

**ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 2011**

This note calls for nominations for the Royal Gold Medal for 2011.

The Conditions of the Award are as follows:

**“The Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of Architecture, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1848, is conferred annually by the Sovereign on some distinguished living architect or group of architects for work of high merit, or on some distinguished living person or group whose work has promoted, either directly or indirectly, the advancement of Architecture. When an Award is conferred on a partnership or group, their names shall be individually cited.”**

The selection will be by a jury, the RIBA Honours Committee, appointed and chaired by the President who will report the jury’s decision to Council.

All nominations must be received in the Awards Office, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD by **Friday 14 May 2010**.

Nominations are also being invited from the corporate membership, and announcements calling for nominations will appear in the architectural press. Nominations are not made public.

**Honours Committee 2011:**

Ruth Reed  
David Adjaye  
Edward Cullinan  
Max Fordham  
Valerio Olgiati  
Laura Lee

Nominations will be announced at the October 2010 Council. The Royal Gold Medal will be presented at a formal dinner in London in February 2011.

Clemency Christopherson  
RIBA Awards Manager  
[Clemency.christopherson@inst.riba.org](mailto:Clemency.christopherson@inst.riba.org)  
0207 307 3715

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**ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 2011 NOMINATION FORM  
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

I wish to nominate the following for consideration for the Royal Gold Medal for 2011 as follows:

**01. Nominees details**

Name of nominee in full:

.....

Full postal address:

.....

**02. Attached information on person nominated**

Please attach on a separate sheet a brief statement in support of your nomination. Please give details of work and sources where this is not readily available.

**03. Nominators details**

Name of nominator in full:

.....

Full postal address:

.....

Phone:

.....

Email:

.....

Signature of nominator:

Date:

Return to: Tony Chapman  
Head of Awards RIBA  
66 Portland Place  
London W1B 1AD  
Tel: 020 7307 3632  
Fax: 020 7307 3723  
[tony.chapman@inst.riba.org](mailto:tony.chapman@inst.riba.org)

## ROYAL GOLD MEDAL 2011

### 1. Conditions of the Award

“The Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of Architecture, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1848, is conferred annually by the Sovereign on some distinguished architect or group of architects for work of high merit, or on some distinguished person or group whose work has promoted, either directly or indirectly, the advancement of Architecture. When an Award is conferred on a partnership or group, their names shall be individually cited.”

### 2. Summary of Awards

Including 2008 there have been 158 Awards in the 160 years since its institution:-

United Kingdom	90
Commonwealth Countries	5
Foreign	62
Not awarded	2 (1902 and 1924)

### 3. The Last Sixteen Years

Year	Name	Country
1994	Sir Michael and Patti Hopkins	UK
1995	Colin Rowe	UK
1996	Harry Seidler	Australia
1997	Tadao Ando	Japan
1998	Oscar Niemeyer	Brazil
1999	The City of Barcelona	Spain
2000	Frank Gehry	America
2001	Jean Nouvel	France
2002	Archigram	UK
2003	Rafael Moneo	Spain
2004	Rem Koolhaas	Holland
2005	Frei Otto	Germany
2006	Toyo Ito	Japan
2007	Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron	Switzerland
2009	Edward Cullinan	UK
2010	I. M. Pei	USA

### 4. Procedure

For many years the custom was for every member of Council to be asked if they wished to make a nomination. Since 1970, in accordance with a Council resolution, nominations have been invited from the corporate membership of the Institute. All nominations will be considered by an Honours Committee chaired by the President and approved by Council, which will have available evidence of nominees' work.

The proposed Gold Medallist is asked to confirm that he/she will accept the Award and his/her name is then submitted for approval to Her Majesty the Queen. The President will report the jury's recommendation to council.

### 5. History of the Award

Little detail is given in the Charter and Bylaws. The First Supplemental Charter of 1887 said “Do annually grant and confer at the recommendation of the said Institute a Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of Architecture”, while Byelaw 62 said “The

election of the person proposed for submission to His Majesty as a fit recipient of the Royal Gold Medal shall be by a Resolution of the Council.”

In 1940 there was some discussion as to the qualities to be sought in candidates for the Award, and reference was made to the King. The Council was ultimately informed that His Majesty had approved the following statement:

“The Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of Architecture, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1848 and continued by King Edward VII, King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI, is annually conferred on some distinguished Architect or man of Science or Letters who has designed or executed a building of high merit, or produced a work tending to promote or facilitate the knowledge of Architecture, or the various branches of science connected therewith.”

For a number of years up to 1954, there had been a recognised custom that the Award should be made to British subjects for two years and a foreign national every third year, and this was actually included in the letter sent out to members of Council asking for nominations. However, in considering the 1955 Award, it was agreed to delete references to that custom.

In 1957 a committee discussed the possibilities of more Awards to Commonwealth architects and simultaneously reintroducing some form of unwritten rule that Awards should go in alternate years to Commonwealth (including UK) and foreign architects. No decision was reached.

In December 1960, the Council took note of the changing character of the Award which was assuming an international reputation and the possibility was considered of a further premier Award restricted to British Architects in the United Kingdom, or perhaps in the Commonwealth, as a means of publicising and enhancing the profession as a whole.

In brief discussion, however, the general opinion was that no further Award was necessary. It was pointed out that the Royal Gold Medal Committee (later the Awards Committee and now the Royal Gold Medal Jury) made their annual recommendation strictly on merit and this was felt to be right.

After detailed consideration by the Awards Committee and the Council over the years 1964 - 66, it was decided to broaden the terms of the Award to allow it to be given to a group and not only to an individual. The revised terms of the Award, given in paragraph 1, were endorsed by Her Majesty in July 1966.

In 1987 and 1988 shortlists of candidates were published, in the hope of stimulating public debate and gaining more publicity for the Medal. In July 1988, RIBA Council discussed the procedure for selecting the Medallist. Council agreed that a shortlist should not be published and that publicity should be concentrated on the winner.