

HOUSES AWARDS

ENTRY GUIDELINES 2025

Entries will be accepted until 14 March 2025.

All entry submissions must be made online at housesawards.com.au including responses to written criteria and uploading images and drawings.

ENTRY

There are four simple steps involved in submitting your entries.

01 CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

To commence your submission, you must first create your account. Refer to MY ENTRIES on the awards site: housesawards.com.au.

Once you have commenced a submission, you can log in and out at any time without losing your data, but we do recommend that you first complete the written responses in a Word document, before cutting and pasting into the online entry form.

02 CHOOSE AWARD CATEGORY

Primary

There are six primary categories, which attract fees. Projects may be entered into more than one category (for example, a granny flat that is part of a new house can be entered as a Small Project, and be included within a New House under 200m² entry; a pool house that is part of an alteration and addition can be entered as a Small Project, and be included within an Alteration and Addition over 200m² entry). Each entry requires a separate submission and fee.

Optional

There are three optional categories, which are free to enter when entering a primary category. To be considered for these you must have entered at least one primary category and submit further information, which will be prompted in Step 3.

Automatic

There is one automatic category, for the Australian House of the Year. Winners of the six primary award categories will be considered for this overall award.

Further details are explained in the Categories section which follows. Please read these carefully.

03 CREATE ENTRY SUBMISSION

Before beginning your entry submission, read the Conditions section. Submitting an entry means that you have read and agreed to all the conditions, including obtaining appropriate releases and authorities in writing from your client, photographer and, where applicable, the principal of the design practice.

You will be prompted to respond to specific written criteria (following) and upload supporting materials (images, floor plans, drawings etc.).

Images

You must submit 6 to 15 images (not visualisations) of your project in high-resolution format. Use the highest quality JPG setting available. TIF images will not be accepted.

Submit JPG images that are at least 3500 pixels wide, with a file size no larger than 20 MB. Images of at least 4500 pixels wide are preferred and will enable a higher-quality print coverage. If your images are coming in above the 20 MB size limit, try re-saving them in Photoshop and reducing the JPEG compression level to 8.

To maintain anonymity during judging, no design practice names may appear on images, floor plans or written support materials; however, client names may be included.

Drawings plans and elevations

You may also submit one PDF with up to five pages of relevant drawings in vector-based PDF format (site plan, floor plan, sections, elevations and/or any other relevant drawings or diagrams, such as concept sketches and images of models), with a file size no larger than 10 MB. Drawings must include a scale bar, key and north point. For Alteration and Addition categories, please consider including a 'before' plan.

Video content (optional)

You may submit a brief video to be used for publicity. It won't be viewed by the jury. Upload to Vimeo or YouTube and include the URL, where prompted.

04 ENTRY SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT

Once you have completed steps one to three (above) you may pay for and submit your project. Remember, primary categories attract entry fees but optional categories do not.

The first primary category entry attracts a fee of \$435, with subsequent primary category entries charged at \$335 each. The system will automatically charge subsequent entries (i.e. from the same applicant) at the reduced rate.

Each submission and payment is confirmed by the issuing of a tax receipt, which is sent to your email address. Retain a copy for taxation purposes. Visa, Mastercard and Amex are accepted.

CATEGORIES

PRIMARY CATEGORIES (entry fee payable)

New House under 200 square metres

This category recognises achievement in the design of a newly constructed detached or semi-detached individual dwelling with a floor area of less than 200 square metres. The floor area measurement includes all internal and built external spaces. Entries should describe the house in its entirety – including the built form, interiors, outdoor spaces and context. As a guide, if less than 10 percent of an existing dwelling has been retained the project is eligible in this category.

New House over 200 square metres

This category recognises achievement in the design of a newly constructed detached or semi-detached individual dwelling with a floor area of more than 200 square metres. The floor area measurement includes all internal and built external spaces. Entries should describe the house in its entirety – including the built form, interiors, outdoor spaces and context. As a guide, if less than 10 percent of an existing dwelling has been retained the project is eligible in this category.

