

2020
GREAT
PLACES
AWARDS



DEADLINE
January 03, 2020

ABOUT THE GREAT PLACES

The Environmental Design Research Association, in partnership with Project for Public Spaces, presents the 22nd Annual Great Places Awards.

THE PROGRAM

The Great Places Awards are unique among programs that honor professional and scholarly excellence in environmental design. They seek to recognize work that combines expertise in design, research, and practice, and contributes to the creation of dynamic, humane places that engage our attention and imagination.

Award-winning projects reflect an interdisciplinary approach that is enduring, human-centered, sustainable, and concerned with the experiential relationship between people and their environment (built and natural) over time.

We invite participation from a range of design and research disciplines — particularly projects whose significance extends beyond any one profession or field.

All submissions should also demonstrate how an understanding of the experience of place may be used to generate insightful design. Submissions should show how research and/or public participation is linked to or part of an environmental design practice, and vice versa.

We welcome submissions from the full breadth of environmental design and related research fields, including architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, interior design, lighting design, graphic design, place-based public art, environmental psychology, sociology, anthropology, geography, and the physical sciences.

All submissions for the 2020 Great Places Awards must be electronically UPLOADED to the submission site at www.edra.org/greatplaces by 11:59pm ET on January 03, 2020.

THE PROCESS

Each year we assemble a jury with diverse backgrounds in design, research, and practice. The jury evaluates how each project, no matter what the discipline, addresses **the human experience** of well-designed places. Special attention is paid to the transferability of research on this topic into design and planning practice. The jury will select exceptional submissions from four categories: Place Design, Place Planning, Place Research, and a Book Award.

The jury will convene in early 2020 and awards will be presented at EDRA51 Tempe, April 04-07, 2020 in Tempe, AZ. The winning entries will be on display throughout the conference and publicized throughout the year in various print and electronic publications.

AWARD CATEGORIES

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Book Award (Page 8)

THE PEOPLE

The **Environmental Design Research Association** (EDRA) is a global interdisciplinary community of research, design, and planning educators, professionals, and students.

EDRA focuses on the links between people and their built and natural environments.

Founded in 1968, EDRA's roots are strong. Our organization's vibrant network of visionaries has anticipated movements in research and design decades before they have hit the mainstream. EDRA's lineage of members have pioneered environment and behavior studies, evidence-based design, facility evaluation methods, attention to social justice and equity in the built environment, sustainability, active living community planning, universal design, diversity in design, workplace design, informatics, and digital technologies.

EDRA's membership boasts many venerable and leading-edge design/planning researchers and practitioners.

Their work, in conjunction with major universities and organizations, is reshaping diverse environments and government policies on national and global scales.

At EDRA, researchers and practitioners work together to create places where people thrive.

The logo for the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) features the lowercase letters 'edra' in a bold, rounded, sans-serif font. The letters are a dark green color. The 'e' and 'd' are connected at the top, and the 'r' and 'a' are also connected at the top. The 'a' has a small tail that loops back to the right.

Environmental Design Research Association

ABOUT THE GREAT PLACES

THE PARTNER

EDRA is proud to partner with Project for Public Spaces (PPS) in the 2020 Great Places Awards.



PPS is a nonprofit planning, design, and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. Their pioneering Placemaking approach helps citizens transform their public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs.

