

World Habitat Awards 2008 (XXIII Ed.)

About the Awards

History

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) to identify and promote examples of good housing practice. They were initiated as part of BSHF's contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987. The concept of identifying good practice was virtually unknown in 1985 and the Awards were originally intended to run for only three years. Since there was such a positive response however, BSHF decided to carry on running the competition and more than twenty years later, the World Habitat Awards continue to go from strength to strength.

Over the years a wide range of excellent housing projects have been identified in countries of both the North and the Global South. These projects address a wide range of housing needs and come in all shapes and sizes. From the very beginning the emphasis has been not just on identifying the good examples of housing practice, but also on sharing this knowledge and experience with others who can use it in their own situations. The first international study visit to a World Habitat Award winning programme took place in 1987 and these annual visits have continued ever since.

- [Previous World Habitat Award winners and finalists](#)
- [International study visits to winning projects](#)

The very first awards were presented in 1986 in London by HRH the Prince of Wales and Dr Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

Prize

In addition to international recognition for their work, winning projects receive an award of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds sterling) and an individually designed silver trophy. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the Awards ceremony.

Award presentation

The World Habitat Awards are presented each year at the global celebration of World Habitat Day. This is organised each year on the first Monday of October by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), providing a unique opportunity to focus attention on the importance of shelter in people's lives.

To date, these ceremonies have been held in Italy and Russia (2006), Indonesia (2005), Kenya (2004), Brazil (2003 and 1995), Belgium (2002), Japan (2001), Jamaica (2000), People's Republic of China (1999), Dubai (1998), Germany (1997), Hungary (1996), Senegal (1994), and the USA (1993 and 1992).

How to Enter

Introduction

Projects are sought that:

- Demonstrate practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to current housing issues faced by countries of the North as well as the South.
- Can be transferred or adapted for use as appropriate.
- View the term habitat from a broad perspective and bring other benefits as well, for example, energy or water saving, income generation, social inclusion, community and individual empowerment, capacity building and education.

Entry Procedure

The World Habitat Awards competition has a two-stage entry process:

Stage I submissions need only comprise a concise summary of all aspects of the project. From these preliminary submissions, twelve projects are selected by an Assessment Committee to go forward to Stage II of the competition.

Stage II submissions are evaluated by an independent advisory group before being put to a panel of international judges, which include the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Rector of the United Nations University. Evaluation visits are carried out to some of the projects prior to the final judging.

Stage I submissions can be made **online** or by completing a downloadable entry form (via the link at the bottom of the page), attaching details of your project and posting, faxing or emailing it to BSHF.

All Stage I submissions must be received by **1st June 2008**.

[Click here to apply online!](#)

Who can enter

- Any individual, organisation or government who has an innovative and practical solution to housing needs and problems from any country of the world.
- More than one project may be submitted by the same individual or organisation.
- Projects must be submitted by the original designer and/or implementer of the project or be accompanied by a letter of permission from the designer and/or implementer agreeing to its entry in the competition and for its publication in the event of winning.
- Previous entrants can re-submit in subsequent years providing that the project has been further developed in the intervening time period.

Entry procedure

Stage I

- Stage I submissions should comprise a concise summary of all aspects of the project. Full plans, costings and feasibility or evaluation reports are not required at this stage, although may be supplied if you so wish. (The main headings under which information should be supplied are set out on the entry form).
- Plans and photographs of the project would be appreciated.
- All submissions should be in English.

All Stage I submissions must be received by 1st June 2008

Stage II

Final submissions should be typed and include the following information:

1. A detailed description of the project.
 - Aims and objectives of the project.
 - A description of the context of the project and the problems it is designed to overcome.
 - A full description of the project, including physical, social and financial aspects.
 - Financial statement detailing both the capital costs of establishing the project and the revenue costs, where appropriate, of running it.
 - A clear identification of the key innovative features of the project.
 - An assessment of the innovation and impact of the project and results achieved to date.
 - A statement of the roles of the different partners involved in the project.
 - Identification of the extent to which the approach used in the project has been transferred locally, nationally or internationally.
2. An evaluation of the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the project.
3. A statement on any barriers encountered in the project as well as lessons learned.

All submissions should be accompanied by supporting plans, images and diagrams.

The format of text, plans, diagrams and photographic presentation is entirely at the candidate's discretion, subject to a size limit of A4 or slightly larger. All documents will be returned, if required, after judging has taken place.

Two copies of all submissions should be provided and should be submitted in English.

All Stage II submissions must be received by 1st December 2008.

Timetable

1st June 2008	Deadline for receipt of Stage I submissions
June - August 2008	Evaluation of Stage I submissions
1st September 2008	Notification of results for Stage I submissions
1st December 2008	Deadline for receipt of entries selected for Stage II submission
January - June 2009	Evaluation of Stage II submissions
August 2009	Announcement of winners of the World Habitat Award
5th October 2009	Presentation of the Awards on World Habitat Day

Copyright

Whilst BSHF will not hold the copyright of any project submitted, it is understood and agreed that any project so submitted will be available for international exhibition, demonstration and publication without further permission or payment to the copyright holder.

BSHF will only accept submissions on this understanding and agreement without further permission of the copyright holder and the prize, if won, will be made to the person submitting the entry in reliance upon such representation and warranty.

BSHF cannot be involved in any negotiations regarding financial and copyright arrangements between the two parties. Where a submission of an existing project is made by a person or persons other than the holder of the copyright, the submission of such project shall imply a representation and warranty by such person that the holder of copyright consents to such submission upon terms that it will be available for international exhibition and demonstration and publication.

BSHF reserves the right not to make an award in the event that none of the submissions adequately fulfil the criteria.

Suggested areas for submission

Projects are sought that tackle a range of issues related to housing in innovative and sustainable ways. Some suggestions of subjects for submitted projects to address are:

- Provision of low-cost, affordable housing for low-income households.
- Housing provision for those with special needs.
 - Provision of housing for homeless people.
 - Housing specifically designed to meet the needs of older persons and those with other special needs.
- Environmentally sustainable housing.
 - Promotion of sustainable lifestyles in urban and/or rural areas.
 - Provision of resource and energy-efficient housing.
 - Development/use of sustainable building materials and technologies.
- Restoration of existing housing.
 - Restoration of areas of decayed housing and environmental degradation.
 - Upgrading/improvement of slum dwellings and informal settlements.
- Technical innovation.
 - The use of information and communication technologies in housing.
 - Innovative design and/or construction materials.

- Provision of housing designed to withstand natural disasters.
- Housing developed and managed on a co-operative or other socially sustainable basis.

Note: the subjects listed above are suggestions only. Projects relating to other housing issues may be submitted if desired.

Building & Social Housing Foundation

Memorial Square

Coalville

Leicestershire

LE67 3TU

UNITED KINGDOM

Tel : +44 (0)1530 510444

Fax : +44 (0)1530 510332

bshf@bshf.org