

Timber Design Awards 2026

Information pack



NZ TIMBER
DESIGN
AWARDS



Timber
Unlimited

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF TIMBER DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION



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Section 1

The important stuff

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About Timber Unlimited

Timber Unlimited is an industry-neutral, non-commercial, not-for-profit initiative helping New Zealand's design and construction industry build a lower-carbon future with timber.

Officially launched in March 2022, Timber Unlimited was established through funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) via a consortium of BRANZ, New Zealand Timber Design Society Incorporated (NZTDS), Scion and WPMA, and is now managed by NZTDS.

Timber Unlimited exists to build belief in the possibilities of timber in the built environment, and to make it easier to choose and use more timber in building and infrastructure projects, with a particular focus on the commercial, industrial, public and multi-storey sectors.

Through its online hub of research, guidance, tools, case studies and real-world examples, it brings together expertise from across the value chain, giving busy project teams fast access to the knowledge they need—from understanding how timber performs and where it adds value, to integrating it effectively from early design through to delivery on site.

The Timber Design Awards are a natural extension of this role: a way to showcase what's already being achieved, recognise those leading the way, and share insights that can help the wider industry accelerate its use of timber.




The New Zealand Timber Design Society & Timber Unlimited

Timber Unlimited has recently found a new home; the New Zealand Timber Design Society (NZTDS), one of its founding members, now provides a strong and stable foundation for the initiative's continued growth.

While NZTDS is now the home of Timber Unlimited, their two respective initiatives and aspirations are intentionally kept separate.

NZTDS's initiatives remain technical focused, with Timber Unlimited providing much broader industry support and reaching a more varied audience and range of professionals.

Looking ahead, the new Timber Unlimited team is working to facilitate continued collaboration and connections across the industry. These efforts build a thriving community of timber enthusiasts, bringing together like-minded individuals to share knowledge, skills, and techniques.



Lightweight Timber Research Structures
Andrew Barrie Lab & Batchelar McDougall Consulting

PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW BARRIE / DYLAN WADDELL / KANADE KONISHI

About the Awards

The New Zealand Timber Design Awards are back to celebrate the best in timber design and construction across Aotearoa. Now entering their 51st year in 2026, these prestigious Awards provide a national platform to recognise outstanding achievement in the use of timber across the built environment.

Proudly hosted again by Timber Unlimited, the Awards recognise the businesses, people, and teams who are at the forefront of the timber revolution, using timber to deliver beautiful, high-performance, low-carbon, exemplary projects – from large-scale commercial and public buildings through to residential, interior and innovation-focused work.

This information pack is for architects, engineers, builders, architectural designers, manufacturers, students and others planning to submit projects to the 2026 Awards.

Key dates

We don't expect these dates to change, but if they do, we'll let you know ahead of time.

Stage 1	Entries open	Monday 15 December 2025
	Entries close	Friday 6 March 2026
	Judging	Monday 23 March - Friday 10 April 2026
	Finalists contacted	Wednesday 15 April 2026
	Finalists announced	Friday 17 April 2026
Stage 2	First day to submit Stage 2 information	Monday 20 April 2026
	Final day to submit Stage 2 information	Friday 15 May 2026
	Judging	w/c 25 May 2026
Gala Event		Friday 26 June 2026

Entry fees

With the exception of the Student Award Category, entry fees apply to all other categories and are payable via credit card only through the entry portal.

Student Design Award

Free to enter

Specialty Awards

\$200 +GST
per entry

Excellence Awards

\$250 +GST
per entry

We're here to help

For any questions about eligibility or the entry process, please check out our website, or email:
enquiries@timberunlimited.co.nz

Section 2

What's new in 2026

People's Choice voting

New categories

A new dynamic format

Revised entry process





People's Choice voting

For the first time, the People's Choice Award will be decided **live on the night** by guests at the Gala Event and online voters. This new format puts the spotlight firmly on the audience, giving everyone a chance to help crown one of the 2026 NZ Timber Design Awards winners in real time.

