

RAIC Gold Medal Terms of Reference

Approved by the RAIC Board, August 2021

Edited by the RAIC Awards Advisory Committee, July 2022

Approved by the RAIC Board, July 2022

Last edited by the RAIC Awards Advisory Committee, April 2023

Approved by the RAIC Board, May 2023

1. Purpose

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Gold Medal is the highest honour that the Institute can bestow in recognition of a significant and lasting contribution to Canadian architecture. The honour recognizes a significant body of work demonstrated through either excellence in design, research, education, advocacy or other activities with a direct impact on the advancement of architecture in Canada. It considers the individual's breadth and scope of expertise; established presence within the public sphere, both in Canada and internationally; exemplary approaches to sustainability; support and advancement of equity, diversity and inclusion; and commitment to the future generation of architects.

2. Eligibility

Any architect is eligible to be nominated to receive the Gold Medal. The Gold Medal may be awarded to more than one individual (for instance, the partners of an architectural firm) where it is clearly demonstrated that the nominees have individually and collectively met the selection criteria.

A nomination can be made posthumously.

3. Call for Nominations

Nominations can be made by one or more members in good standing of the RAIC. Previous nominees may be re-nominated.

4. Submission Requirements

The following items must be completed or provided:

1. Completed submission form;
2. A brief biography of the nominee(s), not to exceed two (2) pages;
3. A report which summarizes the contributions of the nominated individual(s) to the field of architecture, not to exceed twenty (20) pages;

4. Letters of support from architects, academics, cultural critics, representatives from the allied arts, building users/clients, and other relevant individuals. Collectively, the letters should provide perspective on the candidate's exceptional contributions to architecture and architectural culture, and demonstrate the impact of their work in Canada and internationally, in ways that give insight beyond what is evident from the background material.
5. A maximum 200-word abstract summarizing the submission, provided in English and/or French;
6. Background information such as awards, publications, etc. (optional);
7. Up to thirty (30) representational images (optional);
8. A completed image index providing captions and full credit information for each image (if applicable).

5. Selection Process

The RAIC Awards Advisory Committee shall appoint a jury each year which will be chaired by the Chancellor of the College (or the Chancellor's delegate). The judging process, led by a professional advisor, shall reflect the RAIC's values throughout. The number of jurors may vary from year to year.

At its discretion, the RAIC Board of Directors may nominate an individual in any given year.

6. Number of Awards

One award will be conferred.

At its discretion, the Jury may elect not to confer an award.

All un-awarded nominations will be carried forward for five consecutive years, after which the nomination will lapse. The nominator(s) may modify/revise the submission to bring it up to date.

7. Frequency

The award is to be offered every year.

8. Public Presentation

The presentation of the award will be made at a public event if feasible. The Gold Medal recipient will be invited to deliver an address upon receipt of the award.