
RIBA President's Medals 2024

Guidelines and Requirements

Contents of this document:

- Background
- The awards
- The entries
- Bronze and Silver Medal entries
- Dissertation Medal entries
- Submitting an entry
- Winning entries
- Copyright and intellectual property
- Contact us

Background

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is now welcoming nominations for the 2024 RIBA President's Medals from schools of architecture worldwide.

First presented in 1836, the President's Medals are RIBA's oldest awards (preceding the Royal Gold Medal, first awarded in 1848). Throughout the history of the Institute, these awards have continuously celebrated the contribution of Architecture to social betterment by rewarding excellence in the work of emerging professionals, and continue to this day to embody the Institute's leading objectives enshrined in its founding charter of 1837, namely,

“the general advancement of civil architecture and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith; it being an art esteemed and encouraged in all enlightened nations, as tending greatly to promote the domestic convenience of citizens, and the public improvement and embellishment of towns and cities.”

The awards

For the 2024 President's Medals, schools of architecture contacted by RIBA are invited to nominate entries in the following categories:

- **RIBA Dissertation Medal:** ONE dissertation as one single entry, produced by (a) student(s) who is/are enrolled in, is/are about to complete, or has/have completed the current or most recent academic year of a professional qualification in Architecture (RIBA Part 1 or RIBA Part 2 in the case of institutions offering courses validated by RIBA)
- **RIBA Bronze Medal:** Up to TWO design projects as two distinct entries, produced by (a) student(s) who is/are enrolled in, is/are about to complete, or has/have completed the current or most recent academic year of a RIBA Part 1 qualification (or normally the first three of five years of a professional qualification in Architecture in the case of courses not validated by RIBA)
- **RIBA Silver Medal:** Up to TWO design projects as two distinct entries, produced by (a) student(s) who is/are enrolled in, is/are about to complete, or has/have completed the current or most recent academic year of a RIBA Part 2 qualification (or normally the last

two of five years of a professional qualification in Architecture in the case of courses not validated by RIBA)

RIBA will convene judging panels tasked with awarding one medal and up to three commendations in each of these categories. In addition, from the entries submitted for the Bronze and Silver Medals, the respective judging panels will select the winners of:

- The **Serjeant Awards for Excellence in Drawing** at Part 1 and Part 2 – given in memory of the late architect and Royal Academy surveyor Denis Serjeant (who in 1981 was one of the founding members of the RIBA Student Prizes Group), these prizes reward excellence in technical and creative ability in architectural drawing
- The **RIBA Award for Sustainable Design** at Part 1 and Part 2 – presented since 2019, these awards are given to the design proposals that best address the impact of climate change

The entries

Schools will define their own criteria and processes to select their entries; the contents of which are expected to be put together and submitted jointly by their author(s) and the tutor(s) who supervised their development.

The content of each entry must have been produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission.

All entries submitted for these awards are expected to demonstrate, within the professional education context that they reward:

- a thorough and original analysis of the brief
- a comprehensive and coherent treatment of the chosen subject(s)
- the exercise of independent critical reasoning
- an understanding of how architecture has social purpose and delivers sustainable development to the benefit of communities

Each entry must include the following:

- Completed Entry Nomination Form
- Completed Entry Release Form
- Completed Entry Check List
- Two sets of images (as JPG files) illustrative of the project produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission, in the following formats:
 - **Set 1:** 10 images at high resolution, with each image at a minimum 300dpi density or at least 40cm on the shortest length, approximately 7,000 x 4,500 pixels. All images must be sequentially numbered in the order they are intended to be displayed, starting at 01 and finishing at 10. If the entry contains more than 10 images only the first 10 in the sequence will be accepted and the remainder ignored.
 - **Set 2:** The same 10 images from Set 1 saved at a web-compatible resolution, with each image less than 1MB and at least 1,600 pixels wide if in landscape format and 1,000 pixels high if in portrait format and numbered as in Set One. This set will be made public at www.presidentsmedals.com after the judging, with the consent of the author(s). If captions or credit lines are to be published, these must be succinct and provided in a separate document identifying each numbered picture with its corresponding text.

NOTE: the entries will be viewed and assessed by the judges on PC, laptop, or tablet screens and, as such, a landscape orientation layout for images, films, or portfolios is preferable.

In addition to these materials, entries for the Dissertation Medal must also include one Portable Document File (PDF) of the dissertation. This file is an essential part of the submission as it will be used by the judges as a reading copy.

Whereas the Entry Nomination Form is expected to identify the author(s), the tutor(s), and their school, the materials submitted as part of an entry must be entirely anonymous; as such, all files (JPGs, MP4s, PDFs, etc.) must not show the name of the student, the tutor, or the School of Architecture / University either in an immediately visible way or in their metadata. Entries containing such information will be disqualified.

Equally, both analogue or digital materials with printed or embedded URL or QR codes directing the viewer to further online content will be disqualified. Instead, nominees are welcome and encouraged to submit supporting materials that allow the opportunity to include content that substantiate the design and thinking processes associated with the entry in the following formats:

- one digital portfolio featuring only content related to the entry, saved as a single PDF at 150dpi and 1,754 x 2,480 pixels, and with a recommended maximum of 30 pages
- one single film or sound recording produced by the nominee(s) submitted as MP4 or MP3 formats only, and with a recommended maximum duration of 4 minutes

An entry may have been produced by more than one author; in the case an award is made to such a type of entry, all authors will be equally acknowledged, and the award will be shared.

