



HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION AWARDS 2026

Above and Beyond

Entry Handbook

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Housing

Entry checklist

What you'll need

- Your company details
 - Membership number, Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) licence, ABN and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers, and any registered trading names.
- Project details
 - Approved project name*, project street address, completion date, and final contract price.
 - *Project names cannot include street numbers, addresses or company name.
 - A detailed description of the project of 100-500 words – this can be provided as a file upload. Additional project information should be included as an attachment
- Final Inspection Certificate (Form 21 or Form 11 as applicable)
 - To be eligible for the awards, all project entries must have reached practical completion and been inspected by the certifier no earlier than 1 December 2024, and no later than 1 March 2026.
- Contract page/s showing the contractor details (including QBCC licence number), 'owner/contracted person', total contract value, property address, as well as signature/agreement pages by both parties. The total contract value cannot be reduced to enter a lower price awards category by separating the value of associated insurable work from the primary insurable work performed under the contract. For example, the value of associated insurable work such as concrete driveways, landscaping, fencing and security cannot be removed from the total contract value. Associated and primary insurable work are as defined by section 67WC of the *QBCC Act 1991*.
- In the event that a home has been built without a contract (e.g. a builder constructing their own home) the home must be entered into the category that best represents the cost of what would have been quoted for a client prior to the commencement of the build, and must also take into consideration time frames and potential variations that may have increased the cost throughout the construction period.
 - Evidence of the build cost must be provided in the form of a client quote on letterhead or a Home Warranty Insurance Certificate. If supplying a quote, it must be reflective of the market at the time of construction, including labour, builders margin, fixtures, fittings and other contributing costs.
- Variation documents – if applicable. The listed final contract price must match the contract + variations.
- One good quality A4 or A3 size floor plan.
- Signed Authorisation Form – member, owner, and photographer signature (Note: owner section not required for Display Home categories).
- You will need to confirm (via checkbox) that no serious injuries or deaths occurred onsite during construction. Additional information may be requested.
- You will need to confirm (via checkbox) that there are no outstanding debts or complaints relating to the project. Additional information may be requested.

Photography requirements

When entering photographs for the 2026 Housing & Construction Awards, you need to be mindful of the following submission requirements:

- Photographs must be:
 - High-resolution (1,500KB - 4,000KB)
 - Minimum size of 210 x 140mm
 - 300dpi (2,480 x 1,654px)
 - Landscape orientation preferred for event production.
- A minimum number of 10 photographs and a maximum of 20 are required for each entry.
- You should submit a variety of shots highlighting the main features of the project, including:
 - External shots – including the full front façade and from the back of the house. These shots should include front entry, landscaping, and any outdoor areas like pools, patios, and decks
 - Internal shots – include photos of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, living areas and media rooms

- Feature shots – showing a particular point of interest in the project (fixtures and fittings, use of materials etc.)
- The first photo you upload should be your chosen hero image of the project, please label the file 'HERO' before uploading. Only one hero image should be selected. If none or more than one is chosen, the Master Builders event team will select the image to be used.
- For any renovation or remodelling entries, please include before photos of the project, clearly labelled.

Judging criteria

Please see the Category description and Judging criteria specific to your entry's category.

When entering an Individual Home, Home Renovation or Display Home category, you have the option to nominate an eligible bathroom, kitchen, or pool in the respective specialty category at no additional cost. The bathroom / kitchen / pool must be included in the contract price to be eligible.

When entering Individual Home, Home Renovation or Display Home category you have the option to enter your project in the Best Use of Steel Frame* Category at no additional cost.

*in your entry, you must supply photos showing that steel frame has been used.

Display Home

- Display Home up to \$500,000
- Display Home from \$500,000 up to \$750,000
- Display Home from \$750,000 up to \$1 million
- Display Home over \$1 million

Category description

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 Note: For Display Homes, please ensure that the nominated contract price is the exact cost of the house the judges are viewing, including all exact fixtures and fittings as displayed. This is to be inclusive of benchtops, flooring, and all other variations.

When entering an Individual Home, Home Renovation or Display Home category, you have the option to nominate an eligible bathroom, kitchen, or pool in the respective Specialty category at no additional cost. The bathroom / kitchen / pool must be included in the contract price to be eligible.

Additional supporting documentation

As well as the supporting documents outlined in the 'Entry checklist' section of this document, you will also need to include approval documentation.

You must also include proof that the property was open for inspection by the public. This could include advertisements.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Display Homes' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project.• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%

<p>Degree of difficulty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	<p>20%</p>
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Individual Home

- Individual Home up to \$450,000
- Individual Home from \$450,000 up to \$600,000
- Individual Home from \$600,000 up to \$750,000
- Individual Home from \$750,000 up to \$900,000
- Individual Home from \$900,000 up to \$1.25 million
- Individual Home from \$1.25 million up to \$1.5 million
- Individual Home from \$1.5 million up to \$2 million
- Individual Home from \$2 million up to \$2.5 million
- Individual Home from \$2.5 million up to \$3 million
- Individual Home from \$3 million up to \$4 million
- Individual Home from \$4 million up to \$5 million
- Individual Home from \$5 million up to \$10 million
- Individual Home over \$10 million

Category description

Individual Home refers to a new residential project built under a contract specifically for a client. This category is exclusive to detached separate dwellings that are free-standing with no common walls.

