

October 01, 2026

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Design & Health  
UNIMAS & Health  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK International Academy for Design and Health

# International Academy Awards

*Rewarding Global Excellence  
in Research and Practice*

*Download Submission form now!*

*Entry  
Deadline  
July 15,  
2026*



[www.designhealth.academy](http://www.designhealth.academy)

[info@designhealth.academy](mailto:info@designhealth.academy)



# Setting Benchmarks in Global Health Design

*The Design & Health International Academy Awards is the leading advocacy programme in the world recognising professional excellence in the research and practice of designing healthy built environments*

The Design & Health International Academy Awards has a significant influence on the design and development of salutogenic environments that support health, wellbeing and quality of life around the world. This year, the programme comprises ten categories across the key areas of international health delivery, and the prestigious Lifetime Leadership Award. The final awards, which will be presented at a prestigious ceremony to be held on October 1st, in Malaysia during the 15th Design & Health World Congress & Exhibition, will reflect important aspects of the exceptional work undertaken by researchers and practitioners at the forefront of the field.

Recipients of the awards will be teams and individuals who through outstanding efforts, have contributed to the progress of knowledge and demonstrated vision and leadership in exemplary initiatives within the field.

## Who should enter?

The awards are open to international organisations and individuals in both the public and private sectors participating in either research or practice, including the planning, procurement, design, construction and management of healthy built environments.

## Eligibility

Built projects or research programmes completed between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2026 are eligible to enter. The exceptions are the Sustainable Design Award, which allows entries of projects completed after January 1st, 2015 and the Future Health Project Award, which only allows submissions of unbuilt or conceptual designs. Projects may be entered into multiple categories, provided they are tailored to meet the specific requirements for the judging criteria of each award, but may not be re-entered in the same category in subsequent years. The closing date for each entry is July 15, 2026.

## How to submit

Complete the Entry Form and the Submission Statement relevant to the category you are entering on the rear of this document and send it to the Design & Health International Awards 2026 at the e-mail address below, with a 750 word statement and a maximum of 10 Powerpoint slides, which MUST explicitly address the criteria as outlined on the Submission Statement. High and low resolution images of the submitted project should also be submitted to be used on the awards section of the website, during the awards ceremony, in World Health Design and on associated marketing material. Please refer to the rules for further information on payment and submission requirements.

Design & Health International Awards  
International Academy for Design & Health  
Global office  
103 88 Stockholm - Sweden  
T: +46 70 453 90 70  
info@designhealth.academy  
www.designhealth.academy

## Judging process and timetable

The judging process consists of a two phase process.

**April 15, 2026** – Call for Entries / Awards open for Submissions

**July 15, 2026** – Deadline for receipt of Submissions

**July 16, 2026 – Phase 1:** Entries are scored remotely by each judging panel against the approved criteria. The scores are forwarded to the category chairs who make a recommendation on the shortlisted entries and award winners.

**August 1, 2026:** Awards shortlist announced. Shortlisted projects are expected to register and attend the 15th Design & Health World Congress in Malaysia to present their project in a poster display and receive their award, either as an award category winner or a commended project. They may be required to elaborate on their submitted project to the judges or provide further information as required.

**August 15th – Phase 2:** Members of the judging teams report their final award decisions

**October 1, 2026** Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner at 15th Design & Health World Congress & Exhibition in Malaysia

## Judging criteria

Each of the criteria can be found on the Submission Statement attached to this document or at: [www.designhealth.academy](http://www.designhealth.academy)

## Judging panel

The judging panel consists of a group of independent experts from around the world. Experts in their field, the judges come from multidisciplinary backgrounds in research and practice. The winners of each award are determined by a lead judge, who is supported by a panel of three judges with proven expertise in their field. Any judge associated with any of the entries will withdraw from the relevant part of the adjudication process. The award recommendations are then approved by Dr. Hessem Ghamari, Director of Academy Awards.



Prof. Alan Dilani, Ph.D.  
Founder / President of IADH, Sweden



Prof. Hessem Ghamari, PhD,  
California State University Northridge, USA

**Rules of Entry**  
Please read these rules carefully before submitting your entry. Any failure to comply may lead to its rejection.

