

Award Categories 2026

The Window & Glass Association Design Awards aim to:

- Increase the level of interest in windows, doors and glass products.
- Raise the awareness, profile and interest in Association members and differentiate them in the marketplace.
- Execute a consistent professional showcase for windows, doors and glass products, celebrating and recognising excellence.

CATEGORIES

1. Excellence in Residential Glass – National Award
2. Excellence in Commercial Glass – National Award
3. Glass as Art – National Award
4. Design Awards – Residential - Auckland
5. Design Awards – Residential – Upper North Island (Northland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Coromandel)
6. Design Awards – Residential – Lower North Island (Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Wellington, Kapiti Coast)
7. Design Awards – Residential – Upper South Island (Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson)
8. Design Awards – Residential – Lower South Island (Otago, Southland, West Coast)
9. Design Awards – Commercial – North Island
10. Design Awards – Commercial – South Island
11. Sustainability
12. Innovation
13. Achievement Award
14. Chairpersons Award
15. Supreme Winner

Apprentice Awards (sponsored by BCITO):

1. Most Promising Apprentice – Glass & Glazing
2. Most Promising Apprentice – Architectural Aluminium Joinery
3. Apprentice of the Year – Glass & Glazing
4. Apprentice of the Year – Glass & Glazing – Allan Sage Memorial Award (discretionary)
5. Apprentice of the Year – Architectural Aluminium Joinery

ENTRY RULES

- Entries must be for windows/glass supplied within the last three calendar years (e.g. for 2026 awards, jobs supplied in the 2025, 2024, 2023 calendar years).
- Each entry must be an actual building project rather than just conceptual.
- Each entry can be entered into a maximum of two categories by each member, but not across multiple years.
- The entrant must be a current financial member of the Window & Glass Association.
- The project must provide evidence of compliance with the Building Code.
- The categories are by end use application, not by product type. Therefore, a commercial suite in a residential construction is classed as a residential entry.
- The entrant must be a current financial member of the Window & Glass Association. The awards are not open to Associate members.
- The products used in the project must be supplied by a Window & Glass Association member.
- If the project owner or builder is also the window manufacturer, then an independent testimonial, such as from an Architect, must be provided.
- **Entry confirms that the owner of the property or project entered understands information from this project may become public (this includes name of project, general location such as region or suburb, general details of project and images of the project); that the property or project owner has agreed to the potential for publicity in the event the project succeeds a finalist or winner; and that the key project partners and suppliers (including photographers of any professional images) are credited appropriately.**
- A maximum of ten photos can be entered for each award
- Finalist entries will be published at the Awards.
- Entries will only be accepted via the online portal (ie will not be accepted by email, memory stick, physical)
- Judges reserve the right to move entries into different categories.
- Judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Judges will mark each criteria against the percentage allocated with each criteria score then be added to provide a final score for the entry.
- There has to be a winner in each category but only if each winning entry scores at least 75/100.
- The supreme winner must be one of the category winners.

CHECKLIST

Please supply the following:

- A minimum of four site photos – more is better. **Please ensure these are high resolution.**
- A written description of the project. Include, as appropriate, shop drawings, plans, glass and frame specifications. If the design is by the member, please include a copy of the PS1 (if any).
- For the Design awards a copy of the window invoice is required (Project value is GST exclusive)

NOTE: All the above must be supplied to be eligible for entry

TIMELINES - 2026

- Entries open Monday 30th March 2026
- Entries close Thursday 30 April 2026
- Thursday 28th May – Finalists/primes/members notified
- Awards presented Friday 19th June at Gala Awards Dinner – Christchurch

AWARD CATEGORY JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Excellence in Glass (two awards)

The Excellence in Glass Award recognises glass products that complement and enhance the design of a residential or commercial dwelling/building. The glass products are presented so as to showcase and highlight the way in which glass products can contribute to and improve the attractiveness of a building.

Residential: A detached house, one of a group of two or more attached dwellings (row house, terrace house, town house, or villa unit); A guest house or the like in which not more than 12 persons would ordinarily be resident.

