

2021 Construction Excellence Awards

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Ceilings and Interior Systems Construction Association (CISCA) invites applications for their **Construction Excellence Awards competition**.

Award winners will be recognized at the dinner on Monday, April 12, 2021 during the CISCA Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The awards ceremony features a multi-media presentation of all submissions and winning projects. Winners will be featured in the Acoustical Interior Construction magazine and on the CISCA website.

**Be sure to read
this material
in its entirety.**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Entries are due no later than **January 31, 2021**. A special entry fee is available for entries received by **January 15, 2021**. No late entries will be accepted.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Contractor
2. Manufacturer
3. Distributor
4. Independent Rep

- A CISCA member must submit all entries
- All entries will be judged against others submitted in the same category

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS



Office – Renovation or construction of office space



Retail – Renovation or construction of a retail space such as a store or mall



Education – Renovation or construction of a school or college



Civic – Renovation or construction of any public building, such as airport, casino, museum, library, church or entertainment facility



Healthcare – Renovation or construction of a hospital or other healthcare facility

Boutique – No membership category or region when entering in this category. Unique interior projects less than 10,000 total square feet in size—regardless of the size of the members' project. For example, if the submitter's installation size was 5,000 square feet but the total project was 20,000 square feet, this project cannot be submitted into the Boutique category.

International – No membership category or region when entering in this category. Projects outside of North America, i.e. projects not in the United States, Canada or Mexico, should enter in the International category.



NOTE: the judges may disqualify entries submitted in the wrong category.

SIZE SUB-CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

After selecting the category, the project will be submitted into one of two sub-categories (based on the size of the work done by the contractor, manufacturer, distributor or independent rep submitting the project).

- Larger than 50,000 square feet
- Smaller than 50,000 square feet

*It is important to understand that the "Square Feet" is intended to mean **INSTALLED Square Feet** (not the project size).*

Example 1: Contractor has installed ACT ceilings, Wood ceilings, Metal ceilings, Felt ceilings etc. If the total installed product portfolio exceeds 50,000 sq. ft then they qualify for the 'Larger than 50,000 square feet' category.

Example 2: Manufacturer is submitting for a Metal or Wood Ceiling installation. If the installed Square Footage of your product is less than 50,000 square feet (but total project size is more than 50,000 square feet) then you must submit in this category. This is regardless if the contractor installed other products. It only takes into consideration what product is being submitted for the award.

Example 3: A contractor with multiple installed ceilings totaling less than 50,000 square feet in a project with a gross project size of 100,000 sq. ft would still only qualify for the 'Smaller than 50,000 square feet' category.

REGION SUB-CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

The project then is entered into a region based on where the project was located (the dividing line is the Mississippi River).

- West
- East

AWARD TYPES

A project may only win one of the awards listed below. Winners will be notified that they won an award. If the company wishes to know which award was won, they will be told, but it is intended to be a surprise during dinner. Winners are asked to notify all companies that worked on the project that the entry won an award. Staff will contact the other companies listed on the entry if they are asked to advise them that the entry won an award.

The five stated below will be presented at the end of the presentation of the Gold awards.

FOUNDER'S AWARD

Selected by the judges as the best overall submission from all the entries received. The three projects with the highest scores by the judges during the first round, regardless of who submitted the project or which category they were submitted into, are moved to round two of judging. The judges then vote for which of the three was the best submission. Projects submitted into the Boutique category are not eligible to receive the Founder's Award.

CONTRACTOR'S AWARD

Selected by the judges as the best overall submission from all the entries submitted by contractors. The three projects with the highest scores by the judges during the first round are moved to round two of judging. The judges then vote for which of the three was the best submission.

MANUFACTURER'S AWARD

Selected by the judges as the best overall submission from all the entries submitted by manufacturers. The three projects with the highest scores by the judges during the first round are moved to round two of judging. The judges then vote for which of the three was the best submission.

DISTRIBUTOR'S AWARD

Selected by the judges as the best overall submission from all the entries submitted by distributors. The three projects with the highest scores by the judges during the first round are moved to round two of judging. The judges then vote for which of the three was the best submission.

INDEPENDENT REP'S AWARD

Selected by the judges as the best overall submission from all the entries submitted by independent reps. The three projects with the highest scores by the judges during the first round are moved to round two of judging. The judges then vote for which of the three was the best submission.

After the judges voting, the membership will be allowed to vote for their favorite project. The winner will receive the **People's Choice Award**. How and when the voting will take place will be announced later.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the date due and not have been previously submitted.
- No maximum number of total entries from one company.
- A maximum of one entry in any one category and sub-category from one company.
- No project may be submitted in more than one category by the same company. Any project submitted in two different categories, i.e. manufacturer and independent rep or manufacturer and contractor, must have different pictures and written paragraphs. The same pictures and paragraphs may not be submitted in two categories. If this occurs, the submitting company/ies will be asked to either change the submitted material for one of the entries or withdraw one entry.

Winning projects will receive one award. Additional awards may be purchased.

IMPORTANT: No names of companies or projects are to be used in photographs, videos or essays. The only place to include these names is in the short paragraph. See specifics below.



