

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

## 2023 RIASLA LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARDS

*Recognizing Excellence in Landscape Architecture*



### RIASLA

Rhode Island Society of  
Landscape Architects

**SUBMISSIONS DUE:  
11:59PM October 6th, 2023**



NEEDHAM ACCESSIBLE TRAIL, BETA | 2021 RIASLA Merit Award

The Rhode Island Society of Landscape Architects (RIASLA) is looking to elevate and recognize excellence in all modes of practice in landscape architecture across our state. Professionals and Students are invited to submit their best work for review by the 2023 RIASLA Awards Program Jury, which comprises of leaders in the West Virginia chapter. Projects should demonstrate outstanding rigor, distinctive design, innovative approaches, and reflect thoughtful stewardship, careful planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environment. We are especially interested in projects that focus on pressing issues of social equity, climate resilience, and the biodiversity crisis facing our state and the world at large.

**Submitted projects should merit recognition in one or more of the following areas:**

- Exemplary cultural, educational, or environmental significance
- Outstanding design quality, craft, creativity, or artistry
- Unique and innovative technologies, techniques, or concepts
- Advancement of the public's awareness and understanding of the field of landscape architecture
- Progressing community engagement and social equity in landscape architecture
- Improving climate resilience and/or biodiversity in the state of Rhode Island

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

The Professional Awards seek to recognize the best in landscape architecture and planning, at a variety of scales, and the full spectrum of practice today. Each submission will be reviewed for innovation and creativity in approach, environmental sensitivity and sustainability, demonstration of design value provided to the client, the public, and to the profession of landscape architecture; project's sustained value to the community it serves, and the continued relevance of the project's design expression.

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**PROFESSIONAL AWARDS CATEGORIES**

**Analysis and Planning**

This category is for all master planning and other non-constructed, non-site specific work, and recognizes the wide variety of activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architecture. Typical entries include: urban, suburban, rural, or regional planning efforts; development guidelines; transportation, town, or campus planning; plans for reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning, legislative or policy initiatives or regulatory controls; cultural resource reports; natural resources protection; historic preservation planning; and more. Judging criteria include quality of analysis and planning effort, and context analysis.

**General Design**

This category recognizes entries including public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds; historic preservation, reclamation, conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; transportation or infrastructure design; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more. Judging criteria include design context; design and execution; use of green infrastructure or site specific techniques that are innovative and maintainable; and recognition of craft and durability. Entries in this category must be built.

**Residential Design**

This category recognizes residential work including single family homes, multi-family housing, historic preservation, renovation or conservation projects and more. Judging criteria are the same as General Design and include design context; design and execution; use of green infrastructure or site specific techniques that are innovative and maintainable; and recognition of craft and durability. Entries in this category must be built.

**Communication**

This category recognizes achievements in communicating landscape architectural works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and recognizes the topic's lesson value to the intended audience. Typical entries include: print media, film, video, audio file formats; online communications; interpretive design; exhibition design; and more. Submissions will be judged the effectiveness and clarity of the message.

**Research**

This category recognizes research that identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for the profession. Typical entries include: investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more. Judging criteria includes clarity and importance of research question, hypothesis, or goals; significance of historical data and links to current knowledge; appropriate research design and use of rigorous methods of inquiry; and clarity of presentation of outcome and potential applications to practice.

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## STUDENT AWARDS

The Student Awards seek to recognize design excellence in projects created in an educational framework as part of academic coursework or internships credited toward a degree in landscape architecture, landscape design, urban design or planning. Typical entries include: site specific projects, master planning, regional planning, environmental planning, conservation, or historic preservation planning such as cultural landscape reports, landscape architectural communications, research into innovative techniques, technologies, history, or theory, or other academic projects related to the field of landscape architecture.

Entries may be submitted by an individual, studio classes or project teams, but only one award entry per project may be made. Team projects may not be submitted by an individual team member for individual recognition; the entire team will be recognized. Submissions may be made after the student(s) has graduated, but must be within two years of the completion of the work.

## LEVELS OF RECOGNITION

Professional and Student work will be recognized at one of the following levels:

### EXCELLENCE AWARD

Represents an extraordinary advancement and innovation to the profession. Excellence Awards may be given to no more than one submission in each of the professional and student categories.

### HONOR AWARD

Represents a project worth distinction and its attempts to further the profession of landscape architecture. Any number of honor awards may be given in the professional category.

### MERIT AWARD

Represents a noteworthy project in the profession of landscape architecture. Any number of merit awards may be given in the professional category.

### JURY SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Recognizes projects for efforts in areas of climate resilience, big impacts with low budgets, community service, social equity and justice, specialized design concepts, ecological restoration, emerging practices, among other potential categories.