When entering an Individual Home, Home Renovation or Display Home category, you have the option to nominate an eligible bathroom, kitchen, or pool in the respective Specialty category at no additional cost. The bathroom / kitchen / pool must be included in the contract price to be eligible.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Individual Home' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%

<p>Degree of difficulty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	<p>20%</p>
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Best Use of Sloping Sites

Category description

Sloping sites refers to a residential project where the house is built either to the contour of the land or built to be complimentary of the contour of the land.

Please note: this category is open to renovations and new builds.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Best Use of Sloping Sites* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, application of good design for the sloping site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Best Use of Steel Frame Housing

Category description

Steel Frame Housing refers to a housing project that has been built using steel frames. This can include a housing or medium density project. **The use of the steel frames is to be provided in the form of photographs during build**, in addition to photos provided of the finished product.

If entering a standard housing category and you have a steel frame project you wish to submit, please check the relevant checkbox on the entry form to be considered.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Best Use of Steel Frame Housing* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of steel framing• Innovative design or functionality by using steel framing• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Prefabricated and Modular Housing

Category description

Prefabricated and Modular Housing refers to a project that has been primarily prefabricated off-site or assembled on-site primarily from manufactured components.

This can include a detached Class 1 house or a medium density residential project consisting of attached Class 1 buildings including a duplex, row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit.

The project is to be entered in the region where the completed house or medium density residential project is located and must be entered by the head contractor as noted on the building approval.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Prefabricated and Modular Housing* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and Functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liveability and use of space• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Appropriately responds to the site and environment• Materials and design features reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs• Innovative design, functionality and material use.	20%
Manufacturing innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficiency in terms of time and cost• Use of innovative manufacturing techniques and efficiencies in process• Minimised material use and wastage• Features that facilitate ease of transportation and installation on site.	20%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated value• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• Quality of attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project.	40%
Works on site <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Home Renovation Project

- Home Renovation Project up to \$350,000
- Home Renovation Project from \$350,000 up to \$500,000
- Home Renovation Project from \$500,000 up to \$650,000
- Home Renovation Project from \$650,000 up to \$800,000
- Home Renovation Project from \$800,000 up to \$1 million
- Home Renovation Project from \$1 million up to \$2 million
- Home Renovation Project over \$2 million

Category description

Renovation refers to building works that may include the internal or external alteration, addition, extension, or refurbishment of an existing Class 1 dwelling. The works may be self-assessable where structural elements are not altered or alternatively, a building development approval was necessary due to the extent of structural works.

This category does not include works where the original dwelling is demolished for the construction of a new dwelling – these projects should be entered in the Individual Home category.

When entering an Individual Home, Home Renovation or Display Home category, you have the option to nominate an eligible bathroom, kitchen, or pool in the respective Specialty category at no additional cost. The bathroom / kitchen / pool must be included in the contract price to be eligible.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Home Renovation Project' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	10%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%

<p>Degree of difficulty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	<p>30%</p>
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Medium Density up to 3 storeys – 2 to 5 dwellings

Includes:

- Attached Class 1 buildings including a duplex, row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit
- Class 2 buildings containing apartments
- Class 3 building containing units

Category description

Medium Density Award is for projects (units/apartments) up to three storeys which may be built above an underground carpark that is not counted as a storey under the building development approval, or multiple Class 1 dwellings built on the site or allotments. This includes an attached duplex, row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit terrace houses and townhouses where there are at least 2, but no more than 5 dwellings on the site or allotments. These are exclusive of any building of 4 or more storeys.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Medium Density up to 3 storeys – 2 to 5 dwellings* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Medium Density up to 3 storeys – over 5 dwellings

Includes:

- Attached Class 1 buildings including a duplex, row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit
- Class 2 buildings containing apartments
- Class 3 building containing units

Category description

Medium Density Award is for projects (units/apartments) up to three storeys which may be built above an underground carpark that is not counted as a storey under the building development approval, or multiple Class 1 dwellings built on the site or allotments. This includes an attached duplex, row house, terrace house, townhouse or villa unit where there are 6 or more dwellings on the site or allotments. These are exclusive of any building of 4 or more storeys.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Medium Density up to 3 storeys – over 5 dwellings* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Excellence in Home Sustainability & Innovation

Category description

To be eligible for the *Excellence in Home Sustainability & Innovation Award*, the entrant must include a written submission no more than 1,000 words. This submission MUST provide details of how the entry achieves the judging criteria listed below.

