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 demonstrate how the 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 2021 Great Places Awards must be electronically UPLOADED to the submission site at www.edra.org/greatplaces by 11:59pm PST on February 5, 2021.

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 five categories: place design, place planning, place research, place book, and place art.

The jury will convene in early 2021 and awards will be announced and presented at EDRA52 DETROIT, conference held virtually in May 19 - 23, 2021. The winning entries will be on display throughout the conference and publicized throughout the year in various print and electronic publications.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Place Design (pp 5)       Place Planning (pp 7)
Place Research (pp 9)     Place Book (pp 10)
Place Art (pp 11)

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 have 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.
EDRA is proud to partner with Project for Public Spaces (PPS) in the 2021 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.

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.
SUBMISSION RULES

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The GPA Awards submission is fully online. The submission consists of a written statement, and project documentation, in the form of PDF documents. Entries strictly anonymous (with the exception of Place Book entries). Failure to submit an entry that responds to all the above requirements will result in disqualification.

1. Each entry must follow the specific submission requirements for its category as described and must be submitted in English.

2. The online submission requires the following information: Submission type, Title, Submitter, Written Statement, Support Documentation, Payment, and Confirmation. The Place Book online submission also requires a Digital Copy of the Book.

3. The Written Statement should not exceed 500 words and address four sub-topics in relation to the design or research project submitted: Overall Context, Process, Outcomes, and Impact.

4. Support Documentation may include, but are not limited to press releases, letters of endorsement, written testimony/quotes by stakeholders or users, and imagery. Submitters must anonymize such evidence to comply with submission requirements.

5. Entries must also include a PDF document of no more than 20 pages in length and 20mb in file size that provides illustrations of the project and which substantiates points made in the written statement. Entrants are encouraged to complete the PDF document with any additional materials (documents, drawings, slides, letters of support, articles, and reviews) they feel necessary to explain the project fully. File sizes larger than 20mb will not be included in the jurying process with the only exception of Place Book submissions that might exceed 10MB (up to 120MB).

6. All submissions must be uploaded to www.edra.org/greatplaces Payments must be received by EDRA Headquarters no later than 11:59 pm ET on February 05, 2021. Each submission will receive an automatic confirmation email.

7. Submissions will not be processed unless the appropriate entry fee has been received: EDRA Members $150/Non-Members $175. Credit card payments for entry fees must be made online through the EDRA website at www.edra.org/greatplaces.

8. 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 or by calling +1 (507) 339-4620 prior to submission. Membership types and fees can be found on the entry form. For additional membership information, please visit www.edra.org.

9. Jurors reserve the right to transfer an entry from the category in which it was entered to a more appropriate category.

10. A Winner for each category is awarded by the jurors, and additional Honorable Mentions might also be bestowed depending on the quality of runner-up projects in the various categories.

11. To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties or any link to a dedicated website may appear in any part of the online submissions except on the Submitter tab. Location and identity of projects can be disclosed. Provide all project credits in a separate electronic file entitled “Credits.” For Place Book submissions, Credits should include a list of all contributors to the book and their tasks 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.

12. All 2020 Great Places Awards will be recognized during EDRA’s 2021 virtual conference, EDRA52, May 19-22, 2021 in Detroit, MI. One award winner for each of the four categories will receive a 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.

13. Submitters of winning entries agree to make available further information and graphic material, as requested.

14. Drawings, photographs, and other materials submitted for winner and honorable mentions 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: February 05, 2021
Contact: If you have questions reach us at greatplacesawards@edra.org
Place Design awards a project that creates a space (new or redeveloped) that engages with people and the community, creating opportunities of placemaking and addressing people’s needs. Submissions can feature place design projects of various types; projects can consist of an individual built element or cohesive groups of environments that work together as a unit. Projects can be new or reuse existing buildings/facilities/areas. Projects range across various scales such as 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 could be produced by practitioners in a design discipline, non-profits operating in the design of the built environment for a community, and community design centers. Projects produced within Academia and in collaboration with students with an emphasis on research should be submitted to the Place Research category.

