



# LIBRARY DESIGN AWARDS 2021

## About the awards

The Australian Library Design Awards showcase the best in contemporary library interiors and exteriors in Australia, and celebrate the investment in libraries, small and large, made by our nation's institutions, corporations, local, state and territory governments.

They have been developed in the context of other competitions internationally, including the [American Institute of Architects/American Library Association Library Building Awards](#) and the [Danish Agency for Culture Model Programme for Public Libraries Public Library of the Year Award](#).

The entries, shortlisted and winning designs provide case studies in excellent library design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They are submitted for consideration for the UK's Designing Libraries website. There is also media coverage for the finalists.

The awards are organised by the Australian Library and Information Association. The awards were first presented in 2017 and are now a bi-annual event.

## Categories

There are four categories – public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries and special libraries. Applications are encouraged for small or large projects, for “new builds”, renovations or refurbishments. While entries are judged against the same criteria, the judging panel is empowered to make special awards for outstanding entries in specific areas where a high level of innovation, creativity and transformation has been demonstrated, regardless of scale.

## Eligibility

Any library in Australia, recently built, renovated, or refurbished (work completed between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2020) can be entered for the awards. This does not include pop up, temporary, or mobile libraries. Libraries nominated for previous awards cannot be entered again.

## Who can nominate

Nominations are submitted by libraries and their designers or architects.

## Key dates

Online nominations open on 6 July 2020 and close on 23 October 2020. Judging will take place November/December and the shortlist will be announced in December 2020.

On 18 March 2021, there will be a one-day conference at the State Library of Queensland, featuring the shortlisted projects, and the announcement of the award winners. The conference is part of the Asia-Pacific Architecture Forum held annually in Brisbane.

## Judging

The judging panel comprises independent design professionals and library leaders.

The judging panel reserves the right not to make an award in a category or to make more than one award where there are equally outstanding entries. It may assign highly commended status to especially impressive entries.



# LIBRARY DESIGN AWARDS 2021

There is also an ALIA Members' Choice award, voted for by Association Members. A shortlist of outstanding submissions is contained in a [gallery](#).

## Awards

In addition to the kudos and publicity surrounding their achievement, the winners of the awards receive handcrafted trophies. The trophies represent the creativity and ingenuity of the award-winning entries.

## How to enter

1. Complete the online entry form. All submissions must be in electronic format. You will be able to upload images, high level floor plans and architectural drawings. Each file must be under 20MB (jpeg or pdf format preferred).
2. Make your payment of the non-refundable entry fee of \$400 + GST (ALIA members) and \$550 + GST (non-ALIA members).

## Criteria

Entries will be assessed on how well the designs have met their objectives and specifically on the basis of the following criteria:

Design: including interior, exterior appearance, visual impact, flexibility, innovation, accessibility, and integration into/consideration of the local environment.

Strategic relevance: including approach to achieving the organisational, service and design objectives, response to special considerations or challenges, sustainability, and value for money.

Community engagement: including initial identification of needs through to concept development and project delivery.

Impact: including user experience, efficiency, functionality, delivery of services, and meeting community needs particularly those of specific groups.

For smaller projects constrained by space or costs, the panel will assess the level of innovation, creativity and transformation achieved despite the constraints.

The judges' decision will be final.

## More information

Contact: [librarydesign@alia.org.au](mailto:librarydesign@alia.org.au)



# CHANGING SPACES

Library Design Conference 2021  
State Library of Queensland, 18 March

## Conference

Registrations for the Changing Spaces Library Design Conference will open in August 2020. Entrants are encouraged to book a place early.

## Sponsors

The ALIA Library Design Awards are kindly supported by AchitectureAu.com, Raeco and the State Library of Queensland.



# ARCHITECTUREAU