

AA Prize for Unbuilt Work

Experimentation, speculation, invention – celebrating the unbuilt

2026

Entry Guidelines

The AA Prize for Unbuilt Work seeks conceptually rigorous, inventive responses to contemporary architectural issues. Its purpose is to promote debate and to generate ideas about architecture by rewarding compelling work in its conceptual stages.

Entries will be accepted until 5 pm AEST on Friday 22 August, 2025.

Entries must be made online at aanunbuilt.com.au.

1. PRIZE

A cash prize of \$2,500 is offered.

The jury may, at its discretion, make a number of honourable mentions.

2. JURY

Ingrid Bakker, principal, Hassell
Kirsteen Mackay, South Australian Government Architect, Office for Design and Architecture SA

Deo Prasad, professor, School of Built Environment, University of NSW

Stuart Vokes, co-founder, Vokes and Peters

Georgia Birks, associate editor, Architecture Australia

3. JUDGING

The judging process is blind and based on peer review. The identity of entrants is not revealed until jury decisions are finalised.

Jurors are required to declare any association or conflict of interest regarding an entered project and step down from the judging of that entry.

Jury decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Architects, interior architects/designers, planners, landscape architects, urban designers and other built environment professionals are invited to submit eligible projects. Students of these disciplines are also invited to enter.

Unbuilt projects proposed for or about Australia are eligible. International projects are eligible if undertaken by Australian-based practitioners or by members of the Australian Institute of Architects, the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects or the Design Institute of Australia, no matter where they are based.

Entries can be proposals for works of any scale: large-scale urban or landscape projects, architectural projects, interior projects, small interventions, etc.

Entries may be proposals that are intended to be built, or they may be theoretical explorations that exist as models, on paper or in digital format only.

Entered projects must be unbuilt as of Friday 22 August, 2025.

5. ENTRY

There are three simple steps involved in submitting your entries.

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

To commence your submission, you must first create your account. Refer

to MY ENTRIES on the awards site: aanunbuilt.com.au.

Once you have commenced a submission, you can log in and out at any time without losing your data, but we do recommend that you first complete the written responses in a Word document before cutting and pasting into the online entry form.

CREATE ENTRY SUBMISSION

Before beginning your entry submission, read the Conditions section. Submitting an entry means that you have read and agreed to all the conditions.

You will be prompted to upload the following materials: drawing sheets, images, plans, sections, elevations, words and video links.

Jurors will only see the drawing sheets and any video content supplied. To maintain anonymity during judging, no design practice names may appear on these elements.

Images, plans, sections, elevations and supporting words will only be used if the project is published but must be supplied on submission.

a. DRAWING SHEETS (MANDATORY)

Submit one high resolution PDF no larger than 20 MB with up to two A2 drawing sheets (landscape orientation) explaining the proposal in full.

b. IMAGES (MANDATORY)

6 to 15 high resolution image files used to compile the drawing sheets. Use the highest quality JPG setting available. Submit JPG images that are at least 3500 pixels wide (max. 8500 pixels wide) with a file size no larger than 20 MB. Images of at least 4500 pixels wider are preferred and will enable a higher-quality print coverage. If your images are coming in above the 20 MB size limit, try re-saving them in Photoshop and reducing the JPEG compression level to 8.

c. PDFS OF PLANS, SECTIONS AND/OR ELEVATIONS (MANDATORY)

Submit one PDF with up to five pages of relevant drawings in vector-based PDF format (site plan, floor plan, sections, elevations and/or any other relevant drawings or diagrams, such as concept sketches and images of models), with a file size no larger than 20 MB.

d. WORDS (MANDATORY)

Written description of no more than 500 words.

e. VIDEO (OPTIONAL)

URL to view video content that has been uploaded to Vimeo or YouTube.

ENTRY SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT

Once you have completed steps 1 and 2 above, you may pay for and submit your project.

The entry fee is \$150.

Each submission and payment is confirmed by the issuing of a tax receipt, which is sent to your email address. Retain a copy for taxation purposes. Visa, Mastercard and Amex are accepted.

6. CONDITIONS

By entering, which is confirmed with payment, the applicant declares that they are authorised to submit this project, and that they have obtained appropriate releases and authorities in writing from any project clients, collaborating organisations, copyright holders for entry submission materials, licensees, photographers and, where applicable, the principal/director of applicant's employer, including for any resultant publicity.

The Organiser does not make any claims on copyright or intellectual property of the designs entered other than the rights outlined in the following paragraph.

By entering this program, the applicant agrees to absolve the Organiser from any liability relating to confidentiality or intellectual property issues that may be raised by any party. The Organiser reserves the right to exhibit or publish any or all of the entries. By entering the AA Prize for Unbuilt Work, the applicant gives permission to the Organiser to publish, exhibit and promote the content of the submission, including supporters of the Prize, where their use of submission content is specifically related to their promotion of their involvement in the Prize. In all promotion, the Organiser will endeavor to promote the name of the firm/s that have authored the project, and where the Organiser is made aware of their names, to the extent that the Organiser can exert editorial control, and where space permits, other contributors, such as photographers, will be acknowledged.

All entrants must be prepared to submit further material for exhibition and publication if required, such as additional photography, drawings and other information. The applicant acknowledges that the Organiser has the right to reproduce materials in whole or part without payment of release or licensing fees to the holder of publication rights or copyright.

An entry shall be excluded from the program:

- if it is received after the advertised closing date (although submissions that have been commenced but not completed by the closing date may be included at the discretion of the Organiser).
- if it does not fulfil these entry conditions.
- if it is incomplete or doesn't conform to the correct format as specified under Entry (above).

The Organiser is committed to providing a quality awards program to the design industry and makes every attempt to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information included in this document and elsewhere. However, changes in content and process may become necessary at the absolute discretion of the Organiser. The Organiser accepts no liability for use of the said content or reliance placed upon it.

7. TIMELINE

Entries open Monday 23 June, 2025.

Entries close at 5 pm (AEST) Friday 22 August 2025.

The shortlist will be published on ArchitectureAu.com on Thursday 13 November 2025.

Awarded schemes will be published on ArchitectureAu.com on Thursday 15 January 2026.

They will also be published in the January 2026 issue of *Architecture Australia*.

8. ENTRY ENQUIRIES

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Image: *Landscape of Co-existence* by Angela Xu and Georgia Reader
(Winner, 2025 AA Prize for Unbuilt Work).

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