



URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS 2026 OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE

- 1 The **URA Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA)** was launched in 1995 to recognise well restored gazetted national monuments and conserved buildings in Singapore and has been periodically reviewed in response to the evolving nature of good practice in heritage building projects.
- 2 The scheme aims to recognise projects that have gone beyond the basic requirements to conserve a building. It serves to encourage conservation best practices, both in technical restoration of the building's physical fabric, as well as the intangible aspects of creating long-term value for the wider community. A good conservation project should enhance the heritage significance of a building.
- 3 The scheme also gives recognition to outstanding projects where a new building or extensions to an existing heritage building is well integrated and contributes positively to a National Monument site or Conservation Area.

FREQUENCY OF AWARDS

- 4 The Awards are currently given once every two years.

ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-SCREENING

- 5 Applications are open to projects completed in Singapore and must have been occupied or put to a viable use for a minimum of one year after obtaining the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP)/Certificate of Statutory Completion (CSC).
- 6 All applications will be pre-screened and at the discretion of the URA, non-eligible applications will be returned. Conservation projects which are assessed to consist only of largely interior design works will not be eligible for consideration.
- 7 Projects that have unauthorised use, illegal works, unresolved planning issues will be disqualified.

CATEGORIES OF AWARD

Award for Conservation*

- 8 This is for gazetted heritage buildings which largely retains the original building envelope.

Award for Conservation & Innovation*

- 9 This is for integrated “old” and “new” project where a new extension is added to the heritage building and/or site.

Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts*

- 10 This is for outstanding independent new building within a national monument site or conservation area and is well integrated with its historic context.

**Exceptional projects that excel in all assessment criteria may be accorded an additional mark of Distinction to the award given.*

Special Mention

- 11 At the discretion of the Assessment Committee, a project may be conferred ‘Special Mention’ for commendable efforts in some aspects of the restoration work or for partial conservation.

Architectural Heritage Legacy Award

- 12 This is open to past AHA winners with at least 10 years[#] of post-award exemplary management where the longevity of the heritage building(s), both physically and socially, is sustained for present and future generations. This includes proper maintenance of the building fabric and creating value for the wider community through continual investment such as educational efforts, programming and engagements.

#If the applicant is not the recipient of the initial Award, the building and site must be under the applicant’s management minimally for the past 5 years.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD FOR CONSERVATION, CONSERVATION & INNOVATION, NEW DESIGN IN HERITAGE CONTEXTS, AND SPECIAL MENTION

- 13 Projects are expected to achieve good outcomes in the following aspects:

a. Research

- i. Research on the historical background of the site and the original architectural design intent e.g. architectural style, construction methods, choice of materials and finishes etc.
- ii. Research on the social-cultural significance, its relationship with the community and past functions of the site.

b. Conservation and Design Approach

- i. Demonstrate appropriate response in its overall site planning that is sensitive to and respects the heritage building and its context.
- ii. Evidence of meaningful adaptive reuse that is suitable for the typology of the building and appropriate for the social cultural significance of site.
- iii. Adopt innovative solutions for new interventions to ensure a coherent and sensitive design that relates and responds to the historic fabric, scale and form of the heritage building and or its features.
- iv. Demonstrate how construction methods and materials of any new extensions draw inspiration from, respect and enhance the inherent qualities of the heritage building.

c. Conservation Process

*(*Not Applicable for Submission for 'Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts')*

- i. Application of appropriate conservation principles, assessment of context, methodology in response to site specific challenges, and well-considered solutions.
- ii. Adherence to the "3R" principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair. Use of protective measures to ensure structural integrity and application of "Top-Down" approach.
- iii. Involvement of craftsmen/specialists and use of appropriate construction techniques and materials that are compatible to the building's original architectural qualities.
- iv. Demonstrate appropriate mitigation measures in response to unforeseen circumstances on site.

d. Impact

- i. Engagement of key stakeholders and partners for the project.
- ii. Incorporation of heritage interpretation elements to recall memory and promote the historical significance of site.
- iii. Development of a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) to ensure and guide long-term post conservation maintenance.
- iv. Evidence of environmental sustainability.
- v. Result in a transformative impact on the neighbourhood, community and/or industry.
- vi. Serve as an exemplary reference for future projects in terms of its features, ideas and methods used.
- vii. Result in a positive impact on the building occupants and/or community members while allowing public access to enjoy and appreciate the site.

