

2021 Rubric for scoring of design awards entrants

Objective:

The technical reviewer's job is to assess how well the submission demonstrates a consideration of the environmental performance of a building design, combining 1) level of performance targeted, 2) appropriateness of strategies, and 3) accuracy or believability of information. "Environmental performance" refers to a building's overall net impact on humanity's ability to thrive over multiple generations, using the AIA Framework of Design Excellence as our best reference for what this means.

1 – No consideration, or minimal but inaccurate consideration

Little or no information submitted and/or questionable or misguided use of sustainable design strategies.

Reference benchmarks: Little recognition of the Framework for Design Excellence.

2 – Basic level of consideration

Represents a minimally compliant design (by California standards), with basic but complete performance/sustainability considerations. Can include some apparent lack of literacy in reported metrics, if the overall design intent and understanding is sound.

Reference benchmarks: Meets 2013 or 2016 Title 24 Part 6 (California); or meets 2013 or 2016 ASHRAE 90.1 or 2012 or 2015 IECC (non-California).

3 – Elevated level of consideration

Project explicitly incorporates performance /sustainability strategies, and does so *effectively* in at least one area (ie. energy)

Reference benchmarks: Significantly exceeds 2013 or 2016 Title 24 Part 6 (California); or exceeds 2013 or 2016 ASHRAE 90.1 or 2012 or 2015 IECC (non-California). LEED Silver-ish. Notable improvements in at least two areas of the Framework for Design Excellence

4 – Strong, holistic consideration

Design explicitly incorporates effective performance/sustainability strategies in multiple areas (energy, water, materials, health, ecology, resilience)

Reference benchmarks: All-electric, low-emissions building; LEED v4 Gold; More numerous or significant improvements to the Framework for Design Excellence.

5 – Aspirational consideration

Ambitious performance targets using a whole building approach, with thoughtful and appropriate strategies, and accurately presented information.

Reference benchmarks: LEEDv4 Platinum, ZNE or Living Building Challenge level. Excellent in most aspects of the Framework for Design Excellence.