

Architecture, Au Award for Social Impact

Good design doing good

Entry Guidelines 2026

The ArchitectureAu Award for Social Impact recognises projects that promote the common good. It has been conceived to reward practice that preferences empathy over aesthetics, extending the spatial possibilities of architecture to advance the discipline and to empower its users.

Entries will be accepted until 5 pm AEST on Friday 10 April 2026.

Entries must be made online at aasocialimpact.com.au

1. PRIZE

A cash prize of \$5,000 is offered.

The jury may, at its discretion, make a number of honorable mentions.

2. JURY

Andrew Nimmo

Lahznimmo Architects

Ceridwen Owen

University of Tasmania

Sara Lynn Rees

Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

Jess Scully

RadicalxChange

Katelin Butler

Architecture Media

Jury Convenor: **Rory Hyde**

Melbourne School of Design

University of Melbourne

3. JUDGING

The judging process is blind and based on peer review. The identity of entrants is not revealed until jury decisions are finalised.

Jurors are required to declare any association or conflict of interest regarding an entered project and step down from the judging of that entry.

Jury decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Any built environment professional may enter, including architects, interior designers, interior architects, landscape architects, urban designers and planners and all other design

professionals. Entries are encouraged from individuals, groups, partnerships and those working in practices of all scales.

Projects for or about Australia are eligible. International projects are eligible if undertaken by Australian-based practitioners or by members of the Australian Institute of Architects, the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects or the Design Institute of Australia, no matter where they are based. Entry is also open to international built environment professionals as long as the project submitted is located in Australia.

Entries can be for projects of any scale: large-scale urban or landscape projects, architectural projects, interior projects, small interventions, etc.

Entered projects must be completed (built).

5. ENTRY

There are three simple steps involved in submitting your entries.

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

To commence your submission, you must first create your account. Refer MY ENTRIES on the awards site: aasocialimpact.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.

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 to upload supporting materials (images, floorplans, drawings etc.).

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.

A. IMAGES (MANDATORY)

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 (max. 8500 pixels wide), with a file size no larger than 20 MB. Images of at least 4500 pixels wide are preferred. 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.

B. DRAWINGS, PLANS AND ELEVATIONS (MANDATORY)

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.

C. VIDEO CONTENT (OPTIONAL)

URL to view video content that has been uploaded to Vimeo or YouTube.

D. WRITTEN CRITERIA (MANDATORY)

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

Written responses must address the following:

1. Provide a brief project description for the jury. This statement may also be published. (Limit 50 words)

2. What is the conceptual framework of the project – including underlying principles, social values, sustainable initiatives, core ideas and/or philosophy? (Limit 200 words)

3. What is the demonstrable social benefit of the scheme and how does the design enhance or extend this benefit? (Limit 200 words)

4. Program resolution – how does the functional performance match the clients' brief? (Limit 100 words)

5. In what way/s does the project aim to advance the practice of architecture? (Limit 100 words)

E. CLIENT STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

You have the opportunity to submit a client statement (limit 200 words) ideally authored by the person who drove the outcome and championed the project. The statement should describe the success of the project and how it met, and perhaps even exceeded, their expectations. While this is optional, it is recommended, as a client testimonial is often compelling. Note that excerpts from the client testimonial including client name may be published.

ENTRY SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT

Once you have completed steps one and two (above) you may pay for and submit your project.

The entry fee is \$150 incl. GST

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.

6. CONDITIONS

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.

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 project address and budget unless approved by the applicant), 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 in this document 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.

7. TIMELINE

Entries close at 5 pm (AEST) on Friday 10 April 2026.

The shortlist will be published on ArchitectureAu.com on Thursday 18 June 2026.

Awarded projects will be published on ArchitectureAu.com on Thursday 30 July 2026.

8. ENTRY ENQUIRIES

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