CRITERIA FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE LEGACY AWARD

- 14 Projects are expected to demonstrate exemplary maintenance of the building and management of the site as well as how conservation efforts are sustained to contribute in the following aspects:
- a. **Enhancing Social Outcomes**
 - i. Enhance interaction with users, empower and teach users, increase overall comfort levels and user experience.
 - ii. Facilitate public access and achieve significant positive impact on occupants in their day-to-day use of the building.
 - iii. Improve well-being (in terms of happiness, connections to family or community, health and play).
 - b. **Advancing Culture**
 - i. Provide opportunities to foster sense of community and / or cultural activities.
 - ii. Promote understanding and engage various community sectors and stakeholders, through outreach and volunteer programmes.
 - iii. Promote co-creation within community and support new initiatives to propagate heritage significance of site.
 - iv. Curate uses are sensitive to the heritage significance of site.
 - c. **Economic & Environmental Sustainability**
 - i. Be a catalyst for growth in industry practices, enhance brand reputation, provide new economic opportunities.
 - ii. Provide training for employees and equip them with unique skillset specific to heritage sector as well as deep knowledge on the heritage significance of site.
 - iii. Showcase innovative solutions to optimise operating costs and resources, put in place pre-emptive measures to minimise adverse impact or reduce potential risk to building.
 - iv. New interventions are sensitive to heritage context.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- 15 The Assessment Committee, chaired by URA Chairman, comprises representatives from URA, other government agencies, professional practitioners, academia and community representatives.
- 16 A presentation is to be made to the Assessment Committee on a date to be given by URA. The leader of the presentation must have a good overview of all aspects of project, and the presentation should clearly articulate how the project fulfils the assessment criteria. The presentation should focus on the key points stated in the **Submission Templates**. It is to include visuals of the building in use.
- 17 Shortlisted submissions for the Architectural Heritage Legacy Award will be separately reviewed by an independent knowledge partner to validate the sustained conservation efforts listed in the submissions.
- 18 Access shall also be given to the Assessment Committee to visit the projects as part of the assessment process.
- 19 The decision of the Assessment Committee shall be final. The decision of the Assessment Committee to make or withhold an Award is absolute. No form of discussion or correspondence relating to any decision will be entertained by the Assessment Committee.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAIN AWARDS

- 20 For Award for Conservation, Conservation & Innovation, New Design in Heritage Contexts, and Special Mention, the application is:
 - a. To be made by the Qualified Person (Architect) or Conservation Specialist and consent must be given by the registered owner or registered lessee.
 - b. To be endorsed by the main project team (Owner, Architect, C&S Engineer, Contractor and Conservation Specialist if any). Other key contributors and allied professionals such as M&E Engineer, master carpenter/plasterer, glass restorer, Landscape Architect, researcher etc. will also be given recognition. The applicant is to provide justifications to outline their respective contribution.
- 21 Projects that do not constitute a full conservation on the entire building may also apply if there are key conserved elements that are done exemplarily (e.g. plaster ornaments, woodwork etc.), these projects do not require TOP/CSC clearance or a minimum occupation period. Partial conservation projects should also demonstrate technical excellence and social/cultural impact. If assessed to be of merit, projects will be conferred a Special Mention. Such proposals are to use the same **Application Form** and fill in relevant parts of the **Submission Template**.
- 22 Each submission shall consist of the following:
 - a. **Application Form**
 - b. **An A4 Project Report** in Arial, font size 12, following the **Submission Template**. All information must be provided as set out in the **Submission Template**.

- c. **Four A0 compact foam panels in portrait layout** highlighting the key qualities of the project. They should be visually attractive and exhibition ready, it should highlight the following:
 - i. Project background covering its historical, social and cultural significance, original architectural design intent and design approach.
 - ii. Conservation/construction process with at least five before and after images of the project and works in progress.
 - iii. Final outcome showcasing project in use and how it has had a positive impact.
- d. A **USB drive** containing digital copies of the above materials and high-resolution photographs of the project. Please include photo credits in the filename as these will be used for award materials.
- e. Any additional materials that may be useful for the assessment, including videos, collaterals etc. showcasing the conservation process as well as the completed project and the positive impact it has on the community.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR LEGACY AWARD

- 23 The application is to be made by the registered owner or registered lessee who has managed the building and site minimally for the past 5 years, if there is a change in building owner or lease holder after the initial Award.
- 24 Each submission shall consist of the following:
 - a. **Application Form**
 - b. **An A4 Project Report** in Arial, font size 12, following the **Submission Template**. All information must be provided as set out in the **Submission Template**.
 - c. A **USB drive** containing digital copies of the above materials and high-resolution photographs of the project. Please include photo credits in the filename as these will be used for award materials.
 - d. Any additional materials that may be useful for the assessment, including videos, collaterals etc. showcasing the sustained positive impact it has on the community.
- 25 The successful candidate will be informed in advance of the Award Ceremony and will be required to work with URA to produce four A0 compact foam panels in portrait layout.