House Alteration and Addition under 200 square metres

This category recognises achievement in the design of a renovation, extension or substantial reworking of an existing detached or semi-detached individual dwelling with a floor area of less than 200 square metres. The floor area measurement includes all internal and built external spaces of the existing house and any extensions or additions. Entries should describe the house in its entirety – including the built form, interiors, outdoor spaces and context. As a guide, if more than 10 percent of an existing dwelling has been retained the project is eligible in this category.

House Alteration and Addition over 200 square metres

This category recognises achievement in the design of a renovation, extension or substantial reworking of an existing detached or semi-detached individual dwelling with a floor area of more than 200 square metres. The floor area measurement includes all built internal and external spaces of the existing house and any extensions or additions. Entries should describe the house in its entirety – including the built form, interiors, outdoor spaces and context. As a guide, if more than 10 percent of an existing dwelling has been retained the project is eligible in this category.

Apartment or Unit

This category recognizes achievement in the design of a newly built or renovated individual dwelling within a multiresidential building. Eligible projects include single apartments, units, duplexes and display suites, but exclude hotels or other short-term accommodation. Projects that encompass the design or refit of an entire multiresidential building are eligible, but entries (including photographs and drawings) should primarily describe the design of an individual dwelling.

Small Project (NEW CATEGORY)

This category recognises achievement in the design of a small-scale residential project. Projects must relate to a larger primary dwelling, but should be able to be considered by the jury as a standalone project. Eligible projects include granny flats; pool houses; decks, pergolas and outdoor

rooms; studios and workshops; garages, sheds and boathouses; stables. Typically the floor area should be less than 80 square metres. All secondary dwellings (where subdivision has not taken place) should be submitted in this category.

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES (no fee)

Sustainability

This category recognises achievement in the design of individual dwellings and attached outdoor space that display innovation and excellence in terms of environmental sustainability. Entries should demonstrate best practice via relevant residential rating tools, legislation and other measures; consider the local and global impact of design decisions; and address building, household and material life cycles.

House in a Heritage Context

This category recognises achievement in new works and/or conservation for heritage buildings and associated landscapes for residential use. To be eligible in this category the property must be subject to statutory heritage listing at a local authority or higher level. In exceptional circumstances, other projects may be considered. Entries should primarily describe how the project's design and conservation works address the heritage significance of the place, and demonstrate excellence in adaptive reuse and/or conservation.

Emerging Architecture Practice

This category recognises achievement in the portfolio of residential work by recently established practices. Entries should primarily describe the culture and philosophy of the practice, including how this is manifested in the design of residential projects.

Eligible practices must meet two criteria, as at 28 February 2024:

1. The practice must have been established within the last five years
2. At least one principal must have first registered as an architect within the last seven years.

AUTOMATIC CATEGORY (no fee)

Australian House of the Year

The overall award for the Australian House of the Year is selected from the winners of the seven primary award categories. This is the premier award of the program and recognises excellence and innovation in the design of an individual dwelling.

WRITTEN CRITERIA

Primary Categories

To maintain anonymity during judging, no names of applicants or collaborating parties may appear on images, floor plans or written

support materials. Note the word limits below are maximums. Succinct responses are strongly recommended.

Written responses must address the following:

- 01 Provide a brief project description for the jury. This statement will also be published to the gallery, should your project be shortlisted. (Limit 50 words)
- 02 What is the conceptual framework of the project – including underlying principles, values, sustainable initiatives, core ideas and/or philosophy? (Limit 200 words)
- 03 What contribution does the design make to the lives of the inhabitants? (Limit 100 words)
- 04 What is the relationship of the built form to the context of the project? (Limit 100 words)
- 05 Program resolution – how does the functional performance match the clients' brief? (Limit 100 words)
- 06 Integration of allied disciplines – how have the contributions of others, including architects, interior designers, landscape architects, builders and other specialists, helped achieve the outcome? (Limit 100 words)
- 07 Cost/value outcome – how effective were the decisions related to financial issues? (Limit 100 words)

Additional material for Optional Categories

Sustainability

For this category, you will be asked to respond to the following:

- 01 How does this project demonstrate innovation and excellence in terms of environmental sustainability? (Limit 200 words)
- 02 Additional sustainability strategies. (Limit 200 words)

House in a Heritage Context

For this category, you will be asked to submit, in PDF format, the supporting justification provided as part of any development application for heritage approval (i.e. Heritage Impact Statement or similar).

