

Complete Rules—2009 Competition

Entry Notebooks:

Notebooks can be downloaded from the World Wide Web at www.icfmag.com/awards/notebook. They can also be ordered by phoning, mailing or faxing a request to ICF Builder magazine. Contact information is listed in the masthead on page 4.

Entry Fees:

Cost is \$90 (U.S.) for the first Entry Notebook submitted. The entry fee for additional Notebooks is \$50 (U.S.) each.

Deadline:

Entry Notebooks must be postmarked no later than Friday, October 23, 2009. No notebooks will be accepted after this date. Entry Notebooks without payment will not be considered.

Competition Categories:

Projects must use Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs) as the primary construction method. Awards will be given in the following categories:

Light Commercial:

This category encompasses all commercial construction projects with a total cost of less than \$5 million (USD). Typical projects in this category would include car washes, warehouse space, restaurants, gas stations, churches, and small retail and office, and complexes.

Heavy Commercial:

This category is for commercial construction costing more than \$5 million (USD) to construct. This would include most cinema multiplexes, and large office and retail buildings, Most apartment complexes and condominiums would also fall into this category.

Small Residential:

Single-family residential buildings totaling 3,000 sq. ft. or less.

Large Residential:

Single-family residential buildings between 3,001 and 6,000 sq. ft.

Unlimited Residential:

Single-family residences larger than 6,000 sq. ft.

We retain the right to re-assign a project's category if specifications show the project is inappropriate for the category in which it is competing.

Restrictions:

Projects must be completed by the entry deadline. There is no restriction on project start date.

Additionally, the competition is open to any type or brand of ICF, and projects may be submitted by anyone associated with the project in any way.

Photography Requirements:

A minimum of 7 and a maximum of 20 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. Both interior and exterior photos are encouraged. Photos should be 300 dpi or better if digital.

Additional Information:

If you have questions or need additional information, email Clark Ricks at editor@icfmag.com.

A Note on Photography:

Photos should illustrate the project's ability to address each of the judging criteria mentioned above. Photos can be print, slide, or digital; if digital images must be at least 5 x 7 in size at 300 dpi or be (digital is encouraged; see below). Larger images are accepted.

Digital photographs are convenient, easy to duplicate, and can be distributed to the judging committee with very little hassle. However, it is only acceptable when the size and resolution of the image is sufficient.

It is essential that images are provided in high resolution format: 300 dpi (dots per inch) at 5 x 7 inch size. Use a high quality (low compression) mode if stored as a jpeg file (minimum quality 8). Unless you are confident that your digital camera is adequate, stick with a traditional film camera for your submission. Prints and slides from film can always be scanned and modified to meet the needed resolution.

All digital photography should be sent on CD or DVD to the attention of Clark Ricks, editorial director of ICF Builder magazine at the address below. Prints and slides will be returned only if accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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. ■