As well as the supporting documents outlined in the 'Entry Checklist' section of this document, you will also need to include an energy efficiency certificate or written description of the deemed to satisfy (DTS) pathway and any credits from the Queensland Development Code (QDC) used. The floorplan you provide must also show the north point.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for projects entered into *Excellence in Home Sustainability & Innovation* category are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	20%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

In addition to the standard Housing Judging criteria listed above, entries in this category will also be judged on the use of innovative and practical features that provide high levels of comfort and amenity with minimum energy consumption suitable for Queensland's climate.

Judging criteria
Ventilation and design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing unobstructed passage of cooling breezes, including the flow of air, through occupied areas with minimal reliance on refrigerated air-conditioning systems. Site plan must show the North point.
Solar design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimises direct sunlight and solar heat entry through windows and glazing, especially in summer months, and incorporates appropriate orientation of the home.
Building materials and construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate use of shading, building materials and insulation for the building envelope relative to climate type.
Efficient use of energy and water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimising consumption through measures such as: • Star efficiency rating – must provide an energy efficiency certificate or a written description of DTS pathway and include QDC credits. • Type and design of light fittings • Systems that optimise the benefits of natural daylight • Use of systems, services and features that minimise consumption, reduce energy costs and water consumption.

Residential Trade Contractor of the Year

Category description

A Trade Contractor's work completed on a residential project.

Important Note: Trade Contractors must hold a QBCC Trade Licence for that trade in order to be eligible. Please refer to the QBCCs listing of Trade Contractor Licences for confirmation www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/when-you-need-licence/licence-classes.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards' judging criteria for projects entered into 'Residential Trade Contractor of the Year' category are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use and/or combination of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%

Examples of a trade that could be entered in this category is:

- Carpenter
- Cabinet maker
- Tiler
- Bricklayer
- Concreter
- Glazier
- Painter
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Plasterer

Commercial

Entry checklist

What you will need

- Your company details
 - Membership number, Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) licence, ABN and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers and any registered trading names.
- Project details
 - Approved project name*, project street address, completion date and final contract price
 - *Project names cannot include street numbers, addresses or company name.
 - Detailed description of project of 100-500 words – this can be provided as a file upload. Additional project information should be included as an attachment
- Final Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Occupancy - Commercial)
 - To be eligible for the awards, all project entries must have reached practical completion and been inspected by the certifier no earlier than 1 December 2024, and no later than 1 March 2026.
- Contract page/s showing the contractor details (including QBCC licence number), 'owner/contracted person', total contract value, property address, as well as signature/agreement pages by both parties.
- Variation documents – if applicable. The listed final contract price must match the contract + variations (incl. GST).
- One good quality A4 or A3 size floor plan.
- Signed Authorisation Form (member, owner and photographer signatures).
- Design Rights (if not owned by the company, a signed statement from the person who owns the rights).
- You will need to confirm (via checkbox) that no serious injuries or deaths occurred onsite during construction. Additional information may be required.
- You will need to confirm (via checkbox) that there are no outstanding debts or complaints relating to the project. Additional information may be required
- If entering 'Social Housing Project' category, you'll need to include evidence by providing one or more of the following:
 - Development Approval (DA) conditions
 - Building Approval or Building Classification documentation
 - Contractual documentation identifying the project as social housing
 - Ownership and management arrangements confirming Queensland Government control
 - Funding agreements or government program documentation

Note

If entering Health, Education, Tourism & Leisure, Sporting, Retail, Community Service, Community Accommodation or Social Housing categories, you cannot enter the same project on a Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation category. Please enter your project in the most relevant category.

Photography requirements

When entering photographs for the 2026 Housing & Construction Awards, you need to be mindful of the following submission requirements:

- Photographs must be:
 - High-resolution (1,500KB - 4,000KB)
 - Minimum size of 210 x 140mm
 - 300dpi (2,480 x 1,654px)
 - Landscape orientation preferred for event production.
- A minimum number of 10 photographs and maximum of 20 are required for each entry.
- You should submit a variety of shots highlighting the main features of the project, including:
 - External shots - showing the full facade
 - Internal shots - a variety of rooms and viewpoints inside the project
 - Feature shots – showcasing a particular point of interest in the project e.g. solar panels, intricate use of materials.
- The first photo you upload should be your chosen hero image of the project and label it 'HERO'. Only one hero image should be selected. If none or more than one chosen, the Master Builders event team will select the image to be used.
- For refurbishment or renovation entries, be sure to include 'before' photos of the project (clearly labelled).

