

IABSE PROJECT AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS – 2026

1 Awards Definition

All project submissions will be considered in one or two of the following award categories:

1.1 IABSE Award for Small Projects

Recognizes outstanding design of small projects having a strong structural engineering component which are not suited to any of the other categories. Examples might be station canopies, water towers, sculptures etc.

1.2 IABSE Award for Small Building Structures

Recognizes outstanding structural design of buildings. The structural design should make a significant contribution to the character of the building and be a major contributor to the high quality of its design.

1.3 IABSE Award for Large Building Structures

Recognizes outstanding structural design of buildings. The structural design should make a significant contribution to the character of the building and be a major contributor to the high quality of its design.

1.4 IABSE Award for Pedestrian and Cycle Bridges

Recognizes outstanding design of bridges designed specifically for pedestrians, cyclists and non-motorised users.

1.5 IABSE Award for Small Rail and Road Bridges

Recognizes outstanding design of bridges, other than pedestrian and cycle bridges.

1.6 IABSE Award for Large Rail and Road Bridges

Recognizes outstanding design of bridges, other than pedestrian and cycle bridges.

1.7 IABSE Award for Infrastructure

Recognizes outstanding design of infrastructure projects, other than bridges or buildings, which include a strong structural engineering component.

1.8 IABSE Award for Rehabilitation and Regeneration

Recognizes outstanding design of projects involving rehabilitation and renovation of existing structures, including historic or heritage structures, where some preservation of the original structure was an important part of the challenge. Regeneration projects which make the most of existing facilities in order to reduce the carbon footprint otherwise created by building new structures should fall into the category.

1.9 IABSE Award for Innovation in Construction

Recognizes innovative application of new construction materials, products, methods or equipment to achieve outstanding project outcomes.

1.10 IABSE Award for International Community Development

Recognizes outstanding structural design of projects in the developing world which make a significant positive impact on the local community by improving health care, sanitation, education and livelihoods, and reducing poverty. Projects might include small school buildings or medical centres, for example, in a remote rural community, or large projects aimed at enabling development of a wider area.

1.11 IABSE Gold Star Award

Recognizes the most outstanding project of the year, selected by the Jury from among the winners of the previous categories. *(Note that projects cannot be submitted directly for this category but must be entered under the eight main categories listed above.)*

2 Submission Requirements and Entry Criteria

Submissions for the IABSE Awards must be made via the IABSE Awards web site. The deadline for submissions is **31st March 2026**.

Submissions may be made under any of the categories listed above with the exception of the Gold Star Award. If a project does not strictly conform to any of the category descriptions, then it should be submitted under a category that most aptly describes the project in question.

Projects may be entered in up to two categories. However, projects submitted in two categories shall only be eligible to win an award in one category. The Jury will consider the project under both categories and will decide in which category to make an award, if any. The Jury also reserves the right to reassign a project to a different category if it is considered more appropriate in that category.

To be eligible for an award, the project must have been completed after 31st March 2024 (i.e., no more than two years before the deadline for submissions.) Projects may only be submitted once.

Entries shall comprise of three parts – Entry Form, Supporting Information and Payment. These shall be submitted online via the special portal on the IABSE Awards web site set up for this purpose. Entries provided on a CD, USB or any other medium will not be accepted.

2.1 Entry Form

The entry form shall be completed in English and contain the following information:

- Project name (maximum 5 words)
- Project location
- The award categories (up to a maximum of two) under which it is being submitted.
- Date of completion of construction
- Brief description of up to 50 words. (*Note that this, or an edited version, will be used in publicity announcements in the event that the project is shortlisted.*)
- Company name of the lead structural engineer on the project, with contact name and email address.
- Company names and addresses of other principal companies involved in the project, with a contact name and email address for each one. As a minimum this must include:
 - the client and/or owner of the project
 - other consulting engineers working with the lead structural engineer in cases where the engineering design is by a Joint Venture or design consortium
 - the Architect
 - the main contractor, and any Joint Venture partners in the event that the construction is by a Joint Venture or construction consortium
- The name and contact details of the person submitting the entry. This person shall be a member of IABSE and shall be from one of the organisations involved in the project. (*This is the person with whom HQ will communicate on anything related to the awards.*)

- A signed declaration by the person submitting the form that all named organisations involved in the project have given their consent to the submission. (*See note below*)
- The form shall be accompanied by a declaration signed by the client/owner giving permission for the project to be submitted for the IABSE Awards and confirming the completion date and that the names of those organisations listed on the form (designers and contractors) and those principally involved in the project.

