Buildings and Places Project of the Year

Eligibility

This category recognises outstanding public or private building and place based projects that demonstrate excellence in delivery, sustainability, user outcomes and long term value.

Eligible projects may include newbuild developments, refurbishments, retrofits, adaptive reuse schemes or place shaping interventions.

Projects must show clear, evidenced impact delivered during the 2025 qualifying period.

1. Project Eligibility

- Open to UK based building and place projects of all scales and sectors. Based building and place projects of all scales and sectors.

- Projects may be completed, or significantly progressed, with verifiable outcomes evidenced in 2025.

- Entries may be submitted by consultants, designers, engineers, contractors, clients or collaborative delivery teams.

- Eligible project types include:
  - New-build developments
  - Refurbishment and retrofit
  - Adaptive reuse
  - Estate or campus improvements
  - Public realm and placemaking schemes

2. Scope & Focus of Submission

Successful Delivery & Project Outcomes

Entries must demonstrate:

- Delivery to programme, budget and defined quality standards

- Effective management of constraints (site, heritage, planning, community, operational continuity)

- Evidence of project success through completion metrics, client testimony or performance validation

Technical Expertise, Collaboration & Problem Solving-Solving

Submissions should highlight:

- Robust, high quality engineering and design work

- Effective interdisciplinary collaboration (client, designers, engineers, contractors, specialists)

- Problem solving across the project lifecycle—concept design to handover

- Use of best practice methodologies, digital tools or innovative delivery approaches

Improved Building or Place Performance

Entries must evidence:

- Enhanced operational efficiency, comfort, safety or accessibility

- Post occupancy or post completion evaluation-occupancy

- User centred benefits such as wellbeing, inclusivity, productivity or experience improvements

Examples of evidence include POE studies, operational energy data, indoor environmental quality metrics, user surveys, occupancy or flow data.

Environmental, Social & Economic Impact

Entries should demonstrate:

- Carbon reduction (operational and/or embodied)

- Resource efficient design, circularity, reuse of existing assets or materials

- Biodiversity, nature, water or climate resilience enhancements

- Social value outcomes for communities, occupants or local economies

Innovation, Best Practice & Long-term Value

Projects must show:

- Innovative design, engineering, delivery or operational strategies

- Approaches that enhance building longevity, adaptability or whole life value

- Lasting benefits for communities, clients, the environment or the wider sector

- Replicable lessons or best practice that elevate industry standards

3. Evidence Requirements

Submissions should provide proportionate and credible evidence, such as:

- Technical reports or design summaries

- Delivery KPIs (quality, time, cost, safety)

- Operational energy or carbon data

- Post occupancy evaluations or user feedback

- Social value assessments or community engagement outcomes

- Visual documentation (drawings, imagery, before/after comparisons)

4. Judging Considerations

Judges will assess:

- The strength and credibility of delivery, from design to completion

- The quality of technical work and collaboration across teams

- Demonstrable performance improvement for buildings or places

- Environmental, social and economic impact, evidenced and measurable

- The project's long term value, legacy and contribution to best practice