Health Facilities

- Up to \$20 million
- Over \$20 million

Category description

Buildings providing general medical, accident and emergency, surgical, psychiatric, or other medical services on an acute or intermittent basis having in-patient facilities and other buildings supporting and associated with these services. This is inclusive of buildings providing various health care or wellbeing services other than as part of a hospital.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Health Facilities' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the contract delivery method? • Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? • Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative use of materials • Innovative design or functionality • Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes • The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project • Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Includes		
Allied health care as part of a hospital	Hospice	Outpatient service as part of a hospital
Consulting clinics as part of a hospital	Hospital	Pathology service
Care facility (other than aged care)	Hospital chapel	Physiotherapist
Chiropractor	Hospital pharmacy	Podiatrist rooms
Dental practice	Human quarantine station	Private ED service as part of a hospital
District nursing service	Medical specialist centre	Psychiatric hospital
Doctor's surgery	Medical centre	Radiologist rooms
Family planning clinic	Mental health home	Sport medicine centre
Health centre	Occupational therapy	Therapeutic massage
Holistic health centre	Osteopath	

Education Facilities

- Up to \$7 million
- From \$7 million up to \$15 million
- Over \$15 million

Category description

Buildings used in the provision or support of educational services. This excludes buildings where the provision or support of educational services is a secondary function of the building.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Education Facilities' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the contract delivery method? • Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? • Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative use of materials • Innovative design or functionality • Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes • The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project • Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Includes		
Boarding house (school)	Hall of residence (education)	School gymnasium
Classroom	Lecture theatre	School hall
College (education)	Library (education)	School laboratory
Conservatorium of music	Military academy	Seminary
Corporate training facility	Police academy	Student accommodation
Covered play area (school)	Preparatory school	Sunday school
Dormitory (education)	Primary school	TAFE college
Driver training centre	School auditorium	Training centre
Early learning centre	School canteen	University
Education centre	School chapel (student/education use)	
Excludes		
Bank on campus	Independent bookstore on campus	

Sporting Facilities

Category description

A project or building designed for the primary purpose of exercising, sports training and practice, or competition in various sports.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Sporting Facilities' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">What was the contract delivery method?Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Innovative use of materialsInnovative design or functionalityUse of innovative construction techniques.	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challengesProject management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishesThe as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the projectBuildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Examples

Includes		
Aquatic centre	Gymnasium	Stadiums
Cycling centre	Ice rinks	Swimming pools
Equestrian centre	Sports field	Tennis court

Community Service Facilities

Category description

A building or structure with the primary purpose to provide a service or facility to a community. This includes non-residential buildings not elsewhere classified including emergency services, utilities, temporary accommodation provided on a non-commercial basis, or any buildings or structures associated with worship, religious services or ceremonies.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Community Services Facilities* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the contract delivery method? Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative use of materials Innovative design or functionality Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Includes			
Abbey	Crematorium	Lighthouse building	Pumping station
Ambulance station	Crypt	Mausoleum	Refuge
Animal hospital	Detention centre	Meals on wheels kitchen	Shade structure
Animal shelter	Electrical sub-station	Migrant holding facility	Senior citizens centre
Cathedral	Emergency housing centre	Military base	Synagogue
Church	Emergency services building	Monastic cells	Temple
Church hall	Fire station	Monastery	Veterinary hospital
Coast guard	Guard house	Morgue	Waste depot
Community centre	Homeless centre	Mosque	Water treatment plant
Convent	Jail	Orphanage	Women's refuge
Council depot	Kitchen for the homeless	Police station	
Court house	Laboratory, forensic	Public toilet	

Retail Facilities

- Up to \$5 million
- Over \$5 million

Category description

Commercial buildings primarily used for the sale of goods to intermediate and end users and the provision of services on a shop-front basis except where another class of this division applies. This class excludes storage warehouses which are included in the Commercial / Industrial Building categories.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Retail Facilities' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the contract delivery method? • Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? • Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative use of materials • Innovative design or functionality • Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes • The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project • Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Includes		
Barber	Hardware store	Salon
Bistro	Jeweller	Shoe repair
Bottle shop	Laundromat	Shop
Butcher shop	Market (wholesale or retail)	Shopping centre
Car wash	Pet shop	Showroom
Car yard	Petrol station	Snack bar
Delicatessen	Plant nursery (public sales)	Souvenir centre
Department store	Post office (shopfront)	Supermarket
Dry cleaner establishment	Restaurant	Ticket booking and sales (off-site)
Grocery	Retail 'warehouse'	Winery building (sales/tasting centre)

Tourism and Leisure Facilities

- Up to \$10 million
- Over \$10 million

Category description

Buildings used in the provision of tourism, entertainment and/or recreational facilities or services.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Tourism and Leisure Facilities' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the contract delivery method? • Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? • Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative use of materials • Innovative design or functionality • Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges • Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes • The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project • Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Includes		
Amphitheatre	Concert hall	Night club
Amusement park	Craft studio	Pub / tavern / club
Aquatic centre	Culture centre	Public gymnasium
Archive (open to public)	Dance studio	Public hall
Art gallery	Fitness centre	Public library
Arts centre	Gaming centre	RSL rooms
Auditorium	Hotels / motels	TAB
Bowling alley	Information centre (tourist)	Theatre
Casino	Licensed club / tavern	Youth centre
Cinema	Memorial	Zoo
Club	Museum	

Commercial / Industrial Building

- Commercial / Industrial Building up to \$3 million
- Commercial / Industrial Building from \$3 million up to \$10 million
- Commercial / Industrial Building from \$10 million up to \$25 million
- Commercial / Industrial Building from \$25 million up to \$50 million
- Commercial / Industrial Building over \$50 million

Category description

Buildings primarily occupied with or engaged in commercial trade or work intended for commercial trade, including buildings used primarily for wholesale trade, office or transport activities. This includes buildings used for both passenger and non-passenger transport buildings, commercial carparks, offices and non-residential commercial buildings.

