

MEDIA RELEASE

Canberra's best homes and projects revealed at 2026 Excellence Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canberra, ACT | Saturday 12 September 2026

Canberra's finest building and construction achievements have been recognised at the 2026 Master Builders and Asset Construction Hire Excellence Awards, with a record 236 finalists across 59 categories reflecting the Territory's exceptional talent, quality and innovation.

This year marks 36 years of Master Builders ACT recognising excellence in Canberra building and construction, with the 2026 awards program attracting a record 250 entries.

'The competition this year is one of the most intense we have seen to date,' said Anna Neelagama, CEO, Master Builders ACT.

'The calibre of entries across every category reflects an industry operating at the very top of its game, delivering homes, projects and infrastructure that set new benchmarks not only for the ACT, but for the nation.'

House of the Year: GEN5 Constructions and Habitat Constructions (NSW)

GEN5 Constructions, in collaboration with Habitat Constructions (NSW), took out House of the Year and Custom Built/Project Home of 2026 with their extraordinary \$8 million-plus certified Passive House Plus residence in Turner.

Behind its restrained façade, the awards judges were impressed by what they have called one of Australia's most technically ambitious homes.

Project of the Year: Lendlease Construction, ANZAC Hall and Atrium, Australian War Memorial

Lendlease Construction claimed the night's top honour, taking out both Project of the Year and Commercial Project of 2026 for the new ANZAC Hall and Atrium at the Australian War Memorial.

Together, we build better. 

Lauded as one of the most complex and technically ambitious public buildings ever constructed in Australia, this project is a major contemporary heritage project that was designed to respectfully expand the Memorial's heritage precinct, with judges praising it as 'excellence at a grand scale.'

A standout feature is the 130-metre curved raking concrete wall, clad in 3,600 pieces of sandstone sourced from the same quarry location as the original 1940s building.

Individual winners

The 2026 individual award winners are:

- Young Builder of the Year: Mark Cole, Freedom Built
- Construction Woman of the Year: Chloe Templeton, Construction Control Australia
- Professional of the Year: Richard Yarad, Lendlease Construction
- Project Manager of the Year: Mark Gallagher, BMD Group
- Onsite Construction Manager of the Year: Darren Jarrett, BMD Group

'These awards shine a light on the people and businesses whose skill, dedication and innovation shape our city. Every winner tonight should be immensely proud,' Ms Neelagama said.

'We are also thrilled to note that 42 of our winners will now go on to represent the ACT at the Master Builders Australia 2026 National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards in November.'

A full list of winners is attached.

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- Images are available to download [here](#). Further images are available on request.
- Interviews available with Anna Neelagama or winners on request.

MASTER BUILDERS AND ASSET CONSTRUCTION HIRE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2026 WINNERS

- **2026 House of the Year:** GEN5 Constructions and Habitat Constructions (NSW)
- **2026 Project of the Year:** Lendlease Construction, Australian War Memorial
- **Young Builder of the Year:** Mark Cole, Freedom Built
- **Construction Woman of the Year:** Chloe Templeton, Construction Control Australia

RESIDENTIAL WINNERS

- Custom Built/Project Home \$350,000 to \$500,000: Kolak Living
- Custom Built/Project Home \$500,000 to \$750,000: Vdara Construction, Neighbourhood Architecture and The Dept. of Design
- Custom Built/Project Home \$750,000 to \$1million: Kovarc Build
- Custom Built/Project Home \$1million to \$2million: Sterne Homes
- Custom Built/Project Home \$2million to \$4million: Walmsley Building
- Custom Built/Project Home more than \$4million: GEN5 Constructions and Habitat Constructions (NSW)
- **Residential Renovation/Extension Project of 2026: Manteena, Architects Ring and Associates and Archertec Interiors**
- Renovation/Extension less than \$250,000: Elite Renovations ACT
- Renovation/Extension \$250,000 to \$450,000: Prof Homes and Jast Design
- Renovation/Extension \$450,000 to \$1million: NEWR
- Renovation/Extension \$1million to \$2.5million: Vdara Construction
- Renovation/Extension more than \$2.5 million: Manteena, Architects Ring and Associates and Archertec Interiors
- **Medium Density Project of 2026: Sterne Homes and McDonald & Co**
- Medium Density Dual Occupancy/Habitable Suite: Sterne Homes and McDonald & Co
- Medium Density Townhouses and Villas: Preferred Builders, DNA Architects and Viceroy Studio
- **Display Home of 2026: Classic Constructions and LB Design Studio**
- **Apartment Project of 2026: Elevated Constructions (Aus)**
- Apartments and Units 8 stories and above: Hindmarsh Construction Australia
- Apartments and Units 4 storeys to 8 Storeys: Elevated Constructions (Aus)
- Apartments and Units up to 3 storeys: Milin Builders and Base Developments
- **Special Purpose Project of 2026: Construction Control Australia**
- Special Purpose/Adaptable Commercial Project: Construction Control Australia
- Special Purpose/Adaptable Dwelling: Pichelmann Custom Building Service