Bronze and Silver Medals entries

The Bronze and Silver Medals judging panels welcome submissions that explore diverse subjects, methodologies, and presentations, and will assess each entry in respect of:

- the architectural ambition and extent of innovation
- the creative vision as reflected in all aspects of the design proposal, including the detail
- the evidence of appropriate research and critical thinking at all stages of the design process
- the fitness for purpose of the design proposal not only in response to the brief, but also in addressing wider global challenges such as accessibility and sustainability
- the effectiveness of the design proposal in relation to its context
- the quality of the spatial experience offered to individuals and the community
- the suitability of the structural and passive /active systems adopted
- the appropriate and considerate selection and detailing of materials chosen

Whatever the methodology and presentation format adopted, these should be appropriate to the subject being explored, and should positively contribute to its analysis and communication.

Dissertation Medal entries

The Dissertation Medal judging panel welcomes submissions that explore diverse subjects, methodologies, and presentations. Subjects might, for example, include:

- studies of significant buildings and architects
- examinations of specific places, generic spaces, and everyday urban conditions
- representations of architecture in the visual and literary arts
- research into alternative architectural and related art practices
- wider social, cultural, contextual / environmental, and theoretical investigations
- historical studies

Methodologies might, for example, include:

- primary archival research of buildings and their historiographic interpretation
- critical and reflexive engagements with design (such as design-writing and performative methodologies)
- qualitative and ethnographic / interview-based research methods
- fine and visual art interactions
- philosophical, ecological, aesthetic interpretations
- critical histories of technology

The judges welcome imaginative, speculative, and innovative investigations and interpretations of all kinds, which focus on the importance of the written word to communicate ideas about architecture and the built environment. However, formats might also include portfolios of writings, exploration of language and content through multi-media presentations, and other approaches to discourse that premiate extended, structured thinking.

Whatever the methodology and presentation format adopted, these should be appropriate to the subject being explored, and should positively contribute to its analysis and communication.

Dissertations must have been written in, or translated into, English as part of a RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 qualification (or equivalent in the case of professional qualifications in Architecture not validated by RIBA).

Dissertations produced as part of postgraduate academic / research qualifications such as Masters or PhD programmes are not eligible.

Submitting an entry

Entries must be individually saved on a cloud storage platform (such as Dropbox, WeTransfer, OneDrive, Google Drive, etc.) and a link to download the content must be emailed to presidents.medals@riba.org by the following deadlines:

Dissertation Medal:	3pm GMT on Friday 19 July 2024
Bronze Medal:	3pm GMT on Monday 29 July 2024
Silver Medal:	3pm GMT on Monday 29 July 2024

Owing to the large number of entries received every year, RIBA reserves the right not to confirm receipt of submissions. To ensure that an entry has been delivered, we strongly recommend that emails are issued with a request for delivery receipt to the email provider (and not the receiver).

RIBA will not be responsible for undelivered emails and entries.

Winning entries

The school responsible for nominating the Dissertation Medal winning entry will be asked to produce and submit one printed and bound copy of the dissertation, which will be catalogued in the President's Medals archive within the RIBA Collections.

Equally, the schools responsible for nominating the Bronze and Silver Medals winning entries will be asked to produce and submit one printed and bound copy of the medal-winning entries. Each volume must contain printed versions of the 10 images submitted for judging as well as the content of the digital portfolio (if applicable), and a USB drive containing the supporting audio-visual file (if applicable).

Copyright and intellectual property

RIBA does not claim rights of ownership to the content of the entries submitted for the RIBA President's Medals.

By submitting an entry for the President's Medals, the school of architecture and the nominee(s) agree(s) to allow RIBA to use, display and publish their entries in print and digital publications for all purposes in relation to the RIBA President's Medals and associated non-commercial purposes. This includes sharing descriptive text, images, sound recordings and films that are part of the entry with third party press contacts; displaying in exhibitions of the entries submitted for the awards; in lectures featuring the work of the nominee(s) acknowledged as the author(s) of the entry; or in publicising the RIBA President's Medals themselves. This excludes sharing the full text of written dissertations, unless agreed with the nominee(s).

It is the responsibility of the school of architecture to verify that each entry submitted for the RIBA President's Medals is an authentic and original piece of work produced by their nominated student(s) and does not contain plagiarised material. By submitting an entry, the school and the nominee(s) confirm(s) that the entry and all information submitted and/or distributed in support of it will not infringe the intellectual property or any other rights of any third party. The nominee(s) recognises that it is their sole responsibility to ensure that any images submitted as part of their entry for the RIBA President's Medals are free from the Intellectual Property rights of any third party. Nominees must have the permission of the copyright owner for each image submitted prior to making a submission. Where a nominee is not the copyright owner of any image forming part of their submission, the nominee must also ensure that they give due accreditation in the caption(s) of the image(s).

The author(s) of the entry agree(s) to the conditions above by completing and submitting an Entry Check List and an Entry Release Form.

RIBA reserves the right to edit, remove from publication, or disqualify for judging an entry for the RIBA President's Medals that contains any material that infringes, or is claimed to infringe, any third-party rights.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the RIBA President's Medals, please write to us at presidents.medals@riba.org or contact us directly:

John-Paul Nunes
Head of Education Projects
john-paul.nunes@riba.org

Sophie Arp
Education Projects Coordinator
sophie.arp@riba.org