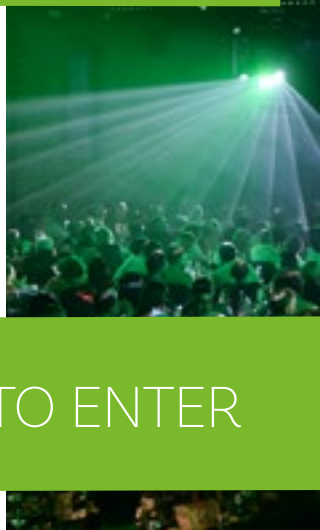




The Association of Professional Landscapers AWARDS 2026



HOW TO ENTER

The APL Awards

For 30 years, the APL Awards have celebrated excellence in landscape contracting, showcasing the outstanding work of our members. Winning an APL Award is more than a trophy - it's your chance to gain industry recognition, inspire your team, and attract more clients.



From media coverage to enhanced credibility, these awards are a powerful marketing tool, rewarding projects that demonstrate technical excellence, creativity, and a commitment to quality. Whether you excel in construction, design, or maintenance, we're looking for projects that stand out for their innovation, attention to detail, and customer satisfaction.

Take this opportunity to show the industry what makes your work exceptional and enter the APL Awards 2026 today!

Deadline to enter: Friday 6 June 2025



Categories



Specialist Categories

- ✦ Soft Landscaping
- ✦ Hard Landscaping
- ✦ Outdoor Living
- ✦ Overall Design & Build
- ✦ Commercial Garden
- ✦ Waterfalls and pond features
- ✦ Maintenance
- ✦ APL Collaboration
- ✦ Sustainability and Biodiversity Award
- ✦ Decking Feature
- ✦ Designer Value under £75,000
- ✦ Designer Value over £75,000
- ✦ Swimming Pools (Natural or in-ground)



Project Value Categories

- ✦ Project Value under £20,000
- ✦ Project Value £20,000 - £35,000
- ✦ Project Value £35,000 - £50,000
- ✦ Project Value £50,000-£65,000
- ✦ Project Value £65,000-£80,000
- ✦ Project Value £80,000-£100,000
- ✦ Project Value £100,000-£175,000
- ✦ Project Value £175,000-£250,000
- ✦ Project Value over £250,000

Category Information

Soft Landscaping

A project showing horticultural excellence in the successful integration and establishment of soft landscape into the overall design. Showing an overall level of quality in the planting and plant association.



Outdoor Living

A project that is transformative to the clients' space and fits to the brief of outdoor entertaining, cooking and dining. Displaying the landscapers attention to detail on that part of a project.

Hard Landscaping

Excellence in the successful integration of hard landscaping into the overall design. Attention to detail on both the design and an overall level of quality in the choice and use of materials and construction.



Overall Design & Build

A project showing technical and horticultural excellence in the successful integration of hard and soft landscaping in an overall design. Taking in to account any site issues whilst showing attention to both design and construction of the scheme. The design must have been produced by the company's in-house team.

Commercial Garden

A project designed for use in a business setting demonstrating functional design, and excellence in the quality of construction.



Category Information

Waterfalls and pond features

Looking at water features that are natural, environmentally friendly and blend into the clients' surroundings



Maintenance

A project showing excellence in maintenance (domestic or commercial) of a garden, demonstrating environmental considerations and effective maintenance schedules.

APL Collaboration

A project demonstrating excellence in both design and construction of a garden, recognising the joint working relationship between an APL Designer and APL Landscaper.



Sustainability and Biodiversity

A project showing the environment is at the forefront of its design and construction. The design must have been produced by the company's in-house team.

Decking Feature

A project focussing on the construction and detail of a decking feature, meeting the client's brief and well considered use of materials.



Category Information

Designer Value under and over £75,000

From the entries of these 2 categories an APL Designer of the Year will be selected.

We're seeking to find creative and innovative landscape designs. We are interested in your choices of plants and materials, and any challenging aspects of the site. In particular, your scheme should detail any environmental considerations, and the plans submitted should include visuals of the design garden or landscape. Supporting details should include materials specifications and aspects such as a site level survey, safety procedures, security and access.

Swimming Pools (Natural or in-ground)

A project demonstrating excellence in design and construction of a swimming pool.



The Process

All projects are thoroughly invigilated by our team of respected industry judges. They review all entries individually, including visiting the projects. They then collaborate as a team ensuring all aspects are evaluated before deciding on the winners that represent the highest standards of landscaping.

Our expert panel look at the projects paying particular attention to:

- ✦ Quality of workmanship
- ✦ Choice and use of materials and methods
- ✦ Challenging issues and problem solving
- ✦ Client satisfaction
- ✦ Environmental impact, biodiversity and sustainability.

