

RIBA President's Award for Research – Outstanding PhD Thesis

Terms of Reference and Eligibility

This annual award will be given to a successful PhD candidate whose thesis is considered to make an outstanding contribution to architectural knowledge and understanding. Work in any area of architecture, including research by design is eligible. The PhD must have been carried out either by an RIBA Chartered member or have been undertaken in a school of architecture in the UK or overseas, in which the department has a course validated by the RIBA {see Appendix}.

- Non-RIBA members are eligible for this award where the PhD was completed in a department which has a course validated by the RIBA {see Appendix}.
- Candidates are allowed one submission per year per award.
- There are no limits on entries per school.
- If no candidate satisfies the criteria, the award will not be given.

Judging Criteria

All submissions are assessed in terms of the degree to which they contribute new knowledge and understanding to architecture. This contribution will be considered in terms of:

- **Originality:** the degree to which the research offers new insights and innovations in architecture.
- **Significance:** the degree to which the research has influenced, or has the potential to influence, knowledge and understanding in architecture.
- **Rigour:** the intellectual precision and/or systematic method and/or integrity embodied in the research.
- **Communication:** the degree to which the work communicates clearly through written, visual and spatial language, and where appropriate, engages audiences beyond specialists in the field.

Submission and Nominations

Nominations should be made within two years of the PhD submission, or within one year of the award of the degree. Theses may be nominated by the PhD holder, PhD supervisor, head of school or examiner. Work can only be submitted once. All documents must be submitted in the English language.

The following material must be provided for a full submission:

1. **Application Form** (pro forma supplied): This will provide key contact information.
2. **Full Documentation of the Research:** All submissions should include full documentation of the research in the form of the doctoral thesis (in hard or electronic form). Only shortlisted submissions will be considered in full.

3. **1000-word Statement:** This will be used to shortlist submissions and should summarise the research and describe how it contributes new knowledge and understanding to architecture (in terms of originality, significance and rigour). The statement should address the following:

- i. **Research Questions:** describe the questions which the research sets out to address, explore and/ or answer, and how these are original.
- ii. **Research Aims and Objectives:** describe what the research seeks to achieve in terms of the pursuit of new knowledge and understanding.
- iii. **Research Context:** describe the research context, and how the research has extended, developed and/ or innovated knowledge and understanding within this context (this may be within or across disciplinary boundaries).
- iv. **Research Methods and Processes:** describe the research methods and processes adopted, and how these address issues of originality and rigour – for example through innovation, critique and attention to detail.
- v. **Dissemination:** describe the form(s) in which the research has been disseminated, and define its significance in terms of impact (including, where relevant, evidence such as reviews, awards and critical acclaim).

4. **CV (no more than two sides of A4):** This will be used to shortlist submissions and should include qualifications, career history, major achievements and a list of publications. All projects/publications derived from the research submitted should be marked with an asterisk* in the CV.

5. **Supporting Statements:** These will be used to shortlist submissions and must not be written by the researcher or the PhD supervisor, but by referees, who may be the external examiners. The supporting statements should describe the research submitted in relation to the judging criteria (originality, significance, rigour and communication). Two supporting statements must be included. Electronic copies will be accepted but must be sent by the statement’s author.

Judgement and Announcements

Submissions to the award will be assessed by a panel established by the RIBA Research & Development Committee.

Entries must be submitted by **Friday 7 May 2010, 5pm.**

The presentation of the awards will be made at the ceremony for the RIBA President’s Medals. Reasonable travel expenses within the UK to the event will be reimbursed for the award winner and a companion.

Programme for 2010

Call for submissions	February 2010
Submission deadline	Friday 7 May, 5pm
Notification of short listed entries	By July 2010
Notification of winners	By November 2010
Award ceremony	Wednesday 1 December 2010

The Award

The Award will be a certificate and a citation from the President. At the editor’s discretion, and where the winning research has a direct relevance to architectural

practice, the winner will be invited to submit an article to the RIBA Journal Practice Pages.

Winners have the right to refer to the award in publicity and PR material etc. (e.g. on headed paper “Winner of the RIBA President’s Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis 2010”)

The Judges may award commendations to one or more other shortlisted submissions.

