



## National Urban Design Awards

*Updated and approved by the Board, September 2023*

Urban design plays an important role in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Canadian communities.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects—in cooperation with Canadian municipalities—work closely to promote awareness of that role. In 2006, the three organizations established the National Urban Design Awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, firms, and projects in Canada that have contributed to the quality of life and the sustainability of Canadian communities.

The National Urban Design Awards program encourages the submission of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary projects involving planners, landscape architects, architects and/or other disciplines. The program recognizes the importance and impact of teams in creating places that enhance the quality of life in Canadian communities.

### Eligibility

- Projects, plans, and studies located within Canadian urban municipalities completed and/or installed within five (5) years of the entry deadline are eligible
- NOTE: In accordance with Statistics Canada, urban areas are defined as those that have a population of at least 1,000 and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometer
- Winners from the immediately preceding cycle of municipal Urban Design Awards programs will be invited to enter the National Urban Design Awards program with the submission fee waived

### Submission categories & assessment criteria

Up to 12 projects may be awarded a National Urban Design Award.

The categories are:

- Urban Design Plans
- Urban Architecture
- Civic Design Projects
- Urban Fragments
- Community Initiatives
- Student Projects



The awards recognize urban design excellence achieved through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration. Jurors will consider how projects address the following criteria:

1. Responds to and enhances the site, local context, and public realm, and promotes healthy and resilient communities;
2. Provides for meaningful experience, social value, and cultural value, and is accessible to various and diverse groups;
3. Demonstrates leadership in sustainability, including approaches at all scales that improve ecological health, address biodiversity and climate action, and use resources and energy responsibly;
4. Demonstrates the value of urban design, and positive outcomes from interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary collaboration;
5. Shows an innovative vision and conceptual clarity in terms of bringing new ideas and approaches to interventions in its community;
6. Demonstrates a positive contribution to reconciliation with Indigenous communities in relation to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action.

## Category Details

### 1. Urban Design Plans

This category is for a plan or study of a significant area that provides a development or redevelopment strategy for inspired urban transformation in the mid- to long-term. Urban design studies, master plans, redevelopment strategies, and community plans with the potential for significant impact on the community's sustainability or development are eligible in this category.

### 2. Urban Architecture

This category is for a building, renovated building, or group of buildings of high architectural standard which achieves urban design excellence through its relationship with its immediate surroundings through its siting, massing, pedestrian amenities, environmental and social sustainability, and other contributions to the community.

This category is open to teams led by a registered architect.

### 3. Civic Design Projects

This category is for civic improvement projects such as a park, public space, civil engineering or environmental infrastructure, street furniture, lighting, and other elements implemented as the result of an urban design plan or initiative.

This category is open to teams led by a registered design professional (architect, engineer, planner, or landscape architect).



#### 4. Urban Fragments

This category is for other forms of built intervention that contribute to the beautification, sustainability, enjoyment, and appreciation of the urban environment. It includes enhancements to buildings, landscapes, or public spaces such as street furniture, lighting elements, interpretation media, memorials, public art, or other forms of intervention. Projects may be of a permanent or temporary nature.

#### 5. Community Initiatives

This category is for any size of built project that was initiated or implemented by a community-based organization, and that has enhanced the public realm. Examples may include streetscaping, public art, commemorative or interpretive installations, and environmental initiatives.

In addition to the evaluation criteria listed above, for submissions in this category, the jurors will also consider community involvement, ie. demonstration of how the community-at-large was involved and supported the improvements.

#### 6. Student Projects

Submissions may be made directly from individual students or groups of students enrolled in an accredited program in architecture, landscape architecture, and/or planning in the past two years. Such students and student groups may also be nominated by their schools to submit. Students and schools may forward submissions from studio or thesis projects with an emphasis on urban design.

*The entry fee is waived for Student Projects.*

### **Procedures for entry**

#### **Instructions**

Submissions will be completed using the [online submission platform](#).

The following items must be provided:

1. Project Information and Credits
2. 500- and 100-word Project Descriptions
3. Project Report
4. Key Images and Index
5. Publication Release Form
6. Disclaimer and Declaration Form

Entries can be submitted either in English or in French.



## 1. Project Information and Credits

A one-page project information and credit sheet is required. Full credit must be given.

Entrants must include:

- Name of lead designers and joint venture partners, if applicable
- List of contributing team members from each firm, including professional designations, where applicable
- Project name
- Project address
- Project client
- Interior area and/or exterior area, in square meters
- Construction contract value / building cost of the project, if applicable
- Occupation date of the project, if applicable
- A list of all key consultants to be credited, ie. structural engineer, electrical engineer, sustainability consultant, etc.

All credits on certificates, medals, and publicity will be based on this information. If more than one firm is credited for a project, the order in which names are listed will be the official sequence. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the entrant.

## 2. Project Descriptions

Two descriptions are required:

- 1) A 500-word maximum project statement, in French and/or English, outlining the objectives and significance of the project and summarizing how the project meets the assessment criteria. This text will be used in jury deliberations and for editorial coverage.
- 2) A 100-word maximum (French) and 100-word maximum (English) bilingual media statement. This text will be used for editorial and website coverage.

## 3. Project Report

A 15-page maximum report, in French and/or English, combining materials such as texts, sketches, drawings and photos, summarizing the objectives and significance of the project and describing how the project meets the assessment criteria. The report should include an account of the genesis of the project, its development, and an outline of key urban design issues and urban design concepts addressed through the project.



#### **4. Key Images and Index**

A maximum of seven (7) images included in the report should be selected for press purposes, and submitted as individual images. A 1-page index should be included, listing image file names, a caption under 15 words for each image, and photographer credits.

#### **5. Publication Release Form**

#### **6. Disclaimer and Declaration Form**

#### **Additional information**

Submission of an entry to the National Urban Design Awards grants all rights to the RAIC, CIP, and CSLA for unrestricted publication of the submitted texts and of the images designated for press purposes in all media, including electronic media. Permission from owners/clients and photographers is the responsibility of the entrants, and must be obtained before making an entry.

Photographs used for any purpose by the RAIC, CIP, and CSLA will bear the customary photographer's credit line as provided by the entrant.