Buildings used for warehousing, primary production and the production and assembly activities of industrial or manufacturing processes. This division also includes factories and plants, and buildings used for agricultural and aquacultural activities.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Commercial / Industrial Building' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the contract delivery method?• Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?• Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques/	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Examples

Includes		
Abattoir	Foundry	Printing works
Administration building	Freight loading terminal	Railway station
Air freight terminal	Funeral parlour	Refinery
Air traffic control buildings	Glasshouse	Restaurant
Aircraft storage buildings (hangar)	Grain storage building	Retail 'warehouse'
Airport passenger terminal	Implement shed	Shearing shed
Assembly plant	Jeweller	Ship yard
Bank	Loading dock building	Shoe repair
Barn	Mail sorting centre	Shopping centre
Boiler house	Manufacturing plant	Showroom
Brewery	Marina	Steel works
Brick works	Market (wholesale)	Storage depots
Bus station	Mechanic	Storage shed / warehouse
Cannery	Metering station	Tannery
Car wash	Mill	Testing laboratories
Car yard	Mint	Ticket booking and sales (off-site)
Carparks	Office building	Town hall (administrative)
Cold store	Parking stations	Tram or train servicing depots
Commercial storage facilities	Passenger transport interchange	Transient mining accommodation
Crusher house	Pet boarding facility	Weighbridge station
Dry cleaner establishment	Petrol station	Winery building
Electricity generation plant buildings	Plant nursery (public sales)	
Farm shed	Port terminal building	

Residential Building – high-rise over 3 storeys

- Residential Building (high-rise over 3 storeys) up to \$20 million
- Residential Building (high-rise over 3 storeys) from \$20 million up to \$50 million
- Residential Building (high-rise over 3 storeys) over \$50 million

Category description

Residential Building (high-rise over 3 storeys) is a building that is more than three storeys and built to conform with typical commercial construction methods for the purposes of residential living.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Residential Building – high rise over 3 storeys' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the contract delivery method?• Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?• Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Examples

- Apartment building or complex
- Block of flats
- Multi-purpose high-rise building (residential part)
- Stacked dwellings

Community Accommodation

Category description

Buildings used in the provision of aged care, specialist disability accommodation, aged care support, services supporting aged care facilities, or in-home care services.

Note: This is for a complex which may incorporate class 1, 2, 3 or class 9 buildings.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Community Accommodation' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the contract delivery method? Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays? Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost? 	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative use of materials Innovative design or functionality Use of innovative construction techniques. 	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography. 	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality. 	40%

Examples

Accommodation for the aged, children or people with a disability
Aged care facilities (including nursing homes)
Aged care facility
Aged care support service
Community care centre (retirement village)
Dementia unit (aged)
Geriatric care centre
High dependency aged care
Home for the elderly
Low dependency aged care
Nursing home
Class 1, 2 and 3 includes
Independent living with in- home care services (detached or attached building)

Social Housing Project

Category description

A building with the primary purpose of providing secure and affordable long-term accommodation for individuals and households who are unable to access or sustain suitable housing in the private rental market. It is designed as a permanent or long-term housing solution, rather than short-term, temporary, or crisis accommodation.

This can include Class 1A, Class 2 or Class 3 buildings.

For a development to be recognised as social housing, its status should be clearly documented and verifiable. You need to include evidence of this, by providing one or more of the following:

- Development Approval (DA) conditions
- Building Approval or Building Classification documentation
- Contractual documentation identifying the project as social housing
- Ownership and management arrangements confirming Queensland Government control
- Funding agreements or government program documentation

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Social Housing Project' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the contract delivery method?• Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?• Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Apartment Renovation

Category description

Renovation refers to building works that may include the internal or external alteration, addition, extension, or refurbishment of an apartment (Class 2 or Class 3).

To be eligible, you must provide a building approval for this class and type of construction.

The Apartment Renovation Project category refers to Class 2 or Class 3 buildings.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Apartment Renovation' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Liveability and functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation of the home, liveability, use of the site / space, relationship to the surrounding environment• Functionality and flow of the home – including internal accessibility and access to and around the home• Sustainability measures that use materials and design features to reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs.	10%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	10%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%

Commercial Refurbishment/Renovation

- Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation up to \$3 million
- Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation from \$3 million up to \$10 million
- Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation from \$10 million up to \$25 million
- Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation from \$25 million up to \$50 million
- Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation over \$50 million

Category description

Refurbishment / Renovation refers to the renewal of an existing building that could include the internal and/or external reworking, including structural extensions to the existing building or general redevelopment of the site. This could also include heritage buildings.