How it will work

- All finalist projects will be entered into the People's Choice Award.
- Voting will open on the evening of the Gala Event and remain live until a set time (to be confirmed closer to the event).
- The People's Choice Award winner will be announced live on the night, ahead of the closing remarks or entertainment finale.



New categories

With the use of timber construction continuing to grow, we are introducing **two new categories**:

- International Project Award
- Public & Community Building Award

We have also refined several of the other award categories to provide clearer guidance and help entrants assess which category best fits their project.

View the detailed category information and judging criteria in **Section 3** of this document.



A new dynamic format

With exciting new categories added, this year's event is set to be bigger and better! To give everyone extra time to connect and network before the sit-down dinner, we're introducing a dynamic new two-part format.

The award presentations will be grouped into two parts:

Part 1: Specialty Awards

Part 2: Excellence Awards

Specialty Awards (Categories 1–6)

We've designed these categories to be more accessible, with lower entry fees and a spotlight on specific disciplines and themes—like student work and alternative species. Winners will be celebrated early during the opening networking session, setting an inspiring tone for the evening and showcasing a broader range of talent right from the start.

Excellence Awards (Categories 7–14)

These categories will be presented as part of the formal dinner on the main stage, along with the People's Choice and Supreme Award winners.

Approach to judging

There's also a slight difference in how entries are evaluated. For the **Specialty Awards**, Timber Unlimited and the Timber Design Society team will create the shortlist based on the set criteria for each category, before handing it over to the main judging panel for the final assessment. In contrast, **Excellence Award** entries will be reviewed by the judging panel throughout both Stages 1 and 2.



Revised entry process

The 2026 entry process is similar to the previous years with some amended features.

Stage 1

Project overview and meeting the judging criteria

Stage 1 focuses on **introducing the project** and explaining how it meets the **specific judging criteria** for the chosen category.

- Entries will be submitted via an **online portal** accessible through Timber Unlimited's website.
- Entries will be assessed and a shortlist of finalists will be selected to progress to Stage 2.
- Finalists will be notified by email on **Wednesday 15 April 2026**.

The building or structure must have been **completed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025**.

- All structural primary and secondary elements completed, roof and parts of the facade, but not the interior fit out or services.

Stage 2

Detailed submission

Stage 2 requires **additional project information** that builds on your Stage 1 entry and is assessed against the **key judging themes** and the specific category criteria.

- Additional information will be **submitted via email** (details to be provided closer to the time).
- Entrants will have **20 working days** to submit the additional information that relates to the specific category criteria questions.
- Additional information may be requested by the judges.
- Presentation boards are **no longer required**.

Section 3

Categories & judging criteria

2026 categories

Category details & judging criteria



2026 categories

Specialty Awards	1	Student Design Award	Encouraging emerging talent
	2	Interior Design Award	Showcasing timber artistry in interiors
	3	Alternative Species Award	Highlighting the use of alternative timber species
	4	Exterior Structures & Landscaping Design Award	Celebrating outdoor timber design
	5	Innovative Timber Manufacturing & Technology Award	Celebrating unique manufacturing methods, enhancing of materials, new connections through machining timber smartly, prefabrication and assembly.
	6	International Project Award	Celebrating New Zealand design firms and New Zealand timber suppliers for their outstanding design and use of New Zealand timber in an international project
Excellence Awards	7	Sustainable Development Award	Celebrating the outstanding sustainable use of timber as a material of choice in the project
	8	Residential Design Award for Single Family Dwelling	Celebrating exceptional design of a single family home
	9	Residential Design Award for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (up to 3 levels)	Celebrating exceptional design of a multi-unit residential building
	10	Commercial & Industrial Building Design Award	Showcasing timber innovation in commercial and industrial environments
	11	Public & Community Building Award	Showcasing timber excellence in public design and/or community facilities
	12	Mid-Rise Building Design Award (over 3 levels)	Recognising timber excellence in mid-rise buildings above three storeys
	13	Hybrid Building Award	Enhancing the strengths of each material to meet the client's design brief
	14	Innovative Timber Engineering Award	Outstanding timber engineering, achieving smart outcomes by leveraging the strength of timber
Overall Awards		People's Choice Award	Winner as voted for on the night
		Supreme Award	Overall winner

