Places and the Environmental Design Research Association announce the third annual EDRA/Places Awards for Place Design, Planning and Research.

Place Design awards recognize completed projects that demonstrate excellence as human environments. Place Planning awards recognize projects that establish future direction for the design, management or use of a place. Place Research awards recognize projects that investigate the relationship between physical form and human behavior or experience.

We encourage nominations for exemplary design, planning and research projects from practitioners and researchers from any design or social science discipline. The awards will be presented in May, 2000, at EDRA's annual meeting, at which there will also be an exhibition and symposium about the winning projects. The awards will be published in the fall, 2000, issue of Places.

PLACE DESIGN AWARDS
What kind of place qualifies? Nominations can consist of individual structures, spaces or elements, or groups that work together as a unit. They can include the design of something new or the rescue of existing resources. The scale could be large or small, ranging from a block wall to a civic boulevard, a community park or a regional greenspace, a single room to a fluster of buildings and spaces. Projects must have been completed within the last five years, but long enough to show how well they function for inhabitants and/or users.

Why does this project qualify? Projects must be recognized as distance within a larger fabric of relationships — they should help improve their setting by advancing a larger plan, repair an unsatisfactory relationship, or add something that a previous design failed to provide. Submissions should involve a place that is meaningful to a community, consider a network of social importance, or explore how design can be configured to serve a broader community. Submissions should address the relationship between design research and design outcomes.

PLACE PLANNING AWARDS
What kind of place qualifies? Any plan that makes proposals for the future use, management or design of a place can be nominated — including (but not limited to) master plans, specific plans or elements, management plans, vision documents or charter proposals.

Plans can operate in a range of scales, from a specific area, such as a campus or neighborhood, to a region. They can consider a variety of issues, such as urban design, land use, open space, historic preservation, environmental resources, management, capital projects, housing, public art, social services or economic development.

Plans must have been sponsored by an organized entity — such as a public agency, community group, or private business or institution. Plans should be available for public review, but they need not have received official approval.

Why does this project qualify? Plans should address how specific places or activities operate within a larger web of spatial, functional and cultural relationships.

Why does this project qualify? Planners should explain why the area they cover should be considered a place. They should involve places of public or social significance, consider issues of social importance, or be configured to expand the constituency for a place.

Plans should have a clear methodology. They should have effective strategies for participation and communication, involving affected constituencies in formulating the plan and conveying the plan’s significance to those whose involvement and commitment will be necessary.

Plans should have demonstrable impact. They should result in specific design, management or policy initiatives; break new ground or strengthen the constituency for the place; attract additional resources to the place; or shift the discussion about or perception of the place.

PLACE RESEARCH AWARDS
What kind of research qualifies? All types of research about the design and use of places can be nominated — including (but not limited to) projects that document the form or perception of places or landscapes; evaluate the use or management of recent projects or established settings; or provide background for specific designs or plans.

Why does this project qualify? Research projects should consider the relationship between physical form and human activity or experience. They should convey 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 places of public or social importance — such as streets, parks and squares, campuses, religious or commercial facilities, or offices or special housing facilities. Projects should have broad applicability, informing design practice or teaching. The research methods, findings and implications should be clearly documented and communicated. Projects should be clearly grounded in the context of recent literature and practice; they can revisit previous research, confirm, extend or challenge current findings.

Complete rules and entry forms are available by contacting:

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Deadline: February 16, 2000