This category may also include projects that are comprised of non-structural changes.

When entering, please include before photos of the project.

If entering Health, Education, Tourism & Leisure, Sporting, Retail, Community Service or Community Accommodation categories, you cannot enter the same project on a Commercial Refurbishment / Renovation category. Please enter your project in the most relevant category.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for 'Refurbishment/Renovation' are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the contract delivery method?• Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?• Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Examples

- Heritage building refurbishment
- Large structural-based changes to an existing building

Commercial Fitout

- Commercial fitout up to \$5 million
- Commercial fitout from \$5 million up to \$10 million
- Commercial fitout over \$10 million

Category description

Internal fitout **only** of a new **or existing** building.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for Commercial fitout are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Contract delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the contract delivery method?• Was the project delivered on time? If not, what were the delays?• Was the project delivered within budget? If not, what affected the cost?	5%
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	25%
Degree of construction difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%

Examples

- Restaurant fitout
- Shop fitout
- High rise fitout

Prefabricated and Modular Commercial Project

Category description

Prefabricated and Modular Commercial Project refers to a project that has been primarily prefabricated off-site or assembled on-site primarily from manufactured components.

This can include any Class 2 to Class 9 building.

The project is to be entered in the region where the completed house or medium density residential project is located and must be entered by the head contractor as noted on the building approval.

Entry should include photos of project at various stages in the construction process.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for *Prefabricated and Modular Housing* are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Functionality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of space• Appropriately responds to the site and environment• Materials and design features reduce ongoing maintenance and serviceability costs• Innovative design, functionality and material use.	20%
Manufacturing innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficiency in terms of time and cost• Use of innovative manufacturing techniques and efficiencies in process• Minimised material use and wastage• Features that facilitate ease of transportation and installation on site.	20%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated value• The standard and presentation of the building demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• Quality of attention to detail in finishes• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project.	40%
Works on site <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	20%

Commercial Trade Contractor of the Year

Category description

A Trade Contractor's work completed on a commercial-based project.

Trade Contractors must hold a QBCC Licence for that trade in order to be eligible. Please refer to the QBCCs listing of Trade Contractor Licences for confirmation here: www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/when-you-need-licence/licence-classes.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards judging criteria for projects entered into *Trade Contractor of the Year* category are:

Judging criteria	Judging percentage
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use and/or combination of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	30%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	40%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%

Examples

- Bricklayer
- Cabinet maker
- Carpenter
- Concreter
- Glazier
- Painter
- Plumber
- Plasterer
- Roofer
- Tiler

Specialty Awards

- Best Residential Bathroom
- Best Residential Kitchen
- Best Residential Swimming Pool
- Excellence in Workplace Health & Safety

Best Residential Bathroom, Best Residential Kitchen, Best Residential Swimming Pool

Entry Checklist

What you will need

- Your company details (membership number, QBCC licence, ABN and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers and any registered trading names).
- Project details (approved project name*, project street address, completion date and final contract price)
- *Project names cannot include street numbers, addresses or company name.
- A detailed description of the project of 100-500 words – this can be provided as a file upload. Additional project information should be included as an attachment
- Final Inspection Certificate (Form 21) where applicable or Final Inspection Certificate Swimming Pools (Form 17)
 - To be eligible for the awards, all project entries must have reached practical completion and been inspected by the certifier no earlier than 1 December 2024, and no later than 1 March 2026.
 - Swimming pools must have been registered with the QBCC. Proof may be required.
- Contract page/s showing the total contract value and the name of the 'owner/contracted person'.
- One good quality A4 or A3 size floor plan.
- Signed Authorisation Form (member, owner and photographer signatures).
- Design Rights (If not owned by the company, a signed statement from the person who owns the rights).

Photography requirements

When entering photographs for the 2026 Housing & Construction Awards, please be mindful of the following submission requirements:

- Photographs must be high-resolution (1,500KB - 4,000KB) and a minimum size of 210 x 140mm at 300dpi (2,480 x 1,654px).
- A minimum number of 8 photographs and maximum of 20 are required for each entry.
- You should submit a variety of shots highlighting the main features of the project, including fixtures and fittings, use of materials, etc. to showcase the workmanship
- The first photo you upload should be your chosen hero image of the project, please label the file 'HERO' before uploading. Only one hero image should be selected. If none or more than one is chosen, the Master Builders event team will select the image to be used.

Category description

These Awards highlight the outstanding bathrooms, kitchens, and swimming pools from this year's residential entries. If entering a standard housing category and you have an eligible bathroom, kitchen, and swimming pool you wish to submit as a Specialty Award, please check the relevant checkbox on the entry form to be considered.