Note. In the event of a dispute arising among the project participants regarding the submission, the project will be withdrawn from consideration until the dispute is resolved.

2.2 Supporting Information

The Supporting Information shall provide sufficient details about the project to explain why it is considered an outstanding and worthy candidate for the award. In particular, it is important to include sufficient information about the structural engineering characteristics to allow the Jury to evaluate the project against the judging criteria defined below. General descriptive material used for media and publicity purposes will not be sufficient. The Jury requires sufficient engineering detail to make a judgement regarding the project's suitability for an award.

The Supporting Information shall comprise images, drawings and a short report as follows:

- Up to six drawings, printable and clearly legible at A3 size, including one or more general arrangements with key dimensions and sufficient further information to describe the important structural characteristics. Drawings shall be submitted in PDF format.
- Up to six high quality colour images to be used by IABSE for publicity and promotional purposes. The images shall be provided as separate high-resolution files, one for each image, using .JPG format with a maximum file size of 8 MB.
- A report of up to six A4 pages and no more than 2,000 words describing the outstanding characteristics of the project that make it a worthy candidate for an award. The report may contain extra small drawings and images in addition to those referred to above if this helps to convey the desired information. The report shall be submitted in PDF format. If a report exceeds 6 pages, the 7th and any subsequent pages will be removed from the version submitted to the Jury.

All drawings and the report shall be in clear and intelligible English.

Note that the copyright for all information submitted, including images, will remain with the authors. Any credits that must be given for the use of images or illustrations shall be clearly identified in the documents. The separate image files shall include any credit information in the filename. However, by making the submission, entrants automatically consent to the use of all the submitted information and images by IABSE, royalty free, for whatever purposes deemed appropriate by the Association. This may include, but is not limited to, adapting images for print and digital marketing, PR and exhibition purposes, and IABSE may allow trusted third parties to use the material for the purposes of promoting IABSE and the IABSE Awards.

2.3 Payment

Each submission shall be accompanied by payment of the entry fee of 250 CHF for IABSE members, and 500 CHF for non-members.. This shall be used to defray some of the costs of administering the Awards.

A reduced entry fee may be permitted for those applying from countries which are eligible for reduced IABSE membership subscriptions. Applications shall be made to the Executive Director for clarification of the applicable entry fee in such circumstances.

Any submission for which the corresponding entry fee has not been received within 2 weeks of the submission deadline shall be withdrawn from further consideration.

3 Judging Criteria

The Jury will look for characteristics of the project, and in particular the structural engineering characteristics, that make it an outstanding example of its kind. Submissions should therefore focus on the following criteria which the members of the Jury will use in their evaluation of the entries in each of the project categories.

- **Sustainability.** Submissions should explain how the project has met the highest standards of sustainable design and construction. Projects should exhibit outstanding achievement in the drive towards low and zero carbon solutions and shall demonstrate successful implementation of sustainable technologies through material efficiency, recycling and reuse where possible. A strong focus on socio-economic factors, how the structure impacts the surrounding landscape or cityscape, and the minimisation of negative impacts during construction is also expected.
- **Creative innovation.** Entries should show how the project has used innovative and creative ideas to achieve optimum engineering solutions, especially where these have resulted in greater efficiency and economic outcomes. The Jury will look for examples of originality and the application of new technologies where these have led to improvements in design, construction or operation.

- **Elegant solutions.** The Jury will look for elegance in both the visual and technical attributes of each project, as appropriate. In addition to identifying and implementing elegant solutions to technical challenges, successful projects will be focussed on the user's experience of the structure, and exhibit a careful attention to detail and a commitment to achieving lasting elegance in the overall design solution.
- **Structural Excellence.** Submissions should demonstrate those characteristics that place the structural engineering solution well beyond the ordinary. The Jury will look for evidence of how the project was able to achieve outstanding results to meet or exceed the client's expectations through the application of outstanding structural engineering skill and ingenuity.

4 The Jury

The composition of the Jury will be published on the IABSE Awards web site in advance of the submission date for entries. The following rules govern the composition of the Jury and the selection of Jury members.

