Judging Criteria

A panel of judges ranks each entry on a scale of 1-10 on each of the following criteria, which are weighted to reflect their importance. This criteria has been revised from last year, so previous finalists that did not place may wish to consider resubmitting their projects.

Be sure that the entry notebook and photographs illustrate why the project should score highly on the criteria below.

Complexity and Creativity: 20% Complexity relates to difficulty of construction. A project with many angles, wall thicknesses, 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 and advance the industry.

Percentage ICFs: 15% Exterior ICF walls will get some points, but projects that used ICFs for interior walls, or for EPS floors and/or roof will score even higher.

Architecture: 15% Winning project illustrate that ICF projects are more than bunkers or simple boxes. Aesthetics and architecture are important factors in advancing the industry.

Construction and Site Considerations: 15% Overcoming construction challenges, like tight schedules, difficult lots, wet springs, cold winters, new crews, costs less than frame construction, hit by a hurricane with minimal damage, etc. show the advantages ICFs can bring to the table.

Significance/Visibility/Advances the Industry: 15% So-called "milestone projects" that advance the industry by setting new standards, opening new construction segments or markets, attracting attention from major homebuilding firms, and so forth are significant for the entire industry, and should be considered by the judges.

Size: 10% Bigger projects are usually more visible, and more difficult. Note that all ICF aspects of the project, such as a detached garage or shop, retaining walls, swimming pool, etc. made from ICFs should be included in the total sq. footage of ICFs used.

Sustainability: 10% Daylighting, site use, insulation, heating systems, recycled content, water use and other factors are considered.