Notes: only projects that have the specialty (as displayed) included in the total contract price will be considered 'eligible'. Swimming pool safety: The pool fencing must comply with the pool fencing standards, a building certifier must have inspected the pool and fencing and issued a final certificate.

Judging criteria

Master Builders 2026 Housing & Construction Awards' judging criteria for projects entered into the Bathroom, Kitchen and Pool 'Specialty Award' categories are:

Judging criteria	
Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative use of materials• Innovative design or functionality• Use of innovative construction techniques.	20%
Construction quality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of builder's attention to detail in finishes• The standard and presentation of the home demonstrates the works have been constructed by a skilled and competent builder• The as constructed works have been provided in accordance with the National Construction Code and any Building Assessment Provisions that may apply to the project• Buildability of the project that demonstrates it can be built efficiently in terms of time, cost and quality.	50%
Degree of difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The delivery and completion of the construction works indicates a high degree of builder competency in adequately addressing the technical, structural and finishing detailing challenges• Project management during construction has adequately addressed challenges that may relate to limited street access, material storage, trade coordination, inclement weather, adjoining properties, and topography.	30%

Excellence in Workplace Health & Safety

Category description

To be eligible for the *Excellence in Workplace Health & Safety Award*, the entry must meet one or more of the following:

1. Engineering solutions that have been designed, developed and implemented with evidence that health and safety has been significantly improved, e.g. a QuickDeck system (Proprietary Systems).
2. Innovation solutions in technology that have been designed, developed and implemented with evidence that health and safety has been significantly improved, e.g. lone worker wearable devices or wearable heat stress monitoring devices or workplace health and safety (WHS) reporting software, safe work method statement interactive training program.
3. Training systems and solutions that significantly improve worker awareness of hazards and risks in the workplace, i.e. health and wellness programs such as psychosocial (mental health) programs, young worker programs, such as an apprentice mentoring program.

Judging criteria

Evidence of improvements in safety should be provided where possible, such as how the health and safety of workers has been improved, existing operations have been maintained during construction or there has been a reduction in construction time or evidence of employee or apprentice engagement.

Additional supporting documentation

Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words long and should include:

- Supporting photographs (min 10 and a maximum of 20)
- Videos 3 min or 5 min long
- Drawings & specifications
- Engineers' certificate
- Reports where applicable to demonstrate the workings, benefits, or effectiveness of the solution.

Examples

Previous winners include:

- Redesigning a piece of plant or equipment to reduce risks (e.g. falls, entrapment, etc.)
- Developing a safer tool for a typical construction process
- Altering a construction process to improve safety outcomes.

While we applaud innovation and excellence in these areas, due to the logistics involved in judging and confirmatory auditing, the following will not be seen as a suitable entry for this type of award:

- A WHS management system or portion of the same
- Statistical improvements in lost-time injuries where these solely represent the solution being judged.

Individual Awards

Rising Star Award

Entry checklist

What you will need

- Your company details (membership number, QBCC licence and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers and any registered trading names).
- Nominee details (direct email and phone details).
- Written responses in the space provided (**not as an attachment**) outlining how the nominee meets each of the judging criteria.
- Signed Authorisation Form with member and photographer signatures.
- Testimonials from trade contractors/suppliers, employers, teachers, industry peers and clients.
- Testimonials and summary of business model/strategy to demonstrate financial viability.

Photography requirements

Rising Star Award nominations require photos of various projects, and photos of the nominated individual. All photos should be supplied in landscape only.

For the photos of the individual, a minimum of two photographs are required in landscape only. We strongly recommend that the photos submitted should include at least one formal photograph and 1 action shot of the individual on the job.

Photos of featured projects

You should submit a minimum of 10 photographs of at least two different projects (five photos per project). These shots should highlight the main features of each project and should include:

- External shots – front entry, landscaping, and any outdoor areas like pools, patios, and decks
- Internal shots – kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, living areas, media rooms, etc.
- Feature shots – any main features, such as balustrading, timber, or steelwork.

Judging criteria and nomination information

Applications should be comprehensive and contain enough detail for the judging process to make a full analysis of the credentials of the applicant for the Award.

Category description

This Award celebrates an individual's achievements and current progression as an emerging builder in the industry. Nominees for the Rising Star Award typically demonstrate their involvement and commitment to the industry with their quality of work, great customer relations, and dedication to their team and business.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the *Rising Star Award*, the applicant must:

- be a member of Master Builders
- be operating as a sole trader, in a partnership, or a director of a company, and
- hold a current contractor licence in a builder category (Low Rise, Medium Rise or Open) under the Queensland Building & Construction Commission Act 1991 in the state of Queensland and held such a licence or ever contracted in a similar capacity outside of Queensland for **no more than seven years**.

Judging criteria

This Award is judged solely on the submission provided. The applicant will need to provide a minimum of two written testimonials from clients, their employer and industry colleagues.

In considering the applications, the judges will take into account the following criteria, which have been weighted accordingly. **Each criteria must be answered in the relevant section** (not as an attachment), and include all relevant supporting documentation.

