

AWARD CATEGORIES 2025

1. GREEN ROOF

Definition: A green roof, also known as a living roof or vegetated roof, is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. This system often includes additional layers such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems to support plant growth and ensure proper water management. Green roofs can range from shallow, low-maintenance "extensive" systems to deeper, more intensive systems that support a wider variety of plants and require more upkeep.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Multi-apartment housing buildings. Residential houses. Administrative and civil construction buildings (e.g. company headquarters, offices, schools, hospitals, sports halls, theatres). Commercial buildings, shopping centres. Family houses, cottages, garages and outbuildings. Smaller buildings such as garden houses, gazebos, mobile homes, and other structures for family use. Nominations can be submitted by anyone who has knowledge of the project and believes it meets the criteria for excellence in green roof design and implementation. This includes, but is not limited to: Architects (professionals who design buildings and have incorporated green roofs into their architectural plans), landscape Architects (specialists in designing outdoor spaces, including green roofs), Contractors (builders who have constructed green roofs as part of their projects), Building Owners (individuals or organizations that own buildings with green roofs and have overseen their installation and maintenance), project managers (those who have managed the development and implementation of green roof projects), public nominations (members of the public who are aware of outstanding green roof projects and wish to highlight them for recognition).

Judging criteria: The jury will evaluate nominations based on a range of criteria to ensure that award-winning projects exemplify excellence in green roof design, implementation, and impact. The elements that will be taken into account: design and innovation, functionality and performance (energy efficiency, stormwater management, biodiversity), sustainability (environmental impact and resource efficiency), community and social impact (community engagement and social benefits), maintenance and longevity (durability and maintenance practices).

2. GREEN WALL

Definition: “The category “Green walls” include all types of realized projects related to vertical greenery inside and outside of buildings.

This can be construction with climbers direct on the facades, on trellis, or as modular systems. Welcome are creative technical mixture structures of various technologies.

The projects are not limited to new projects, welcome are realized projects within the timeframe of the past 5 years.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: It must be realized projects

-Allowed are vertical greening projects by climbers, modular systems or a combination of several solutions.

Indoor and outdoor are both welcome.

-The projects can be nominated by the planner, the house owner, or an initiative.

Judging criteria: Judging criteria are in general:

1-The innovative Character of the project.

2-The Story about the installation (e.g. in an inner City area with less vegetation...)

Installation with neighborhood contribution)

3-Complexity of methods,

4-Biodiversity of the project.

5-Information about the maintenance concept.

6-Usability, integration neighborhood involvement.

7-Information about the costs/per squaremeter.

8-Important: meaningful pictures, understandable cross sections, detailed information about the construction, youtube -films or similar.

By the way the size of the project is not a main criterion for the selection. Also, small projects are welcome.

3. GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Definition: The category is open to a wide range of initiatives focused on integrating greenery into urban environments. The project must be a publicly accessible area or common space of some community and include comprehensive environmental and social benefits.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Projects of all scales are eligible, from small pocket parks or community gardens to large-scale urban development's encompassing entire cities.

Projects can include urban forests, parks, public green spaces, residential green areas, community gardens, urban farming initiatives, green streets, rain gardens. Submissions may be made by builders & community owners, designers & architects, contractors, or other relevant stakeholders.

Judging criteria: The primary criterion is the delivery of significant ecological and social benefits. The following aspects will be taken into account: biodiversity, water management, research and education approach, design process, biophilic design, habitability and functionality, material handling and waste management, maintenance, innovation.

4. GI POLICY – Steven

Definition: The Green Infrastructure Policy Leadership Award will recognize and highlight excellence in public policy individual or team leadership that develops and implements policies and/or programs which result in the acceleration of urban green infrastructure. The award aims to primarily recognize the people who work to create policy that is supporting building integrated green infrastructure.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Policy Leadership nominations may include:

- political, bureaucratic, NGO, academic or private sector leadership on the development and implementation of policies/programs aimed specifically at building integrated green infrastructure (public sector, private sector, residential, commercial etc.)
- political, bureaucratic, NGO, academic or private sector leadership in the development and implementation of policies/programs aiming at neighborhood scale building integrated or on-grade green infrastructure

-political, bureaucratic, NGO, academic or private sector leadership aiming at activity that acts as a significant driver for improved and accelerated uptake of green infrastructure. For example, increasing knowledge, supporting awareness, influencing financing and economic incentives, supporting pilot projects, and driving innovation and development through research.