There is no entry fee and no money prize.

Conditions

Submission of an application for the award constitutes the applicant’s agreement to permit the RIBA to publish all or part of the thesis abstract, including the identity and contact information of the project leader. The intent is to disseminate information about ongoing and recent research as widely as possible in the architectural community and beyond.

With the exception of final research outputs (thesis/books/portfolios) the documents submitted will not be returned.

Past Winners

2006 – Rajat Gupta of Oxford Brookes University for his PhD, entitled *Investigating the potential for local carbon dioxide reductions: developing a Geographic Information System - based domestic energy, carbon counting and carbon reduction model.*

2007 – Matthew Barac of the University of Cambridge for his PhD, entitled *From Township to Town: Urban Change in Victoria Mxenge TT Informal Settlement, Cape Town, South Africa.*

2008 – Marcos Cruz of the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, for his PhD entitled *The Inhabitable Flesh of Architecture.*

2009 – Irina Davidovici of the University of Cambridge for her PhD, entitled *Between Typology and Typicality: German Swiss Architecture 1980-2000.*

AND

Leonidas Koutsoumpos of the University of Edinburgh for his PhD entitled *Inhabiting Ethics: Educational Praxis in the Design Studio, the Music Class and the Dojo*

Appendix

NB This information is correct as of February 2010. If you believe your school may in fact be eligible but is not on this list, please check with Stephanie.Beasley-Suffolk@inst.riba.org before submitting an application.

Schools of Architecture in the UK with courses validated by the RIBA

The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
University of Bath
The Queen's University of Belfast
University of Ulster
Birmingham City University
University of Brighton
University of the West of England
University of Cambridge
University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury
University of Kent, Canterbury
University of Cardiff
University of Dundee
Edinburgh College of Art
The University of Edinburgh
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
University of Glasgow
The University of Huddersfield
Leeds Metropolitan University
De Montfort University, Leicester
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
Liverpool John Moores University
Architectural Association, London
The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London
The University of East London
University of Greenwich
Kingston University
London Metropolitan University
Royal College of Art
London South Bank University
The University of Westminster
University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Northumbria University
University of Nottingham
Oxford Brookes University
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University

International Schools with courses recognised by the RIBA

Argentina

University of Mendoza

University of Belgrano
University of Palermo

Australia

University of Canberra
University of Technology, Sydney
University of New South Wales
University of Newcastle, New South Wales
University of Sydney
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
University of Queensland, Queensland
University of South Australia, Adelaide
University of Adelaide
University of Tasmania, Launceston
Royal Melbourne Inst. of Technology, Victoria
University of Melbourne
Deakin University, Victoria
Curtin University of Technology, Perth
University of Western Australia, Nedlands

Bulgaria

University of Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Chile

Central University Santiago
University of Chile, Santiago
University of the Bio Bio, Concepcion
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago
University of Valparaiso
University of La Serena
University of Talca (Validated for Part 1, Candidate for Part 2)

China

Chinese University of Hong Kong
University of Hong Kong

Colombia

National University of Colombia, Medellin
Catholic University of Colombia, Bogota
Pontifical University of Bolivariana, Medellin
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota

Egypt

Arab Academy of Science and Technology - Alexandria
Arab Academy of Science and Technology – Cairo

Ghana

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi

India

Kamla Raheja Vidyayanidhi Institute for Architecture & Environmental Studies,
Mumbai
Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai

Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal

Ireland

University College Dublin

Jamaica

University of Technology

Kenya

Jomo Kenyatta, University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi
University of Nairobi

Malaysia

University of Malaya

New Zealand

University of Auckland
Victoria University of Wellington
UNITEC Institute of Technology

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea University of Technology

Poland

Cracow Institute of Technology

Romania

'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest

Singapore

National University of Singapore, Singapore

South Africa

Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town
Johannesburg University of Technology, Doornfontein
University of Cape Town
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban
University of the Free State, Bloemfontein
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth
University of Pretoria
Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria
University of the Witwatersrand

South Korea

The Korean National University of the Arts

Sri Lanka

University of Moratuwa

Uganda

Makerere University