



HKILA 2025 AWARDS

Nomination details

INTRODUCTION

Entries are invited for the **Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA) Awards 2025**. The Awards seek to promote excellence in landscape planning, design and management in both governmental and private landscape projects, to recognize outstanding achievements by landscape architects, landscape designers, students currently studying in Landscape Architecture and to bring the works of local and international landscape architects, landscape designers and students to the public's attention. It is open to any completed projects, proposed landscape master planning/ studies that fall within the period from **01 June 2023 to 31 December 2025** (hereinafter 'the Period') in any geographic location.

CATEGORIES OF HKILA AWARDS

There are SEVEN award categories* for the HKILA Awards:

- A. Excellence in Public Development (applicable to RP, PM)
- B. Excellence in Private Development (applicable to RP, PM)
- C. Excellence in Master Landscape Planning/ Study (applicable to RP, PM, AM, GM)
- D. Excellence in Landscape Transformation (applicable to RP, PM, AM, GM)
- E. Excellence in Landscape Communication (applicable to RP, PM, AM, GM)
- F. Excellence in International Projects**
(applicable to all landscape practitioners outside Hong Kong)
- G. Excellence in International Planning & Research**
(applicable to all landscape practitioners and academic bodies outside Hong Kong)
- H. Excellence in Student Project (applicable to SM)

**Nomination eligibility for each category:*

RP: HKILA Registered Practice / PM: HKILA Professional Member, Fellow Member

AM: HKILA Associate Member / GM: HKILA Graduate Member / SM: HKILA Student Member

Landscape practitioners/academic bodies outside Hong Kong: Organisations, institutions, companies, practices that resides and operates primarily outside Hong Kong

ELIGIBILITY

Projects/studies for the submission of HKILA Awards Category **A to E** must:

1. have been undertaken by a HKILA member and nominated by a HKILA member.
2. have been completed / published / approved by its project proponent within the Period and should not have won any previous HKILA Awards within that category.
3. have not been submitted under category F, G or H.

For any inquiries relating to the Awards please email to secretary2@hkila.com

Projects for the submission of HKILA Awards Category **F** must:

1. have been undertaken by an organisation/institution/company/practice/individual practicing landscape architecture as one of their core professional services and nominated by a landscape architecture practitioner that resides and operates outside Hong Kong;
2. have been completed and/or approved by its project proponent within the Period and should not have submitted to any other HKILA Awards' categories and should not have won any previous HKILA Awards.

Projects for the submission of HKILA Awards Category **G** must:

1. have been undertaken by an organisation/institution/company/practice/individual practicing/studying landscape architecture as one of their core discourses and nominated by a landscape architecture practitioner that resides and operates outside Hong Kong;
2. have been completed and/or published within the Period and should not have submitted to any other HKILA Awards' categories and should not have won any previous HKILA Awards.

Projects/studies for the submission of HKILA Awards Category **H** must:

1. have been undertaken by a HKILA Student Member
2. have been completed within the Period and should not have won any previous HKILA Awards within the category.
3. students who are not yet a HKILA Student Member and wish to take part in the HKILA Awards, application can be made alongside with the award submission through <https://www.hkila.com/opportunities/membership/>.
4. if the application for HKILA student membership is in process, please send the record of your membership application, fee payment, and send the copies together with the HKILA Awards submission documents to secretary2@hkila.com.

Number of Submissions

HKILA Members and Landscape practitioners/academic bodies outside Hong Kong may submit more than one submission for each relevant/qualifying category. The project(s) may be situated in any geographic location. Entries will be judged in accordance with the details set under *Judging criteria* in this document. Submissions should indicate clearly the full extent of the landscape works within the project.

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CLIENT/ EMPLOYER/ GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT APPROVAL

In entering for the Awards, the Nominator is deemed to agree and to have obtained the client, employer, project proponent and relevant government departments' expressed approval for the use of the submitted information and material by the HKILA in promoting the Awards Scheme.

