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Call for Submissions
2009 Great Places Awards

Places, the Environmental Design Research Association, and Metropolis magazine announce the twelfth annual awards program for Place Design, Place Planning, and Place Research. We seek entries of exemplary work from practitioners and researchers from the full breadth of environmental-design and related social-science activity, including architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, interior design, lighting design, graphic design, environmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, and geography.

In recognition of its expansion and the continued participation of Metropolis, the awards program has a new name in 2009: the Great Places Awards. The renamed program continues the mission of the original EDRA/Places Awards—to recognize professional and scholarly excellence in design, planning, research, and academic publication, and to promote critical awareness and appreciation of the design and maintenance of the public realm.

Each year the program sponsors convene a jury with a diverse background in design, research, teaching, and practice to evaluate how all submitted projects address the human experience of place. Special attention is paid to the transferability of research into design and planning practice, and vice versa. The jury may select up to six winners from three categories: Place Design, Place Planning, and Place Research. An additional Book Award may also be given.

The deadline for entries is February 9, 2009. The awards jury will be held February 28 to March 1 at the University of Texas at Austin, with winners announced the week following. Official presentations will be made at the EDRA annual conference, in May 2009, in Kansas City, Missouri. Winning projects will be announced in Metropolis and on the Places website, with full write-ups and commentary published in the Fall 2009 issue of Places.

For more information about the awards program and to obtain entry forms or brochures, visit www.places-journal.org and/or www.edra.org.

The postmark deadline for submissions is February 9, 2009.

Submissions are accepted in the following categories:

Place Research. All types of research about the design and use of places can be entered, 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.

Place Planning. Any plan that makes proposals for the future use, management, or design of a place can be entered—including master plans, specific plans or elements, management plans, vision documents, or charrette proposals. Plans must have been sponsored by an organized entity (such as a public agency, community group, or private business or institution), though they need not have received official approval.

Place Design. Any design project completed within the last five years (but long enough to assess how well it functions for its users) can be entered. Projects can consist of individual structures, spaces or elements, or groups that work together as a unit. They can involve the design of something new or the reuse of existing resources. The scale may be large or small.

Book Award. Recently published books advancing the critical understanding of place and design of exceptional environments.

2009 Jury
David Lake, Lake/Flato Architects
Elizabeth MacDonald, City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley
Rahul Mehrotra, Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lawrence Speck, Page Sutherland Page
William Sullivan, Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Please send entries to:
Janet Singer, Executive Director
Environmental Design Research Association
Post Office Box 7146
Edmond, OK 73083-7146
Tel: 405.330.4863
Fax: 405.330.4150
e-mail: edra@edra.org