NFBA Building of the Year Award - Entry Rules & Requirements:

Any building designed and erected in a safe manner by a NFBA member builder that utilizes post-frame construction (defined below) in a minimum of 50% of the building structure will be eligible.

Definition: A post-frame building is most clearly defined by its wide column spacing with rafters and/or trusses to create distinct "post frames." Columns may or may not be ground-embedded. Mortise and tendon connections typical of timber frame construction are not considered post frame by this definition.

Buildings must have been completed during December 1, 2024 - November 20, 2026 and be submitted by a current NFBA member in good standing. Any entry found to have been completed prior to December 1, 2024 will forfeit all materials, including the entry fee, submitted to NFBA in the application process.

- It is the obligation of the applicant to check the appropriate box on the entry form to indicate which specific category the building(s) is being entered into.
- To be considered you must complete EACH item on the official entry form.
- Entries received that do not contain all required materials will risk scoring a zero in the respective judging criteria.
- Any NFBA member company is eligible to win.
- All decisions by the judges are final.

Deadline:
All entries must be received at the NFBA office on, or before November 6, 2026.
DEADLINE EXTENSION: November 20, 2026

Entry Fee:

- A separate entry form must be completed for each building submitted
- The entry fee is $100 and non-refundable. *(Refunds will be given for duplicate submissions & payments)*

Entry Preparation:
When preparing your entries, consider the quality of your photos. The photos you submit should demonstrate your company's pride in their work.

- Each entry must be accompanied by photos and floor plan(s) to score full points. It is recommended to include:
    - Interior & Exterior photos
    - Photos showing stages of construction
    - At least two views of the completed project
    - A floor plan and cross section of the building. A single-page line drawing equal to or less than 17" x 22" in size is acceptable.

- Entries submitted without photographic support and/or poor photographic prints are unlikely to win the contest.

- Entries submitted without floor plans, blueprints, or drawings are unlikely to win the contest.

- The person submitting the entry form(s) MUST sign a photo release that gives NFBA the right to publish photos of the submission.

- Remodel/Retrofit category entries must submit before and after photos.

How to Submit Entry Form & Supporting Documents

- Digital Submission: Log into the NFBA 'Members Only' section to submit your entry form(s) online. Directions will also be posted for uploading photos and supporting documents. Email awards@nfba.org if you have questions.

- Mail - **Online submission is preferred**. Call our office if you need accommodations for a mailed submission.

    - Call our office at (800) 557-6957

Winners:

- Winners will be notified at least 1 month prior to the annual NFBA Conference & Expo. Winners will be responsible for notifying NFBA if they plan to have a representative attend the Awards Luncheon to accept their award.

- Winners will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the Awards Luncheon *(2 per winning submission)*. Winners will be responsible for notifying NFBA as to who should receive those complimentary tickets.
    - Luncheon tickets are first come first serve. Winners that fail to notify NFBA in a timely manner will still be able to attend the ceremony, but may not be served lunch due to limited availability.

- All Building of the Year Winners will be displayed during the Awards luncheon, and will be posted on the NFBA website and social media.

- All entries will be considered for the prestigious **Judges' Award**

Application & Scoring Info

The 2026 Building of the Year contest consists of 30 award categories plus a Judges' Award.

NFBA's redesigned awards program allows builder member companies to compete against builder member companies of comparable size. Each of the 10 main award categories have three divisions:

(1) EXPERTS - Builders who have an estimated $0-3 million in annual gross volume.
(2) MASTERS - Builders who have an estimated $3-6 million in annual gross volume.
(3) PREMIER - Builders who have an estimated $6+ million in annual gross volume.

NFBA reserves the right to move or disqualify entries that are submitted to the wrong division. Winners in the three divisions of all categories receive equal recognition and benefits.

Categories & Descriptions

Agricultural Storage & Livestock Facilities
Buildings used predominantly for agricultural activity or housing livestock.

Barndominiums
Buildings with living space and garage/animal space, must have 50% or more of non-residential housing.

Commercial Retail
Single-use buildings conducting retail for consumer business, such as: Retail stores, garden centers, farm stands, & restaurants.

