

RIBA Suffolk Design Awards 2025

RIBA Suffolk invite entries for the annual RIBA Suffolk Design Awards 2025 which aim to celebrate the best architecture in the East of England designed by any registered RIBA Chartered Architects and Practices with projects built in Suffolk within the last 2 years.

Deadline: The deadline for nominations will be 5pm Friday 31st January 2025.

Eligibility

- Awards will be considered for all types of building projects within the East of England, limited to Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire only.
- Entries will be accepted from any registered RIBA Chartered Architects and Practices from within and outside of Suffolk.
- Buildings should have been completed in late 2022 or fully by December 2024.

Judging Criteria and Panel

The jury will include 3 members of RIBA Suffolk who have not submitted a project to this call for nominations. If you are not submitting an entry to the award and are interested in judging, please submit your name and brief profile to the RIBA Suffolk Chair: aoife@bcr-infinityarchitects.co.uk

Judges will be asked to assess buildings on the following criteria:

Architectural Integrity

- Architectural and conceptual ambition
- Design vision – is this reflected in all aspects of the design?
- Capacity to stimulate, engage and delight its occupants, visitors and passers-by
- Extent of innovation, invention & originality
- Selection of materials and rigour with which it is detailed and executed
- Size and space, in terms of the special experience the project offers

Sustainability, Usability and Context

- Has the project made a significant contribution to its immediate environment?
- How does the project respond to the issues of accessibility, health and wellbeing, and other social factors?
- Suitability of the project's structural and servicing systems
- Adoption of strategies to reduce operational energy consumption, embodied carbon emissions and potable water use
- Inclusion of strategies which enhances biodiversity, creates, restores or includes provisions to protect and enhance habitats.

Delivery and Execution

- Complexity of brief – its architectural ambition and ideas
- Fitness for purpose – especially in response to the client's brief as reflected in the level of client satisfaction
- Timetable - the project should not have gone over time without good cause
- Type of contract, e.g. traditional, design and build etc;
- Value for money – budget

Judging process

No award is given unless the project has been visited by the judging panel. All RIBA Suffolk awards are judged by RIBA Suffolk members and visiting award-winning architects. The make-up of the jury is at the discretion of RIBA Suffolk.

The RIBA Suffolk judging panel will assess design excellence irrespective of style, size or complexity, considering constraints of budget, brief and timetable while being sensitive to the economic and social contexts of each project.

Before any visits are made, every judge will read and digest the criteria and study all the submitted materials. They will then visit an agreed list of projects, looking in detail at all aspects, interior and exterior, listen to the story that both architect and client have to tell and interrogate them about the process and its results. After discussion with fellow judges, they will arrive at their provisional decisions.

Once all visits have concluded the jury will meet for a final time to decide the awards. Judges may apply categories to the awards; it will be at the judge's discretion and may not be limited to project types but could include awards not just for design, but for community engagement, sustainability or end-user satisfaction for example.

Announcements and Presentations

RIBA Suffolk will host an Autumn 2025 Exhibition in collaboration with the University of Suffolk School of Architecture. This exhibition will showcase the nominations and the emerging School of Architecture's student work.

The RIBA Suffolk Design Award winners will be presented at the Annual Dinner of the Suffolk Joint Construction Committee to take place at Trinity Park Conference Centre, Ipswich on **Wednesday 14th May 2025**.

Tickets are available from:

- The National Federation of Builders.
- Contact: Jo Williams
- Email: joanne.williams@builders.org.uk
- Telephone: 03450 578 160

Awards and Certificates will be presented to the architect and owner of the award-winning project(s). The person nominating a shortlisted project will be notified prior to SJCC event.

Entry Requirements

Please complete and return the enclosed RIBA Suffolk Design Award 2025 Nomination Form to aoife@bcr-infinityarchitects.co.uk.