Categories & judging criteria

Specialty Awards



Category 1 Student Design Award (revised)

Entry is open to Year 3 and 4 students, as well as students enrolled in a relevant master's degree, at a New Zealand tertiary education provider.

Judging criteria

Showcasing innovation in timber through conceptual or proposed projects where timber is featured as a solution to relevant building sector issues across New Zealand.

1. Why was timber chosen for the project?
2. How was timber effectively used to exploit its range of structural, environmental and/or aesthetic applications?
3. What was the decision process like that resulted in the use of timber for this project?

See category specific terms and conditions on **page 24** of this document.



Category 2 Interior Design Award (unchanged)

A fit-out of a new or existing building (including renovations).

Judging criteria

Novel selection, application and aesthetic design in an interior environment.

1. How were specific timbers chosen for this project and why?
2. How were the aesthetics influenced by the use of timber?
3. How was timber selected for expression of cultural and historic values as appropriate for the application?



Category 3 Alternative Species Award (title change only)

For the use of New Zealand grown alternative species (excludes Douglas Fir and Radiata Pine). This can be extended to anything in timber used in the construction industry including art, sculptures, recycling timber, etc.

Judging criteria

Innovative use of New Zealand grown timbers that takes advantage of the unique properties of the species, for engineered or solid wood materials for use in building and furniture.

1. What properties of the species chosen were considered during design?
2. What unique aspects of timber were advantageous for its use on this project?
3. Why were New Zealand grown timbers used for this project over other timbers?



Category 4 Exterior Structure & Landscaping Design Award (revised)

For the use of timber and wood-based products as a signature feature resulting in designs of exterior structures and features such as bridges, pavilions, walkways, landscaping, exterior furniture and exterior art.

Judging criteria

Appropriate selection of durable timber as expressed in a novel, extreme environment, or aesthetic application.

1. How were the specific timbers and/or treatment methods chosen to provide durability in conjunction with the form and function?
2. Why was timber chosen as the material for the installation over other materials?
3. How was timber and the project able to integrate with the surrounding environment?



Category 5 **Innovative Timber Manufacturing & Technology Award** (unchanged)

This category focuses on timber structures manufactured based on innovative processes and techniques recognising supplier/manufacturer input and innovation (i.e. double-curved members, large-scale finger jointing etc.,)

Judging criteria

Showcasing design and manufacturing innovation to use timber in different ways and provide solutions that may not have been possible previously due to advances in technology.

1. What technologies unique to timber allowed for the execution of this design in wood?
2. What technology innovations were used or developed that would not have been feasible in past years?
3. What made this project uniquely viable in timber, using manufacturing and fabrication processes that are not available or possible with other materials?



Category 6 **International Project Award** (new)

Recognising outstanding timber projects completed outside Aotearoa by New Zealand teams, this category highlights innovation, craftsmanship, and the successful adaptation of timber solutions to diverse international contexts. Eligible entries may include new builds, renovations, or fit-outs where timber plays a central role in design and execution.

Judging criteria

Celebrating New Zealand design firms and New Zealand timber suppliers for their outstanding design and use of New Zealand timber in an international project.

1. How was timber creatively and effectively used to address the unique challenges of the overseas context?
2. In what ways did the project adapt timber solutions to local environmental, cultural, or regulatory requirements?
3. What impact did timber have on the project's sustainability and overall design quality?

