

ENTRY GUIDELINES



2026 EXCELLENCE IN POOL AWARDS



Table of Contents

About the Awards	2
Entry Information	
Key Dates	2
Entry Fees	2
How to Enter	2
Entry Requirements	3
Entry Criteria	3
2026 Award Categories	4
Category Definitions	5
Judging	6
Frequently Asked Questions	7
Photography Assistance	8
Media Coverage	8

COVER PHOTOS L-R
» **BUILDER: NARELLAN POOLS HILLS DISTRICT AND UPPER NORTH SHORE** ARCHITECT: MARK KAUSHAL » **BUILDER: FREESTYLE POOLS** ARCHITECT: FREESTYLE POOLS PHOTOGRAPHER: NATHAN » **BUILDER: STROUD HOMES NOWRA** ARCHITECT: IN HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER: INNOVISUALS » **BUILDER: TECTONIC POOLS** » **BUILDER: KMD THE OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY** ARCHITECT: SAM CRAWFORD ARCHITECTS PHOTOGRAPHER: BRETT BOARDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY » **BUILDER: CRYSTAL POOLS** ARCHITECT: ARCADIA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE » **BUILDER: CRYSTAL POOLS** ARCHITECT: CRYSTAL POOLS » **BUILDER: AEON POOLS** ARCHITECT: ECODESIGN PHOTOGRAPHER: PETER BRENNAN



BUILDER: PIMAS GALE PTY LTD ARCHITECT: LUIGI ROSSELLI

The Awards

The Master Builders Association of NSW Excellence in Pool Awards celebrate excellence in pool construction, innovation and quality.

These prestigious awards showcase the very best in pool construction, highlighting outstanding achievements across concrete and fibreglass pools, display pools, as well as commercial pools and spas.

KEY DATES

ENTRIES CLOSE

Friday 24 April

JUDGING PERIOD

May - early July 2026

ENTRY FEES

\$660 (inc GST)

HOW TO ENTER

All entries are to be submitted via the online AwardForce software by **5:00pm** on **Friday 24 April** mbansw.awardsplatform.com

AWARDS PRESENTATION NIGHT

Saturday 10 October 2026
International Convention Centre (ICC)
14 Darling Drive, Sydney

**CLICK HERE TO START
YOUR ENTRY**

Entry Information

REQUIREMENTS

Entries are judged by industry experts. To give the judges guidance prior to the onsite inspection, you are required to provide the following information.

A. Online Entry

Please complete and submit an online entry form at mbansw.awardsplatform.com by **5:00pm** on **Friday 24 April 2026**.

B. Documentation

- Pool description that can be used in all editorials
- Company profile
- Declaration to confirm Home Building Compensation Fund Certificate (HBCF) has been obtained where applicable.
- Copy of Certificate of Compliance

C. Digital Images

High Resolution digital images **MUST** be submitted with entries. Images provided will be used in the audio-visual presentation and print media. Entrants are responsible for the quality of all images. Relevant categories must also supply before and/or progress photos.

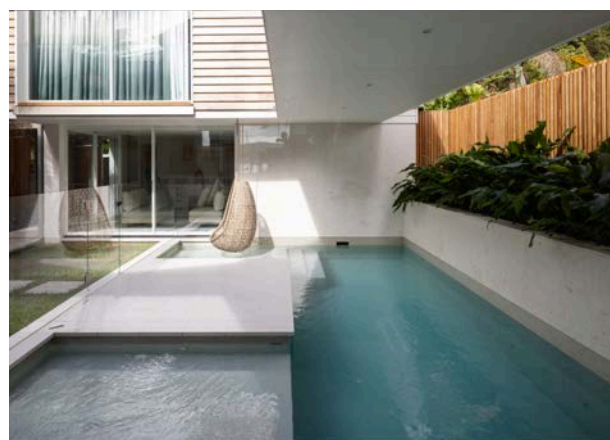
- Minimum resolution of 300 dpi
- Format: JPEG or PNG
- Landscape Orientation preferred

D. Authorisation

The builder and the client must each signify their consent to the project being entered into the awards and willingness to be bound by the rules including accompanying publicity, by signing the [authorisation form](#).