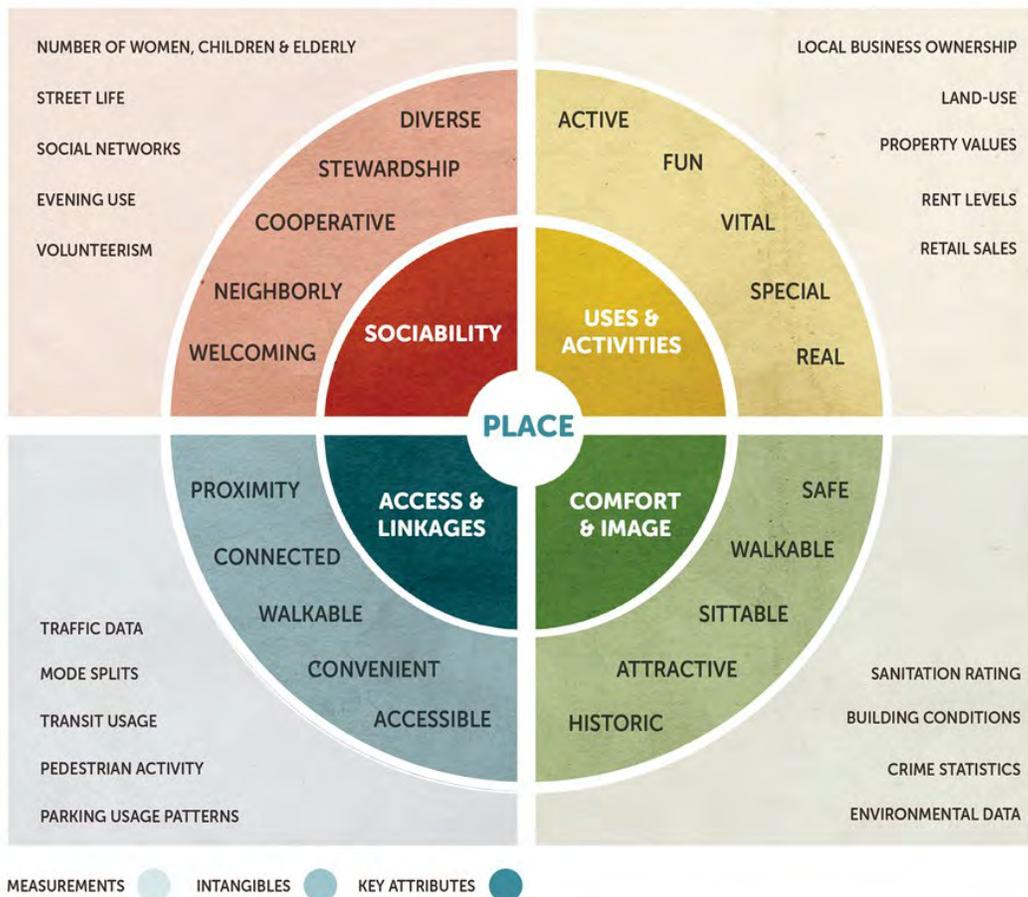
WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?

Placemaking is a collaborative process that engages people in creating and sustaining the public destinations at the heart of their community: the places where we play, shop, eat, gather, interact, and to build the social ties that hold a community together.

Four attributes are key to the success of any place: it is accessible and well connected to other important places in the area; the space is comfortable and projects a good image; people are drawn to participate in activities there; it is a sociable place where people like to gather, visiting it again and again.

The Place Diagram was developed to help communities evaluate their own places. The inner ring represents key attributes, the middle ring intangible qualities, and the outer ring measurable data.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



SUBMISSION RULES

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit a written statement of no more than 500 words total addressing the questions below. **Failure to explicitly address the submission requirements outlined below in the written project statement will disqualify an entry.**

Entries must also include a PDF document of no more than 20 pages in length and 10mb in file size that provides illustrations of the project and which substantiates points made in the written statement. **File sizes larger than 10mb will not be included in the jurying process.**

1. Each entry must follow the specific submission requirements for its category as described and must be submitted in English. Failure to address all the questions in the written statement will disqualify an entry.
2. Submissions, including the written statement, and supplemental materials PDF of no more than 20 pages in length and 10mb in file size must be uploaded to www.edra.org/greatplaces. Any material submitted in hard copy format will not be included in the review process.
3. **All submissions must be uploaded to www.edra.org/greatplaces and payments received (not postmarked) by EDRA Headquarters no later than 11:59 pm ET on January 03, 2020.** Each submission received will receive a confirmation email.
4. Submissions will not be processed unless the appropriate entry fee has been received: EDRA Members \$150/Non-Members \$175.
5. Credit card payments for entry fees must be made online through the EDRA website at www.edra.org/greatplaces.
6. In order to receive the EDRA member entry fee, the submitter must be an active member of the Environmental Design Research Association. Submitters wishing to join EDRA to receive the discounted entry fee may join online at www.edra.org. Membership types and fees can be found on the entry form. For additional membership information, please visit www.edra.org. You may reach EDRA Headquarters at +1 (507) 339-4620 for further assistance.
7. Jurors reserve the right to transfer an entry from the category in which it was entered to a more appropriate category.
8. To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties may appear on any part of the submissions except on the entry form. Do not conceal the location or identity of projects. Provide all project credits in a separate electronic file entitled "Credits." For Book Award submission, Credits should include a list of all contributors to the book and their Rules for Submission contributions, including individuals who have provided materials from professional design, planning, or community development projects and whose professional/scholarly place-design/planning work might be featured within the book.
9. Entrants are encouraged to submit any additional materials (documents, drawings, slides, letters of support, articles, and reviews) they feel necessary to explain the project fully. These materials must be submitted electronically as part of the aforementioned PDF document no more than 20 pages in length and 10mb in file size.
10. All 2020 Great Places Awards will be recognized during EDRA's 2020 conference, EDRA51, April 04-07, 2020 in Tempe, AZ. One award winner for each of the four categories will receive a voucher for a one-day conference registration, and 20% off an additional one-day registration. The discount does not apply to the dinner banquet/mobile sessions.
11. Submitters of winning entries agree to make available further information and graphic material, as requested.
12. Drawings, photographs, and other materials submitted for winning projects will be used for unrestricted publicity. Each entrant must clear all drawings, photographs, and slides included in submission for reuse and reproduction by EDRA. Entrants are responsible for any royalties or copyright fees.

