

2021 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, individuals and local authority building control so:

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

Entry Requirements

1. Projects entered for the 2021 awards must have been completed between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020
2. Entries can be made by LABC surveyors as well as members of the project team. 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. Projects and individuals can be entered into one category only
5. A minimum of 50 words per question is required with a maximum of 100 words written on why the project/company/constructional professional/partnership deserves to win (unless stated otherwise on the entry form). Statements shorter than this will not be accepted
6. 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 to achieve compliance (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 safely managed? 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 and Accessibility (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?)

2021 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



PLACE AWARDS	
Residential Categories	
Best residential extension	<p>This includes new domestic extensions that increase the footprint of the dwelling or provide new habitable spaces within the curtilage of the property.</p> <p>E.g. kitchen extensions, two storey extensions and new standalone outbuildings</p>
Best conversion or alteration to an existing home	<p>Creating additional habitable spaces in a dwelling.</p> <p>This includes garage conversions, loft conversions and converting outbuildings to office space or leisure facilities.</p> <p>Renovations, alterations, and refurbishments can also be entered into this category</p>
Best conversion to single new home	<p>Creating a new single dwelling from a building previously used for another purpose.</p> <p>This includes barn conversions, retail unit or office space to a single dwelling, conversion of flats to a single dwelling.</p>
Best individual new home	<p>This recognises high quality one-off new build homes and could include 'self-build' or premium single unit developments.</p> <p>This category is for single unit sites. Therefore, single houses on a multi plot site won't be eligible.</p>
New Housing Categories	
Small New Housing Development - 5 units or fewer (for private sale or rent)	<p>Small new housing developments of 5 units or fewer built for private sale or rent.</p> <p>This recognises new private housing sites but not individual homes which can be entered into the Best Individual New Home category.</p> <p>Conversions of existing buildings into new housing development for private sale or rent are included in this category (e.g. offices into flats)</p>
Medium Volume New Housing Development – 6 to 30 units (for private sale or rent)	<p>Medium volume new housing developments of 6 to 30 units built for private sale or rent.</p> <p>This recognises new private housing sites but not individual homes which can be entered into the Best Individual New Home category.</p> <p>Conversions of existing buildings into a new housing development for private sale or rent are included in this category. (e.g. offices into flats)</p>
High Volume New Housing Development - more than 30 units (for private sale or rent)	<p>This is for high volume new housing developments of more than 30 units built for private sale or rent.</p> <p>This recognises new private housing sites but not individual homes which can be entered into the Best Individual New Home category.</p> <p>Conversions of existing buildings into a new housing development for private sale or rent are included in this category. (e.g. offices into flats)</p>
Best Small Social Housing (30 or fewer units)	<p>This recognises social housing developments of 30 or fewer units by organisations developing new social or affordable homes.</p>

2021 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



	This also includes major retrofits, conversions, and renovations to significantly improve the quality and sustainability of the dwellings.
Best Large Social Housing (more than 30 units)	This recognises social housing developments of more than 30 units by organisations developing new social or affordable homes. This also includes major retrofits, conversions, and renovations to significantly improve the quality and sustainability of the dwellings.
Purpose Built Accommodation	This recognises purpose-built accommodation for specific residential groups such as: student accommodation, care homes, staff accommodation at hospitals, sheltered housing and boarding houses.
Non-residential	
Best extension or alteration – Non-residential	This recognises extensions to buildings used for retail, hospitality, offices, industrial, farming, warehousing or other commercial use, including refurbishment, fitout and redevelopment. Extensions must be attached to the main building: standalone buildings on the same plot do not qualify for this category.
Best conversion – Non-residential	This recognises projects changing the use of a residential building to non-residential / commercial. This includes creating retail, hospitality, offices, industrial, farming, warehousing or other commercial uses Refurbishment, fitout and redevelopment projects can be entered into this category.
Best Non-residential new build	This recognises exceptional new commercial buildings.
Best public or community building	This recognises any new build or extension to a building used as a health, leisure, sports, tourism, museum, defence, worship, transport, prison, school, colleges, or nursery facility. This also includes refurbishments.

2021 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



PEOPLE AWARDS	
Best residential and small commercial designer	<p>This recognises good quality designers that work predominantly on domestic extensions, alterations and refurbishment projects.</p> <p>Specific Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency of high-quality design • References and testimonials from building control team and/or customer/s.
Best residential and small commercial builder	<p>This recognises good quality general builders that work predominantly on domestic extensions, alterations and refurbishment projects.</p> <p>Specific Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent delivery of high-quality work and attention to detail • References and testimonials from building control team and/or customer/s.
Best Residential Site Manager	<p>This recognises a specific residential site agent rather than a company.</p> <p>Nominations for this should be for a site agent that has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority building control team and demonstrates commitment to excellent homes.</p> <p>Specific Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC building control surveyors • Evidence of build quality, management of safety and control on site • Examples of technical awareness and good communication • Evidence of issues or problems resolved • References and testimonials from building control or other development partners to support the nomination
Best Non-Residential Site Manager	<p>This recognises a specific non-residential site agent rather than a company.</p> <p>Nominations for this should be for a site agent that has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority building control team and demonstrates commitment to excellent buildings.</p> <p>Specific Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC building control surveyors • Evidence of build quality, management of safety and control on site • Examples of technical awareness and good communication • Evidence of issues or problems resolved • References and testimonials from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.
Construction Specialist of the Year	<p>This includes dutyholders, architects, fire engineers and any other members of the design team working on large scale projects.</p>

2021 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



	<p>Specific Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC building control surveyors • Awareness of responsibilities and accountability • Examples of technical specialism • Good communication with stakeholders • Evidence of issues identified and problems resolved • References and testimonials from building control or other stakeholders to support the nomination.
LABC Newcomer of the Year	<p>This includes local authority building control apprentices and trainee surveyors that have joined an LABC team in the last 3 years. This includes someone that has recently joined building control from another role such as a technician, tradesperson, construction professional or fire fighter.</p> <p>Newcomers should be able to demonstrate that they have gone the extra mile with regards to one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service - Client's love working with them because of their amazing rapport, service, energy, and administrative help • Innovation - They're keen to see innovation adopted, will research options, and find or adopt new solutions • Proactive - They have been proactive in raising enforcement issues, and embraced transformation, for example by piloting a different way of working, contributed to the process and then encouraged/helped others.
Public Service Superstar	<p>This is for those working in a public service role working alongside other teams ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of people in and around buildings.</p> <p>This includes members of the emergency services, HSE, planning, environmental health, health and safety professionals and other local authority services.</p> <p>This person should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approachable • Accountable • A great communicator • Someone who upholds the values of public service • Able to demonstrate how they've made a difference
Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control Team	<p>This category recognises excellence in working within registered official partnerships with LABC as part of LABC's Partner Authority Scheme.</p> <p><u>Specific criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence should be provided that the partnership in question has been longstanding and has gone beyond the 'normal' working relationship.

2021 Building Excellence Awards Judging Criteria



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• Demonstrate a consistently high standard of work and the value of the partnership.• How did you overcome challenges together?• What is special or unique about the partnership?
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