



Judging Criteria

Categories

Judges first divided the entries into the categories listed below:

Pools: Pools are growing in popularity and we receive more pool entries each year, allowing us to create a new category specifically for these projects.

Specialty Projects: Pools, water features, retaining walls, landscaping, and so forth.

Small Residential: Homes less than 3,000 sq. ft.

Large Residential: Residential construction ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 sq. ft.

Unlimited Residential: Single family homes with more than 6,000 sq. ft. of living space.

MultiFamily: Apartment complexes, condominiums, dormitories, and similar projects.

MultiFamily Low-Rise: Multifamily projects that are five stories or less.

Light Commercial: Commercial construction with a total cost of less than US\$5 million.

Heavy Commercial: Commercial projects exceeding US\$5 million.

Education: School facilities from elementary to college.

Scoring

Each ICF entry is evaluated by a panel of judges who rank each project on a scale of 1 to 10 in each area, using a weighted average to determine a total score.

ICF Use (20%)

Size (Floor): 5% Comparing the floor area of the project to others in the same category.

Square Footage of ICFs: 5% Compares the square footage of ICF walls—interior and exterior—and EPS flooring.

Percentage ICFs: 10% Projects that use ICFs for interior walls, retaining walls, pools, safe rooms, floors or roofing, or underslab insulation will score highest. All ICF aspects of the project, such as outbuildings, landscaping, etc. are considered.

Construction Factors (35%)

Complexity and Creativity: 15%

A project with many angles, wall thicknesses, radius, or other construction considerations scores higher than a simple rectangular footprint. Creativity refers to how the designer and contractor used ICFs to find innovative solutions to construction challenges, such as bracing modifications or new ways of reinforcing radius walls.

Construction and Site Considerations: 15% Overcoming construction challenges like tight schedules, tight sites, difficult topography, bad weather, and so forth show the advantages ICFs can bring to the table. Finally, the cost per square foot, affordability, and the value the homeowner received for the budget allocated is also considered in this category.

Craftsmanship: 5% This portion of the score evaluates the level of precision and craftsmanship displayed. Attention to detail, straightness of walls, embeds, and bucks; and the absence of voids, honeycombing, bulges, etc. will contribute to a high score.

Design Factors (30%)

Architecture: 15% Winning project illustrates that ICF projects are more than bunkers or simple boxes. The quality of interior and exterior finish, as well as proportions and the neighborhood aesthetic all play a role.

Sustainability: 10% Site use, water use, insulation, heating, alternative energy, recycled content, the efficiency of the various appliances and fixtures, and other factors are considered. HERS ratings, LEED certification, EnergyStar, or other green building certification program also play a role.

Photography: 5% A minimum of 7 and a maximum of 30 photographs shall be submitted with each entry. At least 4 photos must be of the project under construction, and 3 must be of the finished project, including at least one photo each showing the completed interior and exterior. Photos should illustrate the project's ability to address each of the judging criteria. Photos shall be submitted in digital format, and all photos submitted should be separate, high resolution image files in JPG format.

Significance (15%)

This portion of the score ranks a project's significance to the ICF industry, including whether it has set new standards or advanced the industry in significant ways. This includes factors such as a new benchmark in height or size, opening new regions or construction segments to ICFs, and the amount of positive publicity it has created among construction and design professionals, as well as the public at large. Exceptional media coverage and jobsite tours are obvious factors as well.