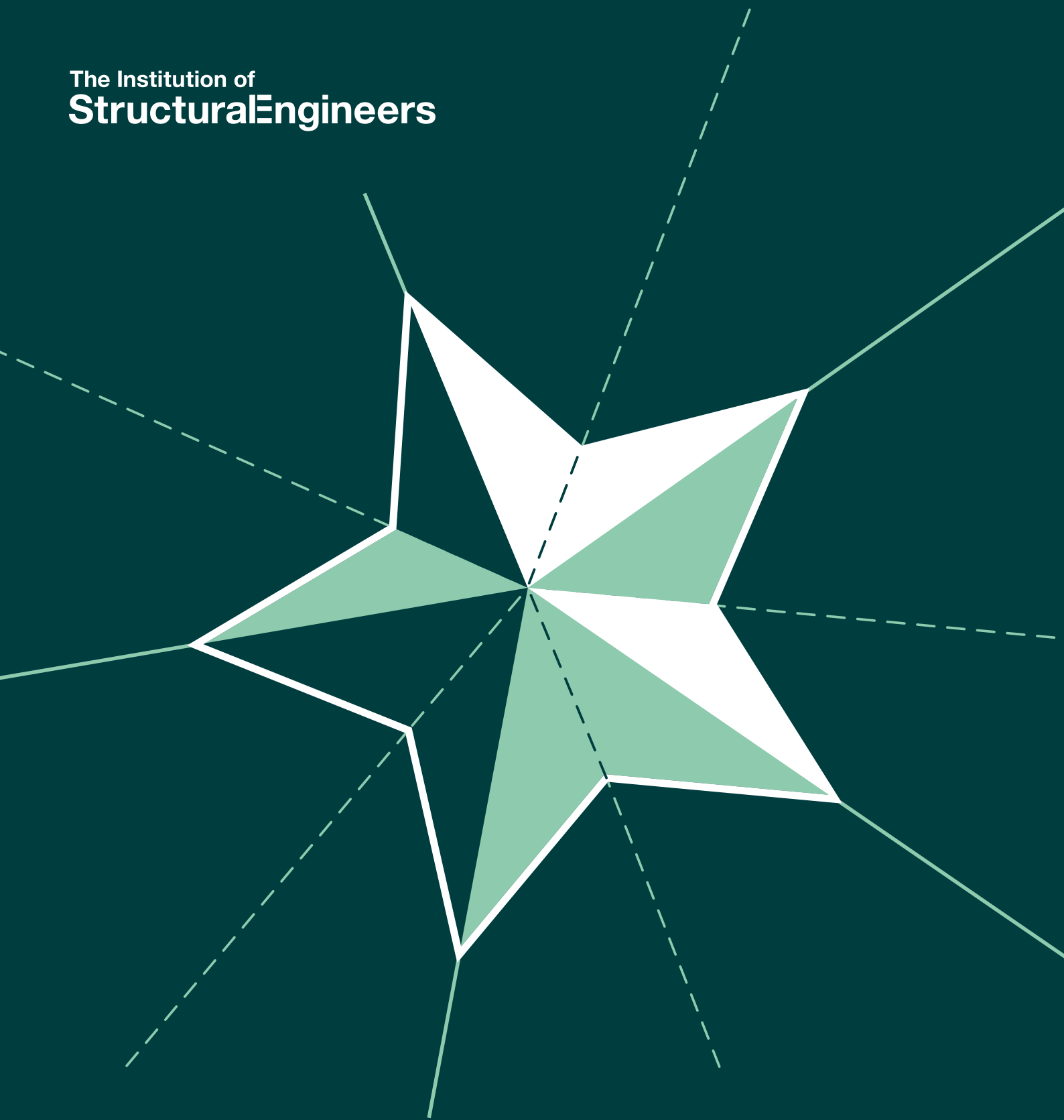


The Institution of
StructuralEngineers



StructuralAwards2025

www.istructe.org/structuralawards

#structuralawards

Entry guide

Entry guide

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Introduction

The Structural Awards recognise and celebrate the immense skill structural engineers demonstrate across a vast range of structures and disciplines worldwide.

