

# Leeds Architecture Awards 2023

## Guide for applicants

The Leeds Architecture Awards aim to recognize high quality sustainable architecture which is situated within the boundary of the Leeds Metropolitan District.

The awards are managed by a partnership comprising Leeds City Council, Leeds Civic Trust, Leeds Society of Architects and RIBA.

### Eligibility

All projects that were completed between 1 July 2018 and 16 June 2023 are eligible.

An entry must contribute to the cityscape and so must be visible to the public and capable of appreciation from a public location, even if the scheme itself is not publicly accessible.

Where a phase in a scheme is submitted for consideration, the judges will need to be satisfied that the phase has a defined start and end point (e.g. the completion of a defined building) rather than simply capturing a point in time in the overall development of a scheme.

### Main award categories

- Adapted buildings

This will include buildings of any age that have been retrofitted and/or repurposed and/or refurbished. Entries may include an element of new build, but the judges will consider the extent to which the new build element complements the existing structure. A scheme that is substantially new build with a small element of reuse will not be considered under this category and should be submitted to one of the new buildings categories.

- New buildings with a construction value of less than £10 million
- New buildings with a construction value of more than £10 million

Two awards will be made for new buildings. Those with a construction cost of more than £10 million and those with a construction cost of less than £10 million

For both of these categories, entries may include schemes that incorporate some existing features or structures, but will only be eligible where the substantive development can be described as new build.

If the scheme is substantially about re-use, it should be submitted to the adapted buildings category.

- Cultural projects

To mark the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture, this special category will consider new or adapted buildings, public realm and landscape which have a cultural or arts focus.

This category is broadly defined to cover any intervention with an architectural or design element that contributes positively to the built environment. It may include entries that could otherwise have been submitted to other categories.

- Public realm and landscape

This will include all publicly accessible spaces. This category may include spaces between buildings but also new public realm. In all cases these spaces must be fully accessible to the public; private gardens or other spaces that are not open to the public will be ineligible.

Reallocation of submissions

The judges reserve the right to reallocate a submission if they consider that there is a more suitable category under which it should be judged.

Awards and commendations

For each of the main award categories, one overall winner will be announced from a shortlist. The judges may also choose to commend one or more of the shortlisted entries for any of the main award categories.

## Special Awards

- Sustainability Award

Whilst all entries are expected to demonstrate strong sustainability design principles, the judges reserve the right to give a special award to one or more submission to one of the main award categories where the project or projects displays outstanding sustainability characteristics.

- Project of the year

A “project of the year” award will be given to one of the winners of the main award categories

## Assessment process

### Stage 1

A desktop exercise will be conducted by representatives of the organisers (with further specialist advice if required) to produce a shortlist for each category.

### Stage 2

A three person expert judging panel will be tasked with identifying category winners and commendations, an overall project of the year award and, if merited, a sustainability award.

The judges will expect to be able to be given full access to each of the schemes shortlisted during the course of a site visit and a representative of the scheme may be required to answer questions about the scheme on site. Precise arrangements for this will be communicated to the shortlisted schemes in advance of the visit.

## Assessment criteria

The judges at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will assess each proposal according to a standard set of criteria.

In coming to a view, the judges will wish to be made aware of any wider social, economic or physical contexts for the scheme through information provided at application stage. This might for example include a constrained budget or timetable for completion of the project or physical constraints on a difficult site and how well the project has been realized in response to these or other constraints. The judges consider each design on its merits, ignoring personal taste regarding particular design solutions.

The judges final view will consider all of the criteria “in the round”, accepting that a scheme may be judged as high quality even if some elements are stronger than others.

The judges will use the following criteria to judge the merits of each project submitted:

#### 1. Quality of design

The judges will consider in particular how ambitious the design choices are, the extent to which there is a consistency of approach in the implementation of design solutions and the innovative and original nature of the design. The potential for the scheme to be regarded as exemplary in design terms in future decades will also be considered.

#### 2. Setting and context

The judges will look at the design of the scheme and how well it relates to its immediate surroundings.

#### 3. Sustainability

It is a given that all schemes will be required to meet statutory requirements with regard to sustainability. Judges will be looking at the extent to which schemes go “above and beyond” these requirements, and the extent to which such elements are not simply “bolted on” to a scheme but are a genuine expression of bottom-up sustainable design.

At the judges' discretion, one or more schemes from the shortlist may be given a special sustainability award where the scheme is considered exemplary with regard to this criterion.

#### 4. Materiality

The judges will look at the quality of materials used, how appropriate they are to their immediate surroundings, how durable and sustainable they are likely to be in the future and the quality of the detailing employed in using these materials.

#### 5. Fitness for purpose

The judges will consider how well the end use is catered for, and the extent to which the project responds to the client's original brief. In the case of building projects, the judges will pay particular attention to how effective internal arrangements are for their users

### Timetable

It is anticipated that the Stage 1 and Stage 2 judging processes will have been completed by the beginning of September at which point bookings will open for the awards ceremony which takes place on the evening of 1 November at the Howard Assembly Room.

### Fees

A fee of £125 will be chargeable for each entry submitted. This fee will be waived where the entry is from a charity or not for profit organization with a turnover of less than £1 million per annum.

### Submission of entries

Entries must be submitted using an online form which is accessible at:

[www.leedsarchitectureawards.co.uk](http://www.leedsarchitectureawards.co.uk)

The online form details the information required by the judges.

Up to ten images can be uploaded in support of the application which may comprise up to five photographs and up to five drawings, sketches, CGI images or graphics. Each image should be no more than 2MB in size (or a total size of 20MB in total) Each applicant should choose the images they submit to assist the judges in coming to a view based on the above criteria.

### Confidentiality and publicity

By submitting the information, the applicant is allowing the images to be used by the competition in publicity materials (where necessary larger files may be sought at a later stage if necessary to facilitate this). The statement provided by the applicant in support of their project may also be used in publicity materials. Personal information (email addresses, telephone numbers) will remain confidential and will only be used to enable the competition to be run effectively.