



The Structural Steel Design Awards (SSDA) are one of a kind in the UK and Ireland, run to celebrate excellence in the design, fabrication and erection of steel structures, no matter how big or small. Entries are now open for projects to be submitted for consideration for the 2026 awards, and we would like to hear from you. The judges would like to see a diverse range of project types and sizes, from anywhere in the UK and overseas that have been constructed by UK or Irish steelwork contractors. Over the years we have seen steel sculptures, bridges, hangars, staircases, mega sheds, commercial and residential buildings and many other types of structures entered, demonstrating the versatility of structural steel and the best and most creative examples.

If you have a temporary structure; a sculpture or piece of artwork you would like to enter, but may be dismantled prior to the project visits, then please make this known in your entry email, so the judges can schedule a date and time to visit while it is in situ.

Do you have an award-winning constructional steel project that you feel deserves this accolade and to showcase the very best in design, project management, fabrication, community engagement and sustainability practices? If so, we would like to hear from you.

The Entry Process

The judges would like to hear what makes your project outstanding and worthy of a coveted award. Successful projects are down to the collaboration of the whole project team, so we would like input from each of the parties involved about what hurdles had to be overcome, how they were resolved and the impact they had on the overall project.

Difficulties worth highlighting are:

- **Design** – were there any constraints on the impact of the design related to its location and surroundings.
- **Client** – were there any specifics dictated by the client, which made the project more challenging. This could be the programme, contractual details or general project requirements.
- **Engineering** – site constraints due to services below ground or the use of sophisticated connections to enable the integrity of the building.
- **Fabrication** – were there any specific elements that posed a challenge in the fabrication process and how were these overcome.
- **Erection** – the logistics of getting the fabricated steel to site. Did site constraints pose difficulties in access resulting in an unconventional programme of erection. Was specialist equipment used such as SPMTs to assist in the moving of steelwork for erection.
- **Community engagement** – was the local community involved in consultations. How would the final structure impact the local community – what benefits would it bring.

- **Sustainability** – were any innovative sustainability measures incorporated into the project; this could be the actual steel (reclaimed and reused), innovative refurbishment and building extensions, or solutions to reach net-zero in design, construction and operation.
- **Project team coordination** – were any specific project tools put in place to facilitate the sharing of information, which included managing project changes and creep in scope.

1. Once the entry form has been completed and submitted, along with supporting documents, photographs, drawings and plans, the judging panel will convene to review and draw up a shortlist of projects to visit.
2. A date and time will be sent to the person who made the project submission, to enable a representative from each of the parties in the project team to attend the visit. It is essential that as many companies involved in the project are represented to give judges a well-informed basis for the next step of the judging process. Access to the structure/building is required for the judges to look at and inspect.
Please note: there is little to no flexibility to change the date of the visit, so please try and be flexible and do your utmost to accommodate the request.
3. After completing all visits, the judges meet again to discuss each project's standout elements and decide on the awards to be given.
4. Project teams will be notified if their project has been shortlisted and are invited to the awards ceremony to find out if they have won an award (see note 7).

1. Operation of The Awards

The Awards are open to steel-based structures erected in the UK and overseas that have been fabricated by UK or Irish steelwork contractors. They must have been completed and be ready for occupation or use during the calendar years 2024-2025. Previous entries which have won an SSDA award are not eligible.

2. The Panel of Judges

A panel of independent judges who are leading representatives of Architecture, Structural Engineering and Civil Engineering assess the entries. The judging panel selects award winners after assessing all entries against the following key criteria:

- Planning and Architecture
- Satisfaction of client's brief
- Environmental impact
- Carbon measurement and reduction
- Cost-effectiveness
- Architectural excellence
- Durability and adaptability for changing requirements
- Efficiency of the use and provision of services
- Structural Engineering
- Benefits achieved by using steel construction
- Efficiency of design, fabrication and erection
- Use of digital technology
- Skill and workmanship
- Integration of structure and services
- Efficiency and effectiveness of fire and corrosion protection
- Innovation of design, build and manufacturing technique

3. Submission of Entries

Entries, exhibiting a predominant use of steel and satisfying the conditions above, may be submitted by any member of the project team using the entry form. The declaration of compliance with the award requirements must be completed by the entrant. Entrants should ensure that all parties of the project team have been informed of the entry. The steelwork contractor does not need to be a BCSA member (see note 7).

4. General

The structures entered must be made available for inspection by the judges. All entrants will be bound by the decision of the judges, whose discretion to make or withhold any award is absolute. No discussion or correspondence regarding their decision will be entered into by the judges or by the competition sponsors.