- The Chair of the Jury shall be selected and appointed by the Executive Committee.
- The Jury shall consist of the Chair and up to 20 members drawn from the international design and construction community. At least 75% of the Jury shall be Individual Members or employees of Collective Members of IABSE with at least 15 years' relevant practical experience.
- At least 50% of the Jury shall be currently practicing as structural engineering designers.
- Members of the Jury shall serve for a term of not more than 4 years, with the exception of the Chair who may serve for up to two terms (i.e., 8 years) subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Jury members may be invited to serve for a second term but only after 2 years have elapsed from the end of their first term.
- Candidates for serving on the Jury may be proposed by Chairs of the National Groups, but the selection of the Jury members shall be made by the Awards Steering Group which is appointed from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- A short profile of the Jury members shall be given on the IABSE website.
- A member of IABSE HQ staff shall be assigned to act as Jury Secretary to assist in the administration of the judging process and work closely with the Chair.
- All activities, discussions and conclusions of the Jury shall be treated as strictly confidential. Members of the Jury, including the Jury Secretary, shall not disclose any information regarding the entries, the judging or the results to anyone outside the Jury.

5 The Judging Process

Because of the international character of the awards and the members of the Jury, all judging will be carried out by a combination of independent review by individual Jury members working remotely and collective online virtual Jury meetings. The process can be described as follows:

- All entries shall initially be checked by HQ for eligibility, completeness and compliance with the rules before being sent to the Jury for review. If necessary, entrants will be contacted to provide confirmation or clarification of any information that is in question.
- In order to avoid perceptions of bias and conflicts of interest, the judging process shall be carried out in two stages. The first stage is to decide on the shortlisted projects in each category and the second stage is to select the winners and any commendations. Any Jury member with any connection to a project submitted for the awards must declare it and will take no part in the second stage of judging. Furthermore, they will also be excluded in the first stage from any discussion of any category in which they have a conflict of interest.
- Stage 1 involves the preliminary scoring of the submissions by the individual Jury members working independently. The submissions will be reviewed in depth and judges will assign preliminary scores according to a pre-determined scoring system. These independently scored results will then be sent to the Jury Secretary for compiling into a summary preliminary score sheet prior to the first online Jury meeting. It is to be emphasised, that this preliminary scoring does not determine the final outcome. The preliminary scores are only a guide to assist the discussions for the shortlisting process in the first Jury meeting.
- Depending on the number of entries, it may not be feasible for all submissions to be reviewed independently by all Jury members for preliminary scoring. In that case, it will be necessary to allocate each category to just three or four Jury members so that each Jury member gets to review a manageable number of submissions in depth. Every submission should be reviewed in depth by at least three Jury members in addition to the Chair who shall review all the entries.
- The first online Jury meeting will take place after the preliminary scores have been compiled. During the meeting, each category will be considered in turn, concentrating initially on those projects receiving the highest scores in the preliminary evaluation. However, all Jury members (other than those with a declared conflict of interest) can speak up in support of a project which did not score so highly in the preliminary review if they consider it to be a worthy candidate. The purpose of this first meeting is only to decide upon the shortlisted projects in each category.
- The details of the shortlisted projects (the short description and the names of the companies involved) will be publicly announced following the first online Jury meeting.

- The second stage is to select the winning projects and decide on any commendations. The meeting will also decide upon the IABSE Gold Star winner for the year. The discussion of the shortlisted projects will take place during the second online Jury meeting. Following the meeting, the Jury members present will vote independently on their choice of winners and commendations and submit their votes to the Chair in a secret ballot.
- The Chair will finalise the results and inform the HQ staff who need to know in order to prepare certificates and publicity material. In this way, only the Chair of the Jury and a small group of individuals at HQ will know the results before the announcements are made at the Awards Presentation Ceremony.

4 Presentation ceremony

The Awards will be announced and presented at the IABSE Awards Ceremony Gala Dinner. The President of IABSE will present each Award to representatives of the winning teams at the event.

The winners will receive a recognition diploma and/or any other symbol to be decided by the Administrative Committee, and the awardees will be reported in the following IABSE SEI journal.

In addition, all shortlisted companies who were unsuccessful will also receive a suitably worded certificate.