Deadline: January 03, 2020

Submissions can feature place design projects of various types and scales; projects can consist of an individual built element or cohesive groups of environments that work together as a unit. They can involve the design of something new or the reuse of existing resources.

Projects can be of any scale, from a local street to a civic boulevard, a community park to a regional greenway, an interior space to a room to a cluster of buildings and spaces.

Projects must have been completed within the **last five years** but have been in existence for a sufficient period of time to enable assessment of how well the design responds to user needs.

WHAT ISSUES DO 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 vision, repair an unsatisfactory relationship, or add something that a previous design failed to provide.

Designs submitted should involve a place that is meaningful to a community, consider an issue of social, cultural, or ecological importance, or demonstrate how the design is configured to serve a broader constituency and provide enduring benefits.

Designs submitted should illustrate the potential to enhance quality of life of a wide range of user groups.

Submissions should address the design project context and significance; the design project process — illustrating response to human-needs research, human perceptions, citizen participation; relation of process to design outcomes; and both the focused and broader impact of the design project.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

The written statement of no more than 500 words should address the following:

1. Overall Context – Describe the place and its surrounding contexts. Who was the client for and/or sponsor of the project? What issues of social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental importance does the project consider? Describe any other contextual issues that are important to understanding the significance of the project;

2. Process – Describe the place-design problem that the project addresses. Describe the approach used and the design process, including the time frame in which the process took place; and strategies for involving stakeholders in formulating the response. What environmental design research was useful in designing this project? What constituencies participated in the process?

3. Outcomes – Describe how the process and resulting design outcomes innovatively respond to outlined concerns and problems. How does this specific project contribute to the ongoing transformation of a larger fabric of places? What environmental design research is pertinent in evaluating the project? What environmental design research would advance future projects of this type? How were lessons learned disseminated?

4. Impact – What systematically collected evidence illustrates the impact of this project on improving human-environment relationships? What research or other systematically collected evidence is there that the project has broadened or strengthened the constituency for this place, and that it has the potential to enhance quality of life of a broad constituency? How have lessons learned influenced successive place-design projects.

Any plan generated within the **past three years** that makes proposals for the future use, management, or design of a place can be entered—including master plans, issue/component-specific plans or elements, management plans, vision documents, or charrette proposals, as long as people-place consideration and well-being is a central focus of the plan/process.

Plans can operate at a range of scales, from a specific area, such as a cluster of buildings, a campus or neighborhood, to a region. They can consider a variety of issues, such as urban design, preservation, social equity, environmental management, transportation, accessibility, community development, facilities programming, and community visioning.

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

WHAT ISSUES DO THE JURY CONSIDER?

Plans should address the context of how specific places or activities operate within a larger fabric of spatial, functional, economic, political, environmental, and cultural relationships. Plans should involve places of public, environmental, or social significance, consider issues of social and environmental importance, and/or be configured to expand the constituency for a place especially to those groups that are often underrepresented in mainstream planning processes. Plans should indicate clear, relevant and innovative methods/processes. They should incorporate effective strategies for participation and communication amongst stakeholders, involving affected constituencies in formulating the plan and conveying the plan's significance to those whose involvement and commitment will be necessary for achieving the plan goals and objectives.

Even if the plan goals have not yet been realized, the planning process should have demonstrable outcomes that indicate progress towards achieving the stated outcomes. They should result in specific design, management, or policy initiatives; broaden and strengthen the constituency for the place; attract additional resources to the place; or enhance the discussion about or perception of the place. The emphasis of an entry should be to clearly describe the process that led to the final plan.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

The written statement of no more than 500 words should address the following:

- 1. Overall Context** – Describe the place involved; the client for and/or sponsor of the plan; the different stakeholder groups involved in the planning process, and any other contextual issues that are important to understanding the significance of the plan.
- 2. Process** – Describe the questions/issues of concern that the plan addresses, the approach used, and specific planning methods and processes, including the time frame in which the planning took place; and strategies for involving stakeholders in formulating the plan and the research that was used in creating/developing the plan;
- 3. Outcomes** – Describe how the process and resulting plan innovatively respond to outlined concerns and problems. Describe steps and timelines for implementation and communication and engagement strategies by which stakeholders, policy makers, and funders have gained an understanding of the significance of the proposals.
- 4. Impact** – Discuss research that would be pertinent to evaluating the plan, and/or would help make future plans of this sort more effective? Describe evidence of the impact the plan has had to date. How was impact assessed? What individuals or organizations were involved in impact assessment? What changes have come about as a result of the planning process? What other research can help make similar plans more effective in the future.

