



# 2020 StairCraft Awards Competition Rules

## PURPOSE

The Stairbuilders and Manufacturers Association (SMA) StairCraft Awards recognize the individual achievements of our SMA members. These prestigious awards elevate the industry standards of aesthetic value, stair safety, quality of workmanship and technical achievement. The StairCraft Awards also promote the value of utilizing the experience and products of SMA members to the public.

## ENTRY

There are 12 award categories for the 2020 StairCraft Award competition. These categories are:

**Best Stair Part**

**Best Spiral Stairway**

**Best Balustrade**

**Most Unique Stairway**

**Best Straight Stairway – Traditional**

**Best Stairway Renovation**

**Best Straight Stairway – Modern**

**Best Commercial Stairway**  
(IBC Non-Residential)

**Best Curved Stairway – Traditional**

**NEW! Best Production Stairway**

**Best Curved Stairway – Modern**

**NEW! Challenger Award**

Two new categories have been added to the competition for the 2020 award year. They are the “Best Production Stairway” and the “Challenger Award.”

The “**Best Production Stairway**” is a stair designed for and built in 3 or more homes or units in housing development areas. This category will be judged for aesthetics, safety, quality and technical challenges unique to housing development home constraints, including installation efficiency and value engineering.

The “**Challenger Award**” is for any SMA individual or company who has created a new product, improved a process, or perfected a technique which would have a positive influence on the stair industry. This process, product, or technique should move the stair industry forward in design, creativeness, or by solving a common issue. It must embrace code and be for a purpose or particular use.

During the 2020 Awards year there will also be a **NEW “People’s Choice Award.”** Attendees at the 2020 SMA Annual Conference will vote on the stairway they feel best demonstrates the greatness of the StairCraft Awards. All StairCraft Award entries will be eligible to compete in this award category.



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## DEADLINE & REGISTRATION FEE

All StairCraft Award entrants must register and pay the applicable entry fees no later than **February 10, 2020**, by midnight Eastern Time. To register, log in to your member profile on [www.stairways.org](http://www.stairways.org) and click on the “Events” tab. Choose “2020 StairCraft Awards Entrant” and complete the registration form. Please note, your registration will include the selection of your competition categories.

The 2020 StairCraft Awards entry fee is \$100 per contest category when you register by **January 10, 2020**. After, the entry fee will be \$110 per contest category.

An entry form and photos must be submitted for each of your competition categories. Please submit your completed entry forms and photos by email to [SMA@stairways.org](mailto:SMA@stairways.org) **no later than February 14, 2020**.

## JUDGMENT CRITERIA

All stair building categories will be judged base on **Aesthetic Value, Stair Safety, Quality Workmanship, and Technical Challenge**. Competitors must complete an Entry Form for each entry and include a short statement detailing how the project demonstrates excellence worthy of a StairCraft Award in each of the four judgment criteria.

The Challenger Award will be judged based on the criteria that best represents the submission. Competitors must complete an Entry Form, select one or more applicable criteria **Aesthetic Value, Stair Safety, Quality Workmanship, and Technical Challenge** and include a short statement detailing how the project demonstrates excellence worthy of the Challenger Award.

## ELIGIBILITY

All SMA member companies in good standing may enter. Joint entries (two or more cooperating firms) are permitted for all categories if all participants are members and contributed to the project. Member companies may submit up to one entry in each of the different categories.

Violation of the rules or misrepresentation of a product or company as the responsible principal producer, stair builder, installer, or manufacturer shall be cause for disqualification from the contest and may be a violation of the SMA’s Code of Conduct and Ethics.

The project must have been completed within five years of the entry deadline date. The submitter must be the principal producer, stair builder, installer, or manufacturer of the product as it relates to the category.

Projects submitted in previous years may be resubmitted in an alternate category, as applicable, but may not be resubmitted for consideration in a category in which it has already competed.

Members may compete in as many categories as they choose, however no project can be submitted in more than one category in the same year. Stairways that contain *stairs* with curved and straight segments must be entered as curved stairways



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All stairways and balustrades must be in compliance with the building code in effect in the jurisdiction as applicable to the completed project. Residential Spiral Stairways however shall be qualified for the category based on the IRC 2015 definition of Spiral Stairways.

Anonymity of contestants is requested until the election is closed. For judging purposes only a number will identify entries. Publicizing a company's entry identity for the purpose of gaining an advantage in the contest may result in disqualification. Following the close of all elections the entrants will be identified.

### SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

All entries must be submitted complete and in accordance with the submission instructions on the entry form or they may be returned for resubmission. No entry fees will be refunded unless the entry is withdrawn within 3 days of the final entry closing date.

Descriptive submissions are *mandatory* – A description of each judgment criteria, not to exceed 35 words, must be provided.

All submissions become the property of the SMA and may be used for any purposes as determined by the association for promotion of the association.

**Entrants no longer need to bring a copy of their large 8x10 photo entry for display at the Annual Conference prior to the Awards Presentation. The SMA will supply these images from the large hero image you provide for your submission.**

### CONTEST ADMINISTRATION

All entries will be posted online in a uniform way for judgment by member peers. SMA member companies will be granted one vote in each contest category. SMA Staff will administer the contest and tally ballots. Ballots for all entries shall first be based on the entry being worthy of the award. Voters will be directed to vote for the best entry if more than one is worthy. This could result in some awards not being recognized, to preserve the integrity of the StairCraft Awards. There must be at least three contestants within an award category to populate a ballot. When this condition is not met the entry will be held until the following year's competition without further fee for the entry in that category, provided the participant is still a member in good standing.

The SMA Board of Directors shall decide issues not covered by the rules with respect to the integrity, fairness and prestige of the contest for the SMA and its members. All rulings of the Board of Directors, when appropriate, will be posted on the website or announced prior to the judging.



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### AWARDS PRESENTATION

Participants and recipients will be announced, and the official presentation will take place during the SMA Annual Conference Awards Banquet. The Annual Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, April 16-18, 2020.

*AN EMPLOYEE, OFFICER OR OWNER OF THE COMPANY MUST BE REGISTERED AT THE CONFERENCE AND BE PRESENT AT THE OFFICIAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO ACCEPT THE AWARD. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.*

**\*\*DO NOT ENTER IF YOU CANNOT SEND A DELEGATE TO THE CONFERENCE.\*\***

### AWARD RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The winning member company will proudly display the award in their place of business. This award can only be displayed while the company is a member in good standing with the SMA. Winning members will have the opportunity to give a short "How We Did It" presentation prior to the awards presentation the following year.

### CONTEST PRIZE

Award winners will be presented with an award plaque to proudly display the company's excellence in achievement. The **NEW "People's Choice Award"** recipient will be awarded a FREE conference registration for the 2021 Annual Conference. The SMA will publish the award-winning projects in the SMA newsletter, feature them in press releases, and post them on the SMA website.