Please use "RIBA Suffolk Design Awards 2025" in the email subject. Associated documents, drawings and photographs that satisfy the following criteria can be included in the email using a cloud sharing service, OneDrive, Dropbox, WeTransfer or similar. Please provide the following:

Project description

In 600 words describing the project:

- Set out the client's brief, planning opportunities, constraints, materials and the method of construction.
- Outline the key drivers, concepts, architectural forms, construction type, method and systems considered for performance of the building and its use in terms of sustainability.
- Provide a summary of timetable, programme and budget constraints.
- State the project value & completion date.
- Explain, where applicable, how the building contributes to its society and meets the principles of inclusive design.
- State the gross internal floor area of the project (sqm).
- State the gross internal conditioned floor area (sqm) – this is the gross internal floor area that is heated and or cooled.
- Specify whether there is gas used on site and whether there are any on site renewable energy generation (KWh/yr).
- Include supporting information relating to the building specification and any sustainability certifications achieved.

The description above will be used in jury meetings and to influence editorial coverage, so please ensure this fully covers your entry.

Key consultants

A list of all key consultants to be credited, e.g. structural engineer, services engineer, landscape architect etc with contact details. These consultants will be credited on all of our online content, press releases and awards certificates.

Images

Entrants are required to submit the following: Minimum of 5 and up to 10 JPEG images with a minimum width and/or height of 1000 px. Max file size is 10MB. You may be asked to select 5 of your images to be used for exhibition purposes. We recommend press images to be at least 2000 pixels in height or width and 300dpi.

Project images should be a mixture of external and internal shots of the project. Each image must be shared as single image JPEG files, not composite PDF boards. These images are used for judging purposes and should convey the way in which the project relates to its context. We advise both wide shots and close-ups and, if possible, show the building in use. Do not put company logos or text on any images.

Drawings

Entrants must also upload a minimum of 1 and up to 6 drawing files as PDF format only. Max file size is 5MB. Include a location plan (showing project in context, eg 1:1250), site plan, floor plans, elevations, and two sections. You may share up to 6 separate files. These can be configured as 1-2 drawings per page if needs be. Please bear in mind the judges will be reading the drawings on A4 paper and on screen, so landscape orientation is preferred with graphical planning or concept stage drawings rather than technical drawings.

Photographs

Please provide name and contact details of photographer(s). RIBA Suffolk will only use the photographs or other media submitted for the purposes of the RIBA Suffolk Design Awards. RIBA Suffolk will require confirmation that the relevant copyright owner of the photograph or other media submitted has licensed the right to use the photograph or other media of your scheme for all purposes related to the RIBA Suffolk Design Awards (in print, social and digital media). For instance, this might include publicising the Autumn Exhibition (of nominated or winning entries), a lecture series (featuring the winning architects), or promoting the award itself. Photographers will always be credited on their images so supplying us with the correct information on each photograph is essential.

Use of Information

Data, including images, plans, drawings, technical and budget information and narrative text submitted in support of all RIBA Suffolk Design Award entries will be used by RIBA Suffolk and Judges acting on its behalf for the purposes of assessing Awards entries in the current year of judging. Any information relating to budget, personal details, such as company names or client names, addresses that the individual or agent preparing the application wishes to remain confidential during and subsequent to the Judging process must make RIBA Suffolk aware of such confidentiality during the application process. Information marked as Confidential will not be shared for publicity or any form of public dissemination. Information not notified as Confidential will be assumed to be suitable for public dissemination. For the avoidance of doubt, information noted confidential will be shared with Awards Judging panel acting on the behalf of RIBA Suffolk for the purposes of evaluating and assessing Awards entries. Judges will be made aware of their obligation to treat the information as Confidential beyond the immediate purposes of assessing Awards entries. The visual data (images, plans, drawings) will also be used by RIBA Suffolk for the promotion of the Awards. Data will be held by RIBA Suffolk in perpetuity for the purposes of maintaining a record of the entries and for a possible RIBA Suffolk archive. This information will not be shared with any third party without the express and prior consent of the author, their clients or agents acting on their behalf.

Tick box if you **do not** wish to be considered for Craftsmanship awards as well as Design awards.