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Places

Title

EDRA / Places Awards -- Third Annual Call for Submissions

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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 places qualify? Nominations 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 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 cluster of buildings and spaces. Projects must have been completed within the last five years, but long enough to assess how well they function for inhabitants and/or users.

What issues does the jury consider? Places must be recognizable as distinct 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 an issue of social importance, or explore how design can be configured to serve a broader constituency. Submissions should address the relationship between design research and design outcomes.

PLACE PLANNING AWARDS

What kind of plans qualify? 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 charrette proposals.

Plans can operate at 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/resource 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.

What issues does the jury consider? Plans should address how specific places or activities operate within a larger fabric of spatial, functional and cultural relationships.

Plans 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; broaden 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.

What issues does the jury consider? Research projects should consider the relationship between physical form and human activity or experience. They 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 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, confirming, extending or challenging earlier findings.

Complete rules and entry forms are available by contacting:

Janet Singer, Executive Director
Environmental Design Research Association
1800 Canyon Park Circle, Building 4, Suite 403
Edmond, OK 73013

Deadline: February 18, 2000