsmanship and architectural merit of the project.
2. **Outstanding features and technical innovation** - Innovation within construction techniques or materials - Meeting challenges and overcoming difficulties - Technical problem solving - Complexity of the project - Innovative approaches to present day requirements.
3. **Sustainability** - Use of energy efficient construction methods - Use of renewable technologies - Measures to conserve water resources and sustainable management of waste - Robust and durable scheme utilising sustainable materials - Long term prospects of the building.
4. **Project management, administration and site safety.**
5. **Supply of application information** - Complete entry form, photographs (JPEG, 300dpi).

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## Category Specific Criteria

In addition to criteria for all entries, judges will also take into account category specific criteria as follows:

### 1. Best extension or alteration to an existing home

This may include extensions, loft or garage conversions and full scale renovations.

**Specific Criteria** - Continuity with existing building - 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.

**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 or new build market.

### 3. Best change of use of an existing building or conversion

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 a premium single unit development

**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 will 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 building

This recognises any new building used for health, leisure, sports, tourism, defence, transport, prisons 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.

## 8. Best educational building

This recognises both new build and extensions to existing schools, universities, colleges and nurseries

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

## 9. Best commercial building

LABC will 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 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.

## 10. Best Inclusive Building

This recognises buildings and their surroundings that are accessible to, and usable by, as many people as is reasonably possible, without the need for special adaptation or specialized design.

**Specific Criteria** - Nominated buildings should show clear examples of inclusive design over and above Part M of the Building Regulations and show how the needs of all people have been assessed and catered for.

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## 11. Best partnership with a local authority building control team

This recognises the best development team approach, long-standing relationship, or co-operative approach to problem solving

**Specific Criteria** – There needs to be evidence that the partnership has developed beyond the 'normal' working relationship and continues to use LABC over an extended period of time - Length of partnership - Variety of projects - Innovative solutions developed by working in partnership - Strengths of partnership - Consistency of work - Value of partnership - New work gained from the partnership.

## 12. LABC site supervisor of the year

This recognises a specific person rather than an overall company. Nominations for this should be for a site manager that has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority.

**Specific Criteria** - Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC surveyor - Evidence of build quality and control on site - Evidence/examples of technical awareness, good communication and management of safety - Evidence of particular issues or problems resolved by the site agent - References/comments from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.

- All entries must be made via the LABC online form; no applications will be accepted in any other format. The online form can be found on the LABC website [www.labc.co.uk/awards](http://www.labc.co.uk/awards)
- All applications made by persons other than LABC Surveyors will be validated by the relevant Building Control Team prior to submission to the judging panel.
- Only projects completed between 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 were eligible to be submitted to the 2015 Awards cycle.
- Entries will only be accepted where the building control work was carried out by a local authority building control team.

Should you need any assistance in completing the form please call the Awards Team on 0207 091 6873/6869