Excellence Awards



Category 7 **Sustainable Development Award** (revised)

For the use of timber and wood-based products in projects that are achieving low environmental impact and enhancing New Zealand's unique culture, society and environment. Carbon calculations showing the benefit of using timber as a structural material are encouraged.

Judging criteria

Demonstrating high environmental sustainability, cultural significance and stewardship towards New Zealand's unique society and environment. Demonstrating a cultural shift in design and construction towards achieving a positive integration with the natural environment and showcasing a circular biobased economy approach.

1. Why was timber used for this project and what comparisons were developed that supported its use as a sustainable system?
2. How will this use of timber demonstrate the shift in design and construction for achieving lower carbon building solutions in New Zealand?
3. How was timber used to address all aspects of the life cycle and/or design for dismantling or re-use of a building?



Category 8 **Residential Design Award for Single Family Dwelling** (unchanged)

For the use of timber and wood-based products as a signature feature resulting in exceptional design of a residential single-family stand-alone dwelling.

Judging criteria

Showcasing built form and amenity, with innovation in material selection and aesthetics in a residential context.

1. How was timber used to showcase the built form and amenity?
2. How was timber selected for expression of form and functionality?
3. How was timber selected to manifest the concept of “home”?



Category 9 **Residential Design Award for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (up to 3 levels)** (unchanged)

A new multi-unit residential dwelling, (townhouses, terraced houses, walk-up apartments, or any other residential building up to 3 stories). This category focuses on a ‘horizontal’ development in timber.

Judging criteria

Showcasing built form and amenity, with innovation in material selection and aesthetics in a multi-unit residential dwelling context.

1. How was timber used to showcase the built form and amenity?
2. How was timber selected for expression of form and functionality?
3. How was timber used to effectively and efficiently create a multi-unit dwelling suitable for multiple tenancies?



Category 10 **Commercial & Industrial Building Design Award** (revised)

This category recognises projects where timber is a defining element in commercial or industrial buildings, such as offices, retail spaces, factories, or warehouses. Entries should demonstrate how timber contributes to functionality, sustainability, and the overall user experience in demanding, high-traffic, or operationally complex settings.

Judging criteria

Showcasing built form and amenity, with innovation in material selection and aesthetics in a commercial or industrial use building.

1. How did the use of timber address the specific functional and operational needs of the commercial or industrial environment?
2. What innovative approaches were taken in the selection and application of timber for durability and performance?
3. How did timber contribute to the sustainability and user experience of the project?



Category 11 **Public & Community Building Award** (new)

This award celebrates the use of timber in public buildings—such as schools, libraries, community centres, or government facilities—where design, accessibility, and civic value are paramount. Projects should demonstrate how timber enhances the public realm, supports community engagement, and delivers lasting social and environmental benefits.

Judging criteria

Showcasing innovation in material selection, built form, and aesthetics, remaining respectful of and enhancing its intended purpose as a building of public or community amenity.

1. How did the use of timber enhance the building’s public value, accessibility, or community identity?
2. In what ways did timber contribute to the project’s environmental and social sustainability?
3. How were civic values and long-term durability reflected in the selection and detailing of timber?



Category 12 **Mid-Rise Building Design Award (over 3 levels) (unchanged)**

A multi-storey building over 3 levels (can be commercial, public, or residential). This category focuses on a 'vertical' development in timber.

Judging criteria

Showcasing the built form and innovation in maximising the valuable characteristics and properties of timber in a multi-storey context.

1. How was timber used innovatively to solve the issues of a multi-storey building?
2. What engineering challenges were specifically achieved using wood and how?
3. How was the use of timber expressed in the form and aesthetics of the building?



Category 13 **Hybrid Building Award (unchanged)**

Any building type where timber is used as a structural material, but is not the main structural material (i.e. the use of mass timber flooring panels in a commercial multi-storey steel building, timber extensions on existing steel or concrete buildings).

Judging criteria

Showcasing the characteristics, built form, innovation, benefits, and properties of using timber in combination with other structural materials.