Each year the awards highlight the role of structural engineers as outstanding, creative design professionals and showcase the incredible work that structural engineers are delivering in response to emerging issues in construction and particularly in the face of climate change.

Together, let us celebrate the vision, creativity, ingenuity and expertise that is shaping the future of structural engineering and making a positive impact on the world.

The Awards culminate each year in the announcement of the Supreme Award for Structural Engineering Excellence presented to the year's most outstanding example of structural engineering. In 2024 the Supreme Award winner was Tibetan Art Museum. Awarded for the transformative reuse and seismic strengthening of an industrial heritage structure in a challenging environment.

You should find all the information you need to enter a project for the Structural Awards in this guide. If you have any questions, email events@istructe.org.

Key dates

Wednesday 29 January	Awards open for entries
Monday 28 April	Closing date for entries
Wednesday 3 September	Shortlist announced
Friday 14 November	Winners announced at Structural Awards 2025 dinner ceremony in London, UK.

Judging

The judging criteria has been designed to ensure that the Structural Awards recognise and celebrate the immense skill structural engineers demonstrate across a vast range of structures.

All entries will be judged in response to four key attributes that exemplify structural engineering achievement:

Planet

Your entry should assess how the structural engineering contributes to protecting and regenerating the planet, emphasising sustainability, resilience, and environmental responsibility.

Key considerations include:

- **Sustainability:** Innovations in reducing carbon (first and foremost embodied carbon but also impacts on operational carbon) minimising waste, employing circular economy principles and developing low-carbon materials and technologies.
- **Regenerative design:** Projects that actively restore or enhance the environment, going beyond harm reduction through consideration of the wider system, and creation of processes that enable renewal and positive feedback loops for the environment and society.
- **Biodiversity and ecosystem impact:** Projects that promote or protect biodiversity.
- **Local resilience:** Design and construction that prepares the world for the future climate, future energy plans, and the future of construction. This includes an understanding of the local context recognising that some parts of the world require far more construction than others in order to raise standards of living globally.
- **Longevity and purpose:** Projects where structures appropriately balance durability, adaptability, and long-term impact against the immediate need to reduce carbon.

The judges are interested in projects aligned with frameworks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, IStructE's Hierarchy of Net Zero Design, and principles of regenerative or circular design.

NB: All entries must submit quantification of the embodied carbon footprint of the structure (superstructure plus substructure, but not other disciplines) using a version the IStructE carbon calculator tool available.

People

Your entry may consider the positive legacy of the project for stakeholders and users, emphasising the human and societal impact of engineering.

Key considerations include:

- **Social impact:** Contributions that serve communities, unlock project potential, or deliver positive outcomes through advocacy, expertise, and creative problem-solving.
- **Inclusivity:** Efforts to engage diverse perspectives and ensure outcomes that benefit a wide range of stakeholders.

People continued

- **Teamwork and collaboration:** How the engineering team worked with others to achieve exceptional results.
- **Leadership and mentorship:** Inspiring, guiding, and mentoring others to contribute to the project's success and their professional growth. Attracting, retaining, and mentoring the next generation of engineers by demonstrating the positive contributions of structural engineering.
- **Human experience:** Consideration of how the engineering behind the project serves to enhance wellbeing, safety, and the overall experience of those impacted by it.

The judges want to know how the project fostered meaningful collaboration and left a lasting positive effect on people and society.

Process

Your entry may consider methods and processes that demonstrate technical excellence, innovation, and ingenuity in structural engineering.

Key considerations include:

- **Technical excellence:** Solutions that demonstrate or extend the 'gold standard' of technical excellence in structural engineering.
- **Innovation and ingenuity:** Projects that develop pioneering tools, techniques, or methodologies, showcasing creativity and technical expertise to elevate the engineering process. Curiosity and creativity should be matched with deep technical understanding.
- **Efficiency and effectiveness:** Projects where novel and thoughtful processes led to better outcomes than traditional approaches, for example by demonstrating greater efficiency and economy.

The judges are looking for examples where engineering processes elevated a project and delivered outstanding outcomes.