Commercial: An office building, hotel, motel, apartment building, retirement complex, boarding house, shop or building used for the sale of goods; building of a public nature (hospital, school, museum, library)

Judging criteria

Design: Function: what key building challenges did the design solve, i.e. functionality, safety, durability Form: Impact of glazing design on overall aesthetic - how did the glazing contribute to the visual impact of the building	/40
Manufacture: Skill and processing capability required to deliver the design elements, i.e. glass types, summary of production processes	/30
Installation	/30

3. Glass as art – National award

The Glass as art award recognises work that contributes to the protection and/or enhancement of New Zealand's proud building history, whilst maintaining the integrity of the build. This category also recognises glass as an art form – in whatever form that might take.

Judging criteria

Authenticity and visual integrity of the work	/40
Degree of difficulty/skill	/30
Significance of site (if relevant) or design	/30

4. Design Awards – Residential (five awards)

The Design Awards (residential) recognise fenestration products that complement and enhance the design of the residential dwelling or building. The windows and/or doors are presented So as to showcase and highlight the way in which fenestration products can contribute to and improve the functionality, liveability attractiveness of a building.

Residential: A detached house, one of a group of two or more attached dwellings (row house, terrace house, town house, or villa unit); A guest house or the like in which not more than 12 persons would ordinarily be resident.

Judging Criteria

Design and Suitability of products used; ventilation, functionality, longevity, safety, other. Summary of window/door effectiveness. Environmental impact of the building overall and energy performance of window systems	/35
Skill and craftsmanship applied to the windows and doors with respect to the level of difficulty of project. How were the complexities resolved? How difficult was it to demonstrate compliance and/or manufacture and/or install?	/35
Contribution of windows to the visual impact of the building and built environment.	/20
Aesthetics of the building overall.	/10

10. Design Awards – Commercial (two awards)

The Design Awards (Commercial) recognise fenestration products that complement and enhance the design of a Commercial project. The windows and/or doors are presented so as to showcase and highlight the way in which fenestration products can contribute to and improve the function, usability and attractiveness of a building.

Commercial: An office building, hotel, motel, apartment building, retirement complex, boarding house, shop or building used for the sale of goods; building of a public nature (hospital, school, museum, library).

Judging Criteria

Design and Suitability of products used; ventilation, functionality, longevity, safety, other. Summary of window/door effectiveness. Environmental impact of the building overall and energy performance of window systems	/35
Skill and craftsmanship applied to the windows and doors with respect to the level of difficulty of project. How were the complexities resolved? How difficult was it to demonstrate compliance and/or manufacture and/or install?	/35
Contribution of windows to the visual impact of the building and built environment.	/20
Aesthetics of the building overall.	/10

11. Sustainability Award

The Sustainability Award is open to residential and commercial projects that showcase examples of our contribution to a sustainable environment. Entries will reflect a positive change in energy used, or environmental impact. Criteria might include the quality of documentation provided, and the degree to which it makes green choices understandable, compelling and replicable by colleagues and consumers. We will also look at the reach of the project—does it influence the broader community as well as the industry?

Judging Criteria

Third party recognition, ie Homestar, Greenstar, Passive	/20
Product Lifecycle: - Where does a product come from? - What is it made of? - Where does it go at the end of its life?	/20
Product performance: - How the solution mitigates thermal loss and solar gain. - Performance over life of product - EPD (Environmental Product Declarations)	/20
Construction: impact of distance, waste, recyclables	/20
Innovation	/10
Aesthetics of the building overall	/10

12. Innovation

This award recognises a product, component, window system, or service which distinctly takes into account growing issues that are present in today's market or products or services that uniquely address a market problem or need. Products and services entered in this category must not be eligible for entry in any other award category.

Judging Criteria

Innovation:	Creativity and originality of entry. Has a Patent or Design Registration been achieved. Has a product/service has been replaced and is there potential for exportation.	/25
Effectiveness:	Have they described the product/service? What was the design brief and does the entry meet that? Have they proven this?	/10
	How well does the product/service meet its performance claims? What performance claims have they made? Have they addressed if these have been met? How have they proven this? If product, component, window system, does it meet NZ standards?	/15
	Performance suitability What is the problem being solved	/20
Market need:	How well does the product/service meet its purported market need? What was the market need? Did it achieve its goals?	/15
Environmental impacts/Sustainability:	Assess the lifecycle and environmental effects of the product/service	/10
Overview:	Have they addressed why this product/service has been entered and why this entry is worthy of an award?	/5

13. Achievement Award

Recognises significant contribution to the industry over time (nominated by Board)

14. Chairpersons Award

This award identifies and recognizes individuals or companies, whose competencies and achievements in the past year stand them out amongst their peers (nominated by Board).