1. How was timber purposefully used in conjunction with other materials to effectively achieve the superior building solutions that could not have been possible without using timber or other materials in isolation?
2. What engineering challenges were solved by using this combination of timber and other materials?
3. How was the combination of materials purposefully expressed in a way that enhanced the form and aesthetics of the building?



Category 14 **Innovative Timber Engineering Award (unchanged)**

This category focuses on timber structures based on innovative engineering solutions (i.e. the design of a grid-shell or diagrid structure; adoption of damage avoidance design etc).

Judging criteria

Showcasing engineering and construction innovation in maximising the ability to utilise timber in different ways and push forward with exciting and different solutions.

1. What innovations were used with timber to address the engineering and environmental challenges of the building?
2. How was timber specifically used to achieve the form and function of the building in a creative way?
3. What sets this project apart from other similar projects using other materials?

Section 4

Entry requirements

Stage 1 entries

Stage 2 submissions



Entry requirements



Stage 1 entries Project overview & judging criteria

All Stage 1 entries must be submitted via the online entry portal by **Friday 6 March 2026**.

Entrants may submit a project into a maximum of two categories. With the entrant's permission, judges may recommend moving a project to a more suitable category or considering it in more than two categories. All Stage 2 finalists are automatically considered for the People's Choice and Supreme Awards.

The entry requirements for Stage 1 are split into three tasks:

1. Provide a concise project description (maximum: 500 words).
2. Upload a maximum of 5 images (up to 4 MB each) that showcase how timber has been used.
3. Complete the online entry form.

Task 1 / Project description & judging criteria

Provide a concise project description (maximum: 500 words).

The description must include:

- A brief overview of the project and its context.
- How the project addresses the three judging criteria questions for the relevant category.
- How timber has been used in the project and why it was chosen.
- How the use of timber added value to the project in terms of construction benefits, aesthetic benefits, cost benefits.
- Details of the timber species (as appropriate) used for various applications within the project.
- Anything else the entrant considers as relevant.

Task 2 / Images

Upload a maximum of five images. These must:

- Be in PDF or JPEG format, minimum 300 dpi and maximum 4 MB each.
- Be named clearly: Category #_Entrant Name_Project Name_Description
- Include one 'hero' photo that shows the completed project.
- Show both exterior and interior views, where applicable.
- Where possible, include images of the building under construction (i.e. before application of lining and cladding), highlighting the timber structure and details, particularly if relevant to the specific category.

Task 3 / Online entry form

Complete the online entry form, which includes:

- Project name and location.
- Category or categories entered (maximum of two, excluding Student Design and People's Choice Awards).
- Practice / company details and key contacts.
- Building / project owner details and confirmation of owner's consent for publicity.
- Basic project data;
 - Completion date
 - Key team members
 - Building type
 - Floor area



Stage 2 requirements

Detailed submissions

Only shortlisted finalists will be required to submit Stage 2 information. Finalists will be notified by email on **Wednesday 15 April 2026**, and will have 20 working days to submit additional material via email (details to be confirmed closer to the time).

The requirements for Stage 2 are split into two tasks:

1. Provide **additional background** and information relevant to the category (maximum: 500 words).
2. Submit **up to eight** additional images, drawings and/or documents that further support your entry.

Task 1 / Additional background & information

Provide additional information that builds on the Stage 1 entry (maximum: 500 words).

The information provided must include:

- Additional information that dives deeper into the project and its relevance to the category, based on the key themes outlined below.
- A more detailed explanation of the design intent and project brief.
- Further detail on the timber design, engineering, construction methodology and performance.

Task 2/ Additional images, drawings & documentation

Please note: the appropriateness of the selection of photographic detail and documentation to the category entered is critical.

