



NLA AWARDS 2026

Submission Guidelines

FAQs

Is there a page limit for the PDF?

The main submission document has a 12-page limit. A cover page may sit outside this. The appendix, for drawings, has no page limit and should be included in the same PDF. Only include what is essential to clearly communicate the project.

Where should I include photography?

Please include relevant photography within your PDF submission for judging purposes, including both interior and exterior shots where appropriate. There is no set limit on the number of images. Images included in the PDF will be used for judging purposes only.

What is the word count for the PDF?

For Project and Place categories:

- Written overview of the scheme (max 300 words)
- How the project meets the judging criteria (max 200 words)
- Environmental, social and economic sustainability (max 150 words)

For People categories:

- Overview of the team, borough or partnership (max 600 words)
- Best practice example (max 400 words)
- How the example meets the judging criteria (max 300 words)

Titles and image captions may sit outside of the word count.

What are the deadlines for Stage 1 and Stage 2?

- Stage 1 (PDF submission for judging) closes at 12:00 on Thursday 21 May 2026.
- Stage 2 (NLA Project Directory listing) closes at 12:00 on Thursday 23 July 2026. Completion of Stage 2 is required to access the full promotional benefits of entry.



Can I submit the same project to more than one category?

Yes, projects can be entered into multiple categories where appropriate. A separate fee is required for each category.

Can I resubmit a project from a previous year?

Yes, projects may be resubmitted up to two times, provided they demonstrate clear development since the previous entry.

How much does it cost to enter?

Entry is £295 + VAT for NLA Members and £345 + VAT for non-members. Fees apply per submission. There is no fee for Special Prizes.

Do I need to enter Special Prizes separately?

No, Special Prizes are awarded from the main shortlist. You will be asked relevant questions in the submission form to determine eligibility.

Why is there no dedicated domestic or small-scale residential category?

Don't Move, Improve! is NLA's programme recognising projects of this scale. Over the past decade, it has become an important platform for celebrating London's home improvement projects and the creativity of the architects behind them, particularly smaller practices delivering thoughtful retrofit and extension work across the capital.

The NLA Awards focus on projects with the greatest impact at a city-wide scale. Due to the distinct criteria and assessment required for individual homes, these are not included within this programme.

Don't Move, Improve! is currently paused due to resourcing, while we review how the initiative may evolve. We remain committed to supporting smaller practices and recognising the value of high-quality residential design and will share updates as plans develop.

USEFUL LINKS

[2025 Shortlist](#)

[2025 Winners](#)