- Provide a brief overview of your employment history, relevant training qualifications and outline your current role (maximum 300 words)
- Demonstrate your commitment to quality workmanship, how you deliver projects on time and on budget, and maintain high safety standards (maximum 400 words)
- Outline your involvement with Master Builders and other industry bodies and groups (eg committees, event attendance, industry training). Demonstrate how you are a role model to others in the industry. Include any personal industry achievements (maximum 400 words).
- Demonstrate with examples your effective customer service and leadership skills. Give examples of how these demonstrate your positive contribution to team operations and working relationships (maximum 400 words)
- Outline your approach to business planning, cashflow and complying with MFRs. Detail how you comply with regulatory requirements for contracts. (maximum 400 words).

Women in Building Award

Entry checklist

What you will need

- Your company details (membership number, QBCC licence, ABN and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers and any registered trading names).
- Nominee details (direct email and phone details).
- Employer details (current employer and their contact details).
- Written responses to judging criteria (outlining how the nominee meets each of the judging criteria) in the space provided (**not as an attachment**).
- Signed Authorisation Form (member, entrant and photographer signatures).
- Testimonials from employers clients industry colleagues.
- Awards and Scholarship certificates (optional).

Photography requirements

Women in Building nominations require photos of the nominated individual. A minimum of five photos are required. These photos should be supplied in landscape only. We recommend that the photos submitted should include at least one formal photograph and one action shot of the individual on the job.

Judging criteria and nomination information

Applications should be comprehensive and contain enough detail for the judging process to make a full analysis of the credentials of the applicant for the Award.

Category description

This award highlights the remarkable contribution women make to the building and construction industry.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Women in Building Award, the entrant must:

- be a female who is currently in a trade and/or profession directly engaged in the building and construction industry and employed by / as a licensed builder or trade contractor; and
- be a member of Master Builders or currently employed by a Master Builders member.

Judging criteria

This Award is judged solely on the submission provided. The applicant will need to provide a minimum of two written testimonials from either clients, employer(s), or industry colleagues.

The applicant will also need to address the below criteria:

- Provide a brief overview of your employment history, relevant industry training qualifications and outline your current role (maximum 300 words).
- Detail how you support and encourage other women in the building and construction industry and outline your involvement with Master Builders and other industry bodies and groups. Include any personal industry achievements (maximum 500 words).
- Demonstrate (with examples) your effective customer service and leadership skills. Give examples of how these demonstrate your positive contribution to team operations and working relationships (maximum 400 words).
- Why do you deserve to win the Women in Building Award? (maximum 500 words).

Apprentice of the Year Award

Entry checklist

What you will need

- Your company details (membership number, QBCC licence, ABN and registered company name, postal address, phone numbers and any registered trading names).
- Nominee details (direct email and phone details).
- Employer Details (current employer and their contact details).
- Referee details (name, company and contact details for two referees).
- Written responses to judging criteria in the space provided **(not as an attachment)**.
- Signed Authorisation Form (member, entrant and photographer signatures).
- Testimonials from employer, teachers.
- Employment and work experience, Trade/academic qualifications (including results & completion times)
- Awards and Scholarship certificates (optional).

Photography requirements

Apprentice of the Year nominations require photos of the nominated individual. A minimum of five photos are required. These photos should be supplied in landscape only. We recommend that the photos submitted should include at least one formal photograph and one action shot of the individual on the job.

Judging criteria and nomination information

Applications should be comprehensive and contain enough detail for the judging process to make a full analysis of the credentials of the applicant for the Award.

Category description

This award commends the achievements of our industry's apprentices. It recognises and encourages excellence in trade knowledge, quality building work, strong presentation, and solid trade school results. Judges also consider attitude to work, maturity, personal development, and progress throughout the apprenticeship.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the *Apprentice of the Year Award*, the entrant must:

- be either currently completing an apprenticeship or have completed their indenture between 01 January 2025 and 01 March 2026
- be a member of Master Builders or currently employed by a Master Builders member
- the trade apprenticeship must result in a Licence class as recognised by the QBCC.

Judging criteria

This Award is judged on the submission provided. **The applicant will need to provide a minimum of two written testimonials from including from employer (past or present) and teacher / trainer.**

The applicant will also need to address the below criteria:

- Provide an overview of your trade qualifications including industry training, employment history, and outline your current role. This should include trade skills, as well as work contributing to the overall project/s. Include any awards scholarships. (maximum 500 words)
- Give practical examples of skills learned, competency results, and ability to apply knowledge and concepts in practical situations. Include details on your workmanship. (maximum 500 words)
- Outline how you contribute positively to team operations and working relationships, to improve teamwork and show leadership skills. Provide examples of any additional responsibilities you have been given by your employer (maximum 400 words)
- Outline how you demonstrate a strong work ethic by giving examples around diligence and commitment to current role (e.g. time management, quality of workmanship, sense of responsibility).