

The Lysaght logo consists of the word "LYSAGHT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, positioned above a stylized graphic of a building facade with blue and white rectangular panels.The logo for the Inspirations Design Awards 2026 features the text "INSPIRATIONS DESIGN AWARDS 2026" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a dark blue background with a white grid pattern.The background of the top half of the page is a collage of architectural images and solid color blocks. It includes a person walking in front of a building, a close-up of a red roof structure, and an interior view of a modern building with a red roof and large windows. The collage is set against a dark blue background with white and light blue geometric shapes.

2026 LYSAGHT INSPIRATIONS DESIGN AWARDS

STUDENT CATEGORY

SYNOPSIS

The Student Category of the Lysaght Inspirations Design Awards allows current and recent (within two years) architecture and design students to participate without needing to submit a constructed building, unlike other categories.

The Student Category of the Lysaght Inspirations Design Awards is therefore a conceptual project only, responding to the enclosed brief. The key requirement of the submission is that your building design must prominently utilise products from the LYSAGHT® range as the main building material elements.

With a cash prize of \$2,500 available for this category, how you choose to present your design is also up to you – plans, drawings, renders, mood boards and written rationale are all acceptable.

INTRODUCTION

Since its successful introduction in 2018, the Lysaght Inspirations Design Awards has celebrated outstanding Australian architectural and building design work that incorporates LYSAGHT® steel building products.

Again in 2026, Lysaght has included an awards category exclusively for students and recent graduates. This category is open to all architectural or building design students currently enrolled at Australian universities and colleges.

The winning entrant judged to have best incorporated LYSAGHT® steel building products into a major conceptual design – will receive a cash prize of \$2,500.

2024 Winner:
Justin Katsumata Yu

2025 Winner:
Sienna Dichiera

LYSAGHT – THE COMPANY

The manufacturer of a range of steel building products including industry favourite brands like CUSTOM-ORB®, KLIP-LOK®, BONDEK® and more, Lysaght is an integral part of the Australian architectural landscape.

What started in 1857, when 25-year-old Irishman John Lysaght, began exporting corrugated iron sheeting to Australia under the trademark “ORB”, has developed over the past 150 years where today, the LYSAGHT® range of steel building products is held in the highest esteem by architectural, design and building professionals, as well as the general public.

From its earliest usage in iconic outback shearing sheds, for water tanks and homesteads, through to present-day applications in some of the most innovative and aesthetic residential, commercial and industrial buildings, the LYSAGHT® range of steel building products continues to be at the forefront of building design and construction.



LYSAGHT AND AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

Since the earliest examples of Australia’s architectural heritage, steel building products have played an important role in defining the style and character of Australian homes.

Be it the early Victorian or Federation style, the iconic workers cottage, Queenslander or Californian Bungalow, triple front veneer, post-war modernist or even the more recent modernist pavilion-style home, all have included steel building products in some way as part of their core building material palette.

Whether it’s the traditional corrugated steel cladding, guttering, flashings and fascia or more recent product innovations including steel building frames, fencing and even wall panels, steel building products have continued to evolve and develop to enable residential designers and builders to deliver ever more creative, aesthetic and liveable spaces for Australian homeowners.

Now in 2026 the LYSAGHT® range has grown to include steel building products that satisfy almost every structural, shelter and cladding element required for modern residential construction, including:



LYSAGHT® roofing and walling – including the ZENITH® range of architectural cladding products



LYSAGHT® guttering, downpipes, flashings and other rainwater goods



LYSAGHT® structural components including steel building frames, purlins and battens



Patio, verandah, and carport pre-engineered kits and components



LYSAGHT® steel fencing and screening systems



STUDENT CATEGORY

AWARD ENTRY BRIEF

PROJECT SCOPE

For the purposes of the Student Design Competition, entrants should be guided by the following fictitious scenario:

