



SCNZ Excellence in Steel Award

The objective is to celebrate New Zealand's excellence in the field of steel construction by identifying projects that demonstrate efficiency, cost effectiveness, application of sustainability principles, aesthetics, best practice, outstanding teamwork, great safety management and innovation.

Focus

This is restricted to steel structures built by SCNZ Steel Constructors using New Zealand fabricated steelwork. The structural steelwork contract must have been completed during the period January 2024 to May 2026.

There are six categories:

- Stand-alone residential home
- Earthquake Strengthening
- Under \$1m*
- Over \$1m to \$3m*
- Over \$3m-\$10m*
- Over \$10m*

*Based on total value of structural steelwork.

SCNZ reserves the right to alter the award categories based on entries received.

The Panel of Judges

There will be a panel of independent judges representing steel construction, building, structural engineering, and architectural interests. Judges are appointed by the SCNZ Council.

Assessment Criteria

Each entry will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Overall Design Merit** (20 points) - The application should address innovation in design using steel, efficient use of materials and integration of services, and have substantial structural and fire engineering, architectural or other design merit.
- **Construction Efficiency and Quality** (10 points) - This covers demonstration of the advantages of steel, speed of construction, commitment to best practice and quality, safety in the process and containment of overall project costs. The application needs to demonstrate that the project was examined for the long-term corrosion environment and a fit-for-purpose corrosion and maintenance system chosen.
- **Environmental Sustainability** (5 Points) - The award should address the use of steel to enhance a sustainable environment. This can be for example, obtaining a longer life out of the construction by future proofing, use of reuse material, dematerialisation by use of high strength steels, or use of sustainable practices in steel making, fabrication and construction.
- **Buildability** (10 points) - Practicality for fabrication and erection, effective documentation for tendering and throughout the building process. Effective use of data transfer technology such as construction BIM. Effective engagement of design teams with construction teams. Working with the fabricator/erector to ensure selection of standard members, penetrations, optimisation of costs using standardised connections, bolted connections and provision for shop welding rather than site and practicality and safety of erection.
- **Innovation in Fabrication and Construction** (5 points)



Method

1. Any company of the project team (architect, engineer, builder, or steel constructor) may submit an entry via the SCNZ website. The steel fabricator in the project team must be a SCNZ Steel Constructor or Non-Certified Fabricator.
2. All projects submitted should have permission from the developer/owner.
3. Initial entries will be judged to determine finalists in each category.
4. Each finalist will be asked to submit further information for the next round of judging.
5. Each finalist will be recognised at the SCNZ Gala Dinner on 6 November 2026 in Wellington, New Zealand.
6. The judging panel will determine **Category Winners** for each category, and a **Supreme Winner**.
7. Entries will be assessed by the judging panel whose decision is final.
8. No discussion or correspondence regarding their decision will be entered.
9. The structures entered must be made available for inspection by the judges if requested.
10. Entries must follow the guidelines as per the entry form
11. SCNZ has the right to use details of entries supplied in SCNZ publications etc.

Award

- An engraved trophy will be awarded to the steel constructor winning the Supreme prize, and the finalists.
- At the discretion of the judging panel, Merit commendations may also be made to other entries.
- Certificates will be awarded to representatives of the winning project teams including the steel constructor, the steel modeller, the builder, the structural engineer, the architect, and the project developer/owner. Two certificates are awarded at the Gala Dinner, while the remaining certificates will be distributed after the event.

Important dates

- April 2026: Entries open
- 26 June 2026: Entries close at 5pm
- July: Preliminary judging. Finalists notified. Opportunity to submit further information.
- August-September: Final judging
- 6 November 2026: Awards Presentation at the Gala Dinner in Wellington (details to come)

How to enter

Complete the online form by 5pm on **26 June 2026**.

<https://scnz.org/excellence-in-steel-entry-form/>

For any issues or questions, please contact Darren O'Riley, SCNZ General Manager

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