MASTER BUILDERS
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MASTER BUILDERS ACT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027

AWARDS ENTRY GUIDE

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2027 MASTER BUILDERS ACT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Why enter?

The Master Builders ACT Excellence Awards showcase outstanding projects in civil, commercial and residential construction. Taking part demonstrates your commitment to quality workmanship. Winning an award provides endless marketing opportunities and the power of being recognised as an industry leader.

Key dates

Entries open
9:00 am Monday 13 November 2026

Entries close
5:00 pm Friday 26 February 2027*

Judging period
Monday 22 March – Friday 30 April 2027

Judges' review
Mid-May 2027

Finalists/non-finalists notified
Tuesday 1 June 2027

Awards night
Friday 3 September 2027

* *Please note that no late or incomplete entries will be accepted.*

Benefits of taking part

- ☐ Acknowledge the high quality work delivered by your staff and contractors
- ☐ Have your standard of construction independently assessed
- ☐ Demonstrate your commitment to excellence to prospective and existing clients
- ☐ Be recognised as an industry leader
- ☐ Have your award-winning work promoted in industry media
- ☐ Use the nationally recognised, award-winning logo in your marketing

Entry fees (incl. GST)

- ☐ Commercial Project $575
- ☐ Civil Project $575
- ☐ Residential Project $465
- ☐ Sustainable Construction Project $375
- ☐ Subcontractor Project $375
- ☐ Work Health & Safety $375
- ☐ Individual/Company Awards NO CHARGE
- ☐ CCF Earth Awards Project $300
- ☐ Joint entries $325 per entrant (any category)*

* *Joint entries are possible. However, the primary entrant MUST be the builder, and a separate entry fee must be paid by each entrant.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

How to enter

Submissions for the 2027 Master Builders ACT Excellence Awards are completed online through the Master Builders online awards entry platform:

masterbuildersact.awardsplatform.com

Entry hints and tips

Write clearly

Be sure to read each question carefully and keep all entry information as clear as possible.

Write enough

Your answers must be over the minimum required word count noted on each question.

Create a quality project summary

The project summary is a great place to outline the key aspects of the project and highlight the features of your entry that make it an award-winning project.

Use references and videos

While not mandatory, reference letters, videos or time lapse videos are a great way to showcase your entry and set it apart from the rest. Please note there is a maximum of two of each of these attachments accepted per entry.

Take great photos

We highly recommend engaging a professional photographer for your submission images. These images are a crucial reference point for MBA judges. They will also be used to represent and highlight your project across Master Builders ACT's social media and publications, should your entry proceed to the next stage.

Allow enough time

Avoid leaving your submission until the last minute. All submissions require approval from the Master Builders ACT team before they are formally accepted. With the chance that your entry may require further information or resubmission, we recommend that you allow several days for this process before the closure of entries on Friday 26 February. Any entry that is not entirely complete, submitted and paid for by 5pm on 26 February will not be accepted.

Make yourself available for judging

Judging appointments cannot be altered. Due to the large volume of entries and limited judging time, the time that you are issued cannot be rescheduled. It is the responsibility of the entrant to provide details of the inspection time to the home owner/client.

Have your experts on hand

At the time of your onsite inspection, be sure to have the builder and/or project manager present, or a builder's representative with expert knowledge regarding the project. This will help ensure that the judges receive all of the relevant information and that the project's merits are accurately represented.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Judging criteria

Specific judging criteria relating to each category can be found on the Master Builders ACT event website.

Location eligibility

For a project to be eligible for entry in the ACT awards, the project must be located within the official Canberra regional footprint, and located within a 100km radius from Canberra GPO. A map of the region can be found at **www.canberraregion.com.au**.

If a project is located outside a 100km radius from Canberra GPO or eligible for another state's MBA Awards, the entry will not be eligible for the ACT Awards.

