

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 31,
2026*



www.designhealth.academy

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 31, 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 Academy 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 31, 2026 – Deadline for receipt of Submissions

July 31, 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

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. Hessam Ghamari, Director of Academy Awards.



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



Prof. Hessam 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
Downloaded entry form at: 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



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 40,000m²)

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 40,000m²)

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 demonstrates 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 reduces 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 31, 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

This form must be attached to the Submission Statement, which can be downloaded at www.designandhealth.org

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

Name of project.....

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 (>40,000m²)

☐ International Health project (<40,000m²)

☐ 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: SE9550000000052331007446

SWIFT/BIC: ESSESESS

☐ Please invoice me for Euro.....

Purchase order no.:.....

Invoice name and address.....

.....

.....

.....

Submission Statement nr 1



(Use for Inter. Health Project (over 40,000sqm);
Inter. Health Project (Under 40,000 sqm); Mental Health Project;
Sustainable Urban and Future Healthy Built Environment ONLY)

All sections must be completed and this Statement returned with the Entry Form and the submission material specified in the rules by Design & Health International Academy Awards, at info@designandhealth.org If more room is required, the Statement may be type-written on a separate document as long as the specified criteria is met.

Submission Statement

This submission statement must not exceed 750 words in total and must explicitly address the criteria detailed below for this category.

Award category

The form should be used for the following award categories ONLY: International Health Project (over 40,000 sqm); International Health Project (under 40,000 sqm); Mental Health Project; Sustainable Urban; and Future Healthy Built Environment Project. Different submission statement forms are available overleaf for all other award categories.

Project summary

(Purpose of project, aims of brief and other background info)

Criteria 1: Overall concept

Describe the knowledge and vision behind the project; inclusion of principles of salutogenesis, ideas and approach; preventative features and wellness factors

(Use for International Health Project (over 40,000sqm);
International Health Project (Under 40,000 sqm); Mental Health Project;
Sustainable Urban Built Environmnet and Future Healthy Built Environment Project ONLY)

Describe core the services and activities; demonstrate the level of community engagement; the lifestyle approach; the preventive care focus and the safety and security features

Describe the building strategy, including the use of building technology and materials; and demonstrate the building's performance against the design, clinical and operational requirements and brief

Describe initiatives towards the use and integration of green technology and renewable energy; waste disposal strategies; natural ventilation and water supply

Use of Art in public and Private Spaces categories ONLY)

All sections must be completed and this Submission Statement with the Entry Form and all material specified in the rules by Design & Health International Academy Awards to be returned at info@designandhealth.org. If more room is required, the Statement may be type-written on a separate document as long as the specified criteria is met.

Submission Statement

This submission statement must not exceed 750 words in total and must explicitly address the criteria detailed below for this category.

Award category

This form should be used for the following award categories ONLY: Use of Art in Public and Private Spaces; and Interior Design Project. Different submission statement forms are available overleaf for all other award categories.

Project summary

(Purpose of project, aims of brief and other background info)

Criteria 1: Creative approach

Describe how the project captures the unique culture of the organisation, applies the principles of salutogenesis, displays therapeutic qualities and supports the overall wellbeing of users, to stimulate and create an uplifting place

Submission Statement nr 2

(Use for the Interior Design Project and Use of Art in public and Private Spaces categories)

Criteria 2: Sustainability

Demonstrate how the scheme is easy to maintain, contributes toward s environmentally-sustainable initiatives and meets budgetary targets.

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple sets of three horizontal dashed lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, which is otherwise blank.

Criteria 3: Research application and project evaluation

Describe how research has affected the scheme design and how the final installation will be evaluated against stated goals.

[illegible]

Criteria 4: Stakeholder engagement

Explain with examples how an interdisciplinary approach and consultation with staff, users and the wider community achieved an integrated process through all stages of the project.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Criteria 5: Innovation

Indicate how innovations, including the use of natural materials, colour, psychosocial design factors and visual art have impacted on all of the senses and improved interpersonal relations among users.

[illegible]

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Submission Statement

Award category

Project summary

Criteria 1: Design approach and values

Describe how the project applies the principles of salutogenesis by fostering a strong sense of coherence amongst its users through an experience that is comprehensible, manageable and meaningful.

Criteria 2: Implementation

Describe the building strategy, including the use of building

Submission Statement nr 3

(Use for the Salutogenic Design Project ONLY)

technology and materials; and demonstrate the building's performance against the design and operational outcomes, including staff and visitor wellbeing.

Criteria 3: Research application and project evaluation

Describe how research evidence and the application of knowledge has affected the project design and how the final installation will be evaluated against stated goals.

Criteria 4: Design Innovation

Describe how the design philosophy, strategy and style supports the overall wellbeing of users, provides civic value to the local community and is sensitive to its social and environmental context.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

Describe initiatives that demonstrate how the performance of the building supports health and wellbeing through the application of environmental, social and economic sustainability measures.