COMMERCIAL WINNERS

- **Commercial Construction Project of 2026: Lendlease Construction**
- Commercial Construction less than \$5million: Elevated Constructions (Aus)
- Commercial Construction \$5million to \$10million: Monarch Building Solutions
- Commercial Construction \$10million to \$20million: Design Construct Industries
- Commercial Construction \$20million to \$50million: Shaw Building Group

- Commercial Construction \$50million to \$100million: Hindmarsh Construction Australia Pty
- Commercial Construction more than \$100million: Lendlease Construction
- **Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration Project of 2026: Complex Co.**
- Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration less than \$1million: Monarch Building Solutions
- Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration \$1million to \$2.5million: Complex Co.
- Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration \$2.5million to \$5million: Fore Group
- Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration \$5million to \$10million: FDC Construction & Fitout (ACT)
- Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration more than \$10million: Built

CIVIL WINNERS

- **Civil Project of 2026: Complex Co.**
- Civil Bridgeworks: Woden Contractors
- Civil Education: Cappello Commercial Hydraulics & Civil
- Civil Entertainment/Sporting/Recreation Facility: Complex Co.
- Civil Hydraulic: Complex Co.
- Civil Other: Complex Co., Suburban Land Agency & Egis Consulting
- Civil Roadworks: Huon Contractors
- Civil Subdivision: Woden Contractors

SUSTAINABILITY WINNERS

- **Sustainable Project of 2026: Woden Contractors**
- Sustainable Commercial Project: Joss Construction
- Sustainable Residential Project: Vdara Construction and Neighbourhood Architecture
- Sustainable Civil Project: Woden Contractors

WHS WINNERS

- **WHS Project of 2026: Lendlease Construction**
- WHS Commercial: Lendlease Construction
- WHS Targeted Risk Management System: Lendlease Construction

SUBCONTRACTOR WINNERS

- **Commercial Subcontractor of the Year 2026: ACT Steelworks**
- **Residential Subcontractor of the Year 2026: SVC Contractors**
- **Best Use of Material in a Project 2026: Eifer**
- Best use of Material in a Commercial Project: Eifer
- Best use of Material in a Residential Project: Simplicity Kitchens
- **Kitchen Project of 2026: Simplicity Kitchens and Pacific Stone**
- Kitchen Project less than \$50,000: Preferred Builders, Viceroy Studio and Capital Veneering
- Kitchen Project \$50,000 to \$100,000: Preferred Builders and Created Bespoke Joinery
- Kitchen Project more than \$100,000: Simplicity Kitchens and Pacific Stone
- **Bathroom Project of 2026: Quality Built Co**

- Bathroom Project less than \$50,000: Refined Building and Developments
- Bathroom Project more than \$50,000: Quality Built Co
- **Landscape Project of 2026: Cappello Commercial Hydraulics & Civil**
- Landscape Design and Construction Commercial Project: Cappello Commercial Hydraulics & Civil
- Landscape Design and Construction Residential Project: National Landscaping
- **Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation 2026: Hindmarsh Construction Australia**
- Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation: Contractor: Hindmarsh Construction Australia
- Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation: Subcontractor: ACT Steelworks

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

- **Young Builder of the Year:** Mark Cole, Freedom Built
- **Construction Woman of the Year:** Chloe Templeton, Construction Control Australia
- Project Manager of the Year: Mark Gallagher, BMD Group
- Onsite Construction Manager of the Year: Darren Jarrett, BMD Group
- Professional of the Year: Richard Yarad, Lendlease Construction
- Commercial Subcontractor of the Year: ACT Steelworks
- Residential Subcontractor of the Year: SVC Contractors
- Supplier of the Year: Artisan Exterior