Judges

The judging panel appointed have expert knowledge and experience in all sectors of the industry. Judges are independent of Master Builders ACT. Master Builders ACT has the right to disqualify award entrants, award recipients and withdraw an entry/ award if, in the opinion of the judges, misleading or incorrect entry information has been provided.

Submission photo guidelines

It is important to ensure that your submission photos are in the appropriate format and style as these are crucial for judging and Awards media throughout the year.

- ☐ Photos must be over 1MB and highlight each key area of the project.
- ☐ Entrants are required to label a 'Hero Image' that will be used as the main image for the entry moving forward. Please note that a different hero image may be selected by the MBA team where required to avoid repetition in publications or if the original format is not suitable.
- ☐ Important note on photo editing: images that have been doctored or altered using Photoshop or AI technologies (e.g. ChatGPT) may result in your entry being ruled ineligible. Any alterations to a photo that change the subject matter being judged, such as alterations to the appearance of the finishes or inclusions on the project, will result in the entry being ruled ineligible. Colour correction, cropping and subtle image enhancements are acceptable.
- ☐ Master Builders ACT is now offering professional photography services for our 2027 entrants!

For further information and fees, please contact **marketing@mba.org.au.**

Please note that some of the categories for the 2027 awards have changed, and new categories added. Pay special attention to the categories to determine which to enter your project in.

2027 CATEGORIES

Residential Project Awards

- ☐ Apartments and Units up to 3 storeys
- ☐ Apartments and Units 4 storeys to 7 storeys
- ☐ Apartments and Units 8 storeys and above
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home less than $500,000
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home $500,000 to $750,000
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home $750,000 to $1million
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home $1million to $2million
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home $2million to $4million
- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home more than $4million
- ☐ Display Home less than $800,000
- ☐ Display Home more than $800,000
- ☐ Medium Density Dual Occupancy/ Habitable Suite
- ☐ Medium Density Townhouses and Villas
- ☐ Renovation/Extension less than $250,000
- ☐ Renovation/Extension $250,000 to $450,000
- ☐ Renovation/Extension $450,000 to $1million
- ☐ Renovation/Extension $1million to $2.5million
- ☐ Renovation/Extension more than $2.5million
- ☐ Renovation/Fitout, Apartment, Unit or Townhouse
- ☐ Special Purpose/ Adaptable Dwelling

Subcontractor Project Awards

- ☐ Bathroom Project**
- ☐ Best use of Material in a Commercial Project
- ☐ Best use of Material in a Residential Project
- ☐ Kitchen Project**
- ☐ Landscape Design and Construction Commercial
- ☐ Landscape Design and Construction Residential
- ☐ Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation – Subcontractor

Civil Project Awards

- ☐ Civil Bridgeworks
- ☐ Civil Hydraulic
- ☐ Civil Entertainment/ Sporting/ Recreation Facility
- ☐ Civil Education
- ☐ Civil Other
- ☐ Civil Roadworks Civil Subdivision

Commercial Project Awards

- ☐ Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration less than $1million
- ☐ Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration $1million to $2.5million
- ☐ Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration $2.5 million to $5million
- ☐ Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration $5million to $10million
- ☐ Commercial or Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration more than $10million
- ☐ Commercial Construction less than $5million
- ☐ Commercial Construction $5million to $10million

2027 CATEGORIES

- ☐ Commercial Construction $10million to $20million
- ☐ Commercial Construction $20million to $50million
- ☐ Commercial Construction $50million to $100 million
- ☐ Commercial Construction more than $100 million
- ☐ Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation – Contractor
- ☐ Special Purpose/ Adaptable Commercial Project

Individual/ Company Awards

- ☐ Commercial Subcontractor of the Year
- ☐ Residential Subcontractor of the Year
- ☐ Construction Woman of the Year
- ☐ Onsite Construction Manager of the Year
- ☐ Professional of the Year
- ☐ Project Manager of the Year
- ☐ Supplier of the Year
- ☐ Young Builder of the Year*

Sustainable Construction Awards

- ☐ Sustainable Civil Project
- ☐ Sustainable Commercial Project
- ☐ Sustainable Residential Project

Work Health Safety Awards

- ☐ WHS Commercial
- ☐ WHS Residential
- ☐ WHS Targeted Risk Management System

The Jennings Germans Family Young Carpenters Award, sponsored by the Harmonie German Club

See page 13 for details.