A maximum of eight additional images or documents may be submitted. These must:

- Be in PDF or JPEG format, and maximum 4 MB each.
- Be clearly named: Category #_Entrant Name_Project Name_Description
- Support your entry and demonstrate how it meets the judging criteria.
- These may include:
 - Key drawings and documentation.
 - Plans, sections and elevations sufficient to explain the design.
 - Key construction details, particularly those that highlight timber solutions.
 - Where relevant, structural or performance information (e.g. spans, connection strategies, fire, acoustic or thermal performance).
 - Close-up images of timber details, joints and finishes, or particular features of the building.

Please note: Student Design Award category finalists are also required to provide proof of enrolment.

Judging criteria

Stage 2 finalist entries will be assessed holistically under four themes:

1. **Design & aesthetics** – overall architectural quality, how timber is expressed, and the experience of the spaces created.
2. **Engineering & innovation** – quality and ambition of the structural and technical solution, including the use of engineered timber and its response to complexity.
3. **Sustainability** – considered use and sourcing of timber and other materials, and the project's longer-term environmental performance.
4. **Community impact** – benefits for users and the wider community, contribution to place, and overall value created.

Judges will also consider the overall impression of each project – its originality, clarity of intent, and how convincingly timber elevates the outcome.

Section 5
**Eligibility & terms
and conditions**

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of several parallel, slightly curved lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized architectural or technical design.

Eligibility, permissions, refund policy, and T&Cs

Before submitting your entry into the 2026 NZ Timber Design Awards, please ensure you have read and understood the eligibility criteria and terms and conditions of entry set out below. Timber Unlimited reserves the right to update dates or details in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Timber Unlimited reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time. All entrants will be notified of any changes.



Eligibility & criteria

Entrant eligibility

- Entry is open to New Zealand residents and citizens, except for the Student Design Award category, where entrants must be currently enrolled in an eligible New Zealand course (including international students studying in New Zealand).
- Entry is open to New Zealand resident architects, builders, architectural designers, engineers, manufacturers, students and other designers who have used timber in projects.

Project eligibility

- Projects entered in previous years must not be entered again.
- Only one entry per project, joint entries between disciplines or firms are welcome.
- A submitted project must be based on a completed building or structure. For the Student Design Award category, the general requirement for entries to be based on a completed building or structure does not apply.
- The building or structure must have been completed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025.
 - All structural primary and secondary elements completed, roof and parts of the facade, but not the interior fit out or services.
- The building or project must have significant timber content, either structural or decorative.
- Projects may include the effective use of timber in combination with other materials.
- Building or project owner's consent for publicity must be acknowledged on the entry form.
- Anonymity of the owner's name will be assured if requested in the appropriate part of the entry form.

Category entry rules

- A submission may be entered in a maximum of two of the fourteen categories.

Entry conditions

- An entry fee per category is payable using the online method via the entry portal.
- The entry form must be complete and accurate. Your entry can be viewed online at any time by logging into the system. You will receive an email confirming your entry once it has been processed.
- Entries received after the entry close dates outlined on the Timber Unlimited website or other official channels will not be accepted.
- Entry fees are non-refundable. A refund will only be considered if the Awards are cancelled by the organisers, if a duplicate payment has been made in error, or where a refund has otherwise been agreed in writing with Timber Unlimited on a case-by-case basis.
- Timber Unlimited and the judging panel reserve the right to determine the eligibility of entries, to move entries between categories where appropriate, and to withhold an award in any category if, in their opinion, no entry meets the required standard. The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Permissions, publishing & privacy

- It is the sole responsibility of the entrant to obtain all necessary permissions from clients, project owners, and photographers prior to submission.
- Timber Unlimited may publish all entries, including project details and images, on the Timber Unlimited website and may use these materials in subsequent web articles, advertising and publicity relating to the Awards programme, including future Awards.
- Entrant and project contact details shall be collected and processed exclusively for the administration of the Awards and related communications, in strict accordance with Timber Unlimited's privacy policy.
- Submitted images may be displayed on Timber Unlimited's website and utilised in Awards-related publicity as stipulated under these Terms, Conditions & Permissions.