All types of research about the design and use of people-centered places completed within the **past three years** can be entered — including (but not limited to) projects that:

- Document the physical, emotional, or perceptual experience of places or landscapes
- Employ evaluations of the use or management of recent projects or established settings
- Introduce novel approaches to studying place that are relevant to environment-behavior explorations
- Deal with pressing, timely issues and conditions of place
- Are based upon cultural history of a place or research on place-based sustainable practices, among many others that are place-relevant, and yield significant outcomes.

WHAT ISSUES DO THE JURY CONSIDER?

Research projects should consider the relationship between existing or proposed physical form and human activity or experience. They should enrich our understanding of how people interact with places from a behavioral, social, cultural, or ecological perspective; how people experience places; or processes through which places are conceived, designed, occupied, and managed. Projects should consider places of public, social or cultural importance — such as market places, plazas, parks, squares and streets; campuses, religious, or commercial facilities; or offices, special housing facilities, or extended development patterns.

Research should demonstrate innovation and submissions should describe how the project breaks new ground. 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.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

The written statement of no more than 500 words should address the following:

- 1. Overall Context** – Describe the context, place or place-type involved, significant issues explored, and the client for the study. Clearly describe the theoretical foundation of the research. What issues and places of social, cultural, political, environmental, or scientific importance does this research consider?
- 2. Process** – Describe the research questions/hypothesis, methods, and explain how the project relates to recent literature and practice.
- 3. Outcomes** – Describe findings and/or research outcomes. How does this research address our understanding of human interaction with or experience of the physical environment? What new knowledge/understanding does it advance?
- 4. Impact** – How can the research findings contribute to the creation of dynamic, humane places that engage our attention and imagination and heighten the experiential relationship between people and their environment over time? How can the research findings be used in designing and caring for places or teaching about place?

Any book published in the **last three years** advancing the critical understanding of place or design of exceptional environments can be entered.

The book may be primarily scholarly, practical, literary, critical, or visual. The book must be currently available to the public through bookstores, commercial websites, or direct purchase from a publisher.

Books may not be self-published. They must have been published for the first time in the last three years. They may not be re-edited or be re-released versions of older works.

WHAT ISSUES DO THE JURY CONSIDER?

Books should be primarily about the experience, design, or understanding of place. They may be analytic, descriptive, documentary, or practice oriented. They may be about particular places; about people's relationship to place, or about the qualities of place as an area of study. They may be edited volumes or individually authored works. The book should illustrate a mature research agenda that is informed by place-people centered theories and literature, communicates a sound approach, and informs of compelling outcomes/findings. The methodology used must be appropriate for the focus of the book and demonstrate the refined realization of a stated research agenda, with perspective, theory, or findings that are applicable in the future practice of place-based design, planning, or research, and these must engage with and contribute to existing themes in the literature on place.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In this category only, please include a digital PDF of the book in the electronic submission (10mb file size limit does not apply to the actual PDF book submission). Finalists may be asked to provide a hard copy of the book as part of the final award jurying process. In the accompanying credits for all book award submissions, please list all contributors to the book and identify their contributions, including those who have provided materials from professional design, planning or community development projects.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS

The written statement of no more than 500 words should address the following:

1. Overall Context – Describe the context, focus of the book, place or place-type involved, significant issues explored, and the type of book. What issues and places of social, cultural, political, environmental, or scientific importance does this book consider? Explain how the book relates to recent place-centered literature and practice.

2. Process – Clearly describe the perspective and theoretical foundation of the book, the structure of the narrative, the paradigm examined/investigations carried out, and the methods employed. How does this book address our understanding of human interaction with or experience of place?

3. Outcomes – Describe the place-based strategies and findings identified and the outcomes articulated in the book. What new knowledge/understanding does it advance?

4. Impact – How can the research agenda and book outcomes be applicable in the future practice and stewardship of place-based design, planning, research? How does this book contribute to existing themes in literature on place?

**You must also supply an electronic copy of the book in addition to the supporting documents. (10mb file size limit does not apply to the actual PDF of the book)*

**Book award finalists may be asked to provide a hard copy of the book as part of the final jury process.*