

ELCA Green Award

Competition Green School Yard 2023

Summary

The ELCA Green Award is a competition to promote projects realized by a professional landscape contractor and to develop an ever-growing platform of the ELCA Committee of Firms. With the ELCA Green Award competition a new green topic is highlighted every two years. In 2021 the theme was Green Park. The winner was 'Het Spoorpark' in Tilburg, The Netherlands. This year it is Green School Yard. The participating projects, realised by landscape contractors, entered into the competition by nominations of the ELCA member-associations, European and international, with one project per country.

Voting will be done by members of the ELCA Committee of Firms (CoF). The voting is electronically on the ELCA-website where the competing projects are presented with short texts and several photographs. The order of the projects in which they are displayed on the website is constantly changing so that no project is favoured during the voting. The project that receives the majority of the votes is the winner of the ELCA Green Award. The Award will be presented to the president of the ELCA member-association that has nominated the winning project. The ceremony of the announcements of the results and the hand-over of the trophy, in collaboration with the French member-association UNEP, will take place at Paysalia 2023 in Lyon.

Projects and purpose

The purpose of the competition is to emphasize on the need for three stages of the work: design, creation and maintenance. These stages are very important. Lower quality at any stage of the project effects the current value. The projects that compete for The Green School Yard meet the following definition:

A yard linked to a primary school, which is a climate friendly, healthy and rich of nature place to play and learn. The yard makes children aware and familiar with different aspects of nature by playing and learning there. Playing outdoors stimulates children's phantasy, makes them creative and is good for their physical development. Not only is the Green School Yard a nice place for children, there is also room for plants and animals. Birds, butterflies and bees find a place to live and feed. The school yard can also play an important role in social cohesion in the residential area.

The project must be completed in the period from January 1st 2015 and January 1st 2022.

Nominations are done by the ELCA member-associations.

Regulations

Clause on acceptance of competition conditions:

- Consent of all parties involved to the conditions of the competition;
- By participating in the competition, all parties involved confirm that they have read the conditions of the competition and comply with and honour them;
- By submitting the entries, all parties involved agree with the decisions of the competition jury.

Registration

The application for the competition is submitted by ELCA member-associations with written consent of the parties involved in the nominated project.

Registration fee

There is no registration fee. Participation in the competition is free.

Application form

Mandatory annexes to the application

Application for the competition and required content with annexes:

- Completed application of the participant of the competition, the applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the stated data;
- A brief accompanying text of a maximum of 3 A4 pages;
- An attachment with drawings of a maximum of 5 A3 pages;
- At least 10 high quality photographs of the work in digital form in JPG or TIF format in a resolution of 300 DPI (with the name of the photographer or otherwise stated source of the photograph).

Send the application including attachments no later than July 1st, 2023, to contact@elca.info. The photographic attachment can be sent by another service for the transfer of larger data.

Criteria for the evaluation

Greenery is no longer to be considered as decoration any more. The benefits of it will grow by the years, but for that we need to take diverse criteria into account:

- Quality of the overall urban, architectural, biological and technical solution of the project;
- Quality of the public space, integration of the project into the surroundings or landscape;
- Technical and aesthetical solution, its economy and balance;
- Quality of horticultural and craft work and suitability of used plants and materials;
- Economic (financial) adequacy of the chosen solution with regard to the costs of care and maintenance;
- Quality of care for greenery and abiotic elements;
- Aspect of the sustainability of the work in its economic, environmental and social form;
- Rainwater management;
- Quality of the investment plan and effectiveness of the work;
- User satisfaction, public acceptance;
- Accessibility;
- Other criteria at the discretion of the jury.

Voting

Voters, who are member of the ELCA Committee of Firms, can vote for more than one project and grant one, two or three stars to the project of their choice. The order of the projects in which they are displayed on the website www.elca.info is constantly changing so that no project is favoured during the voting.

- Voting is done electronically;
- The voting will take place on the website www.elca.info, where the competing projects will be presented with short texts and several photographs;
- The project that receives the most votes will receive the ELCA Green Award.
- The voting will be done from September 1st till October 1st, 2023.

Promotion

- The results of the competition will be published in the professional press and on professional websites, through the media partners of the competition, in a representative publication;
- Part of the presentation of all registered projects is permanent inclusion in the publicly accessible web database of www.elca.info, where the title of the work, its brief annotation, location on the map, information about involved parties in the project;
- The Green School Yard competition and the ELCA Green Award are associated with the right to use these titles as a reference, advertising and for promotional reasons.

Copyright clause and publication of competitions designs

- Competing projects will be presented free of any rights;
- The ELCA Green Award organization reserves the right to dispose the materials received in the application for the competition in an appropriate way.

Consent of competitors to issue competition proposals

By submitting applications, competitors express their consent to the free reproduction and presentation of their project as part of the competition and its results.

Mission

The Green Award competition:

- Draws attention to the irreplaceable functions of greenery in cities and municipalities, the fulfilment of which requires professional and regular care and maintenance;
- It is an opportunity to present quality gardening and landscape projects;
- It represents an opportunity to compare and learn.

The Green School Yard Award

ELCA, the European Landscape Contractors Association, together with the ELCA Committee of Firms announces the Green School Yard competition 2023. The project that receives the majority of the votes will win the Green Award. The announcement of the results in cooperation with UNEP-France will take place at the professional fair Paysalia 2023 which will be held from December 5th till 7th.

ELCA Green Award Trophy

The Trophy is yet available in a stylish and sustainable form, made by M. van der Spek Group.

Planning

- Date of announcement of the competition: May 25th, 2023
- Deadline applications: July 1st, 2023
- Start of the voting: September 1st, 2023
- End of the voting: October 1st, 2023
- Ceremonial announcement of the results and award ceremony: to be determined

Questions

Contact for questions is Egbert Roozen, secretary general of the ELCA: phone +32 468 35 11 91, mail contact@elca.info.