



**ASLA**  
**FLORIDA**

## **Design Awards Criteria**

### **Objective**

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The ASLA FL Design Awards Program encourages the advancement, expansion, and recognition of the Landscape Architecture profession by honoring projects that blend environmental and artistic principles that emphasize beauty, function, and sustainability.

### **Awards**

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- Award of Merit - Bestowed in recognition of projects that demonstrate a thorough use of landscape architectural practices.
- Award of Honor - Bestowed in recognition of projects that demonstrate the inspired use of landscape architectural practices in an imaginative and well-resolved combination that adds to the body of the Landscape Architecture profession.
- Award of Excellence - Bestowed in recognition of projects that demonstrate an inspired use of landscape architectural practices in an imaginative combination that adds to the body of the Landscape Architecture profession, and are truly exceptional, unique, innovative and goes beyond achieving its defined purpose.
- Frederic B. Stresau Award - Bestowed upon an Award of Excellence winner that best exhibits absolute innovation and design excellence of the profession.
- Environmental Sustainability Honor - At the discretion of the Awards Jury, may be bestowed upon a single project that exhibits sound sustainable practices as described by the ASLA Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement (B205, 206, R2001; available at [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)).
- Edward D. Stone, Jr. Landmark Award (formerly the Classic Award Category) - At the discretion of the Awards Jury, may be bestowed upon a single distinguished landscape architecture project built and completed at least 20 years ago that retains its original design integrity and contributes significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located. Such submission may be made by a Landscape Architect or Firm, provided that all parties to the project, who are alive/in existence, consent. The jury will consider the project's sustained value to the community it serves and the continued relevance of the project's design expression.

## Categories

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The following categories recognize site-specific works as described. To enter, the official entrant must be an Associate, Full, or International ASLA member, or eligible to join ASLA in one of those categories. Professional entries in these categories must be built; Student entries are not required to be built:

General Design Awards Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution; relationship to design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; relevant impact to the profession, public, and/or environment, and resilience strategies; and design value to the client, community, and to other designers.

- Resort and Entertainment - Projects such as hotels, theme parks, restaurants, golf courses and timeshares.
- Commercial-Projects such as corporate complexes, commercial redevelopment projects, office, retail, mixed-use and urban developments.
- Institutional-Projects such as schools, medical facilities, museums, botanical gardens, governmental and industrial facilities.
- Preservation and Conservation-Projects of historical and environmental significance.
- Open Space- Projects such as parks, recreational facilities, and greenways.

Residential Design Awards Criteria: The jury will consider the quality of design context and execution, materiality, environmental sensitivity, community benefit, sustainability through Low Impact Development (lid) incorporation, green infrastructure or additional site-specific techniques that are innovative, site specific and maintainable. Emphasis will be given to projects that have attained or are registered for SITES certification.

- Residential - Recognizes works of landscape architecture that elevate the design principles of quality, context/place, environmental responsibility, maintenance requirements and durability. Emphasis will be given to projects that have attained or are registered for SITES certification.
  - **Typical entries include:** Single family homes; high rise, multi-family production and custom home developments (market rate and non-market rate will be considered); transit-oriented development (TOD); historic preservation, renovation or conservation projects; senior or assisted living developments; private or small gardens; new urbanism projects with multifamily development; projects located in Opportunity Zones; and more.

The following categories recognize either site-specific or non-site-specific works as described. Professional and Student entries are not required to be built or implemented.

- Philanthropic- Recognizes documents, projects, events or functions which contribute to a greater understanding of landscape architecture, which advances the profession, or which make a gift of services to enhance our culture, community and quality of life. Philanthropic entries can be and often are projects with minimal or no budget and will be judged accordingly. Merely donating your services as a Landscape Architect is not sufficient to qualify in this category.
  - **Criteria:** Entries shall display a unique approach to spreading the vision and standards of the profession and shall include community involvement and/or direct service to the impacted community.
  - **Typical entries may include:** Engaging in communities for placemaking processes, fundraising campaigns, and more.

- **Research and Communication**- Recognizes efforts involving investigation of landscape architecture-oriented topics and communication techniques contributing to an expanded body of knowledge. Projects that orient research that identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for the profession, and achieve communicating landscape architecture works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and the lesson value to an intended audience. **NOTE:** Florida Registered Landscape Architects with a principal practice in another state may submit works; however, they must be executed in Florida or Puerto Rico.
  - **Criteria:** The jury will consider projects that investigate research, studies, written works (published and unpublished), and innovative application of presentation methods or techniques (i.e. graphic techniques, digital media, and beyond). Student entries may include "Capstone" projects or graduate-level thesis work.
  - **Typical entries may include:** Online communications - interactive & multimedia; print media, film, video, audio (i.e. podcasts); interpretive design; exhibition design; public awareness campaigns; investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more. Student entries may include "Capstone" projects or graduate-level thesis work.
- **Planning and Analysis**- Recognizes efforts involving the wide range of professional planning and analysis activities that lead to and guide landscape architecture design.
  - **Criteria:** The jury will consider the quality of the analysis and planning effort; context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; likelihood of successful implementation; and value to the client, the public, and other designers. Jury will also consider if proposal exhibits a pioneering use of previously created methodologies or a uniquely effective means of combining or presenting landscape architectural / land use techniques.
  - **Typical entries include:** Urban, suburban, rural, or regional planning efforts; development guidelines; transportation planning; plans for reclamation; environmental planning; historic preservation planning; report documents; and more.