Top Awards

2027 Project of the Year*

2027 House of the Year*

Civil Contractors Federation ACT Earth Awards Categories

See page 14 for full details, nomination process and eligibility.

- ☐ Project value up to $2 million
- ☐ Project value $2 million to $5 million
- ☐ Project value $5 million to $10 million
- ☐ Project value $10 million to $30 million
- ☐ Project value $30 million to $75 million
- ☐ Project value $75 million to $150 million
- ☐ Project value greater than $150 million
- ☐ Civil Subcontractor of the Year
- ☐ WHS Civil Project of the Year
- ☐ Outstanding Woman in Civil Construction

Important note

In 2027, any members with projects in civil categories who wish to enter the CCF Earth Awards must submit a separate entry.

**Note: These categories are determined by our judging panels and entrants cannot submit a nomination.*

***Note: These categories will be broken down to subcategories based on judges' appraisal once entries close.*

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Residential Project Awards

Apartments and Units
Apartments and Units up to 3 storeys: as covered by Home Warranty insurance

Apartments and Units 4 storeys to 8 storeys: multistorey residential building or development with a height lower than 25 metres (less than 8 storeys)

Apartments and Units 8 stories and above: multistorey residential building or development with a height of at least 25 metres measured from the lowest exit at or near ground level to the floor of the topmost story (or 8 storeys) Projects entered into these categories must be a Class 2 or Class 3 building. All definitions are determined as per the Building Code of Australia.

Custom Built/Project Home
Custom Built/Project Home refers to a residential project built under a contract specifically for a client. This category is exclusive to separate dwellings that are free standing with no common walls. Final contract price must be provided to determine eligibility in a category. This figure will not be published at any time.

Please note: in the event that a home has been built without a contract (e.g. a builder constructing their own home), the entrant must seek special permission from Master Builders ACT to enter. The home must be entered into the category that best represents the market value of the cost of the build. Evidence must be supplied, including a copy of the Home Warranty Insurance Certificate, to support this category selection. Master Builders ACT reserves the right to reject an entry or move entries between categories.

Display Home
Display Home refers to a residential project built for the specific purpose of displaying or showing a builder's product. The project must be intended for reproduction as displayed or with standard variations to suit the client's needs. The price category entered is to represent the repeatable price of the project as displayed at the time of judging, inclusive of all exact fixtures, fittings and variations. Please ensure that the nominated contract price is the exact cost of the house including all exact fixtures and fittings as displayed. This is to be inclusive of benchtops, flooring and all other variations.

Medium Density
This category celebrates residential designs that offer repeatable, high-quality living solutions tailored to modern lifestyles. Whether it's a contemporary townhouse, a charming villa, a dual occupancy arrangement, or a self-contained habitable suite, each project is presented with all fixtures, fittings, and variations included. The nominated contract price reflects the complete cost of the home as built, inclusive of benchtops, flooring, and all specified finishes. These homes exemplify thoughtful design, efficient use of space, and adaptability to suit a range of client needs.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Definitions

Townhouse: situated in a row of houses, that is not class 2, and can be attached

Villa: standalone, class 1 in a cluster development

Dual Occupancy: two new dwellings on the same block

Habitable suite: secondary residence that can be a separate or attached dwelling up to 90m^2

Renovations/Extensions

This category includes substantial changes or additions to an existing residential dwelling (standalone home, apartment/ unit or townhouse).This includes extensions, renovations, decks, pergolas and outside pavilions and adaptable or accessible fitout elements. For apartments, units and townhouses, to be eligible for this category the project must meet body corporate requirements and/or structural and facade variations must be limited.

