

The Macallan Mural Design Competition

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We're delighted to announce a design competition following the Scottish interior design student showcase, supported by one of our event sponsors, Novograt.

The Competition

Novograt will print a mural for an MLA client designed by a student from GSA, ECA, DJCAD, Napier or Heriot Watt. It will be open to interior designers, graphic designers, visual communication students or any related design fields.

The client is The Macallan and the mural is for its spiritual home, the 485 acre The Macallan Estate in Speyside.

The Macallan is renowned worldwide for its extraordinary single-malt whiskies. The outstanding quality and distinctive character of each whisky is influenced by exceptional oak casks seasoned with sherry wine - a commitment to natural colour underpinned by mastery.

The winner will receive a cash prize of £1000 and will work with Novograt, MLA, and the client to bring their vision to life. They'll see their design printed at Novograt production facility in East Kilbride and travel to The Macallan near Aberlour for the installation.

The runner-up will receive a cash prize of £500.

About The Macallan

The Macallan is an incomparable symbol of craftsmanship and creativity. They own the finest sherry seasoned oak casks in the world.

Their exceptional oak casks are expertly crafted in their cooperages and seasoned with their sherry wine to deliver aged spirit of the highest quality, today and into the future.

This meticulous stewardship defines the integrity of their signature character and exceptional whiskies.

From the forests and sawmills of Ohio, USA and Northern Spain, through to the cooperages and sherry bodegas of Jerez de la Frontera, Andalusia, onto the 485-acre Estate in Speyside, Scotland where every drop of The Macallan spirit is distilled and matured, more than 600 quality checks on average go into every dram.

The Competition Brief

It is an incredible story from acorn to glass and we want you to tell it through a mural: capturing forestry and coopering, vineyard and Bodegas, barley field and distillery, maturation and mastery and ultimately, the bar at our brand home, where they serve The Macallan to guests and friends from all over the world, demonstrating an obsession with quality in America, Spain and Scotland.

Guests visiting The Macallan Estate witness a wonderful part of the story and the challenge to you is to bring the whole story to life.

The mural will be 14 metres wide by 2.5 metres high and will be installed in the boardroom. Novograf will work with you to have this print ready and in the correct dimensions.

Submission deadline **30th September 2025.**

Please send your entry, **including a paragraph explaining your creative process**, to marketing@mlaarchitects.co.uk by **5pm 30th September 2025.**

The winner will be chosen by a panel of judges from MLA and The Macallan with a plan to install in October of this year.

File specification

1. **Vector File** – No DPI requirements.
2. **Photoshop File** – Needs to be the original artwork format, set at **300 DPI (at 25% of the actual size).**

MLA Design Competition Terms and Conditions

1. Organizer

The competition ("Competition") is organized by MLA ("Organizer")

2. Eligibility

The Competition is open to individuals aged 18 or over at the time of entry.

Eligibility is restricted to students enrolled in design courses, or who have graduated in 2025 from design courses, at the following Scottish universities:

- University of Dundee
- University of Edinburgh
- Heriot-Watt University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow School of Art

Employees of MLA, The Macallan, Novograt, and any companies sponsoring the Competition, as well as members of their immediate families, are not eligible to enter.

The Competition is void where prohibited by law.

3. Entry Period

Entries must be received between 4 August 2025 and 5:00 PM (UK time) on 30th September 2025 ("Entry Period").

Late, incomplete, or illegible entries will not be accepted.

4. How to Enter

- Participants must submit their design(s) by email to marketing@mlaarchitects.co.uk.
- Each entry must include:
- The participant's full name and contact details (please complete the contact sheet to include with your entry)
- Proof of current enrollment or 2025 graduation from an eligible institution
- Design files and any accompanying description or statement as specified in the competition brief.
- Entries must be the participant's own original work and must not infringe the rights of any third party.

5. Design Requirements

- Designs must comply with the specifications outlined in the competition brief, including any technical requirements (e.g., file format, resolution, dimensions).
- Content must not be defamatory, offensive, or unlawful.

6. Selection of Winners

- Entries will be judged by a panel of representatives from The Macallan and MLA.
- Judging will be based on criteria including originality, creativity, and relevance to the brief.
- The decision of the judging panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

7. Prizes

- The prize(s) will be as described in the competition brief.
- No cash alternative will be offered.
- Prizes are non-transferable.

8. Notification of Winners

- Winners will be notified by email within 28 days of the closing date.
- If a winner does not respond within 7 days of notification, the Organizer reserves the right to select an alternative winner.

9. Intellectual Property

- Participants retain ownership of all intellectual property rights in their submitted designs.
- By entering, participants grant the Organizer and sponsoring companies a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use, reproduce, and display submitted designs for the purposes of administering and promoting the Competition and related publicity, including use on websites, social media, printed materials, exhibitions, and other promotional activities, without monetary compensation.

10. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We recognise that AI tools can be valuable aids in the creative process, and we welcome their considered use as part of the development of artwork submissions. However, all entries must be the original work of the student(s), and not simply copied, generated, or reproduced entirely by AI without meaningful input or authorship. Participants should ensure that any AI-assisted elements are used creatively and responsibly, and that the final piece reflects their own vision, decision-making, and artistic intent. Plagiarism or the direct copying of existing images, including those generated by AI from unaltered prompts or datasets, will not be accepted.

11. Publicity and Marketing Participation

- Winners agree to participate in reasonable publicity relating to the Competition and grant the Organizer permission to use their name, likeness, and submitted designs for promotional purposes without additional compensation.
- Participants also agree to participate in marketing activities to promote the winner and the winning design, which will include the production of video and photographic content documenting the creation, production, and installation of the winning design.

12. Liability

- The Organizer accepts no responsibility for entries that are lost, delayed, misdirected, or incomplete or for any technical failures that may prevent participation.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Organizer and sponsoring companies shall not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury arising out of participation in the Competition or acceptance of any prize.

13. Personal Data

- Personal data provided will be used solely for the purposes of administering the Competition and as set out in the Organizer's privacy policy, which is available at <https://mlaarchitects.co.uk/privacy-policy/>.
- By entering, participants consent to the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal data for these purposes.

14. Governing Law

- These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Scotland, and any disputes shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts.