



## IRISH LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE DESIGN AWARDS 2026

Since its founding, the ILI has been committed to pioneering new approaches to environmental planning, and to raising the standards of landscape design in Ireland.

Founded in 1992, the ILI is the Professional Body representing Qualified Landscape Architects, Landscape Managers and Landscape Planners in Ireland. It is the National Representative Body for Ireland in the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) and a body for the general advancement of Landscape Architecture and Management and for the maintenance of the interest, status and uniformity of practice of the profession.

The bi-annual ILI Landscape Design Awards give recognition to exemplary landscape projects by members across a range of categories. The awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

### Entry Stages

There are **2 stages** involved in entering a project for the 2026 ILI Awards:

**Stage 1:** Register, pay the appropriate Entry Fee/s online

**Stage 2:** Submit Application Form and Project Information online in digital format as set out below

### Eligibility

- Submissions entered for the ILI Awards 2026 must be the work of a Fellow, Corporate, Graduate, Affiliate, or Student member of the ILI (Irish Landscape Institute) and/or the LINI (Landscape Institute of Northern Ireland.)
- Entrants must be fully paid-up members of the ILI or LINI for the 2026/27 membership year.
- Where an Entry has been executed by an organisation or company not a member of the ILI or LINI, an entry will be accepted on the basis that the work has been carried out principally by a Member of the ILI/LINI within that organisation and the Entry must be endorsed by that Member.
- Applications for the Student Award shall be from final year student's portfolio and/or final year project
- Members of the assessment panel or their work colleagues and the Awards Registrar are ineligible for entry into the Awards.
- Work that has already received an ILI Award may not be re-entered in the same category however it can be entered in another category.
- The Awards Chair's decision is final on the eligibility of entries.
- Queries on eligibility should be addressed to the ILI Awards Registrar: [ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com](mailto:ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com), by Friday 14th August 2026 by 12 noon latest.



## Categories

Submissions will be considered within the categories below. The ILI reserves the right to place an entry in a different category if it is felt that the entry meets those criteria better than that of the one for which it was entered. The entrant will be informed of this category change. According to the number of entries, awards may be given in small, medium and large categories. Each category, where deemed appropriate by the jury, will have an overall Winner followed by Highly Commended and Commended, at the discretion of the jury.

### A: Built Projects (on the Island of Ireland) | 10 categories \*1

#### 1. Excellence in Delivery of a Public Parkland Landscape

*To include publicly-accessible projects in either an urban and a rural context.*

#### 2. Excellence in Delivery of a Civic Space / Public Realm Scheme

*To include publicly-accessible urban squares, public streets or street networks.*

#### 3. Excellence in Delivery of a Residential Landscape

*To include any scale of open space in a primarily residential setting.*

#### 4. Excellence in Delivery of Nature-based Solutions

*To include projects focusing on sustainable and renewable approaches.*

#### 5. Excellence in Delivery of an Commercial / Educational Landscape

*To include spaces that relate to a school, creche, campus or a commercial function.*

#### 6. Excellence in Delivery of a Landscape in a Healthcare Setting

*To include spaces associated with hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, or similar.*

#### 7. Excellence in Delivery of an Active Travel Infrastructure

*To include but not be limited to publicly accessible greenways and/or blueways.*

#### 8. Excellence in Delivery of Recreation or Play Space

*To include any size of project that focuses on enjoyment, accessibility, safety and play.*

#### 9. Excellence in Approach and Delivery of Planting Design

*To include projects that demonstrate sustainability, feasibility and appropriateness.*

#### 10. Excellence in Approach and Delivery towards Habitat Restoration

*To include projects that demonstrate sensitivities towards biodiversity and ecology*

### B : Landscape Technical, Theory & Strategy | 5 categories \*2

#### 11. Excellence in Landscape Theory, Policy and Management

#### 12. Excellence in Landscape Planning and Assessment



**13. Excellence in Landscape Master-Planning and Urban Design**

**14. Development of Policies or Initiatives to Support Climate Resilience**

**15. The Diane Nickels Memorial Award for Excellence in Hand Drawing**

**C : | 3 categories \*3**

**16. Outstanding Work from a Final Year Student**

*Best final year thesis in Landscape Architecture from the last two academic years*

**17. Outstanding Contribution to Landscape Architecture**

A Council nomination recognising an individual, group or body that has contributed excellence to the profession over a prolonged period.

**18. The President's Award**

*Selected by the President as the best overall achievement of this year's awards.*

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**NOTES:**

- (1) - Categories may be split into separate categories based on size depending on the number of entries
- (2) - Entries in these categories should be in the form of an abstract with a link to the body of work
- (3) - Open to current students and recent graduates (within 2 years)

**\* Judges can reassign your project to a different category if they think it is appropriate.**

**1. RESILIENCE**

**Climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, resilience, recycling/reuse and 'green issues', contribution/importance to health and wellbeing and community and society as well as historic/traditional factors/and considerations.**

**2. DESIGN**

**Quality of design [overall as well as in detail]; appropriateness and quality of the materials selected; craftsmanship and workmanship; economic issues as well as/including value for money.**

Entrants will be requested to provide **information for each entry [as appropriate] that reflects these two areas of assessment in the entry form** which is then passed on to the marking sheet provided for the panel of judges. We want to ensure that each entry provides as full a picture of their project so that the judges have this information available for marking



The **Panel of Judges will be provided with a methodology of marking each category** that will reflect /follow these changes of emphasis. They again will be provided with guidance notes and marking sheets for each category so that each Judge marks each individual entry / project so that we get consistency of marking and fairness across the board.