Special Purpose/Adaptable Dwelling

This category includes houses that incorporate facilities for people with disabilities, and adaptable housing. Homes must be Class 1 homes or dual occupancy style dwellings, with no commercial/ communal facilities such as club houses. This does not include retirement villages or aged care facilities.

Civil Awards

Civil Bridgeworks

The Civil Bridgeworks category encompasses all civil projects completed in the judging period in which the project's main focus is the installation or construction of any type of bridge. This includes all types of bridgeworks including, but not limited to, road, pedestrian or rail bridges.

Civil Hydraulic

The Civil Hydraulic category is open to any civil project focused on the development and construction of infrastructure designed to manage the movement, storage or protection of or against hydraulic substances such as storm water, sewerage, drinking water or mains infrastructure.

Civil Entertainment/Sporting/ Recreation Facility

This category includes all civil projects focused on the development of any facility that supports or provides for entertainment, sporting or recreational activity, either for paying customers or free for use by the community. This can include, but is not limited to, playgrounds, sporting fields, amphitheatres or performance venues.

Civil Education

This category refers to any civil project focused on the building and delivery of education facilities. This can be the development of additional facilities for an existing education facility, or the development of a new facility.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Civil Roadworks
The Civil Roadworks category includes projects focused on the development and construction of roads and related infrastructure. This includes the redevelopment of existing roads or infrastructure, or the construction of new roads and infrastructure.

Civil Subdivision
This category is open to civil projects focused on subdividing land for future development.

Civil Other
The Civil Other category is for any civil project that does not fit into the above categories, but is still considered a civil construction project.

Commercial Awards

Commercial & Retail Fitout, Refurbishment or Alteration
This category includes the fitout, refurbishment or alteration of an existing commercial building. Final construction price, including GST, will determine the project's appropriate category.

Commercial Project
This category involves construction of a new commercial building or project. Final construction price including GST will determine the project's appropriate category.

Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation – Contractor
This category recognises principal contractors who have delivered projects involving significant technical challenges or innovative construction solutions. Entries should highlight complex site conditions, structural ingenuity, integration of advanced technologies, or unique design execution. The focus is on the contractor's leadership in managing and overcoming project challenges, coordinating trades, and ensuring successful delivery. Projects must demonstrate excellence in planning, problem-solving, and innovation that sets a benchmark for the industry.

Special Purpose/Adaptable Commercial Project
This category includes retirement villages, aged care developments, government housing projects, student and group accommodation. Projects may include communal facilities such as club houses, kitchens and/ or gardens. A client statement is required with this entry.

Work Health Safety Awards

WHS awards promote best practice work health and safety on building and construction projects and construction-based systems. Each entry should demonstrate a commitment to developing, implementing, integrating and reviewing WHS practices on site. The entry submission should demonstrate the workplace

consultation, employee training, and how the WHS solution can be more broadly applied to the industry overall. Submissions for this award are divided into the following three subcategories:

WHS Commercial* for projects focused on the building of commercial spaces and facilities

WHS Residential for projects focused on the construction of residential properties. This includes but is not limited to single dwelling properties, multi-story apartment complexes and residential subdivisions.

WHS Targeted Risk Management System

Sustainable Construction Awards

The sustainable construction awards refer to projects with a goal of achieving net-zero construction and a net-zero finished product. This includes how waste was minimised or avoided, if materials selected were salvaged/recycled/renewable/low emission, as well as water management and any other general environmental management details. Entries should also refer to the project's environmental living standard, including relevant EER, Green Star or NABERS ratings, and working conditions including the use of materials in construction.

Subcontractor Awards

Bathroom Project

A bathroom constructed in a new or existing home, not including appliances, electrical, plumbing, plastering, painting and ancillary work. Please note that the quality of associated trades is assessed in the judging of this category.