Nominators are strongly recommended to obtain and retain written proof of the approval before submission. HKILA will accept no responsibility for any consequence arising out of the publication of submitted information and presentation materials.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must read and ensure compliance with the details under this Nomination Detail document prior to the submission and completion of the Nomination Form and Design Statement template attached with the Nomination Form.

- ONE project submission shall be covered by ONE Nomination Form only;
- A project cannot be submitted under multiple categories;
- ALL entries for the HKILA Awards shall contain the following deliverables:
 - (i) ONE digital presentation graphic in A1 portrait format, file resolution at 250-dpi, JPEG format, file size not exceeding 10MB;
 - (ii) ONE completed Nomination Form for each entry;
 - (iii) ONE Design Statement: 300 words in English, typed out onto the provided template enclosed under Nomination Form;
 - (iv) Record of payment for the appropriate entry fee for the category;
 - (v) ONE 'hero image' of the submitted entry for ceremony and HKILA promotion use, in landscape format, file resolution at 250-dpi, JPEG format;
- Presentation graphic must contain the following information:
 - (i) Title of project;
 - (ii) Location of project;
 - (iii) Brief description of the scope and nature of the project;
- Presentation graphic may contain the following information:
 - (i) plans, sections, elevations, analytical diagrams, perspective sketches, photographs of physical models or computer renderings;
 - (ii) photographs of the project site / completed works;
 - (iii) statement regarding the client's brief / objectives for the project;
 - (iv) description of constraints, design concept/ philosophy, design strategy / approach, applied design solutions, significance of the project/ beneficial contribution to the landscape of HK, etc.;

- All the above items should be completed and email to HKILA Awards Secretariat (secretary2@hkila.com) on or before the closing date and time. Late submission will not be considered;
- Personal information relating to the Nominator such as company names and logos should not appear anywhere on the presentation graphics;
- If there are more than one submission submitted by one applicant, please ensure each project submission to be covered by ONE Nomination Form under a separate email to avoid overlooked material.
- Applicants may approach HKILA Awards Secretariat (secretary2@hkila.com) for advice in the event of any doubt over category eligibility/suitability of a project.
- The jurors retain the right to re-assign any submission to a different award category if they deem appropriate, and without appeal.
- It is highly recommended to submit all documents before the due date/time to avoid potential delay or late submission due to technical issues arising from potentially congested online transmission.

The **close of submission** for HKILA Awards 2025 will be on **9 January 2026** at **17:00**.

DETAILS OF CATEGORIES

Category A - Excellence in Public Development

- Projects under this category should be completed landscape projects / developments used primarily by the general public. It includes government or institutional projects, schools, sports facilities, public housing developments, infrastructural works, heritage, landscape restoration, etc.;
- All the projects under this category should be substantially completed within the Period;
- The submission should be nominated by at least one HKILA Professional Member, HKILA Fellow Member or HKILA Registered Practice.

Category B - Excellence in Private Development

- Projects under this category should be completed landscape projects / developments where the end user is a private entity – residential, commercial, industrial, etc.;
- All the projects under this category should be substantially completed within the Period;
- The submission should be nominated by at least one HKILA Professional Member, HKILA Fellow Member or HKILA Registered Practice.

Category C - Excellence in Master Landscape Planning/ Study

- Project/studies under this category should be strategic master landscape planning, urban design, landscape policy, impact assessments, greening master plans, etc. The project for this category can be either a completed project or a proposed project;
- For entries with a research study or publication focus, ONE digital copy (PDF format) of the published planning, research study report or document shall be submitted together with the rest of the required submission material;
- The submission should be nominated by at least one HKILA Professional Member, HKILA Fellow Member, HKILA Registered Practice, Associate Member or Graduate Member.