DEADLINE

- 26 Submissions are to reach the office of the Secretary, URA Architectural Heritage Awards at The URA Centre, 45 Maxwell Road, 4th Storey, Singapore 069118, **not later than 5:00 pm. on Monday, 4 May 2026.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- 27 Winners will be informed and invited to an Award Presentation Ceremony organised by URA. The results will also be announced in the media in conjunction with the Ceremony.
- 28 All winning projects shall be made available for guided visits during the Awards Presentation Ceremony as well as related AHA programming for that cycle.
- 29 To inspire future conservation projects and share these conservation success stories with the wider community, winners may be invited to participate in our conservation outreach programme (Architectural Heritage Season) through guided site visits in the subsequent years following their Award.
- 30 Each award-winning project will have an Award Plaque installed on the building. A storyboard (optional for private residential houses and National Monuments) will also be installed. URA may commission audio-visual works and publicity of award-winning projects, the owner's and Project Team's collaboration are expected.
- 31 Owners are obligated to maintain the award-winning buildings in a good condition, in particular the qualities which made the projects worthy of the Awards.
- 32 Post-award, URA will carry out regular visual inspections. Where necessary, URA will write to owners for access to carry out the inspections. The Award will be withdrawn if the winning project is poorly maintained, put to disreputable use or the award-winning qualities are compromised. In such unfortunate event, URA reserves the right to withdraw and remove the Award plaque (including the storyboard if applicable). The information relating to the withdrawal of the Award, may at the discretion of URA, be made public.
- 33 If new major works or use interventions are subsequently carried out to an award-winning building, URA may withdraw the Award if the works substantially alter the building or compromises the award-winning qualities.

PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

34 Intellectual Property in Submitted Materials

All applicants and Project Teams must own the copyright to all materials submitted. All materials submitted in connection with the entries shall become the property of the URA. Materials submitted should clearly state the name of the material's copyright owner(s) and the manner in which they wish to be credited. The copyright to the materials shall remain vested with the respective copyright owner(s) and will be acknowledged accordingly.

35 Use of Submitted Materials by URA for Non-Commercial Purposes

The URA reserves the right, without payment of fees or royalties, to use materials submitted for the purposes of promoting the URA Architectural Heritage Awards, conservation, and the built environment in Singapore, and for educational purposes. The applicants and Project Teams shall grant URA a non-exclusive royalty free licence to use any of material(s) submitted for any of the aforementioned purposes. The URA shall in no event be liable for any damages, loss or expense, direct or indirect, including but without limitation, special or consequential damage, or economic loss arising from or in

connection with the submission of materials by the applicants and Project Teams to the URA for the URA Architectural Heritage Awards and URA's use of the materials submitted for the URA Architectural Heritage Awards for the purpose of the URA Architectural Heritage Awards and for the aforementioned purposes.

- 36 All applicants and the Project Teams shall at all times indemnify and keep indemnified the URA, its employees and agents, fully and completely against all actions, claims, proceedings, liabilities, costs and expenses of whatsoever nature or description which may be incurred or suffered by or made or instituted against the URA, its employees and agents in connection with or arising out of the submission of materials by the applicants and the Project Teams for the URA Architectural Heritage Awards and any infringement of intellectual property rights of any third party in relation to the URA's use of the materials submitted by the applicants and the Project Teams for the URA Architectural Heritage Awards or for the purposes stated in paragraph 34.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 37 All enquiries concerning entries for the **URA Architectural Heritage Awards** shall be addressed to:

The Secretary
URA Architectural Heritage Awards Assessment Committee
Urban Redevelopment Authority
4th Storey, The URA Centre
45 Maxwell Road
Singapore 069118
Email: Kelvin_Ang@ura.gov.sg