Best Use of Material

This category focuses on the use of a single material across a specific project. This includes materials used for building facades, entrances, roofing, cladding, joinery, painting, tiling, plastering and flooring.

Kitchen Project

A kitchen constructed in a new or existing home, not including appliances, electrical, plumbing, plastering, painting and ancillary work. Please note that the quality of associated trades is assessed in the judging of this category.

Landscape Design and Construction – Commercial

This category includes landscaping works for institutions, open spaces, road reserves, Water Sensitive Urban Designs, parks, apartments and aged care facilities.

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Landscape Design and Construction – Residential

This category is open to subcontractors who have completed a particular residential landscaping project. A builder is welcome to be a joint entrant; however, the contractor that undertook the majority of the works must be the primary entrant.

Project Displaying Technical Difficulty or Innovation – Subcontractor

This category celebrates subcontractors who have played a key role in delivering technically demanding or innovative aspects of a construction project. Entries should showcase specialised skills, creative problem-solving, and the implementation of materials. Whether through precise workmanship, overcoming site-specific constraints, or introducing new methods, the subcontractor's contribution must reflect a high level of expertise and innovation that significantly enhances the overall project outcome.

Individual/Company Awards

These awards will be determined via the resume and supporting letters for each entrant by the judging team.

- ☐ Young Builder of the Year[1]
- ☐ Construction Woman of the Year[1]
- ☐ Onsite Construction Manager of the Year
- ☐ Project Manager of the Year
- ☐ Professional of the Year
- ☐ Residential Subcontractor of the Year[2]
- ☐ Commercial Subcontractor of the Year[2]
- ☐ Supplier of the Year[2]

[1] *Please note that entrants in these categories are selected by our judges and cannot be submitted for.*

[2] *For all company entries, we request that you provide a company logo and photos of the team in action.*

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

The Jennings Germans Family Young Carpenters Award, sponsored by the Harmonie German Club

The Jennings Germans Family Young Carpenters Award, sponsored by the Harmonie German Club, recognises outstanding emerging carpenters and joiners who demonstrate exceptional workmanship, professionalism, character, and commitment to the construction industry.

The award honours the legacy of the Jennings Germans, 150 skilled German carpenters who helped build Canberra in the 1950s, and seeks to inspire the next generation of tradespeople to pursue excellence in their craft.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, nominees must:

1. Be employed by a Master Builders ACT member business
2. Be currently undertaking a carpentry or joinery apprenticeship; or
3. Have completed their apprenticeship within the previous five (5) years
4. Be working primarily within the ACT or surrounding region
5. Be nominated by their employer, supervisor, or business owner
6. Demonstrate a commitment to a career in the building and construction industry

Nominees may only be entered once per award year.

Top Awards

House of the Year

This award will be determined from a shortlist of the winners from each of the following categories:

- ☐ Custom Built/Project Home (all subcategories)
- ☐ Display Home (all subcategories)
- ☐ Renovations/Extensions (all subcategories, where the existing home has been altered considerably)
- ☐ Medium Density Project (all subcategories)

Project of the Year

This award will be determined from a shortlist of the winners from each of the following categories:

- ☐ Apartments and Units (all subcategories)
- ☐ Civil Construction (all subcategories)
- ☐ Commercial Construction (all subcategories)
- ☐ Sustainable Construction (all subcategories)

AWARD CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

2027 Civil Contractors Federation ACT Earth Awards

To enter the 2027 Civil Contractors Federation ACT Earth Awards, you will need to submit a dedicated submission matching the relevant category below. Submissions can still be made via the same Award Force portal as the Excellence Awards. However, changes to the categories and criteria have been made to align with the new national standards and guidelines as set by the Civil Contractors Federation Australia.