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. The written statement should address the impact of the project and it is expected that imagery provided as project documentation will also constitute evidence of how the project responded to people’s needs and contributed to the experience of place.

To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties or any link to a dedicated website may appear in any part of the submissions except in a separate electronic file entitled “Credits.”. Location and identity of projects can be disclosed. Failure to submit anonymous applications or uncompleted submissions will result in disqualification.

JURY CONSIDERATIONS
Designs must contribute to the create of place. Places created through design must be recognizable as distinct within a larger fabric of relationships—they should help improve their setting by either advancing a larger vision, repairing an unsatisfactory relationship, or adding 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.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Submissions should address the design project context and significance; the design project process—illustrating response to human-needs research, human perceptions, citizen participation; the relation of process to design outcomes; and both the focused and broader impact of the design project. Jurors will be asked to assess the four dimensions listed above in the review process.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING
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.
PLACE PLANNING

Place planning awards any plan generated (but not necessarily built/implemented) within the past five years that makes proposals for the future use, future management, or future design of a place—including master plans, management and community development 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, environmental engineering, landscape ecology planning, 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.

To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties or any link to a dedicated website may appear in any part of the submissions except in a separate electronic file entitled “Credits.” Location and identity of projects can be disclosed. Failure to submit anonymous applications or uncompleted submissions will result in disqualification.

JURY CONSIDERATIONS

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.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions should address the plan’s context and significance; the plan’s design process; the relation of process to plan outcomes; and both the focused and broader impact of the plan. Jurors will be asked to assess the four dimensions listed above in the review process.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING

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.
PLACE PLANNING

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.
PLACE RESEARCH

All types of research about the design and use of people-centered places completed within the past five years can be entered either from academia or research development departments within professional design and planning firms. Refer to scale, divide by category and provide examples sorted out by category—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 the cultural history of a place or research on place-based sustainable practices, among many others that are place-relevant, and yield significant outcomes.
- Design/Built project developed in Academia to test assumptions or hypotheses
- Courses that engage students to specific social injustice issues using design, evaluation methods, assessment etc.

To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties or any link to a dedicated website may appear in any part of the submissions except in a separate electronic file entitled “Credits.” Location and identity of projects can be disclosed. Failure to submit anonymous applications or uncompleted submissions will result in disqualification.

JURY CONSIDERATIONS

Place 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 marketplaces, 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.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions should address the research context and significance; the research process and methods; the relation of process to research outcomes/findings; and both the focused and broader impact of the research. Jurors will be asked to assess the four dimensions listed above in the review process.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING

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?
PLACE BOOK

Any book published for the first time in the last five 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 must be published through recognizable publishers such as University Presses, Routledge, and Springer. They may not be re-edited or be re-released versions of older works.

**Book award submissions do not have to be anonymous.** Credits should include a list of all contributors to the book and their tasks 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. Failure to submit uncompleted entries will result in disqualification.

### JURY CONSIDERATIONS

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-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. This submission type does not require an anonymous submission.

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In this category only, please include a digital PDF of the book in the electronic submission (maximum file size 120MB). 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.

### DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING

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. (maximum file size of 120MB - if you find your PDF exceeds the file limit please contact greatplacesawards@edra.org

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

Place Art Award projects that use art as a primary means of exploring people-place relationships—current, historic, contested, imagined, etc.—and the immediate or more far-reaching environmental and societal issues impacting those relationships. These may take form as a temporary, pop-up, or more permanently installed or staged place art intervention, exhibition, event, or program that’s made to socially activate a place and convey, uncover, disrupt, challenge, or transform its socio-environmental dynamics, conditions and meanings.

An emphasis on art as a tool of community placemaking, engagement, and social change means Place Art projects will often engage publics as collaborators and co-creators. They may be authored by individuals or collaborative teams from practice, academia, non-profits, community groups and organizations. They may range in type, dimension, and duration and be single- and/or multi-sited, that is occurring in one or multiple geographies and timeframes and they may be created using diverse media, materials, methods and approaches. Place Art’s roots may extend to a broad range of historic and contemporary art genres and practices such as public art, environmental art, relational art and aesthetics, performance art, new-genre public art, creative placemaking, and activism.