### Assessment + Judging

- a. An international jury has been invited by the ILI Council to select entries that they believe make a contribution to excellence in Irish Landscape Design, presentation skills and research.
- b. The decision of the jury is final, and the jury reserve the right not to make an award if in the opinion of the jury no entry reaches the required standard.
- c. Presentation of the ILI Awards will be held in central Dublin on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

The international panel of Judges with an individual photo / brief biography will be issued shortly.

### Timetable

Registration Opens	June 2026
Queries deadline	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 at 12 noon
Registration Closes	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026 at 12 noon
Submission Deadline	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 12 noon
Judging Commences	w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
Awards	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2026

### Registration opens at the end of June 2026.

- a. Registration should be completed with the appropriate Entry Fee (see below) for each Entry online, [click here](#).
- b. An Entrant may submit as many entries as desired for the ILI Awards, provided that each complies with the entry requirements, and the relevant fee is paid for each entry.
- c. A single project may be entered in more than one category, but a separate entry (and separate fee payment) will be required for each category.
- d. On receipt of full payment and validation of membership, an acknowledgment of payment & an Entry Form will be sent to the Entrants by the ILI Registrar by e-mail.

### Registration Entry Fees

- a. Appropriate Entry fees for each Entry must be paid by credit card at the time of registration
- b. On-time Entry fee, per entry €150
- c. Buy 4 get one FREE / Buy 8 get two FREE
- d. Late Registration after Registration closes on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August will incur a Late Entry Fee.
- e. No Entry fee is required for the 'Diane Nickels Award'
- f. No Entry fee is required for the 'Student Award' for final year student projects.
- g. No Entry fee is required for the President's Award.



## Submissions

**All entries must be made in digital format as PDF and JPEG. Hard copy entries will not be accepted.**

Entries will comprise the following:

- Completed Entry Form
- Maximum of 1 No A1 digital panels or as requested for category in PDF and JPEG format (5MB Max)
- Portrait format ONLY accepted A1
- Entries should be communicated in the form of drawings, photographs or other graphic representations, and the project explained by the use of appropriate images and text.
- An accompanying document extending to a maximum of 650 words describing the project and the stage it is at design, planning, under construction, completed (date) must also be submitted.
- A minimum of 3 No. and maximum of 10 No. digital images relevant to the project must also be submitted and these must be provided on the basis that they may be used by the Irish Landscape Institute to promote the awards programme and/or the work of the Institute. **PDF format 5MB Max**
- All entries in receipt of an award will be issued with an award certificate stamped and sealed by the ILI.
- Please refer to 'Diane Nickels Memorial Award' below for submissions requirements for this category.
- Do not submit material not directly related to the Entry being submitted for judging.

## Submissions - Digital Copy

**NOTE....ALL OTHER ENTRIES NOT MEETING THESE CONDITIONS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED BY THE DIGITAL PLATFORM**

- All files submitted in digital format will be considered final for the purposes of publication.
- A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) link to a video related to a submission of maximum length 3 minutes may be included in addition to the above. No voiceover is allowed; however, a musical soundtrack is acceptable.

## Submissions - Diane Nickels Memorial Award for Student Landscape Drawing

The Diane Nickels Award is a commemorative award for the first female President of the Irish Landscape Institute. Diane Nickels was an excellent sketch artist and could quickly turn around sketches and hand-drawn plans that beautifully and simply communicated design ideas, concepts, and technical problem resolutions.

The purpose of the award is to recognise, promote and celebrate one of the Landscape Architect's key skills - the use of drawing by hand as a means to communicate, develop, and articulate design ideas.

Submissions should illustrate:

- Hand-drawing competency
- Hand-drawing as a tool in the design process - illustrating design development of ideas from sketches through to refined drawings, to show the design process and thinking by means of skill in sketching and drawing
- Clear process of thinking

Submissions should be made in digital format on the same basis as the other categories outlined above

- Max number of entries for this category is two per member.



## Submissions - Disqualification

Submissions will be excluded from the Awards if:

The entry is received after the closing date and time, without a late registration fee.

- The entry does not comply with the conditions for the submissions listed above.
- The entrant does not comply with the conditions of eligibility.
- The entrant attempts to influence the decisions of the assessors.
- It is a function of the Registrar to decide on competition eligibility and exclusion from the Awards, and the Registrar's decision to confirm identity in these matters. No correspondence will be entered into in this regard.

## Submissions - Entry Form

A copy of the Entry Form and Image Submission Form will be e-mailed to you on payment of the Entry Fee.

- Entrants may list on the entry form the names of any collaborators, consultants, or practices whose participation they may wish to acknowledge in any publication or exhibition.
- The Entry Form must be signed, (digital signature) and is a declaration by the competitor that the design is their work and the drawings have been prepared by them and/or under their supervision.

## Submissions - Copyright

- It is the responsibility of the Entrant to ensure that permission has been obtained for material supplied to be publicly displayed or reproduced. We are planning to exhibit the entries on the evening of the awards.
- The copyright of all Awards entries for publicity and exhibition for the ILI Design Awards 2026 rests with the ILI. The copyright for all other purposes rests with the entrants

Please note that all material supplied, visual or otherwise, may be used by the ILI for promotional purposes (both online and in print, including social media).

## Queries

Please direct queries to the ILI Awards Registrar at [ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com](mailto:ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com).

## Organiser's details:

Irish Landscape Institute, Fumbally Exchange, Argus  
House, Malpas Street, Blackpitts, Dublin 8

Tel.: +353 (0)86 417 0919

Email: [ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com](mailto:ili@irishlandscapeinstitute.com)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ILI OFFICE OPERATES ON A PART-TIME BASIS.**