Judging criteria: Nominations will be judged according to the following criteria:

- the degree of innovation represented
- the scope of the market impact of the policy
- = the length of time the individual and or team has demonstrated leadership

5. GI RESEARCH:

- **ACADEMIC WORK – Julian**

Definition: Green infrastructure research and academic work award will select the excellent activities and projects in public or private sectors related to architecture and socioeconomics with high performance and excellence.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Research and academic dimension will include: Architectural design. Urban agriculture and biodiversity. Socioeconomic improvement with green infrastructure (GI). Artificial intelligence and smart solutions in GI. New knowledge and patents. Wellbeing. Landscape, recreation, water and energy management.

Any author or co-author of a research study may nominate it. A third party who does not contribute to the work may also be a nominator, but in this case the nominator must notify the main author of the research if possible.

Judging criteria: research, innovation, patents; design and practical applications; socioeconomic environment improvements; artificial intelligent and management; human well-being and recreation; environmental sustainability; stewardship; expected follow-up; building and construction; urban agriculture, biodiversity.

- **STUDENT POSTERS – Benedict**

Definition: The Green Infrastructure Student Posters Award invites students worldwide to showcase their innovative ideas and projects in the field of green infrastructure. We are looking for posters that present original research, case studies, or conceptual designs related to

green infrastructure. The content should be clear, concise, and visually engaging, demonstrating the student's understanding and application of green infrastructure principles.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: The topics for this category can include but are not limited to: urban Greening, Green Roofs and Walls, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Green Transport Infrastructure, Green Spaces and Parks, Ecosystem Services, Climate Change Adaptation.

Any author or co-author of a research study may nominate it. A third party who does not contribute to the work may also be a nominator, but in this case the nominator must notify the main author of the work if possible.

Judging criteria: The elements that will be taken into account: relevance to green infrastructure, originality/innovation, clarity, visual presentation and supporting materials, technical merit, impact potential, social aspects, overall quality

6. INNOVATE LIVING SYSTEMS

Definition: Innovative Living systems category invites realized projects with integration of living systems (for example plants, fungi or algae) on or within a building envelope.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Projects submitted in this category include integrated living systems, such as integrated landscapes or biological systems. This living system could be composed of/include combinations of green roofs, living walls (interior and exterior), and green facades (ground based, wall based) or other creative solutions. The Innovative Living Systems category does not include other green infrastructure that does not interface with buildings or city infrastructure, like bioswales or urban trees.

The projects can be nominated by building owners, the planners/designers, landscape architects, engineers, municipalities, an organization or an initiative.

Judging criteria: Projects are judged on

- 1) level of innovation,
- 2) complexity of the project
- 3) level of applicability and modularity, as well as potential for replication,
- 4) contribution to flourishing, biodiversity, succession and livability of the living system for the life of the project.
- 5) level of documentation and project details included in submittal (photos or videos, detail drawings, information about cost, implementation, and maintenance)

7. UNINTENDED GREENERY – David

Definition: A significant amount of the “nature” in populated areas is the result of unplanned natural vegetation and species development outside of the scope of human design, engineering and interventions. This award category intends to raise awareness about the value of this type of nature, and to spawn the development of ideas and innovation around how humans can transition toward co-design of urban areas together with nature. Unintentional nature can contribute to healthy urban ecosystems, add beauty and biophilic quality to populated areas, contribute to climate resilience and much more. When recognized for its contribution to urban quality, unintentional nature can be the subject of conservation efforts.

What kind of nominations are allowed and who can nominate: Incidences of unintended greenery at a specific site or within a defined geographical area. The category will be open to nominations from any person or legal entity.

Judging criteria: 1) Contribution to healthy urban ecosystems and biodiversity; 2) biophilic quality and public accessibility, ability to experience; 3) beauty, awe, wonder, inspirational value; 4) provision of ecosystem services and complementarity to architectural and urban space value, for example climate resilience, urban foraging etc. (as opposed to destructive effect); 5) resilience and replicability of the instance of unintentional nature; conservation status. Measures implemented to protect the instance of unintentional nature. (resilience against human destruction through removal or “maintenance” actions); 6) potential for spawning new ideas, design approaches and knowledge- or product-development in society or in the field of GI and NBS (transformative potential).