

FAQs specific to the 2021 Victorian Architecture Awards and COVID-19 restrictions

Q1: How will the program run with Victoria's restrictions still being eased?

We are planning to run the program as normally as possible, with the assumption that current restrictions will continue to ease.

See an event by event run down below;

Presentation to Juries – We believe presenting face to face is important in the Victorian Architecture Awards process and we have partnered with Melbourne School of Design to host the Presentation to juries for 2021. Room capacities for public viewing will be dependent on the restrictions at the time.

Additional virtual elements will be included in this event – see Q5

Site Visits – Site visits will go ahead as per normal as long as, at a minimum, the chairperson and one jury member can view projects, and all parties involved are agreeable.

If restrictions do not allow for a jury visit, a virtual tour similar to that which was used for the Victorian and National judging in 2020 will be adopted

Exhibition of Entries – The shortlist will be announced virtually in April, there will not be an in person announcement. The physical Exhibition of Entries will be a two-week exhibition held in May at a prominent location in the City.

Presentation Dinner – There is currently an on-going Institute wide discussion around the Presentation Dinner

Q2: What will happen if restrictions are tightened during the program.

If restrictions tighten to a point beyond allowing any important face-to-face elements the program will continue to move forward virtually. Options to withdraw will be considered at this time.

Q3: What if I am not comfortable attending a required event due to the current pandemic

The situation will be considered and if appropriate, the Institute is more than happy to sort a proxy or a virtual replacement.

Q4: What if one state has tighter restrictions than the others

At a state level, state architecture awards will be carried out under that state's particular restrictions/allowances.

At a National Level, if one state cannot allow site visits under their restrictions at the time of National judging, they will undertake them virtually. This then means all National judging will be done virtually to allow for consistency.

Q5: Some virtual elements introduced in 2020 were well received. Will this be continuing in 2021?

On top of all digital aspect of previous awards a few additional elements will be added for 2021.

Presentation to Juries – we are hoping to record all presentations live (just slides and audio) to then make available to jurors and also the public via the Institutes website.

Presentation Dinner – There is currently an on-going Institute wide discussion around the Presentation Dinner

Q6. What if I am not comfortable with being recorded?

There will be an option to opt out of having your Presentation available to the public. This will be sent in a Victorian specific document by the Awards Coordinator.

General Awards Program FAQs

Q1: How old can a project be to be entered in the Awards?

There is technically no limit, as long as the project is completed by 31 December 2020, the project can be entered in the 2021 awards. Advise the entrant to just bear in mind that the majority of entries the project would be competing against will have been completed in the last couple of years, so this is something to be considered when deciding whether to enter the project or not.

Q2: I'm a graduate and I have completed an urban design project that I would like to enter in the Awards, how do I do this?

You can't, entry to all categories in the Institute's Awards program is limited to registered architects as per the policy excerpt below:

ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS

Entry into the National Architecture Awards is limited to a person, or a team under the substantive control or direction of a person, who is:

- (i) an architect registered in the State or Territory of the project, and
- (ii) an Institute member, and
- (iii) a principal of the practice which is an owner or formal licensee of the copyright in the work being entered.

Where the entrant does not own the copyright, the entry must be accompanied by a written agreement from the copyright holder stating that the work may be entered for an award.

Q3: My project was entered and shortlisted in a previous year's Awards, can it be entered in this year's awards?

Yes, provided that the project was not awarded an Architecture Award or Named Award (and therefore didn't progress to the National Awards). Projects not awarded anything or those that were awarded Commendations can be entered in one future Awards program.

Q4: Is it possible to get a copy of, or replicate my entry from last year's awards?

A: Yes, if you are using the same Awards Force login, your previous entries should be available. If you are using a different login, contact the Awards Coordinator and they will be able to provide it for you.

Q5: The project I'd like to enter is a temporary exhibition space, can I still enter this if it is dismantled before the Awards are announced?

Yes you can, but it must be entered in the Small Project Architecture category, as this allows transitional projects that can't be site visited

Q6: My project fits into multiple categories. How do I choose which category to enter?

As a general rule, the project should be entered in the category which is the building's predominant use, however provided the entry material and entry presentation speaks to the category the project is entered in, it can be entered in whichever eligible category you choose, or multiple categories.

Projects can be entered in as many categories as entrants choose, but multiple entry fees will apply. Once one entry is completed, entries can be 'copied' on your login page from the 'my entries' section to save time, and then edited to suit.

Jurors are required to check for entries that they believe are in unsuitable categories, so there is a check point in place.

Q7: Can you explain the Small Project category, how big is small?

There is no set answer for this question unfortunately. The Small Project category was introduced to recognise projects that may otherwise be overlooked in other categories, so if the project is either small in budget or small in size, then the project can go in this category. Because of this, projects entered in the Small Project Category cannot be entered any other categories.

Juries are briefed that projects in the Small Project category can differ vastly and are judged accordingly, however if they feel that the project is not small it can be moved by the jury to another category after entries close.

Q8: I'm an A+ member with a practice, however, have done a project on the side under my own practice. Do I need to be an individual member, or can I enter while being a member under my A+ practice?

Entries are submitted alongside your individual membership details, so yes, you can, provided that you remain a member for the duration of the Awards program (if you leave the A+ practice you must arrange payment for your own membership). When you enter, the field 'Practice name for publication' under the 'Practice Team' tab is what will be used as the attribution for the project, so this can be whatever you want it to be.

Q9: I'm putting together the photographic panel for the Awards Exhibition, but all of my photos are landscape. What do I do? Can I place a landscape image in the centre and have white space around it, or produce a landscape board?

A: We would prefer you didn't. In order for the exhibition to look uniform and to work as one large display, photographs must fill the full panel and be portrait too. We recommend that if none of your images look right when cropped to portrait, a detail image is used. This can look just as effective. If you still believe the blank space will look better, that is no problems. The other optional submission requirements (sketches or video) can then be used to show the building in full. The Exhibition is not used for judging in anyway – it is purely to promote architecture.

Photos from last year's exhibition can be found on our Facebook page if this helps.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/VicChapter/photos/?tab=album&album_id=934815916631320

Q10: Is the additional material used for judging purposes?

No it is not. This material is used for a two-week Exhibition of Entries to promote Victorian architecture, promote entrants and promote entrants projects. With such a large entry pool we believe this event to be very important to allow exposure for all of our entrants, complimenting the digital galleries and media.