**The following category is reserved for Professional entries only.**

- **Edward D. Stone, Jr. Landmark Award** (*formerly the Classic Award Category*) - Recognizes a project built and completed at least 20 years ago that retains its original design integrity and contributes significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located. Such submission may be made by a Landscape Architect or Firm, provided that all parties to the project, who are alive/in existence, consent. The jury will consider the project's sustained value to the community it serves and the continued relevance of the project's design expression.
  - **Typical entries include:** Parks, plazas, sculpture gardens, botanical gardens, river walks, and more. Public officials and agencies, civic and historic preservation organizations, and interested individuals and entities are encouraged to submit projects in this category.
- **Urban Design** – Recognizes projects built or currently under construction that activate networks of spaces that mediate between social equity, economic viability, infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and beautiful place-making in the public and private realm. **NOTE:** Urban Design projects that are unbuilt should be submitted to the Planning and Analysis category for consideration.
  - **Criteria:** The jury will consider the quality of design and execution; urban design context; planning context; contribution of project to a broader urban landscape; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; and attention to social justice, equity, and inclusion.

- **Typical entries include:** constructed or partially constructed urban projects spatially greater than one block in the realm of public, institutional, or private landscapes; streetscapes, waterfronts, mixed-use developments, neighborhoods, districts, cities, placemaking interventions and civic improvements that may include elements of reclamation, stormwater management, transportation or infrastructure studies, art, and more.
- **Unbuilt Projects** – Recognizes excellence in design thinking and methodology for projects that have been designed but not constructed. This category is for designed works in landscape architecture for which implementation has not yet occurred.
  - **Criteria:** The jury will consider the quality of design resolution and connectivity to the context of the designs. Jury will consider projects with a clearly defined program, fulfillment of project’s program and intent, originality and principles of sound landscape architecture practices. Projects will also be reviewed for their design approaches that reflect a commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and civic infrastructures.

**Typical entries include:** Conceptual designs, competition-based projects, schematic designs, design works never brought to fruition, projects on hold, etc. (Professional Entries Only)

## Guidelines for Submission

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- **Submission:** Materials in the submission must not reveal the names of the entrant and/or landscape architects, firms, other designers, or photographers.
- **Project Title (Name):** A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.
- **Project Statement:** In 175 words or less, describe the project and why it’s award-worthy. This statement may be used in promotional materials if the project is selected for an award. **NOTE: failure to submit this statement will lead to disqualification of entry.**
- **Project Narrative:** Describe in 1000 words or less the project location, scope and size, site and context investigation, design program, design intent, materials and installation methods, environmental impact and concerns, collaboration with the client and other designers, and other significant issues.
  - Jury will determine projects best-suited to each respective category.
- **Presentation and Images:** A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan. **ALL** images must be formatted as: **1900 pixels wide by 927 pixels tall.** Quality of images (DPI resolutions) are specified below.
  - The projects considered shall upload the project imagery in two formats:
    - PDF Presentation (for jurying purposes):
      - The project imagery should be exported to the above dimensions at **72 dpi** and compiled into (1) **one, compiled PDF. Please include a cover page with only the project name listed.**
    - Images (for marketing purposes):
      - The project imagery should be exported to the above dimensions at **300 dpi** and submitted as individual **JPEGS. Please name the JPGs IMAGE01, IMAGE02, IMAGE03, etc.**
      - **Each individual image requires a short image description (maximum of 225 characters, including spaces)**

- \*\*\*Disclaimer for National requirements potentially not aligning
  - As an effort to align award standards with National ASLA, **we have reformatted our requirements**. Please review all new standards for successful uploads and to minimize risk of disqualification.
- \*\*\*Disclaimer for 'best practices' (imagery of tree stakes, established landscapes, etc.)
  - Please keep in mind the best practices for design awards submissions. Although it is up to the jury's discretion about the success of the project, it is worth noting that projects in the past have been disqualified for the following reasons, and therefore should be considered before applying for the design awards:
    - Tree staking in the landscape;
    - Landscaping not being established;
    - Poor image composition;
    - Too much focus on the architecture;
    - Firm or designer's name or imagery within the submission
- \*\*\*Disclaimer for ASLA's right to use imagery for marketing and promotional purposes.
  - By submitting a project you acknowledge that ASLA Florida has the right to publish the project photographs and names/companies associated with the project, for use in their printed publications, social media, and website and submitters will receive no financial compensation.
- \*\*\*Disclaimer on accepting collaged images
  - Collaged images may be submitted and count as 1 image in the submission if they are essential to capture detail / design elements of the project. The necessity for submitting collaged images remains up to Jury discretion in the review process. **Please note that entries in the Research and Communication category allow for page and spread excerpts of planning documents, master plans, etc. to count as 1 collaged image.**