

2017 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 2017 awards must have been completed between 1 January and 31 December 2016
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/site agent should win. 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 Regulations (quality detailed plans, pre-commencement meetings, timely notifications and a high level of compliance)
2. Performance & Sustainability (The use of renewables, BREEAM, SBEM, low air leakage, good expected running and life-cycle costs.)
3. Working Relationships (Did the team work well together, were there good relationships with the building control team and was information provided in good time?)
4. Site & Project Management (Were the sites safe and healthy? Were there active waste management strategies? How closely were sub-contractors monitored?)
5. Innovation & Problem-solving (Were innovative products used or new ideas implemented? Were technology and creative approaches applied to tricky situations?)

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6. Overall Outcomes (Were projects delivered on time and on budget? Were clients' requirements met? And how was the performance of the final product?)
7. Why your project/company/site agent should win (What's special or unique about them?)

Category Specific Criteria

In addition to the general criteria, 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. 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 craftsperson

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 – compliance with building regulations.

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.

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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.

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 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.

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10. Best Inclusive Building

This award recognises schemes that have gone beyond minimum design standards to ensure that the highest standards of inclusive design have been achieved, avoiding segregation and barriers to access and inclusion.

Specific Criteria - Entries should not be limited to 'specialist' or 'segregated' provision for which the end users need an accessible design. They should evidence an inclusive approach which goes beyond Part M of the Building Regulations, adopting a pan-disability/ pan-impairment approach, incorporating the needs of a wide range of users. Submissions should detail design guidance used, and any involvement of access professionals or access groups.

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 – The partnership must be an official partnership with LABC as part of our Partner Authority Scheme. 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. Entries should include information about the relationship with Local Authority Building Control - 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 agent of the year

This recognises a specific person rather than a company. 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.

Specific Criteria - Evidence of a good working relationship with an LABC surveyor - Evidence of build quality and control on site - 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.

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. Please refrain from using wide angle lenses.

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- For site based entries we'll need 6 good quality photographs taken in daylight (e.g. before and after photos for change of use projects).
- For the Best Site Agent we'll need a head and shoulders shot of the individual as well as photos of the site.
- For the Best Partnership category we need photos of a range of building projects that the partners have worked on together
- For Best Local Builder we'll need the company logo in JPEG format as well as photographs of building projects.

Should you need any assistance in completing the form please call the Awards Team on 0207 091 6860.