Profession

Your entry may consider the positive impact of your project on the structural engineering profession and ways in which it enhances the reputation of the profession more widely.

Key considerations include:

- **Inspiration:** How projects or individuals inspire others within the profession and beyond by demonstrating the specific contributions and resulting impact to a particular building, industry, community, or society. Demonstrating bold, creative, and visionary thinking in structural engineering that is purposeful and impactful, that clearly sets out to inspire the wider industry, and that can be replicated for scalable positive outcomes.
- **Advancing the profession:** Evidence of tangible contributions that will help to shape the future of structural engineering, such as sharing and advancing technical knowledge cross-industry, improving industry practices, or inspiring and attracting the next generation of engineers.

Profession continued

- **Public engagement:** Elevating the profile of structural engineering by showcasing positive societal impacts and/or demonstrating the meaningful, innovative, and transformative role structural engineers play in shaping the world.

Explain to the judges how your project advances excellence in structural engineering, shaping the future of the profession by inspiring engineers and the public alike.

Award categories

One of the things that makes the Structural Awards unique is that we do not have traditional award categories. This is because we want to be able to recognise the very best structural engineering projects each year without limitations.

Our judging panel eagerly anticipates entries showcasing remarkable accomplishments, whether from small-scale projects with profound local impact to large-scale complex endeavours. This open approach reflects our commitment to honouring excellence in structural engineering excellence wherever it may be found.

The only requirement is that your project celebrates the incredible skill of structural engineers in relation to at least one of the four key attributes of Planet, People, Process and Profession.

The judging panel will score all entries in relation to the judging criteria and the highest scoring projects will form the shortlist.

The shortlist will be announced on 3 September 2025.

The best projects will be awarded a Structural Award at the dinner ceremony on 14 November in London, UK, culminating in the announcement of this year's Supreme Award for structural engineering achievement to the very best of the best.

How to enter

Entry is a simple three step process.

- Step 1 – Online entry form
- Step 2 – Written submission and supporting documents
- Step 3 – Entry fee payment

All three parts must be completed in full by 17:00 BST on 28 April 2025.

Step 1: Online entry form

Start by completing the short entry form at www.istructe.org/structural-awards/enter. It takes approx. 10 minutes to complete.

The following information must be provided:

Project details

- Project name
- Project location
- Short description of the project (Less than 150 words)
- Date of project completion (dd/mm/yy): NB: the project must have been fully completed and opened for intended use (or due for completion and use) between April 2023 – April 2025.
 - ***Please note: projects submitted in 2024 cannot be re-entered in 2025 and will automatically be disqualified.***
- Project cost (£ sterling)
- Lead structural engineer of the project (full name, company, IStructE membership number if applicable)

Your details

- Submitting company name (if a joint entry please let us know here)
- Company's role in project (e.g. structural designer)
- Company size
- Contact name (should be main correspondent for entry)
- Job title
- Telephone
- Email address
- Postal address

Please note it's not possible to save a draft or incomplete form. You must complete all fields and submit without leaving the page.

Once you have completed the entry form, you will receive a unique Entry ID. Please make note of this as you will need it for Steps 2 and 3.

IMPORTANT:

- You must read the terms and conditions of entry
- You must have obtained permission from all parties involved with the project before starting an entry.
- All the information you provide must be accurate as the Institution will include the content online and in print for the promotion of shortlisted projects.
- The Institution accepts no liability for any inaccurate information submitted.

Step 2: Written submission and supporting documents

You will need to complete and submit a written report using the template provided to explain why the project is of merit. Photos, drawings or sketches can be included within this report to support and illustrate your entry.

Each project will be judged solely on the information provided in the written submission and supporting documents. The report should detail the structural engineering characteristics of the project and explain how the project demonstrates at least one of the four key attributes.