Image usage policy

By submitting images, the entrant grants Timber Unlimited a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use such images for the following purposes:

- Inclusion in audio-visual presentations during official Design Award functions;
- Publication on Timber Unlimited's official social media platforms and website for the purpose of showcasing entrants and award highlights;
- Post-event promotion of projects entered in the Awards programme, including but not limited to features on Timber Unlimited's digital channels;
- Press releases and related media communications to promote award recipients and their designs.

Timber Unlimited reserves the right to apply reasonable cropping or minor adjustments to submitted images, provided such modifications do not alter the original intent or composition. Any alterations beyond basic layout adjustments shall only be undertaken with the prior written consent of the photographer.

Restrictions & Permissions

- Submitted images, drawings, and other visual materials shall not be used for general marketing purposes unrelated to the Awards. Should Timber Unlimited wish to use any image for purposes other than those expressly stated herein, Timber Unlimited shall seek prior agreement with the photographer and negotiate appropriate licensing terms.
- Timber Unlimited shall not distribute submitted images to third parties for their own use. In the event that an Award Sponsor requests access to imagery, Timber Unlimited will provide the sponsor with the photographer's contact details to enable direct negotiation of licensing arrangements. For the avoidance of doubt, Award Sponsors and other third parties shall not receive usage rights from Timber Unlimited under these Terms.

Liability Disclaimer

Timber Unlimited shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or expense incurred by the entrant arising out of or in connection with the use of submitted materials in accordance with these Terms and Conditions. Timber Unlimited accepts no responsibility for any unauthorised use of images by third parties, including but not limited to media outlets, or social media platforms. Entrants acknowledge and agree that participation in the Awards and submission of materials is at their own risk.



Agreement to terms & use of material

By submitting an entry to the NZ Timber Design Awards, the entrant expressly agrees to the following:

Acknowledgement of Terms

The entrant confirms that they have read, understood, and agreed to all Terms and Conditions of entry as set out in this document.

Grant of Licence

The entrant grants Timber Unlimited a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide licence to use any images, drawings, and related materials submitted as part of the entry for the purposes outlined in the Image Usage Policy clause and the Permissions, Publishing & Privacy section.

Intellectual Property & Indemnity

All intellectual property rights in the submitted materials, including but not limited to images, drawings, and written descriptions, remain the property of the entrant and/or the original rights holder. By entering the Awards, the entrant warrants that they hold all necessary rights and permissions to submit these materials and to grant Timber Unlimited the licence to use them as set out in these Terms, Conditions & Permissions. The entrant agrees to indemnify Timber Unlimited against any claims, damages, or liabilities arising from infringement of third-party intellectual property rights.

Permanent Display of Drawings

The entrant permits Timber Unlimited to display any submitted drawings permanently on its official website, with appropriate accreditation.

Payment Confirmation

The entrant confirms that the required entry fee per category has been paid in full.

Liability Disclaimer

The entrant acknowledges and agrees to the Liability Disclaimer set out above, and confirms that participation in the Awards and submission of materials is entirely at their own risk.

Entry Requirements

All Stage 1 entries must be submitted via the online entry portal.

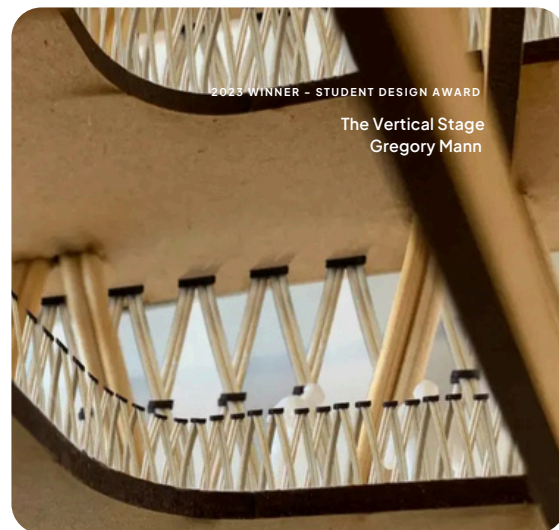
Section 6

Student Design Award

About the category

Specific eligibility, verification & permissions, and entry rules





About the category

The Student Design Award **celebrates emerging designers** who are exploring the potential of timber in studio, thesis and research projects. It also gives students the opportunity to have their work recognised alongside leading timber projects from across the country.

