There are four categories (Specialty, Small Spaces, Commercial and Residential) with the option of modifying them for future use based on the quantity and type of entries received in the current year (i.e. a large number of digital or self stick entries would require their own categories in the future).

The WIA Craftsmanship Awards Committee reserves the right to assign entries to categories according to the following guidelines. Submissions entered into incorrect categories may be moved to appropriate categories by vote of the committee. The member will be notified of the category change ahead of judging.

Categories are defined as follows:

Specialty:
- Substrates not manufactured or intended for use as wallcovering, including but not limited to posters, unbacked fabrics of all types, silver cloth, leather and other animal hides.
- Hand painted Scenics and Canvases. Any Scenic, whether paper, silk or other, that has been designed and created for a specific area. Also included shall be scenics previously removed or removed and reinstalled in a new location.
- Wallcovering requiring non-standard installation techniques. This includes torn edge papers, glass bead, wood veneers, tackable wallcoverings, rigid acrylic panels, boutique wallcoverings and projects demanding product-specific installation techniques such as Lincrusta or Weathered Stone.
- Wallcovering changed from sheet or roll goods to other dimensions by the installer. This includes decoupage techniques, cutting roll type wallcovering into smaller pieces to create an altered appearance, or any other wallcovering cut from roll or sheet goods by the installer.
- Acoustical wallcoverings

Small Spaces:
- The Small Spaces category shall include all installations of all types of product fewer than 300 square feet. Measurements must accompany entries.

Commercial:
- The Commercial category shall include all installations of wide (42” and above) fabric and nonwoven backed vinyl, acrylic backed fabric, large format digitally printed images on all substrates, pressure sensitive (self stick) materials, window film, writable, projectionable and magnetic dry erase materials.

Residential:
- All installations of roll or sheet wallcoverings less than 42” wide (including borders) pre-pasted and unpasted, trimmed and untrimmed, foils, flock, grass, paper-weaves, screen prints and all materials other than those listed in the specialty category.
- All paper and non-woven backed fabrics of any width including those backed by a third party.
- Machine, screen or digitally printed panel sets creating a mural or graphic where the panel width is less than 42” wide.