1. Entries must reflect the criteria set out against each award and comprise the following items:

i) Completed Entry Form.

ii) Completed Submission Statement for the category or categories being entered providing a project summary and addressing the award criteria in no more than 750 words. If more room is required the Submission Statement may be supplied in a separate type-written note on two sides of A4 paper as long as the specific criteria for the category entered is addressed.

iii) A Powerpoint presentation with a maximum of ten slides, including images and drawings demonstrating key features of the project (eg, a site

plan and a floor plan) or product being entered. These illustrations must be supplied as low and high resolution (72dpi and 300+dpi) images electronically, clearly labeled with the Submission name.

iv) The fee for each entry of €180. Payment should be made by arranging an electronic bank transfer of funds to the bank account detailed on the entry form. Cheques are no longer accepted.

v) All or any of the judges must be allowed reasonable access to make enquiries or inspect the project if it is shortlisted.

vi) The judges have absolute discretion to reject any entry which does not comply with the requirements of the Rules; to determine the category for which any entry is eligible; and to make or withhold any Award to any entry. The judges' decision is final and binding on all entrants and no discussion or correspondence relating to any of the judges' decisions will be entered into.

vii) It is a condition of entry that all written material, layout plans and images submitted may be reproduced by the International Academy for Design & Health at no cost to themselves in such a form and in such media as Design & Health deems appropriate in announcing and/or promoting the 2026 and 2027 Awards and associated activities.

viii) All information regarding the results will be embargoed for publication until after the Awards Presentation Ceremony on 1st September, 2026.

ix) Entries must arrive no later than July 15, 2026 by electronic transfer.

Tel: +46 70 453 90 70 or Email: [info@designhealth.academy](mailto:info@designhealth.academy)  
Downloaded entry form at: [www.designhealth.academy](http://www.designhealth.academy)

# Design & Health International Academy Award Categories

## Lifetime Leadership Award

Awarded to a healthcare leader and visionary who has shown an ongoing lifelong commitment to enhancing the health, wellbeing and quality of people's lives through their dedication to health and design. The award recognizes the human and personal qualities needed to push back the boundaries of progress and inspire future generations. Enquiries regarding nominations should be sent to [info@designhealth.academy](mailto:info@designhealth.academy)



Lead judge  
Prof. Alan Dilani, Sweden

Panel judge  
Organizing Committee

## International Research Project

Research Project Awarded for a completed, innovative, independently assessed, piece of research focused on a particular aspect of the design, function, construction, financing or maintenance of a healthcare facility or addressing a relevant topic concerning public health in the context of the working environment. Research project entry form required.



Lead judge  
Prof. Sahand Abbasi

Panel judges  
Prof. Debajyoti Pati

## International Health Project (Over 40,000m<sup>2</sup>)

An award for an outstanding healthcare building over 40,000 sqm where human health considerations are as evident as clinical and managerial priorities. The project must demonstrate an understanding of the principles of Salutogenesis and show how innovative design permits ongoing flexibility of use and addresses issues of sustainable healthy building. Submission form nr 1 with entry form required.



Lead judge  
Dev Bagga, BLP, Singapore

Panel judges  
TBC

## International Health Project (Under 40,000m<sup>2</sup>)

An award for an outstanding healthcare building under 40,000 sqm where human health considerations are as evident as clinical and managerial priorities. The project must demonstrate an understanding of the principles of Salutogenesis and show how innovative design permits ongoing flexibility of use and addresses issues of sustainable healthy building. Submission form nr 1 with entry form required.



Lead judge  
Tye Farrow, Canada

Panel judges  
TBC

## Mental Health Project

An award for a mental health facility where an effective reconciliation between operational requirements for security and supervision and the imperative for a civilizing and humane environment that supports therapeutic intervention is evident. Submissions should show an understanding of the principles and practice of Salutogenesis.



Lead judge  
Natalia Ottonello, Uruguay

Panel judges  
TBC

## Use of Art in Public and Private Spaces

An award that recognizes the effective application of creative endeavor which further advances knowledge of the potential of the arts to support therapeutic outcome and impact the health process. Preference will be given to success in new and innovative approaches of using Art in public spaces to create mental process and thereby stimulate positive emotional experiences. Submission form nr 2 with entry form required.



Lead judge  
Dr. Wilson Rangan, Malaysia

Panel judges  
TBC

## Future Healthy Built Environment Project

(Projects should be in design or under construction), An award for the design of a future any built environment that recognizes the changing role of the built environment in relation to health and wellbeing of people or local community. The project must demonstrate a 'Salutogenic' vision for healthy environments that addresses anticipated socioeconomic challenges of the future.



Lead judge  
Prof. Ray Pentecost, USA

Panel judges  
TBC

## Salutogenic Design Project

Awarded for the design of a completed project of any type of built environment, which clearly demonstrate that are comprehensible, manageable and meaningful, thereby fostering a strong sense of coherence amongst its users that promotes their health and wellbeing. Submissions must show how environmental, social and economic sustainability is improved.



Lead judge  
Angel Neo, CPG, Singapore

Panel judges  
Laura Schwanhauser,  
Germany

## Sustainable Urban and Built Environment

Awarded for a healthcare project or any type of health community and urban planning completed after 1 January 2010, that can demonstrate sustainability performance above the mandatory norm, satisfies legislative, technical, financial and moral imperatives, and shows understanding of the principles of salutogenic and ecological design. Submission form nr 1 with entry form required.



Lead judge  
David Kaunitz, Australia

Panel judges  
Kawai Yeung, Australia

## Interior Design Project

An award to recognize a therapeutic space that enhances the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the patients, staff and visitors. Preference will be shown to innovative projects, which show understanding of the principles of Salutogenesis, respect the privacy and dignity of patients, as well as provide an enjoyable experience that reduce stress. Submission form nr 2 with entry form required.



Lead judge  
Prof. Hessam Ghamari, USA

Panel judges  
Prof. Nasrin Golshany, USA  
Prof. Saman Jamshidi, USA

# Entry Form - Deadline: July 15, 2026

All sections must be completed and this form returned with the submission material specified in the rules to Design & Health International Awards 2026 at [info@designandhealth.org](mailto:info@designandhealth.org)

This form must be attached to the Submission Statement, which can be downloaded at [www.designandhealth.org](http://www.designandhealth.org)

A different form is included for entry to the Research Project category.

Name of project.....  
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Address of project.....  
.....

Date project completed.....

Date project came into use.....

Cost of project on completion.....

Commissioning authority.....

Person responsible for project.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Principal designer.....

Person responsible for project.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Principal contractor.....

Person responsible for project.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Other key member of project team

Person responsible for project.....

Organisation.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Other key organisations associated with the project (a more comprehensive list may be attached)

Designers.....

Contractors.....

Consultants.....

Name of organisation submitting entry and principal individual contact for correspondence

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Entry fee enclosed (Euro180 total per entry, irrespective of the number of categories chosen below)

Signature:.....

## AWARDS ENTRIES

**You are invited to enter your project for one or more of the categories listed below, according to its size and/or type.**

Please indicate all categories for which you wish your entry to be considered, but also ensure that the project qualifies for those that you choose.

The €180.00 fee is not applicable to the Research Project category. For all other categories, the fee applies.

International Health project (>40,000m<sup>2</sup>)

International Health project (<40,000m<sup>2</sup>)

Mental Health Project

Interior Design Project

Salutogenic Design Project

Research Project

Future Healthy Built Environment Project

Use of Art in Public and Private Spaces

Sustainable Urban and Built Environment

I will be paying Euro..... By Bank Transfer

International Academy for Design & Health, SE-Banken, 106-40,  
Stockholm, Sweden.

Account No: 5233-10-074 46 IBAN: SE955000000052331007446

SWIFT/BIC: ESSESESS

Please invoice me for Euro.....

Purchase order no.:.....

Invoice name and address.....  
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# Research Project Entry Form & Citation



All sections must be completed and this form returned together with a digital and print copy of the final research project with the submission material specified in the rules to Design & Health International Awards at [info@designandhealth.org](mailto:info@designandhealth.org)

The Research Project Award is exempt from the submission fees that apply to the other categories.

## Nominee Details:

Name.....

Correspondence address.....

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Phone (daytime).....

Mobile.....

Email.....

Professional & academic qualifications.....

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## Nominator Details:

Name.....

Correspondence address.....

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Phone (daytime).....

Mobile.....

Email.....

Job title.....

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Name of employer.....

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## Citation:

This report, which must not exceed 250 words, should indicate why the nominee is deserving of consideration for an award. The citation should address the following: relevance of research topic and practical application; rigour of methodology; demonstration of innovation and inspiration for further research; understanding of the theory of salutogenesis and broader impact of the built environment on the promotion of human health and wellbeing.

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