Place Art projects must have been completed–installed/staged/performed– within the last five years and have been in existence for a sufficient period of time to enable documenting and assessing of their impact on the people and public space(s) engaged. A Place Art project’s written statement should address its impact and be accompanied by imagery and other materials evidencing the actual people-place interactions and experiences it has generated.

To maintain anonymity in judging, no names of entrants or collaborating parties or any link to a dedicated website may appear in any part of the submissions except in a separate electronic file entitled “Credits.” Location and identity of projects can be disclosed. Failure to submit anonymous applications or uncompleted submissions will result in disqualification.

JURY CONSIDERATIONS

Place Art entries should be artistic interpretations of places and their people-place interrelationships involving such things as a place’s told and untold stories, histories and memories, its challenges, hopes and desires, and its future imaginings and vision.

Place Art projects should help advocate for the arts as a community engagement tool that can surface a place’s unique challenges, strengths and potentials while enabling and empowering the public to question, explore, express, imagine, reimagine and/or transform that place’s role, purpose and meaning—socially, culturally and/or environmentally—moving forward.

The submitted works should demonstrate how the arts act to catalyze meaningful positive change in a place in one or multiple ways such as: by strengthening or enabling awareness and expression of people-place connectivity and a community’s connection with a place; by fostering greater interhuman and intercultural social interaction; by fostering social and cultural inclusion and place belonging; by enabling and honoring multi-cultural creativity and expression in public places; by educating a broader audience about a particular place; by advocating for a place’s safeguarding or transformation; by emboldening and empowering publics to engage in impactful placemaking that reflects and fortifies their identities, needs and desires; by affirming diverse peoples’ right to inclusive public spaces.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submissions should address the context and significance of the art; the art creation process; the mode of exhibition, the impacts of the art on the community and the place. Jurors will be asked to assess the four dimensions listed above in the review process.

DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING

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

1. Overall Context

Describe the place and its surrounding contexts. What issues and places of social, cultural, political, environmental, or scientific importance does this project consider? Describe any other contextual issues that are important to understanding the significance of the project;
PLACE ART

2. Process
Describe the place problem that the project addresses. Describe the approach used and the creative process, including the time frame in which the process took place; and strategies for involving community in formulating the response. How does this project address questions and issues relate to place through process?

3. Outcomes
Describe how the art has been exhibited and what were the outcomes of the event/installation/performance/built project. How does this project address our understanding of human interaction with or experience of place?

4. Impact
How can the outcomes of engagement/event/performance/installation be applicable in the future practice and stewardship of place-based art, design, planning, and research? How does this project contribute to existing understanding of place?
PHOTO CREDITS

City Thread

**2020 Place Design Winner** - Molly Hunker and Greg Corso

Reciprocal Landscapes: Stories of Material Movement

**2020 Book Award Winner** - Jane Hutton

Double Duty Parks: Two Studies on the Performance of Social Spaces as Resilient Flood Infrastructure

**2020 Place Research Winner** - Anya Domlesky

New Parkland Hospital Evaluation Research

**Place Research Honorable Mention** - Dr. Jerri Brittin

City Thread

**2020 Place Design Winner** - Molly Hunker and Greg Corso

Double Duty Parks: Two Studies on the Performance of Social Spaces as Resilient Flood Infrastructure

**2020 Place Research Winner** - Anya Domlesky

Gateway to Growing: Maring-Hunt Community Built Market Pavilion, Outdoor Kitchen, and Nature Play Pockets

**2020 Place Design Honorable Mention** - Pamela Harwood

Brownie Neighborhood Park

**2020 Place Planning Honorable Mention** - Kristine Stiphany, Jason Sowell, Nathan Brigmon

Integrated Development of Hatirjheel Area, Dhaka

**2020 Place Planning Winner** - Iqbal Habib, Ehsan Khan, Md Ishtiaque Zahir, Vitti Sthapati

GPA 2021 AWARDS

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