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 Tuesday, March 24, 2020 during the CISCA Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. 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.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Entries are due no later than January 31, 2020. A special entry fee is available for entries received by January 10, 2020. No late entries will be accepted.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

- All entries must be submitted by a CISCA member.
- All entries will be judged against others submitted in the same category

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Office – Renovation or construction of office space

Education – Renovation or construction of a school or college

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

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

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

Boutique – Unique interior projects less than 10,000 square feet.

NOTE: Entries submitted in the wrong category may be disqualified by the judges.

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SIZE SUB-CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Each project is 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). See examples below:

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 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

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

• West
• East
• International (projects outside of North America—not in the United States, Canada or Mexico)

AWARD TYPE

A project may only win one award. If a project wins any of the awards listed below, the winner will only be advised they won an award as the winners of these awards are presented during dinner as a surprise to the winner. However, if the winner insists on knowing which award was won, they will be told.

• 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.

• CONTRACTOR’S GRAND 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 GRAND 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 GRAND 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 GRAND 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.

• GOLD AWARD
  The five stated above will be presented at the end of the presentation of the Gold awards.

  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 at a later date.
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 engraved award. Additional awards may be purchased.

IMPORTANT: No names of companies or projects are to be used in photographs 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 - JPEG format of 300 dpi or higher. Other formats such as TIFF and PDF will not display correctly for the judges. 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 and used at the highest resolution possible.

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

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 Las Vegas).

Short Paragraph - For 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 Paragraph for added explanation on the pictures - Points WILL be deducted if the name of the project or product names are inserted.

• Be mindful of the name you give your photos. All submitted photos will be seen by the judges 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.
• List all companies that worked on the project. Only CISCA members will be recognized in material, but staff will reach out to those that are not members. Please list all companies that worked on the project and not just those you think are members of CISCA. This will eliminate any issues later if a company that worked on the project is a member of CISCA but was not recognized in material.
• 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 11.
$800 fee if submitted between January 12 and January 31.
$1,500 fee if submitting company is not a CISCA member. Fee includes a one-year membership.

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JUDGING CRITERIA

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY

A panel of industry representatives will judge the entries.

All entries are to be submitted online using the link on the CISCA website. No physical entries will be accepted.

The presentation quality will count for 20% of the total points. The presentation includes the quality of the photos (clear) and descriptive quality (clearly show the work) and the narrative. The narrative should be written clearly and explain the project in detail.

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

There are also 10 bonus points that can be received:

• 5 bonus points may be awarded for a video included of the project, up to 5 minutes in length

• 5 bonus points may be awarded if there are pictures of the site before the project began and during construction.

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 (for example, 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 or unusual outside influences that challenged the installation process.

Many times, submittals include the statement “the job had a short time frame for installation” or something of that nature. Depending on the project and products installed that may or may not be considered a “job condition”.

NARRATIVE

A maximum of 500 words providing details about the size and scope of the project. Narrative should include information on the challenges and special obstacles encountered on the project; the degree of difficulty or extenuating circumstances encountered in completing the project. Basically, answer these questions:

• What makes this project special?
• What qualifies this project for an award?

Don’t use phrases like “tight timeline” or “difficult working conditions” without an explanation.

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.

Staff will review submissions submitted on or prior to the due date of January 31, 2020 and advise the submitter if there are names of products or companies used in the names of pictures or written paragraph. They will also advise if any of the pictures will not display correctly for the judges. The submitter will be given until February 3 to correct any issues. Entries submitted after January 31 or any which have not been revised by the end of day February 3, will be submitted to the judges as they were submitted.

When submitting the project, you will be required to check a box that says that the submitter has permission from the installing contractor and/or owner of the property to submit the project.

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OVERALL PRESENTATION AND APPEARANCE OF ENTRY

A minimum of 5 JPEG (maximum of 10), 300 dpi photos must be included. 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.

Project name and company or specific product names should not be in the photographs. Points WILL be deducted if the project name, company names or product names are inserted.

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. If they are on their side or upside down you will need to rotate the original photo and upload them again. Photos which do not display as you intended are difficult to judge. If you see a scroll bar with the photo, check that it is a Jpeg and not a PDF or TIFF. Photos which show a scroll bar will not display correctly for the judges.

• **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** – Do not make a video of your still photos and provide that for additional points. Points will be deducted for such videos.

PROJECT RATING SHEET

JUDGING CRITERIA

There is a total possible score of **70 points and 10 bonus points**. Listed below are the different judging selections. The quality of the entries presentation should have important bearing on its chance to win.

The Judges will deduct up to 10 points when the name of the project, company or other identify name is used in the name of the photo or in the written descriptions. This will make the difference between winning and not winning.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT

20% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

Scored on a scale of 1–5; with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent.

1. Photographs: Quality of photos

2. Photographs: Descriptive quality – shows the work

3. Narrative: Descriptive quality

4. Narrative: Presentation – quality of the writing

TECHNICAL QUALITY

80% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

Scored on a scale of 1-10; with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent.

1. Quality of Job

2. Complexity of Job (Installation)

3. Complexity of Job (Manufacturing process)

4. Job Conditions

5. Overall Finished Project

BONUS POINTS

5 points will be added to the overall score for submissions that include up to a 5 minutes video and an additional **5 points** will be added to the overall score for submissions that include up to 10 additional photos which are of the project before and during construction.