APL Award Entry Rules

- ✂ Entrants must be a member of the APL at the time of submission and remain in applicable membership for the year the awards are announced (2026)
- ✂ All materials and information given (with the exception of client name, location and costings) must be free of restrictions of reproduction so it can be used in the promotion of your work and of the APL Awards.
- ✂ All entered schemes must have been started on or after 1 January 2023 (3 years).
- ✂ Only projects where the landscape contracting elements have been carried out by full members or in collaboration with a full member are eligible. Only current, full APL accredited members will be eligible to win an award.
- ✂ Permission of the client and the designer must be obtained in all cases.
- ✂ You will need to facilitate the arrangement of an on-site visit should your entry reach the judging visits stage, all shortlisted projects must be visited in person by the judges.
- ✂ The entry fee is per entry and must be paid when you enter the Awards.
- ✂ The Judge's decision is final and no correspondence or communication will be entered into.
- ✂ Entrants cannot enter the same scheme into more than one value category.
- ✂ Project values should be NET of VAT.
- ✂ All winners will be kept completely confidential until the APL Awards Lunch 2026.
- ✂ The project will be identified by the 'project name' on your completed project information form.
- ✂ Entry forms must be completed and entries paid in full by Friday 6 June 2025. Acknowledgement of received entry will be by email from the APL Awards Team.

Deadline to enter: Friday 6 June 2025

Checklist to enter

Design Categories

Including Designer value under £75,000 and Designer value over £75,000

Action

Action	
Select category	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company name & project name	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client brief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quotation	<input type="checkbox"/>
CDM pre-construction plus any planning permissions and structural engineers reports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client name, address and permission (obtain permission from your client to use the garden for the competition and for judges to carry out a visit to their garden in August/September should you reach the shortlist stage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
site survey including levels survey and masterplan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Setting out plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any construction drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specification OR scope of works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design invoices	<input type="checkbox"/>
High resolution photos (made up of 2x before, 2x during, 5x after, close ups, details and features) There should be no people/tools in any after photos. Ensure photos are labelled	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your entry will be considered for judging once all the above requirements have been submitted. Please ensure the full entry form at hta.org.uk/apl-awards is completed by 6 June 2025, and payment is processed promptly.

Checklist to enter

Value Categories & Specialist Categories

Excluding Designer value under £75,000, Designer value over £75,000, Soft landscaping and Maintenance categories. Please refer to the other checklists for these categories.

Action	
Select category	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company name & project name	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estimate/tender document – full cost breakdown (PDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photographer's name (If applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client name, address and permission (obtain permission from your client to use the garden for the competition and for judges to carry out a visit to their garden in August/September should you reach the shortlist stage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting documents (Optional - This can be initial client briefs or quotes from the client. There is a maximum of two documents)	<input type="checkbox"/>
High resolution photos (made up of 2x before, 2x during, 5x after, close ups, details and features) There should be no people/tools in any after photos. Ensure photos are labelled.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Final invoice – full cost breakdown (PDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
CDM construction phase plans, any planning requirements and structural engineers information	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your entry will be considered for judging once all the above requirements have been submitted. Please ensure the full entry form at hta.org.uk/apl-awards is completed by 6 June 2025, and payment is processed promptly.

Checklist to enter

Soft Landscaping Category

Action

Action	
Company name & project name	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planting plans, plant lists and Professional Operative Registration number (APHA).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client name, address and permission (obtain permission from your client to use the garden for the competition and for judges to carry out a visit to their garden in August/September should you reach the shortlist stage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting documents and any other relevant HSE info	<input type="checkbox"/>
High resolution photos (made up of 2x before, 2x during, 5x after, close ups, details and features) There should be no people/tools in any after photos. Ensure photos are labelled.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Checklist to enter

Maintenance Category

Action	
Company name & Project name	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client brief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estimate/Tender document - full cost breakdown (PDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Final invoice - full cost breakdown (PDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Client name, address and permission (Obtain permission from your client to use the garden for the competition and for judges to carry out a visit to their garden in August/September should you reach the shortlist stage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting documents and any other relevant HSE info	<input type="checkbox"/>
If available, a planting plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance pricing schedule (PDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance logs (evidence of how this is shared with staff)	<input type="checkbox"/>
High resolution photos (Made up of 2x before, 2x during, 5x after, close-ups, details and features) There should be no people/tools in any after photos. Ensure photos are labelled	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your entry will be considered for judging once all the above requirements have been submitted. Please ensure the full entry form at hta.org.uk/apl-awards is completed by 6 June 2025, and payment is processed promptly.



Showcase your business!

Early bird offer: Enter before 31 March 2025
and **pay only £99+VAT***

*£115+VAT from 31 March 2025

hta.org.uk/apl-awards ✈ apl@hta.org.uk ✈ 0333 003 3550