Category D - Excellence in Landscape Transformation

- Submissions under this category should demonstrate the advocacy of one or more of the following:
 - The importance of new and adaptive technologies and methodologies in the context of climate and biodiversity emergency;
 - Improvement in the working knowledge of practitioners in Hong Kong and/ or other geographical locations;
 - Widening of involvement and opportunities for related practitioners in the region;
 - Promotion of HKILA's forward-thinking mission.
- The submission can be either a proposed project or completed project and should demonstrate one or more of the followings:
 - (i) showcase new techniques and methods that can change the way current landscape practices are being undertaken;
 - (ii) highlight how better landscape outcomes might be produced to address climate and biodiversity emergency;
 - (iii) indicate how the application can be applied or scaled to transform current industry practice in Hong Kong and/ or other geographical locations;
 - (iv) outline potential limitations and constraints to adoption;
 - (v) demonstrate that the method is being trialed or applied.
- All the projects under this category should be substantially completed within the Period;
- The submission should be nominated by at least one HKILA Professional Member, HKILA Fellow Member, HKILA Registered Practice, Associate Member, Graduate Member, Affiliate members and Student Members.

Category E - Excellence in Landscape Communication

- Projects under this category should demonstrate outstanding efforts in communicating landscape architecture works, research, technologies, history, or theory to raise public awareness and knowledge about the importance of landscape architecture.
- Entry may take the form of:
 - (i) Online communications
 - (ii) Interactive & multimedia;
 - (iii) Print media;
 - (iv) Film, video, audio e.g.podcasts;
 - (v) Interpretive design;
 - (vi) Exhibition design;
 - (vii) Public awareness campaigns* etc..

**campaign/events should be completed within the Period.*
- If the project is web-based and/or only consist of an online digital version, please provide an ad-free direct link with your submission. You may also provide a link from the submission's hosting platform (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo).
- For any accessible form of communication including print media, film, video, multimedia content, websites, exhibition design, interpretive installations, public awareness campaigns, guidelines, manuals, or journalistic reports. In addition to submitting an A1 panel and Design Statement, please provide a full pdf, an ad-free direct link with your submission. You may also provide a link from the submission's hosting platform (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo).
- Judging criteria include effectiveness of message presentation, the innovation in approach or delivery, and the value received by the intended audience;
- The submission should be nominated by at least one HKILA Professional member, Fellow Member, Associate Member or Graduate Members.

Category F - Excellence in International Project

- Projects under this category should be completed landscape projects or developments, used primarily by the general public. It may include government or institutional projects, schools, sports facilities, public housing developments, infrastructural works, heritage, landscape restoration, etc.;
- Projects/studies submitted under this category should be substantially completed within the Period;
- The submission should be nominated by a Landscape practitioners that resides and operates primarily outside Hong Kong.

Category G - Excellence in International Planning & Research

- The category includes completed and/or published research or study with a focus on advocating and advancement in landscape architecture. It may include topics on design, horticulture, climate resilience, history, or theory etc. to raise international awareness and knowledge about the importance of landscape architecture;
- Project/studies under this category should demonstrate a strong focus on strategic master landscape planning, urban design, landscape policy, impact evaluations, greening master plans, etc.;
- For entries with a research study or publication focus, ONE digital copy (PDF format) of the published planning, research study report or document shall be submitted together with the rest of the required submission material;
- The submission should be nominated by a Landscape practitioner/ academic body that resides and operates primarily outside Hong Kong.

Category H – Excellence in Student Award

- In collaboration with The Young Landscape Architects' Group (YLAG), this category aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their skills, knowledge, and innovation for creating sustainable and aesthetically pleasing spaces;
- These distinct student award categories aim to recognize and reward excellence in areas of skills which are essential in landscape design, including overall quality, analysis and planning, sustainable strategies, and innovation. The varied categories ensures students have the opportunity to showcase their unique strengths and contribute in advancement of the landscape design profession;
- This category comprises of FOUR sub-categories, each highlighting specific aspects of landscape design, details as follow:

(i) General Design Award

This award shall recognize THREE designs (Champion, First Runner up and Second Runner-up) that demonstrate outstanding quality, creativity, and functionality of space. These designs should exhibit a deep understanding of landscape design principles, including site analysis, spatial planning, plant selection, hardscape integration, and user experience.

