

LABC Awards helping you to make your nomination.

Background and a plug

There is some really good information on the www.labcawards.org website, so make sure you check out the rules, categories and tips pages.

Techie bits

Nominations are uploaded from the South East region nominations page. When the nomination is safely received the website displays a confirmation screen and you will get an e-mail with a tracking id for future reference.

Include jpeg copies of the entry form images with your nomination. You may include additional images when these will help. Jpegs around 1024x768 pixels and 1Mb in size are ideal for presentation purposes.

Put all the nomination documents together in one folder and zip it up – you should find the zip instruction by right clicking the folder and from the send to menu select compressed (zipped) folder. We can also accept “rar” zipped files.

Quick rules (full version on the website)

Complete the document “South East Nomination Guide 2012”.

Complete the entry form on the South East Region nominations page

Include good quality photographs of the project in jpeg format

You may also include design drawings in pdf format

Now how to.....

Write an endorsement

Another plug for the website, you will find tips on the categories and tips page.

Think about the scheme and why you want to enter it for a particular category. If it’s a project category, it doesn’t have to be the biggest, the most expensive or the brashest. It could be quite modest but well thought out, or built with extra care. There may be crafts people involved that deserve recognition. Include these details with the endorsement, and back them up with drawings or photographs as appropriate. Highlight the good points to the judges.

Examples are always better than generalities. Examples score points; generally generalities don’t unless they can be proven in other evidence. So explaining how a good working relationship overcame a specific problem is better than just stating that there were good working relationships. And don’t worry if the point in question seems quite trivial, if your nomination gives an example, and another doesn’t, yours will pick up the points.

If you are entering a project category, describe its positive features. It might be a school that also scores highly on sustainability issues. So be proud of these achievements and describe them.

Think also about the different people involved with the scheme, the customer, the designer, the builder. If your nomination includes a short statement from some or all, it tends to be well received. It shows that the perception of quality is shared.



What to include in the summary.....

This should be a brief description of the development to help set the scene for the judges. The target length is up to 50 words.

The LABC endorsement.....

In the past, these have tended to be a one-line or short letter encouraging the nomination. But winning entries tend to be those where the project surveyor has described why the development is worthy of an award, and why it stood out amongst the other developments inspected. The target length for a successful LABC endorsement is 200 – 400 words.

The supporting statement....

This should be written by a project team member. This could be the architect/designer, the contractor, the developer or the customer, or a combination of these people. Where the nomination is for the partnership category, this supporting statement should be by the partner company.

Why should this scheme win a national award.....

If your nomination is successful and wins at the regional awards, it will be automatically forwarded to the national awards, where it will face competition from the other regional winners. So take time to describe why your scheme might be considered to be the best of its kind in the country.

I'm not David Bailey....

But someone involved with the scheme may be fairly decent. Share resources. If a nomination describes a feature that is buried or covered, try and include a photograph of this part of the construction.

How strict are the judges?

We don't word count or set rules for the maximum number of images. We won't return your nomination if it has one word too many. But if you waffle on for page after page the judges are going to have difficulty finding the points you are trying to make. So be as brief and as clever as you can with the words and formatting.

It works the same with the images. Include the 6 most descriptive pictures in the word document. These are the six that the judges will first see. You may submit more images with the nomination but if your entry includes tens of images showing inch by inch (or centimetre by centimetre for my EU chums) the judges will tend to skip over and miss the feature that you really wanted to show. So be selective and submit the images for a reason. You could even tell the judges why you have included them with the nomination.

Can we help more?

The organisers are committed to making the process as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. Contact us if you get stuck or need any help. That's what we are here for.

Dave Chard

E-mail: whitesquareevents@gmail.com

