



The Association of **Professional Landscapers** AWARDS 2027



HOW TO ENTER

The APL Awards

For over 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 2027 today!

Deadline to enter: Friday 27 February 2026

Categories



Specialist Categories

- ✦ Soft Landscaping
- ✦ Hard Landscaping
- ✦ Outdoor Living
- ✦ Overall Design & Build
- ✦ Commercial Garden
- ✦ Waterfall and pond features
- ✦ Maintenance
- ✦ APL Collaboration
- ✦ Decking Feature
- ✦ Designer Value under £50,000
- ✦ Designer Value £50-100,000
- ✦ Design Value over £100,000



Project Value Categories

- ✦ Project Value up to £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 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.



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.



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.



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

Recognising the joint working relationship between any APL members (supplier, service provider, designer, landscaper). Provide details (including images) of at least 2 projects where collaboration has taken place and up to 1,000 words to describe your collaboration.



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.

Swimming Pools (Natural or in-ground)

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



Category Information

Designer Value under £50,000, £50-£100,000, and over £100,000.

From the entries of these three 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.



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 (2027)
- ✂ 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). In the designer categories, schemes must have been started on or after 1 January 2021 (5 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 2027.
- ✂ 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 27 February 2026. Acknowledgement of received entry will be by email from the APL Awards Team.
- ✂ Fall from height - any project entered with an infinity drop edge over 600mm that has no barrier or placement of troughs or pots to warn individuals of a potential fall, or established cushioned planting below will be removed from the awards. You will also have to provide evidence that the barrier was in the original design and provide proof from the client that no barrier was requested.

Deadline to enter: Friday 27 February 2026

Checklist to enter

Design Categories

Including Designer Value under £50,000, £50-£100,000, and over £100,000.

Action	
Select category	☐
Company name & project name	☐
Project manager	☐
Client brief	☐
Quotation	☐
CDM pre-construction plus any planning permissions and structural engineers reports	☐
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)	☐
site survey including levels survey and masterplan	☐
Setting out plan	☐
Any construction drawings	☐
Specification OR scope of works (could include the bill of quantities)	☐
Planting plans, plant lists and Professional Operative Registration Number (APHA).	☐
Design invoices	☐
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	☐

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 Friday 27 February 2026, and payment is processed promptly.

Checklist to enter

Value Categories & Specialist Categories

Excluding Designer Value under £50,000, £50-£100,000, and over £100,000, Soft landscaping and Maintenance categories.

Action	
Select category	☐
Company name & project name	☐
Project manager	☐
Brief	☐
Estimate/tender document – full cost breakdown (PDF)	☐
Photographer's name (If applicable)	☐
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)	☐
Supporting documents (Optional - This can be initial client briefs or quotes from the client. There is a maximum of two documents)	☐
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.	☐
Final invoice – full cost breakdown (PDF)	☐
CDM construction phase plans, any planning requirements and structural engineers information	☐

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Checklist to enter

Soft Landscaping Category

Action	
Company name & project name	☐
Project manager	☐
Client instructions	☐
Planting plans, plant lists and Professional Operative Registration number (APHA).	☐
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)	☐
Supporting documents and any other relevant HSE info	☐
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.	☐

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Checklist to enter

Maintenance Category

Action	
Company name & Project name	☐
Project manager	☐
Client brief	☐
Estimate/Tender document - full cost breakdown (PDF)	☐
Final invoice - full cost breakdown (PDF)	☐
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)	☐
Supporting documents and any other relevant HSE info	☐
If available, a planting plan	☐
Maintenance pricing schedule - Cost per sqm of the contract and how many man hours.	☐
Maintenance logs (evidence of how this is shared with staff)	☐
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	☐

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Showcase your business!

Early bird offer: Enter before December 2025 and **pay only £115+VAT***

** Standard entry: £129 + VAT. Deadline to enter - Friday 27 February 2026*

hta.org.uk/apl-awards



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