Specific recognitions will be determined by the Jury.

## WHO CAN SUBMIT?

Professional Awards are open to practitioners within the RIASLA chapter area (Rhode Island) and to projects sited within Rhode Island, whether or not the practitioner is located in the chapter area. Individuals, firms, project owners, public agencies, organizations, or other entities may be the formal submitting entity as long as the project's creative team includes a registered landscape architect or a graduate of an accredited landscape architecture program. Submitters are not required to be members of RIASLA or ASLA. ASLA and RIASLA members do receive a discount on the submission fees. If you are not a current member, you may apply for national and chapter membership at the time of your award submission and receive the discount. Join/renew online at [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org) or contact ASLA Membership, toll-free: 1-888-999-ASLA (2752) or [membership@asla.org](mailto:membership@asla.org) to become a member.

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**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Materials are accepted on a rolling basis until **11:59pm EST, Friday, October 6th, 2023.**

Each submission must include:

**1) Project Information**

- Project Title (45 character limit)
- Location (City / State / Country)
- Completed Year
- Project Size
- Budget for Design + Construction (Leave blank if confidential)
- Submitter's Role (Prime consultant, lead designer, etc.)

**2) Summary Statement**

In 175 words or less, describe the project and why it's award worthy. This statement may be used in promotional materials if the project is selected for an award.

**3) Narrative**

This section should describe the project's purpose, process and why it is distinctive. The narrative should be project specific, and could include: investigations, methodologies, project scope, design programs, surrounding context, intent, materials and methods. Articulate project goals and objectives, and how they were accomplished throughout the process. Describe issues and or concerns, and how they were overcome. How was or would the project be implemented, maintained, and administered? Describe the intended purpose, audience, message(s), impact and effectiveness of the project. Overall the summary section should exemplify the project's significance and why it is deserving of recognition. This section is limited to 1300 words.

**4) Slideshow**

This section should be a visual representation of the project. It should consist of an introductory slide that includes the Project Information, Summary Statement, and Narrative listed above, AND a maximum of 20 image slides. The image slides can include photographs, site plans, historical photographs and plans, diagrams, unique detailing, renderings, videos, etc. Slideshows at a minimum should include, if applicable:

- Project Info, Summary Statement + Narrative text on the first slide. (This may take more than one slide. This does not count toward the 20 image slide limit.)
- Project Title and slide Number on each image slide
- One slide that graphically represents the proposed design
- One slide that graphically represents the existing conditions
- Image titles and/or captions on each slide (maximum 25 words)
- A reasonable amount of images per slide. Multiple images are OK, but don't go overboard.

Legibility and clarity in the presentation of the work will be part of the judging criteria.

- Slideshows should be provided as a PDF in Landscape format, standard Letter or Tabloid size.

Please include the Project Title in the file name. PDF file size limited to 25MB.

- Do NOT include identifying information beyond what is specified above. Designers must be anonymous.

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**A note about Anonymity**

All submissions are required to be anonymous. Submissions with the identity of the entrant or the entrant's firm on any of the materials will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded. For Research, Communications, or Analysis & Planning submissions that might include pieces of published documents, the firm or author's name and similar identifying information must be redacted. This is a blind review process. Any juror with knowledge of a particular submission is required to recuse themselves from all discussion of that submission. 2023 Rhode Island Society of Landscape Architects Design Awards Program

**SUBMISSION LINK AND FEES**

**All submissions should be DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS. We will not accept physical mailed submissions.**

Awards entry is a **TWO STEP PROCESS.**

FIRST, you submit your entry form (link below) to [rhodeislandasla@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandasla@gmail.com) and pay the entry fee by clicking the PayPal "Buy Now" button. Payment shall be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 5th, 2023. No exceptions.

THEN, instructions, a checklist, and your applicant ID will be emailed to you. Digital Entry must be a single PDF not to exceed 20MB, **sent via email to [rhodeislandasla@gmail.com](mailto:rhodeislandasla@gmail.com) by 11:59 pm on Friday, October 6th, 2023.** Registration, fee payment, and materials upload all take place in one transaction. It is recommended that you compile all required information prior to submission. A separate entry is required for each project submitted. Registration fees will increase as the final deadline approaches, and will be adjusted following midnight EST on the dates listed below. Fees will not be refunded for any reason.

**Important Dates**

Early Submission.

Discounted rates through Friday, Sept. 28th

Free! – Student

\$75 – RIASLA Members (all ASLA members in Rhode Island)

\$150 – Members of other ASLA chapters

\$250 – Non-Members

Standard Submission. Through Friday, October 6th.

Free! – Student

\$100 – RIASLA Members (all ASLA members in Rhode Island)

\$175 – Members of other ASLA chapters

\$275 – Non-Members`