Emerging Architecture Practice

For this category, you will be asked to submit a practice CV, in PDF format, no more than 10 pages in length, that includes the following:

- Information about the date and process for establishment of the practice
- Number, type and visuals (drawings, photographs etc.) of residential projects completed by the practice
- A brief comment on each of the practice principals' background, including age and architect registration date
- A description of the culture and philosophy of the practice, including how this is manifested in the design of residential projects.

CONDITIONS

Eligibility

Projects must be individual dwellings designed primarily for residential occupation. Entry is open to Australian-based and international design professionals as long as the project submitted is located in Australia. Entries are encouraged from practices of all scales, specialisations and locations.

Entries are open to projects completed between 1 January 2024 and 28 February 2025.

Projects may be entered in more than one category, where appropriate (separate submission and entry fee required).

Publicity and Copyright

By entering this program, the applicant confirms that they have obtained their client's written approval to enter and for any resultant publicity, including for projects cited in the CVs of entrants into the Emerging Architecture Practice category. Client names and project addresses will not be published. Specific information about project budgets is not released for publication unless approved by the applicant.

By entering, the applicant (if not the practice principal) confirms that they have obtained the authority of the principal to enter the program, including for any resultant publicity. The organiser does not make any claims on copyright or intellectual property of the designs entered other than the rights outlined in the following paragraph. By entering this program, the applicant agrees to absolve the organiser from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party.

The organiser reserves the right to exhibit or publish any or all of the entries. By entering the awards the applicant/owner gives permission to the organiser to publish, exhibit and promote the content of the submission (except for the client's name, project address and, unless approved by the applicant, project budgets), including by sponsors of the awards, where their use of submission content is specifically

related to promotion of their involvement in the awards. In all promotion, the organiser will endeavour to promote the name of the design firm/s and, where the organiser is made aware of their names and to the extent that the organiser can exert editorial control, photographers will be acknowledged. All finalists must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography, drawings and other information. The applicant acknowledges that the organiser has the right to reproduce materials in whole or part without payment of release or licensing fees to the holder of publication rights or copyright.

General

An entry shall be excluded from the program if:

- received after the advertised closing date (although submissions that have been commenced but not completed by the closing date may be included at the discretion of the organiser)
- it does not fulfil the conditions outlined here
- it is incomplete or doesn't conform to the correct format as specified under [Entry](#).

The organiser is committed to providing a quality awards program to the Australian architecture and design community and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information included on the Houses Awards website (housesawards.com.au) and elsewhere. However, changes in content and process may become necessary at the absolute discretion of the organiser. The organiser accepts no liability for any use of the said content or reliance placed upon it.

CALENDAR

Entry submissions will be accepted from Monday 16 December 2024 until Friday 14 March 2025.

Requests to withdraw an entry will be accepted if made in writing (housesawards@archmedia.com.au) prior to the submission deadline of Friday 14 March 2025, with refund of the entry fee less an administration charge of \$100. After this date, projects may not be withdrawn. The shortlist will be published

online by close of business on 9 May 2025 and shortlisted entrants will receive email notification via the Houses e-newsletter.

Awards and commendations will be presented during an awards announcement and celebration in Sydney on Friday 1 August 2025.

A report will be published in the August issue of Houses (issue 165), which will be released on the night of the announcement. Details will also be published online in the Houses Awards gallery on 1 August 2025.

PRIZES

There is a total prize pool of \$14,000.

The winner of the Australian House of the Year Award will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

All other categories offer a \$1,000 cash prize.

Event enquiries

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