The CCF project categories are based on the value of the completed project as follows:

- ☐ Project value up to $2 million
- ☐ Project value $2 million to $5 million
- ☐ Project value $5 million to $10 million
- ☐ Project value $10 million to $30 million
- ☐ Project value $30 million to $75 million
- ☐ Project value $75 million to $150 million
- ☐ Project value greater than $150 million

In addition to the above categories, additional categories for the CCF ACT Earth Awards are:

- ☐ Civil Subcontractor of the Year
- ☐ WHS Civil Project of the Year
- ☐ Outstanding Woman in Civil Construction*

* *Please note entries for this category can also be submitted to the Construction Woman of the Year category for the 2027 Master Builders ACT Excellence Awards. A separate entry must be submitted for each award category. Entries in this category will also be assessed based on their written submission.*

Earth Awards Eligibility

1. The CCF Earth Awards are open to all Australian civil construction companies, so long as they are also a current financial CCF ACT member at both the time of entry and the time of the awards night.

2. A project is eligible for the CCF Earth Awards if it is completed in the 12 months prior to 26 February 2027, or has reached 'practical completion' level (as defined in AS4000 1997) as at 26 February 2027.

All submissions must be completed and fully paid by no later than the close of business on 26 February 2027.

CCF Earth Awards judging will occur at the same time as the Civil Excellence Awards categories, with winners announced at the 2027 CCF ACT Earth Awards on 21 May 2027.

CHECKLIST

Information you will need to provide with your entry

- ☐ All details of the project (project name, street address, completion date, final contract price etc.)
- ☐ Details of the entrant company (key contact information, postal address, contact number etc.)
- ☐ An appropriate answer to each selection criteria within the online submission guide
- ☐ Entrants are required to digitally sign a declaration stating that there were no serious injuries or deaths onsite AND that there are no outstanding debts or complaints relating to the project at time of entry

Documents

- ☐ Digitally signed declaration stating that all information provided is true and correct to the best of the entrant's knowledge
- ☐ Plans, floor plan, elevations and other relevant drawings/documentation
- ☐ The Certificate of Occupancy confirming the date of occupancy and that the project has met the required building standards as per 2027 entry conditions
- ☐ A signed statement on company letterhead stating that there were no major WHS violations or incidents during the course of the project delivery, dated after the completion of the project.

Individual Awards

- ☐ Entries for Project Manager, Onsite Construction Manager, Construction Woman and Professional of the Year require a resume and corporate headshots of the entrant.
- ☐ Entries for individual awards require letters of reference, photographs of the entrant (individual or company) and images of projects worked on/managed by the entrant

Photographs and logos

Important note on photo editing: images that have been doctored or altered using Photoshop or AI technologies (e.g. ChatGPT) may result in your entry being ruled ineligible.

Any alterations to a photo that change the subject matter being judged, such as alterations to the appearance of the finishes or inclusions on the project, will result in the entry being ruled ineligible. Colour correction, cropping and subtle image enhancements are acceptable.

Entries must include the following:

- ☐ Minimum 15 high resolution colour photos of the project*, with no more than 20 photographs per entry. Please include a mix of landscape and portrait images.

* Entries for bathrooms and kitchens may supply only 10.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ For company entries, please include an all-staff group photo as well as 2-3 photos of staff members in action. This is very important for promotional purposes.
- ☐ The uploaded images should all be named appropriately with the entrant name and the location of photo e.g. Sesame Building – Main Bathroom.
- ☐ EPS and JPG files of the entrant company logo(s)
- ☐ Before and after photos are required for renovation and extension categories.

Video footage (time lapse/promotional) is accepted but is not compulsory.

Display Homes

Display Home category entries must include their promotional brochures, inclusions lists and any other marketing activities to verify that the home is or was for display purposes. Ensure that Display Homes are entered into the category that best represents the retail price of the home, including all displayed inclusions, not the trade cost of the build.

Payment

Payment is required at point of entry. Any entries that are submitted without payment will be deemed incomplete and will not be accepted.

Joint entrant fees must all be paid at the time of submission.

Conditions of Entry

https://mba.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/2027-Conditions-of-Entry.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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