All required material should be submitted online. The following material is required:

10 pictures of 300 dpi or higher. Dark and low-resolution photos may not be able to be used in the magazine. Photos up to 100 mb can be used. Cell phone images should be sent at the highest resolution possible.

Membership type; category; sub-category and region must be selected for each project.

Video – No longer than 5 minutes in length is optional (bonus judging points awarded if included and they will be played during dinner in New Orleans)

Photos before the project began and during are helpful for judging (bonus judging points may be awarded if included)

Short paragraph to use in the program; magazine and on the website. You may use company and project names in this paragraph.

Long paragraph (up to 500 words) for the judges. This should clearly describe the challenges faced with the project. Tell the judges why this project should win. No names of companies or projects are to be used in this essay. Points WILL be deducted for each name that is inserted in the essay or name of photos. When thinking about what to include regarding job conditions, consider the challenges a job site might present to the contractor with regards to a difficult space to work within (lots of other tradesmen and equipment working at the same time making installation more difficult); unusual heights and the complexity of installation due to these heights or other extreme unusual outside influences that challenged the installation process. Many times, the submittals include the statement “the job had a short time frame for installation” or something of that nature and depending on the project and products installed that may or may not be considered a “job condition”.

Short picture description to give any needed explanation on the pictures without name. Points WILL be deducted if the name of the project or product names are inserted.

- Be mindful of the name you give your photos. The judges will see all submitted photos so do not use the name of the project or product for any photo submitted. Points will be deducted if the name of the photo is the name of the project or company.
- **Do not use the name of the project or companies in the video as the judges will watch the video.**
- List other companies that worked on the project. Only those that are CISCA members will be recognized in the CISCA material. CISCA staff will contact all non-members regarding membership so they can be included in all material so please list all companies (including the name of the contact person and email address) that worked on the project.
- Be sure to list the General Contractor, Architect and Acoustician, as they will be recognized whether or not they are CISCA members.

FEES

\$500 fee if submitted by January 15.

\$800 fee if submitted between January 16 and January 31.

\$1,500 fee if submitting company is not a CISCA member. Fee includes a one-year membership.



Technical Quality: Was this a standard installation or were special means and methods required? Was it unique?

Quality of the Job: Overall final appearance of the installed work for alignments, finish etc.

Complexity of the Job (Installation): Was this a simple plug and play installation or was this a special process? Was field-cutting required?

Complexity of the Job (Manufacturing Process): Were the materials custom made or were they modified standard pieces? NOTE: Most judges are not manufacturers and do not know or are aware of any complexities.

Job Conditions: Was installation height, schedule, temperatures (hot/cold) or complexities mentioned in the installation?

Overall Finished Project: Your opinion on how the overall system looks



Do not use the name of the company, project or materials in the name of the photo, photo description or the document for the judges. If these are used, points will be deducted as follows:

Project name used	- 10%
Materials named	- 10%
Company name used	- 10%

There are also **10 bonus points** that can be received. **Five bonus points** may be awarded for a video included of the project, up to 5 minutes in length (do not use the name of the project or company in the video) and five bonus points may be awarded if there are pictures of the site before the project began and during construction.



JUDGING CRITERIA

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY

A panel of industry representatives will judge the entries.

Presentation: The presentation will count for **20% of the total points**.

The presentation includes the quality of the photos (photos are clear, bright and show the work, look somewhat professional) and descriptive quality (which should describe the work and material being shown on the photograph presented, without using company or specific product information). The narrative should include a description of the installation process, job issues, any manufacturing issues, schedule issues or anything else that the judges should know.

The remaining **80% of the total points** will cover the technical quality of the job.

OVERALL PRESENTATION AND APPEARANCE OF ENTRY

PHOTOGRAPHS

A minimum of 5 300 dpi photos must be included (maximum of 10). Up to 10 unique additional photos may be included if they show the project before and during construction. Provide a brief description of the photo in the caption section.

Be sure not to use the name of the project, name of the product or any company name in the name of the photo or the photo description.

Photos should be good quality photos, which clearly show the judges the project. Photos do not have to be professionally done, but if they are, be sure to obtain reproduction rights from the photographer for CISCA's use without limitation. It would be helpful to the judges to have photographs of the project before and during the construction.

! If using photos lower than 300 dpi, please be aware that they may not reproduce well in the program, magazine or on the website.

Some things to be mindful of:

- **Contrast:** It is hard for the judges to review photos that are dark.
- **Orientation:** Review the photos you upload to be sure they are displaying correctly.



- **Photographs:** Do not use a photo more than once in the entry. Judges will deduct points if you upload your photos in the 10 additional photo sections again. The 10 additional photos must be unique from the others submitted.
- **Video:** The video should be contractor specific—showing progress or methods. It should not be a “stock” video or a CGI rendering or a video of the photos submitted. YouTube videos should not be used as these are generally used for company promotional purposes and show the name of the project and company name. Points given for having a video included are then deducted for this information being used.

NARRATIVE

A maximum of 500 words providing details about the size and scope of the project. See information above regarding the narrative.

Note: this narrative should not include the name of the project, the location of the project, specific product names, the name of the contractor, manufacturer, distributor, independent manufacturers rep, architect, other company that worked on the project or persons who worked on the project. If included, points will be deducted by the judges.