CRITERIA

- Entries must be submitted by Friday 24 April.
- **Entry is open to MBA NSW Members ONLY**
- Projects must be **completed** within the period of 24 April 2024 to 24 April 2026.
- **Projects must have obtained a HBCF Certificate and Certificate of Compliance.**
- Projects judged previously may not be resubmitted.
- The Builder or Site Manager responsible for the project must be available for the onsite visit / judging between May - early July 2026.



BUILDER: MICHAEL SMITH CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LTD
ARCHITECT: TREGALE AND ASSOCIATES DESIGNER: CRAIG AND CO
PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON WHITBREAD



2026 Categories

Some of the categories below are divided into price ranges based on the project's total construction cost, while other categories remain open without price limitations. For detailed category definitions, please see [Page 5](#)

Commercial Pools

Open Price Category

Commercial Spas

Open Price Category

Concrete Pools

Up to \$100,000

\$100,001 - \$200,000

\$200,001 & Over

Display Pools

Open Price Category

Fibreglass Pools

Open Price Category

Lap Pools

Open Price Category

Plunge Pools

Open Price Category

Pool Renovations

Open Price Category

Residential Spas

Open Price Category



BUILDER: TECTONIC POOLS PTY LTD

Category Definitions

Commercial Pools

Entries in this category must encompass a pool constructed under a commercial contract. These pools are designed for public utilisation within commercial environments such as hotels, resorts, fitness centre's, and entertainment complexes.

Commercial Spas

Entries in this category must encompass a spa facility created under a commercial contract. These spas are tailored for public use within commercial establishments, including hotels, resorts, wellness centre's, and leisure complexes.

Concrete Pools

Entries in this category must consist of a pool primarily constructed using concrete. Entries should exemplify the art of utilising concrete as a fundamental building material to create a functional and aesthetically pleasing aquatic space.

Display Pools

Pools in this category must be built in a Display Village and/or part of a Display Home. Pools in this category must be built to specifically visually illustrate design possibilities. Entries must aim to exemplify the builder's or developer's aquatic offerings, highlighting features, layouts and design options and must not be actively in-use.

Fibreglass Pools

Entries in this category must encompass a pre-manufactured and pre-formed pool structure constructed using layers of fiberglass-reinforced composite materials. Pools must be designed and fabricated off-site, then transported and installed in a single unit.



BUILDER: CRYSTAL POOLS PTY LTD

Lap Pools

Entries in this category must represent a lap pool, a purpose-built aquatic facility intended primarily for focused swimming and fitness training and be at least 12 meters in length. Lap pools in this category must demonstrate a commitment to providing an optimal environment for dedicated swimming activities.

Plunge Pools

Entries in this category must be a compact aquatic space designed for quick cooling and relaxation. Plunge pools must be intended for brief immersion rather than extensive swimming.

Pool Renovation

Entries in this category must showcase the transformative overhaul of an existing aquatic facility. Entries in this category must involve substantial modifications to enhance functionality, aesthetics, and features or updating outdated components. Entries must reflect the art of reimagining and revitalizing aquatic spaces to align with contemporary standards, user preferences and current Australian Standards.

Residential Spas

Entries in this category must be a spa purpose-built for hydrotherapy, relaxation, or rejuvenation. Entries should highlight the integration of jets for massage and hydrotherapy purposes.

Judging

The entrant must obtain permission from the client prior to judging which will take place between May - early July 2026.

If any dates are unsuitable for onsite judging, these must be noted in the online form; once judging is allocated, times **cannot** be changed. Entrants will receive a minimum of two weeks' notice of their judging date.

The onsite representative must be the builder or project manager responsible for the project.

The judges' decisions are final, and correspondence will not be entered into. **The only feedback provided will be what is discussed at the time of judging.**

Judges reserve the right to reclassify entries, and a winner may not be declared in every category.



BUILDER: EQUILIBRIUM POOLS & LANDSCAPES
PHOTOGRAPHY: NAT SPADA PHOTOGRAPHY



BUILDER: SENATOR POOLS PTY LTD
ARCHITECT: CO-AP PHOTOGRAPHY: DIGITAL 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can enter the Excellence in Pool Awards?

The awards are open ONLY to members of The Master Builders Association of NSW.

Non-Members are not eligible to enter.

How old can a project be?

A project must have been completed within a two year period prior to the entry closing date.

Can I resubmit a project I entered last year?

No, previously judged entries cannot be resubmitted.

Can I submit a project that is still under construction?

No, projects under construction at the time of the entry deadline are not eligible.

Can I enter a joint venture?

Yes, you can. Please ensure you add both company names when completing the entry form and ensure the authorisation form is signed by all parties.

Can I enter a confidential project?

Yes, when entering a confidential project, please add CONFIDENTIAL to the company name field. Please note client information will never be published.

What documentation do I need to submit an entry?

All the required documentation can be found on [Page 3](#) of this booklet under section B.

Can I submit a project without a HBCF Certificate?

If you did not obtain a HBCF Certificate, the entry is not eligible. A declaration form to confirm that the appropriate insurance has been obtained is a requirement when submitting the online entry.

Can I submit a project without Certificate of Compliance?

Residential entries must have obtained a Certificate of Compliance. If the owner or builder obtained the certificate, you must obtain a copy to accompany your entry.

Commercial entries which are exempt can be submitted without a Certificate of Compliance.

Do I need professional photos?

No, any photos that meet all of the photography requirements listed on [Page 3](#) under section C of this booklet can be submitted. Please note that good quality images will better profile your entry in print media and audio-visual presentations.

Can I request early or late judging?

Specific judging requests can be submitted, however these will be granted at the discretion of the Awards & Events Team.

Is this information applicable to the Regional Awards as well?

No, this information is for the State Awards, which are run independently of the Regional Awards. To participate in the Regional Awards, entrants should apply through their respective regional offices. For more details about the Regional Awards, [click here](#).

Photography

A professional photography service is available; please select this option and complete the order form when as part of your entry submission. The MBA will coordinate with the photographer on your behalf who will then contact you to confirm your requirements and to schedule your photoshoot.

POOL PHOTOGRAPHY PRICING

up to 10 images \$550 (*includes drone images*)

Projects located further than 30km from the Sydney CBD will incur an additional cost of \$75 per hour.

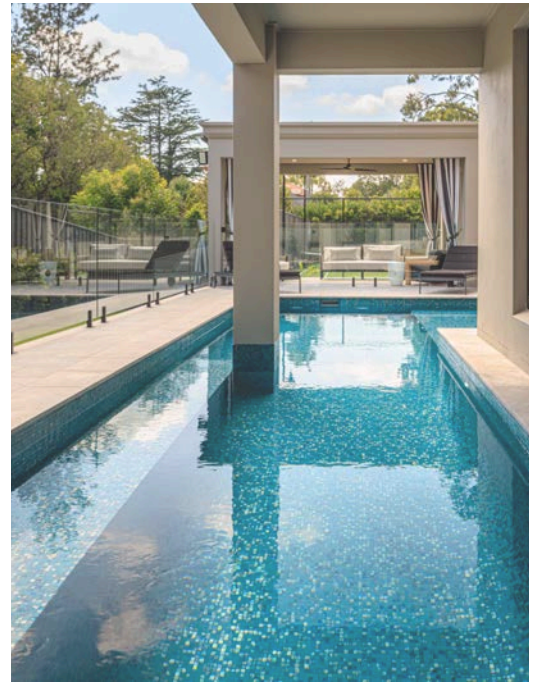
Photography includes high resolution, colour corrected, verticals corrected, basic retouching, exposure balanced professional images sent to you via an online link.

Images will be used for MBA purposes, but will be yours to use without restriction.

All pricing is inclusive of GST

An invoice covering all services rendered will be sent after your photoshoot has been completed.

DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM HERE



BUILDER: CONSTRUCTION BY DESIGN (NSW)

Media Coverage

Every entrant in the MBA Excellence in Pool Awards receives media coverage as part of their participation in these prestigious industry awards.

All entrants are included in the MBA's Excellence in Housing Annual published in conjunction with Universal Media Co and distributed, via sales in newsagencies to the wider consumer market.



@mbaawardsnsw



mbansw



events@mbansw.asn.au