A shortlist of projects will be announced, following the second judges meeting and the project teams notified directly. The results of the competition will be announced at an awards ceremony in autumn 2026 – no advance notification will be given to the project teams as to which entries will receive an award.

5. Awards

Each firm of architects/designers and structural engineers responsible for the design, receive an award as does the steelwork contractor (see note 7 below), main contractor and client.

6. Publicity

The sponsors assume the right to publish the drawings, photographs, videos, animations, design information and descriptive matter submitted with the entry to publicise the award-winning entries or projects in relation to the SSDA. Any party involved in a project that is no longer in business for whatever reason, leading up to the awards ceremony, will not receive any recognition in the SSDA.

7. Steelwork Contractors

Where the steelwork contractor on any project entered into the SSDA is not a member of BCSA Ltd as at the closing date for entries, they shall not receive an award or public recognition whether at the awards event, in any promotional literature before the event nor in any booklet or other communication published after or in support of the SSDA.

Entry Requirements

Supporting information required:

- Completed entry form (PDF file) – please take care with the spelling of project names and the details of each of the people listed. If a project name changes after the submission of the form, please notify the SSDA administrator. Refrain from repeating information and keep answers short and to the point, giving the necessary detail requested.
- Completed description of the outstanding features of the entry from each company in the project team, if possible.
- Drawings: site and typical floor plan, complex connections/sections, 3D models and the general arrangement if it helps explain the concept of the building (PDF files).
- At least eight different high-resolution photographs which must include both construction phases and the completed structure (internal and external if relevant) *Note: these should be in JPG format 3MB or more and to be the original image and not manipulated to increase the file size. 300dpi A5 size minimum. Also indicate if any require copyright mentions.*
- If you have any short videos about the project, then please provide details on where they can be accessed or send them with the submission. We do not accept any file types or information which is not included in the list above. This includes artist impressions of the final project, PowerPoint and PDF presentations.

The information and details should be sent via a file transfer service no later than Friday 20th February 2026 to marketing@bcsa.org.uk



Address and location of the project:

Category of the type of structure (please select) and add additional information:

Bridge (insert type – footbridge, transport bridge etc):

Office block
(insert number of storeys):

Residential block
(insert number of storeys):

Mixed use (insert brief details of what is included):

Transport hangar (insert what type – plane, shipyard, road vehicles etc):

Health related building (insert type – hospital, medical research etc):

Leisure (insert type – stadia, theatre, film studio etc):

Education (insert type – school, college, university etc):

Retail

Shed

Demountable structure

Sculpture

Staircase

Car park

Housing

Other (please state):

Programme of construction:

Completion date:

Total tonnage:

Approximate total cost (£):

Cost of steelwork (£):

Details of Person Submitting this Entry

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Declaration of Eligibility

As the representative of the organisation entering this structure in the Structural Steel Design Awards 2026, I declare that this steel based structure has been fabricated by a UK or Irish steelwork contractor. It was completed during the calendar years 2024-2025. It has not been previously entered for this Awards Scheme.

Signed:

Date:

On behalf of:



Project Team details (please include details of all companies involved in each aspect of the project)

Architect/s

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:

Main Contractor

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:

Structural Engineer responsible for design

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:

Client/s

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:

Steelwork Contractor (see note 7)

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:

Note - If there were any additional companies involved in the project team, please add here.

Company Type:

Architect/Designer

Steelwork Contractor

Client

Structural Engineer

Main Contractor

Company
Name:

Address:

Contact:

Tel:

Email:



Where possible, please seek input from each company associated to the project's delivery for the questions below.

1. Please provide no more than 150 words on the overarching reason that makes this a stand out project and why it should receive an award:
2. Overview of the project – scope, location, reason for the structure (no more than 150 words):
3. In no more than 12 bullet points (keep succinct and brief) please cover the following:
 - What were the most challenging elements of the design
 - What were the most challenging elements of the engineering of the project
 - What were the most challenging elements of fabrication, logistics and/or erection
 - What were the most challenging elements of the project's delivery
 - What were the objectives of the project
 - What was the reason steel was chosen over other construction materials for this project
4. Has the project received any industry standards recognition ie BREEAM, WELL, Nabers etc?
If so, please note below, together with, where applicable, any recognised metrics, such as embodied carbon (using the IStructE tool), UK Net Zero Carbon Building Standard, and percentage of re-used steel. Embodied carbon figures should be provided in A1-A5 in kg CO₂e/m² for the structure only. Whole building LCA figures may also be submitted separately.
5. Final statement to include any relevant information and details, not included anywhere else on the form.
(no more than 150 words)