(ii) Analysis and Planning Award

This award shall recognize ONE design that showcase exceptional analysis and strategic planning. This award category emphasizes the importance of thorough research, including but not limited to, environmental consideration, site constraints, and user needs. Participants should demonstrate their ability to develop a comprehensive landscape design plan that maximizes site potential, addresses challenges, and enhances the overall functionality and beauty of the space/site.

(iii) Communication Award

This award shall recognize ONE designer who demonstrates excellence in effective communication of design ideas and concepts. This award acknowledges the importance of clear and compelling communication in landscape design. The evaluation criteria focus on the clarity and coherence of the messages and narratives, the visual presentation of design features, and the presentation of ideas in a logical and captivating manner.

(iv) Innovative Design Award

This award shall celebrate ONE design that pushes the boundaries of traditional landscape design concepts. This category encourages participants to think outside the box, experiment with unconventional elements, materials, and technologies, and present visionary concepts that challenge existing norms. The winning design should demonstrate originality, inventiveness, and potential of landscape design.

KEY DATES S

The key dates for HKILA Awards 2025 for all categories:

- Period of nomination (enquiry opens and nomination form(s) accepted): **28 Nov 2025 to 9 January 2026 (17:00)**
- Period of submission (online submission portal opens for material upload and payment): **10 Dec 2025 to 9 January 2025 (17:00)**
- Date of Awards presentation: **March 2026** (exact date TBC)

JUDGING CRITERIA

Unless stated otherwise in the category details, all HKILA Awards will be judged against FIVE criteria below:

- 1. Design**
- 2. Sustainability**
- 3. Innovation**
- 4. Value**
- 5. Professionalism**

Please read carefully the following sub-criteria of each category. When you submit your entry, make sure you clearly identify how your work meets the specific criteria for the respective category:

1) Design

- The entry demonstrates a commitment to high-quality design with respect to both functionality and aesthetics while achieving one or more of the following:
 - highly functional and useable;
 - thoughtful and sensitive to the site context and character;
 - beautiful, appealing both visually and to other senses;
 - inclusively designed and accessible for all users;
 - overcome site challenges in an innovative and creative way.

2) Sustainability

- The entry demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability while achieving one or more of the following:
 - made demonstrable effort towards (net) carbon neutrality and mitigating climate change;
 - maximised adaptation and resilience to future climate changes, including increased temperatures and associated risks;
 - sought to make a positive contribution towards healthy, connected habitats for biodiverse species;
 - mitigated other environmental harms and pollution wherever possible, including air and water pollution.

3) Innovation

- The entry demonstrates the application of smart technology and approaches to allow the design for easy adaptation in future design project and:
 - incorporated a new material and/or products benefiting the sustainability aspect of the landscape design;
 - incorporated an energy efficient design and/ or renewable energy.

4) Value

- The entry demonstrates a commitment to maximising value for client and communities, including but not limited to:
 - Meets or exceeds objectives of the original brief;
 - Makes best and most-efficient use of available resources and space;
 - considered the project/design's impact on all users and evidences of community involvement where appropriate;
 - Maximises the project/design's impact on human health and wellbeing, and other social outcomes;
 - Maximises the opportunity of local regeneration and economic development.

5) Professionalism

- The entry meets the highest standard of quality expected of a landscape professional:
 - Decisions and practices are consistent with current best practice and standards;
 - Relies upon thorough and robust analysis of impacts, risks, and benefits;
 - Project/design is described in clear, authoritative terms with well-designed documentation
 - Project/design maximised the potential of collaboration and multi-stakeholder working
 - Commits to quality across all stages of the landscape lifecycle, from design, plan to maintenance.

