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The EDRA/Places Awards for Place Design and Place Research

Call for Entries

The EDRA/Places Awards program was created to recognize the best in environmental design research and practice today and highlight the relationship between place-based research and design. Place research awards recognize projects that investigate the relationship between the physical form and human behavior or experience. Place design awards recognize completed projects that demonstrate excellence as human environments. These projects in each category are recognized.

Projects for this award program were received from designers, scholars, researchers, public officials, and citizens. They represented the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, planning, interior design, lighting design, graphic design, environmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, and geography.

Place Design

Place research awards recognize projects that study the design, use, or management of places, pay special attention to the relationship between physical form and human activity or experience, and seek to inform design practice. All types of research can be nominated, including studies that provide background for specific designs or plans, evaluate recent projects, or document the form and use of established places.

Projects should enrich our understanding of how people interact with places from a behavioral, social, or cultural perspective, how people experience places, or processes through which places are designed, occupied, and managed. Projects should consider traditional public places like streets, parks and squares; quasi-public places like campuses, religious or commercial facilities; or private places that have a social nature or purpose, such as offices or special housing facilities. They should address a question of social importance or explore how designs can be configured to serve a broader constituency.

Research methods and findings should be carefully documented and clearly communicated. Projects should be grounded in the context of recent literature and practice, be repeatable and be able to be validated by peer review. Projects can revisit previous research, confirming, extending or challenging earlier findings. They should have broad applicability, informing design practice or teaching or setting the stage for further research.

Submission Requirements: With each nomination, include a statement that is no more than two pages and 500 words long, covering the following questions:
1. Describe the site involved, the client for the study (if any), the research question and methodology, and the findings.
2. How does this project address our understanding of human interaction with or experience of the physical environment?

Bryant Park
Hugh Hardy, of Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer was the architect for all the buildings and curbs created on the Fifth Avenue terrace and within the park, and his firm submitted the nomination that received a Design Award. Bryant Park's success is the result of a collaborative effort. Here are the key landscape architects for the park redesign and William H. Whyte provided important sociological observation of behavior within the park, as well as bold and effective programming and management strategies. Joe Beck of Ennis Construction, who led the entire renovation of the New York Public Library, as well as the expansion and construction of the underground studio beneath the park. Koeppel & Knuchelsdorfer restored the public restrooms and maintenance structures. Howard M. Shusterman and Partners were the lighting designers; Joseph K. Luing was the civil, electrical, and mechanical engineer; and Robert B. Nemerson was the structural engineer. London & Miller executed the final design and installation of the pavilion beds. The client for the park project was Bryant Park Restoration Corporation.

Waterworks Garden
Lorna Jordan, the artist and lead designer of Waterworks Garden, submitted the nomination that received a Design Award. She is an installation and environmental artist known for her arts-in-residence projects for Seattle Public Utilities. Jonas and Jones Architects were the landscape architects, and Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers were the civil and structural engineers. Sarman and Wilson were the wetlands scientists and geotechnical engineers. Irrigation design was provided by Dragonfly Irrigation. Pulitzer was the general contractor. Water works is a project of the King County Public Affairs Program and the Water Pollution Control Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and the City of Renton, Wash. The project client team included Carol Jolanta, Bill Barnwell, Mark Salisbury, and Fred Choo.

Radnor Gateways
The principal planners of Radnor Gateways, Ronald Lee Pinedo, submitted the nomination that received a Design Award. Pinedo, who has worked for many years in creating and implementing this project, is also the founder, since 1979, of the Toucan Institute, a not-for-profit public-interest planning organization in Cambridge, Mass. The institute's principal work has been in over one hundred communities and two countries with a project that includes consulting, education, and the execution of design work. The design team for Radnor Gateways included architect William B. Reineman, Cap, Lou, Robinson & Nesmith; landscape architect, and Dennis Spengler, who provided the clock. The client for Radnor Gateways was The Township of Radnor and Radnor Gateways Strategic Enhancement Committee.
3. What issues and places of social importance does this research consider?

4. How are the findings transferable to the design of places, the teaching of design, or the framing of further research?

Place Research
Nominations for this award can consist of individual structures, spaces or elements and multiple-structures, spaces or elements that work together as a unit. They can involve the design of something new or the reuse of existing resources. Places must be recognizable and distinct with a larger fabric of relationships. The scale could be large or small, ranging from a local street to a civic boulevard, a community park to a regional greenway, a single room to a clump of buildings and spaces, a monument to a family of streetscape elements.

Projects should help improve their setting by advancing a larger plan, repairing an unsatisfactory relationship or adding something that a previous design failed to provide. They should address a question of social importance, involve a place that is meaningful to a community or advances a societal goal, or explore how design can be configured to serve a broader constituency. They should address the intersection of people and the built environment.

Projects must have been completed within the last five years, with preference to those completed long enough to assess how well they function for inhabitants and/or users.

Public Spaces, Public Life
Ian Ghil received a Research Award for the publication: Public Spaces, Public Life. Ghil received his architecture design-education in Denmark at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He is a member of the Danish Academy of Fine Arts. Since 1973, he has been head of the Urban Design Program at the Academy. He received his honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in 1982 and the "Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize for exemplary contribution to town planning" by the International Union of Architects (1998). Significant contributions to this project were made by Lars Bonne, who worked closely with Ghil to create the faculty of the Urban Design Program at the Royal Academy in 1982 after completion of this study. Lars has lectured extensively on his work in Europe and North America.

Blueprint for a Sustainable Bay Area
Urban Ecology, an nonprofit membership organization founded in 1975, received a Research Award for its publication Blueprint for a Sustainable Bay Area. The organization educates individuals through publications, forums and tours; it undertakes neighborhood change with the Community Design Consulting Program; it seeks land-use policy reform at the local government level with the Realize the Vision Program; and it is a leader in planning sustainable regions, with a special focus on the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1990, Urban Ecology hosted the first International Ten Cities Conference and its...
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Design and Research

Waterworks Garden
Waterworks Garden, an eight-acre stormwater treatment garden that was designed in conjunction with a reclamation plant in Renton, WA, is an example of how an industrial facility can incorporate innovative and natural place-making strategies for providing rich public spaces. Photo: Lorna Jordan

Bryant Park
The restoration of Bryant Park encompassed the collaborative efforts of many professionals and researchers. Located in midtown Manhattan and serving as the grounds for the New York Public Library, this major urban space exemplifies how restorative and revitalizing efforts can help to restructure a vital urban space. Photo: Paul Warchol

Chapter One: A PIVOTAL MOMENT
The Choice Is Ours

Blueprint for a Sustainable Bay Area
The book Blueprint for a Sustainable Bay Area (1996) is an invaluable educational guide that explains how to achieve a more positive level of human interaction with the physical environment. The document’s clarity and user-friendly qualities set a high standard. Photo: Urban Ecology
Awards

Radnor Gateways Enhancement Strategy
The implementation of Radnor Gateways, which encompasses the building of a series of landscape and artistic projects throughout the city of Radnor, PA, successfully addresses a suburban roadway corridor by creating a landscape that has historical overtones, and that is coherent at both the pedestrian and automobile scale. Photo: William Reimann

Public Spaces, Public Life
The book Public Spaces, Public Life is based on research conducted over a thirty-year period. The focus of the study is pedestrian activity and public life in Copenhagen. Photo: Jan Gehl, Lari Genswein

Alzheimer's Special Care Units
The research document Assisted Living Treatment Residences for People with Alzheimer's Disease presents valuable insight into place-specific research that focuses on Special Care Units and Assisted Living Treatment Residences for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Photo: Anton Graud