



# 2024 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:

- 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 2024 awards must have completed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023
2. Entries can be made by LABC surveyors and technicians as well as members of the project team. All entries made by persons other than LABC surveyors and technicians 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](http://www.labc.co.uk/awards)
4. Projects and individuals can be entered into one category only
5. Most questions have a minimum and maximum word count. You will not be able to submit your entry if you haven't met the minimum or have exceeded the maximum.
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 design 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?)



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PROJECT CATEGORIES	
<b>Residential Categories</b>	
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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
Best conversion or alteration to an existing home	<p>Creating additional habitable spaces in a dwelling.</p> <p>This includes garage conversions, cellar 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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
<b>New Housing Categories</b>	
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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>



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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> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></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> <p>This also includes major retrofits, conversions, and renovations to significantly improve the quality and sustainability of the dwellings.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
Best Large Social Housing (more than 30 units)	<p>This recognises social housing developments of more than 30 units by organisations developing new social or affordable homes.</p> <p>This also includes major retrofits, conversions, and renovations to significantly improve the quality and sustainability of the dwellings.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
Purpose Built Accommodation	<p>This recognises purpose-built accommodation for specific residential groups such as: student accommodation, care homes, staff accommodation at hospitals, sheltered housing and boarding houses.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
<b>Non-residential</b>	
Best non-residential extension, alteration or conversion	<p>This recognises extensions to buildings used for retail, hospitality, offices, industrial, farming, warehousing or other commercial use, including refurbishment, fitout and redevelopment. This includes projects changing the use of a residential building to non-residential / commercial.</p> <p>Extensions must be attached to the main building: standalone buildings on the same plot do not qualify for this category.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
Best Non-residential new build	<p>This recognises exceptional new commercial buildings.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
Best public or community building	<p>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.</p> <p>This also includes refurbishments.</p> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>

### PEOPLE CATEGORIES

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<p>Best residential and small commercial designer</p>	<p>This recognises good quality designers that work predominantly on domestic extensions, alterations and refurbishment projects.</p> <p><b>Specific Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency of high-quality design</li> <li>• References and testimonials from building control team and/or customer/s.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
<p>Best residential and small commercial builder</p>	<p>This recognises good quality general builders that work predominantly on domestic extensions, alterations and refurbishment projects.</p> <p><b>Specific Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent delivery of high-quality work and attention to detail</li> <li>• References and testimonials from building control team and/or customer/s.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
<p>LABC Site Manager of the Year</p>	<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><b>Specific Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC building control surveyors</li> <li>• Evidence of build quality, management of safety and control on site</li> <li>• Examples of technical awareness and good communication</li> <li>• Evidence of issues or problems resolved</li> <li>• References and testimonials from building control or other development partners to support the nomination</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
<p>Construction Specialist of the Year</p>	<p>This includes dutyholders, architects, fire engineers and any other members of the design team working on large scale projects.</p> <p><b>Specific Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC building control surveyors</li> <li>• Awareness of responsibilities and accountability</li> <li>• Examples of technical specialism</li> <li>• Good communication with stakeholders</li> <li>• Evidence of issues identified and problems resolved</li> <li>• References and testimonials from building control or other stakeholders to support the nomination.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>



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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, or from another profession.</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"><li>• <b>Service</b> - Clients love working with them because of their amazing rapport, service, energy, and administrative help</li><li>• <b>Innovation</b> - They're keen to see innovation adopted, will research options, and find or adopt new solutions</li><li>• <b>Proactive</b> - 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.</li></ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
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 local authority building control surveyors, members of the emergency services, HSE, planning, environmental health, health and safety professionals and other local authority services.</p> <p><b>This person should be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approachable</li><li>• Accountable</li><li>• A great communicator</li><li>• Someone who upholds the values of public service</li><li>• Able to demonstrate how they've made a difference</li></ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>



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<p>Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control Team</p>	<p>This category recognises excellence in working within registered official partnerships with LABC as part of LABC’s Partner Authority Scheme.</p> <p><b>Specific Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence should be provided that the partnership in question has been longstanding and has gone beyond the ‘normal’ working relationship.</li><li>• 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</li><li>• Demonstrate a consistently high standard of work and the value of the partnership.</li><li>• How did you overcome challenges together?</li><li>• What is special or unique about the partnership?</li></ul> <p><a href="#">View the 2023 regional winners here.</a></p>
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