Commercial Business / Industrial
Buildings for mixed use commercial business, such as: Workshops, offices, & warehouses.

Hobby Shops
Private Buildings that support an owner or group's hobby, collection, and/or activities.

Horse Barns
Buildings used for housing or other equine activities, including stall barns and arenas.

Institutional / Public Non-Profit Buildings
Churches, schools, nonprofit organization offices, government buildings, fire stations, community centers, and all other public-use buildings.

Residential Homes
Buildings with living space, including more than 50% for residential housing.

Retrofitted / Remodeled Buildings
Renovations of existing post-frame buildings, or post-frame additions to existing buildings.

Suburban Garages
Detached post-frame residential style garage for personal storage use. Under 2,000 Sq. Ft.

***Note**: The judges reserve the right to move an entry into a category that is, in their view, a better fit for the entry.*

Judges' Award
Participants may not submit entries for the Judges' Award. The judges will select an exceptional entry that they believe deserves special recognition. All entries will be considered for the Judges' Award.

Grading Rubric Pg. 1

Table overview of criteria weighting and grading. Each submission category will have two criteria with a 2x point score. Submissions will be scored by 3 judges, for a total of 150 points possible.

	Agricultural Storage & Livestock Facilities		Barndo-miniums		Commercial Retail Buildings		Commercial Business / Industrial Buildings		Hobby Shops	
Criteria	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**
Building Use / Importance / Community Impact	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5
Structural Design & Innovation	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5
Architectural Design & Innovation	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5
Plans / Floor Plan	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5
Curbside Appeal, Landscaping, Entryways, & Exterior Lighting	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5
Building Exterior	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**
Building Interior	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**
Creative Use of Materials & Unique Features	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5

Grading Rubric Pg. 2

Table overview of criteria weighting and grading. Each submission category will have two criteria with a 2x point score. Submissions will be scored by 3 judges, for a total of 150 points possible.

	Horse Barns		Residential Homes		Institutional / Public Non-Profit Buildings		Retrofitted / Remodeled Buildings		Suburban Garages	
Criteria	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**	**Weight**	**Points**
Building Use / Importance / Community Impact	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5
Structural Design & Innovation	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5
Architectural Design & Innovation	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**
Plans / Floor Plan	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5
Curbside Appeal, Landscaping, Entryways, & Exterior Lighting	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**
Building Exterior	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5
Building Interior	**2x**	**10**	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5	1x	5
Creative Use of Materials & Unique Features	1x	5	1x	5	**2x**	**10**	**2x**	**10**	1x	5

Criteria Descriptions & Submitter Comments

The criteria list below explains how your submission will be graded, and what is required to receive a high score for each criterion. **Submitter comments are not required, but recommended** to add context to your submission, and how it relates to the criterion.

Grading Criteria	What's Needed	Submitter Comments:
Building Use, Importance, & Community Impact	*Pictures Depicting How the Building is Used + Comments Describing the Importance & Impact.*	
Structural Design & Innovation	*Pictures & Structural Plans + Capture the Aspects that you Would Consider Structurally Innovative.*	
Architectural Design & Innovation	*Pictures and Architectural Plans + Capture the Aspects that you Would Consider Architecturally Innovative.*	
Plans & Floor Plans	*Floor Plans & Diagrams.*	
Curbside Appeal, Landscaping, Entryways & Exterior Lighting	*Exterior photos + Comments Describing the Appeal and Landscaping Design.*	
Building Exterior	*Exterior Photos*	
Building Interior	*Interior Photos*	
Creative Use of Materials & Unique Features	*Photos Highlighting Creative Material Use*	

Application Questions

1. **Origin story:** Tell us how the project started and how post-frame was able to meet your clients needs.

2. **Post-frame advantage:** If applicable, what material upgrades were included in this building? What role did post-frame construction play in this project?

3. **NFBA Advantage:** How did your NFBA membership affect this project? Any connections or inspirations from the association? Etc.

Fill out your application online at www.nfba.org/building-year

To view example high scoring submissions, visit here or scan the QR code below:

HIGH SCORING SUBMISSION FROM PREVIOUS YEARS