



2026 APA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE ENTRY PROCEDURES & FAQ

AWARDS PURPOSE

The purpose of the APA Awards for Excellence program is to recognize excellence in design, manufacturing, and craftsmanship of architectural precast concrete structures and individual components. Any kind, size, or type of structure and/or element may be entered. Awards will be made on the basis of APA established criteria, which has evolved since the inception of the awards programs.

The Craftsmanship Awards focuses on issues, such as forming, overcoming obstacles to production and quality of individual precast units rather than architectural design. The Design and Manufacturing Awards recognize excellence in these areas for completed structures.

ELIGIBILITY

Structures completed in 2026, 2025, or 2024 are eligible for the submission process. The completion date is the date the project was deemed to be “substantially complete”. Non-winning entries from 2025, which were completed in 2024 and 2025 are eligible for reentry this year and will automatically be reentered, as is. New submission materials will be accepted for reentered entries – please contact the office to make arrangements. There are no exceptions to these requirements. Entries must originate from current Producer Members of the Architectural Precast Association. Entries may also be submitted by the architect or engineer of record providing the manufacturer is a current Producer of APA.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Each project may only be entered into one (1) of the following categories PLUS the Building Green category, if applicable. In addition, each project may also be entered into the Craftsmanship Awards if eligible below.

- Commercial – Office, corporate headquarters, retail outlet, bank
- Educational: Universities and schools
- Religious: Churches, temples, synagogues, etc.
- Medical/Government – Military, post office, courthouse, hospital, doctor office, outpatient facility
- Hospitality/Entertainment – Retail, mall, hotel, casino, movie theater, theater
- Residential – Housing, apartment, condo, single family, dorm, retirement home
- Trim: Masonry units, cast stone,

- Landscape: Fountains, ornamentals, benches, signs, and hardscapes/streetscapes
- Mixed Use: Combination of multiple uses: residential, commercial, entertainment, etc. in one space
- GFRC – All GFRC

Building Green– This award distinguishes those architectural precast/cast stone structures that contribute substantially to obtaining LEED points.

All entries must be received by the APA office on or before July 10, 2026, close of business.

(Continued on page 3)

ENTRY SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Step 1:

Gather the following documents for your award submittal.

- Applicable Shop Drawings/Tickets (PDF)
- Maximum of Ten (10) High Resolution Individual Photos (JPEG) per entry, per Awards program. No photo collages accepted.

Step 2:

Submit the above documents in the online entry form at <https://arpa.memberclicks.net/2026apaawards>

DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION

Entries should be accompanied by a written description in the space provided as outlined on the entry form.

SHOP DRAWINGS/TICKETS

All shop drawings/tickets must be submitted in PDF form for each entry. No hard copies will be accepted.

- **Design and Manufacturing Entries:**

Shop drawings of the manufacturing details and method of attachment of the precast panels must be submitted in PDF form. If none are available, a typed description will be acceptable. This should be created as a Word document.

- **Craftsmanship Entries:**

Shop tickets of precast units must be submitted for evaluation in PDF form.

DIGITAL PHOTOS

A maximum of ten (10) individual high resolution photos in JPG form are required per entry, per Awards program.

Photo collages are not accepted. If an entry is eligible for both Awards programs, a maximum of twelve (12) individual photos is allowed. Judges prefer professional quality photos.

- **Design and Manufacturing Entries:**

Include photographs of all principle sides of the building where precast is used.

- **Craftsmanship Entries:**

Include photographs of forms (reinforcement, forming techniques, block-outs, etc.) as well as close-ups of details (returns, finishes, etc.). At least one (1) photograph of the precast unit should be shown installed at the job site.

It is imperative to name all files and photographs in a manner that will designate them to the appropriate Awards program.

Example: Photo files for entry which is entered into both Awards Programs.

- Photo's for Design & Manufacturing Awards: DM 1, DM 2, DM 3...etc.
- Photo's for Craftsmanship Awards: C forming, C design, C installed...etc.

***All photographs, shop drawings/tickets and written descriptions should be void of any verbiage or logos that may cause recognition of the project and/or Producer.

JUDGING CRITERIA - Design and Manufacturing Entries

Designing Excellence

1. Relationship of individual elements to the whole.
2. Compatibility with its natural surroundings.

Concept Excellence

1. Functional and innovative use of architectural precast concrete.
2. Unique detailing of precast elements.

Manufacturing Excellence

1. Color and texture consistency.
2. Degree of difficulty.

Building Green*

1. How LEED Points were achieved through precast.
2. Number of LEED Points generated by precast.

***Only applicable if entering in the Building Green Category**

JUDGING CRITERIA - Craftsmanship Entries

• Noteworthy Craftsmanship

Unique, special, difficult, or unusual products or applications of architectural precast concrete. **The decision of the jury is final.**

OWNERSHIP & PUBLICATION OF ENTRIES

All entries and all materials submitted with entries remain the property of the entrant. However, since one of the purposes of the program is to generate involvement of design professionals in the activities of APA and promote the use of architectural precast concrete, entrants agree that their entry is an irrevocable grant to the Architectural Precast Association of a perpetual, fully transferable, unrestricted, worldwide, royalty-free right to crop alter, modify, or exhibit the submitted materials in any medium including but not limited to; video, still photographs, printed materials, websites, social media, television, radio, packaging, trade show exhibits and presentations of any type for any editorial, commercial, promotional, or trade purposes. This shall include the right to publish photographs and names of any and all award recipients without compensation.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The awards will be presented at the 2023 APA Annual Convention Awards Dinner. Entries, both large and small, will be judged equally based on individual merit and all awards will express equivalent recognition of a high level of excellence. The number of awards will be determined at the judges' discretion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

In addition to award presentations at the APA Annual Convention, APA and winning Producers will make arrangements for formal presentation to the architectural firm winners.