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Places

Title

EDRA / Places Awards for Place Design and Place Research -- Call for Entries

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/8m62c35v>

Journal

Places, 12(1)

ISSN

0731-0455

Publication Date

1998-10-01

Peer reviewed

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. Three projects in each category are recognized.

Projects for this awards 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?

AWARDS

Bryant Park

Hugh Hardy, of Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer was the architect for all the kiosks and cafes 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. Hanna/Olin Ltd. was landscape architect for the park redesign and William H. Whyte provided important sociological observation of behavior within the park, as well as bold and effective programmatic and management strategies. Lew Davis of Davis Brody Architects led the entire renovation of the New York Public Library, as well as the expansion and construction of the underground stacks beneath the park. Koupic and Koutsomitis restored the public restrooms and maintenance structures. Howard M. Brandston and Partners were the lighting designers; Joseph R. Loring was the civil, electrical and mechanical engineer; and Robert R. Rosenwasser was the structural engineer. Lynden B. Miller executed the final design and installation of the perennial 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 and is currently Artist-in-Residence for Seattle Public Utilities. Jones and Jones Architects were the

landscape architects, and Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers were the civil and structural engineers. Sannon and Wilson were the wetlands scientists and geotechnical engineers; irrigation design was provided by Dragonfly Irrigation; Fuji Industries was the general contractor. Waterworks is a project of the King County Public Arts Program and the Water Pollution Control Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and the City of Renton, WA. The project client team included Carol Valenta, Bill Burwell, Mark Sakagami and Fred Chou.

Radnor Gateways

The principal planner of Radnor Gateways, Ronald Lee Fleming, submitted the nomination that received a Design Award. Fleming, who has worked for many years in creating and implementing this project, is also the founder, since 1979, of The Townscape Institute, a not-for-profit public interest planning organization in Cambridge, MA. The Institute's principals have worked in over one hundred communities and ten countries with a practice that includes consulting, advocacy, education and the execution of design work. The design team for Radnor Gateways included artist William B. Reimann; Coe, Lee, Robinson and Roesch, landscape architects; and Dennis Sparling, who produced 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 cluster 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 interaction 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.

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 and its surroundings, the client, the scope of work and the design process.
2. How does this project contribute to the ongoing design or transformation of a larger place? How does it encourage multiple kinds of investment over time?
3. What issues and places of social importance does this project consider?
4. What evidence is there that this project is important or special to its inhabitants and users?
5. What aspects of, or lessons from, this project are transferable or applicable to other projects?
6. What research background was useful in designing this project? What research questions would be pertinent in evaluating it? What research could be done that would help make a future project of this sort even more successful?

1999 Awards Program

For information about the 1999 EDRA/*Places* Awards for Place Design and Place Research, contact:

Todd W. Bressi, Executive Editor
Places, A Forum of Environmental Design
 110 Higgins Hall, Pratt Institute School of Architecture
 200 Willoughby Avenue
 Brooklyn, NY 11205
 718-399-6090 (t); placepratt@aol.com (email)

Public Spaces, Public Life

Jan Gehl received a Research Award for the publication *Public Spaces, Public Life*. Gehl received his architecture design education in Denmark at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He is a member of the Danish Architects Association. Since 1970, he has been head of the Urban Design Program at the Academy. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh (1992) and the "Sir Patrick Abercrombie Prize for exemplary contribution to town planning" by the International Union of Architects (1993). Significant contributions to this project were made by Lars Gemzøe, who worked closely with Gehl. Gemzøe joined the faculty of the Urban Design Program at the Royal Academy in 1982 after completion of his studies there. He has lectured extensively on his work in Europe and North America.

Blueprint for a Sustainable Bay Area

Urban Ecology, a 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 Eco-Cities Conference and in

1998, the organization received the American Planning Association's national Public Education Award.

Alzheimer's Special Care Units

John Zeisel received a Research Award for the study *Assisted Living Treatment Residences for People with Alzheimer's Disease*. Zeisel is President of Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, a company that manages Assisted Living Residences for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The interdisciplinary team headed by Zeisel included his partner at Hearthstone, psychologist Joan Hyde, Gerontologists Nina Silverstein of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Susan Levkoff of Harvard University, M. Powell Lawton of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center, Douglas Holmes and Jeanne Teresi of the Hebrew Home for the Aged in New York, and researcher Linda Shi. The client (funder) was the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) under its Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) program. Zeisel was recently a recipient of the 1998 EDRA Career Award for his contributions to design research. He is also the author of *Inquiry by Design* and has taught at numerous universities in the U.S. and Canada. He received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Columbia University and a Loeb Fellowship from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

EDRA / Places

Design and Research



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 resurrect a vital urban space.

Photo: Paul Warchol

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*



1 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



Alzheimer's Special Care Units

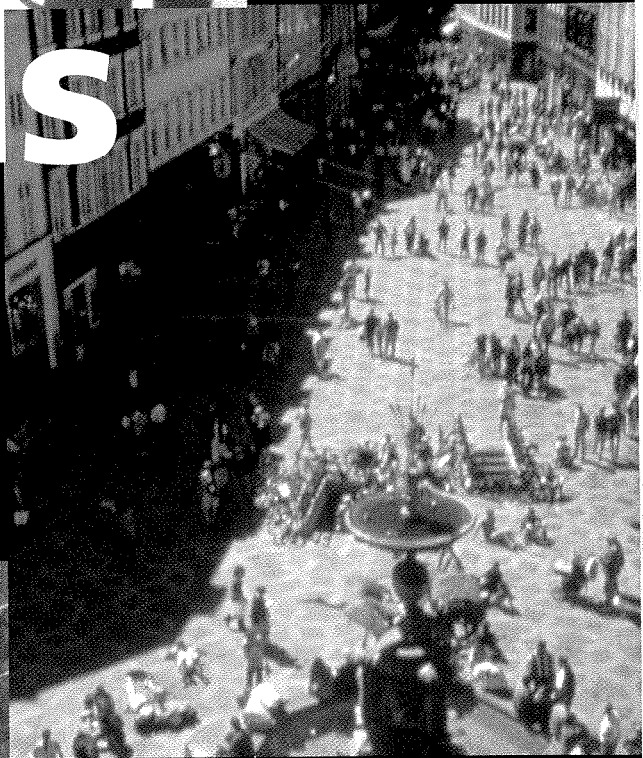
The research document *Assisted Living Treatment Residences for People with Alzheimer's Disease* presents valuable insight into place-specific research that focuses on Special Care Units and Assisted Living Treatment Residences for people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Photo: Anton Grassl

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 highway 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, Lars Gemzøe*