- You are part of a forward-thinking design and construction team known for delivering innovative, adaptable structures across a wide range of contexts, from small-scale interventions to larger, multi-functional spaces.
- Your company collaborates with diverse clients, including individuals, communities, developers, and public organisations, all seeking purposeful, well-designed environments that balance performance, flexibility, and visual impact.
- The focus is on designing a structure that responds to a present or emerging challenge, such as changing living patterns, climate adaptation, resource efficiency, mobility, or community connection. This could be residential, commercial, or a hybrid of both.
- While practicality and sustainability are important, your team is also recognised for delivering compelling architectural outcomes with a strong sense of identity and material expression.

CLIENT BRIEF

You are part of a design studio invited to propose a conceptual building or structure that explores new ways we live, work, or interact with LYSAGHT® steel products at the core of your design thinking.

The client, a progressive developer with a broad portfolio, is seeking adaptable and inspiring concepts that respond to change and can be applied across a variety of contexts, including:

- Urban or suburban sites
- Regional or remote locations
- Temporary or relocatable structures (e.g. events, emergency response, pop-up environments)

Your design can be residential, commercial, or hybrid, but must:

- Address a clearly defined human or environmental need (e.g. flexible living, community gathering, climate response, mobile workspaces, transitional housing)
- Incorporate LYSAGHT® walling and/or roofing products in a considered and visible way, ensuring the material plays a central role in the concept, form, and performance of the design
- Demonstrate adaptability, environmental awareness, and real-world relevance

You are free to define your project's purpose, user group, and location - but ensure the design communicates a compelling narrative and reflects the idea of designing for change, demonstrating:

- Original thinking
- Practical understanding
- Confident and creative use of materials

BRIEFING NOTES

A key component of the brief is the creative and purposeful use of LYSAGHT® steel walling and/ or roofing products. These products should not just be a material choice but an integral part of your design's identity, performance, and environmental response.

The client encourages a broad interpretation of the brief — from personal retreats and pop-up studios to compact homes or hybrid spaces. You are free to define the function, user group, and context your design responds to.

COMPETITION BRIEF

Entrants are asked to develop a conceptual design for a building or structure that showcases extensive and innovative use of the LYSAGHT® range of steel building products. Designs should respond to a defined challenge or design principle - particularly those shaped by change, adaptation, or future-focused thinking.

The objective of the award is to recognise a student who, having explored the qualities, capabilities, and potential of LYSAGHT® steel building products*, can successfully integrate them into a resolved architectural concept.

Entrants will also need to demonstrate their capability to:

- Interpret the client brief and identify opportunities for LYSAGHT® products to play a meaningful role in the design solution
- Develop a design of strong architectural and building merit that addresses the objectives and functional requirements outlined in the fictional client brief
- Balance creativity with practicality, working within the parameters of the project brief

By including the Student Category in the Lysaght Inspirations Design Awards, Lysaght aims to provide students with a valuable opportunity to express their creativity while exploring how material choice can respond to change and unlock new design possibilities.

Full details of the LYSAGHT® range of steel building products can be viewed at [Lysaght.com](https://www.lysaght.com)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Given the conceptual nature of the Student Category of the Lysaght Inspirations Design Awards, there are no detailed submission requirements in terms of length or structure.

Entries must be submitted in PDF format and can only be received via the Awards website:

www.lysaght.com/inspiration/design-awards

Entrants are free to detail their submissions as they wish, within the constraints of the awards website. Keeping in mind that they will be judged by a panel of experts and they will be competing against a large field of their peers, they are encouraged to use whatever means they need to bring their designs to life.

Entries can be lodged from 6 July 2026 with the deadline for submissions being 11 September 2026.

LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Visit our website to view our commercial solutions and design guides, along with project case studies and product inspiration articles.

You will also be able to view our full product range and project photography.

www.lysaght.com



Check out last years winning project
The Warlpiri Cultural Centre by Sienna Dichiera
(University of South Australia)