Notes on Completing the Application Form

- Project Title: the full title of the project as would appear on any award certificate.
- Project Location: the general address of the project, such that the site might be readily located by the jurors.
- Project Completion Date: refers to the substantial completion of the project. Month and year would be sufficient.
- Client / Employer/ Owner: full name of individual / corporate / institution of the client body, noting specific government department if applicable. The ultimate parent company should be named in the event that the project was undertaken via a project holding company.
- Nominator (Categories A to E and H): refers to any valid HKILA members, HKILA registered firm / practice responsible for the project. Any Fellow / Professional / Associate / Student / Graduate member of the HKILA, or HKILA registered firm / practice, is eligible to nominate a project for these awards based on the specification of the individual categories. The Nominator should be a core member involved in the project / study.
- Nominator (Categories F and G): refers to any landscape practitioner/practice that resides and operates primarily outside Hong Kong. The Nominator should be a core member involved in the project / study.
- Nominator capacity: Where the nomination is by a registered firm / practice, the representative must have been a principal member or director of the landscape team that undertook the project.
- Team Members: the award certificate will bear the name of the Nominator. Names of other team members, i.e. other persons / firms / companies/ organisations contributed to the project may also be added to the certificate in an order subordinate to the Nominator. Please state the capacity of each of the contributing organization at submission.

JURY

- The Jury for all categories will be composed of several senior members of the landscape profession and related design professions;
- The decision of the Jury will be final, and the HKILA will not enter into any correspondence or discussion relating to the Jury's decision;
- For reference and information, apart from the Judging Criteria listed in aforementioned paragraph, in previous HKILA Awards events jurors have made comments on submissions under the following principles:
 - Originality / uniqueness / contribution to the landscape knowledge of Hong Kong;
 - Complexity / difficulty / challenge with respect to site and project constraints;
 - Quality / richness of the experience of users of the landscape design;
 - Site specificity / respect of the existing environment, heritage and culture;
 - How well the design idea / intent has been executed / realized;
 - Logic in design thought / process, depth of analysis, clarity of presentation;
 - Practicality of the solution.

AWARDS FOR CATEGORIES A to G

- The number of Awards allocated in any category or in total is at the complete discretion of the Jury. Certificates will be presented at the Awards ceremony during HKILA Annual Dinner. The award may be given as follows:
 - GOLD** – Award for the best project selected in each category
 - SILVER**- Award for exceptional design quality and excellence in each category
 - MERIT** - Award for project of outstanding landscape quality in each category.
- All submission materials and presentation graphics will become the property of the HKILA. All rights and entitlements to use and reproduce them for use of promotion under HKILA Awards are reserved by the HKILA.

AWARDS FOR CATEGORY H

- The number of awards allocated in this category or in total is at the complete discretion of the Jury. Certificates will be presented at the Awards ceremony. The types of awards may be given as follows:

Monetary prize of **HKD \$3,000** for the **Champion** for the General Design Award;

Monetary prize of **HKD \$2,500** for the **1stRunner-up** for the General Design Award;

Monetary prize of **HKD \$1,500** for the **2nd Runner-up** for the General Design Award;

Monetary prize of **HKD \$1,000** for the Analysis and Planning Award;

Monetary prize of **HKD \$1,000** for the Communication Award;

Monetary prize of **HKD \$1,000** for the Innovative Design Award;

SUBMISSION FEE AND PAYMENT METHOD

- The fee for nomination to HKILA Awards 2025:
 - Categories A to E: **HK\$ 1,800**
 - Categories F and G: **HK\$ 2,500**
 - Category H: **HK\$ 150**
- Payment methods available:
 - 1) HKILA Bank Account Number: **HSBC: 004-033-211459-838**
 - 2) PayPal: [paypal.me/hkila](https://www.paypal.com/hk)



- 3) PayMe: <https://qr.payme.hsbc.com.hk/2/H2vpQkjztSnuX8x8RtF924>



- 4) Cheque(s) should be made payable to
“The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects”.
Please scan the cheque and submit it together with the nomination package.
When posting the cheque to HKILA, please state on the envelope/cover it is for the HKILA Awards Application fee payment.
Mailing Address of HKILA:
**West Wing 2/F, 822 Lai Chi Kok Road, Cheung Sha Wan,
Kowloon, Hong Kong**

End of HKILA Awards 2025 Nomination Details

For any inquiries relating to the Awards please email to secretary2@hkila.com