In addition, the two finalists will each receive an organised trip to attend the Gala Event in Auckland*.

The category is open to students who are **currently enrolled at New Zealand tertiary education providers**, or who have **completed their studies** within the last **12 months** in a relevant programme (for example, architecture, engineering, building science, industrial design, interior architecture, construction, or a related discipline).

Entries may be submitted by **individual students or by teams**, and must relate to student work completed for assessment between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025. Only one representative per finalist will be eligible for full sponsorship to attend the gala event.

Projects may be **built, unbuilt or conceptual**, provided they demonstrate a realistic application of timber design and include significant use of timber, either structural or decorative. A student project entered in this category may also be **entered into one other award category**, provided it meets that category's eligibility criteria.

Full eligibility, verification and entry requirements for the Student Design Award are set out below, with general Eligibility, Terms & Conditions in Section 5.

**Up to the value of \$1,000 (including GST) for one person, includes domestic travel to Auckland, one night accommodation on the night of the event, and one ticket to the event.*

Specific eligibility, verification & permissions, and entry rules

In addition to the general Eligibility & Criteria, Entry Conditions, Permissions, Publishing & Privacy, Image Usage Policy, Intellectual Property & Indemnity and Liability Disclaimer for the NZ Timber Design Awards, the following specific requirements apply to entries in the Student Design Award category.



Entrant eligibility

- Entry is open to Year 3 and 4 students, as well as students enrolled in a relevant master's degree, at a New Zealand tertiary education provider. This includes domestic and international students who are enrolled at a recognised New Zealand tertiary institution.
- Entrants must be currently enrolled in, or have completed their studies within the 12 months immediately prior to the Awards entry closing date, from a recognised New Zealand tertiary programme (for example architecture, engineering, building science, industrial design, interior architecture, construction or a related discipline).
- Entries may be submitted by individual students or student teams. For team entries, all team members must meet the student eligibility requirements and one student must be nominated as the primary contact.



Project eligibility

- A submitted project must be student work produced as part of a formal course, studio, thesis or research project at a recognised New Zealand tertiary institution.
- For the Student Design Award category, the general requirement for entries to be based on a completed building or structure does not apply. Instead, a submitted project may be built, unbuilt or conceptual, provided it reflects a realistic application of timber design.
- A submitted project must have been completed for assessment between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025.
- A submitted project must have significant timber content, either structural or decorative.
- Projects may include the effective use of timber in combination with other materials.
- Projects entered in previous years in any NZ Timber Design Awards category must not be entered again.



Verification & permissions

- The supervising lecturer, studio coordinator or academic supervisor associated with the project must be named on the entry form.
- The supervising lecturer or academic supervisor may be asked to verify that the work is the entrant's own student work, produced as part of the stated course or programme.
- Where a project has been developed in collaboration with an external organisation (for example an industry partner, client or sponsor), the entrant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions before entering, in addition to the general permissions requirements set out in the Awards Terms, Conditions & Permissions.



Category entry rules

- A project entered in the Student Design Award may also be entered in one additional category, provided it meets the eligibility criteria for that category, is submitted accordingly, and will incur the appropriate entry fee.
- Where a project is entered in both the Student Design Award and another category, project information (including project title, team and key details) must be consistent across categories.

FRONT AND BACK COVER
2023 WINNER - RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AWARD
FOR SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING

Studio House
William Samuels Architects

PHOTO CREDIT: SIMON DEVITT



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