- A template will be provided and must be used.
- The written report will be formed by your answer to five questions:
 1. Detailed project description (mandatory)
 2. How does this project demonstrate structural engineering excellence through its response to the impact that it will have had on our planet? (mandatory)
 3. How does the structural engineering of this project demonstrate a lasting positive impact on the people involved with the project, and the end-users?
 4. How do the methods and processes behind the structural design and/or construction of this project demonstrate excellence?
 5. How has this project advanced the structural engineering profession?
- The maximum word count for the written report is 1750 words. Entrants can choose to focus on one attribute or address as many as appropriate.
- To facilitate 'blind' judging please do not include your company name or any company logos in the written report. If the company name is listed please note these will be removed from the blind judging.

JUDGES TIP: The written submission is all about narrative. Put yourselves in the shoes of someone reading it, whether a judge or member of the public, and explain why your project is a success in the context of the location you are working in and/or constraints overcome.

Please also submit:

- A completed cover sheet using the provided template.
- At least 10 high quality photographs of the project. Each photo must be high resolution and uploaded as a single image file, but can also be added into the written report where relevant.
- At least two full page engineering drawings showing the general arrangement and typical sections and/or details of the structure
- Links to any video files that provide context for the project.
- Carbon calculations using The Structural Awards Carbon Tool provided

Once you have submitted Step 1 of your entry you will be directed to the cover sheet template, report template, carbon tool, OneDrive submission link and instructions for uploading documents.

IMPORTANT:

- All media files (jpeg/png, etc) should be clearly labelled with any desired credits/copyright in the file name.
- All images/media submitted must be cleared for use across all communications by the Institution. The responsibility for obtaining and securing this permission rests with the Awards entrant.
- Additional high-resolution images and drawings may be requested for judging and/or future promotion of the shortlist.

JUDGES TIP: Make sure all the information you provide is accurate. If your project is shortlisted the information will be used in communication and on the Structural Awards website when the shortlist is announced.

Step 3: Pay the entry fee

Visit www.istructe.org/structural-awards/enter anytime to pay.

You will need to login to your IStructE website account, or create a new account if you don't already have one.

The entry fee per project is £275 + VAT. It can be paid online using a VISA or Mastercard or you can request an invoice.

NB: Please contact the Events team at events@istructe.org if the entry fee poses a barrier to your entry, we would be happy to discuss financial support available.

Please note that entry fees are non-refundable.

Terms and conditions

To enter your project(s) in the Structural Awards 2025, your entry must adhere to the following terms and conditions:

1. Your complete entry (part 1: online entry form, part 2: written submission and part 3: payment) must be received by the final closing deadline of 17:00 BST on 28 April 2025.
2. Entries may be submitted by any company involved in the project, but all members of the project team, including the client, must have given consent for the project to be entered in the awards.
3. All project accreditation between project team members must be agreed prior to making the entry. Please note that if a discrepancy arises between project team members, the project will be ineligible for consideration until the issue is resolved.
4. The project must be completed, or be due for completion, between April 2023 – April 2025.
 - ***Please note: projects submitted in 2024 cannot be re-entered in 2025 and will automatically be disqualified.***
5. Entry will only be accepted via our website. All documents and information must be submitted as instructed.
6. The judges' decision on all shortlisted entries and winners is final. It is not possible to provide individual feedback for entries that are not shortlisted.
7. Information submitted, and photographic copyright of any project images, will remain with the authors. Image files and illustrated reports must be clearly identified in the file name in order for authors to be credited. However, by submitting an entry you consent to the IStructE using all information and media in any of its communications. This may include, but is not limited to, print and digital marketing, PR and exhibition purposes. The Institution may allow third parties (eg journalists) to use such works for the purposes of promoting the Structural Awards.

Contact

Questions

If you have a query about your entry, or wish to attend the awards ceremony, contact the Events Team.

✉ Email: events@istructe.org
☎ Telephone: +44 (0)20 7201 9814

Media

If you have a media enquiry, contact the PR Team, who will be happy to provide you with images and information concerning the awards, and arrange interviews with judges and award-winning project teams.

✉ Email: pr@istructe.org
☎ Telephone: +44 (0)20 7201 9112

Sponsorship

For sponsorship enquires, contact the Sponsorship team.

✉ Email: sponsorship@istructe.org

Further information and guidance can also be found in our FAQs at www.istructe.org/awards/faqs



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