

## RIBA President's Award for Research – Outstanding Professional Practice-located Research

### Terms of Reference and Eligibility

This annual award will be given to a research project located within a professional practice which is considered to make an exceptional contribution to architectural knowledge and understanding. Work in any area of architecture, including research by design is eligible. The research must have been carried out by an RIBA Chartered member or within an RIBA Chartered Practice.

- Submission to be a single completed research project, not the life-time achievement of an individual or practice.
- Limited to RIBA Chartered members and/or RIBA Chartered Practices.
- For interdisciplinary collaborative projects the research entered must have been carried out under the intellectual and financial control of an RIBA member and/or RIBA Chartered Practice.
- Candidates are allowed one submission per year per award.
- There is no limit on entries per practice, however each submission must have been carried out by a different researcher/research team.
- 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 produces 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 a year of the research being completed. 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: for example a book, or a maximum of three papers, a final project report, a portfolio.

Architectural design research (such as artefacts, buildings, designs, events, installations, interactive or time-based media, prototypes and software) can be submitted in the form of an annotated portfolio, which must be received in hard or electronic form.

- i The role of this annotated portfolio is to explain the research contribution of the design.
- ii The annotated portfolio may include limited video material in an accessible format such as DVD where the form of output makes this essential.
- iii One page of images may be submitted for any application and is recommended for design research.
- iv The annotated portfolio may include critics' reviews.
- v Software must be submitted in the form of a DVD or CD-ROM in order to avoid accessibility problems.

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 questions 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. In the case of a research team, a CV of the project lead may be supplemented by additional CVs for up to two other key members of the team.

**5. Supporting Statements:** These will be used to shortlist submissions and must not be written by the applicant, but by referees. The supporting statements should describe the research submitted in relation to the judging criteria (originality, significance, rigour and communication). N.B: This is not a lifetime achievement award and so the supporting statement should not describe the applicant's career to date. Two supporting statements must be included. Electronic copies will be accepted but must be sent by the statement's author.

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## 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 Professional Practice-located Research 2010").

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

There is no entry fee and no money prize.

## Conditions

The judging panel has the right to change the category of a submission (e.g. from Professional-practice located to University-located).

Submission of an application for the award constitutes the applicant's agreement to permit the RIBA to publish all or part of the research abstract, including the identity and contact information of the project leader(s). 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 (books/portfolios) the documents submitted will not be returned.

**Past Winners**

2007 – Short and Associates for their work *Design for the Warming Environment*.

2008 – The ZEDfactory for their work *The ZEDbook*.

2009 – Baca Architects for their work *LifE (Long-term Initiatives for Flood-risk Environments)*.