

RIBA President's Medals 2023

Guidelines and Requirements

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01. Background information

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is now welcoming nominations for the 2023 RIBA President's Medals from schools of architecture worldwide.

First presented in 1836, these are the RIBA's oldest awards 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] 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."

Throughout the history of the RIBA, the President's Medals have continuously celebrated the contribution of architecture to social betterment by rewarding innovation and competence in architectural education. As such, entries 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 with public benefit and delivers sustainable development

02. Eligibility

Participation in these awards is by invitation only. This year, the RIBA is inviting schools of architecture worldwide to nominate, out of work produced by students enrolled in the 2022/23 (or in the most recently completed) academic season, the following:

- **up to TWO design projects** as individual entries for the **Bronze Medal** (produced at RIBA Part 1, or the first 3 of usually 5 years of study in a professional qualification not validated by the RIBA)
- **up to TWO design projects** as individual entries for the **Silver Medal** (produced at RIBA Part 2, or the last 2 of usually 5 years of study in a professional qualification not validated by the RIBA)
- **ONE dissertation** as an entry for the **Dissertation Medal** (produced at either RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 or, in the case of institutions that do not offer RIBA-validated courses, at any stage of a professional qualification in Architecture of usually 5 years)

The RIBA will convene judging panels tasked with awarding one medal and up to three commendations in each of these categories. In addition, the judging panels of the Bronze and Silver Medals will select the winners of the Serjeant Awards for Excellence in Drawing and of the RIBA Awards for Sustainable Design.

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.

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

The content of each entry must have been produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission. To this end, each entry must be accompanied by the completed 'PM2023 Entry Check List' and 'PM2023 Entry Release Form'.

Please note: Whereas the entry form is expected to identify the author(s), the tutor(s), and the school(s), 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.

03. Dissertation Medal submissions

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 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 which premiate extended, structured thinking. Whatever the methodology and presentation format adopted, they 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 an RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 qualification (or equivalent in the case of professional qualifications in Architecture not validated by the RIBA).

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

04. Bronze and Silver Medals submissions

Entries for the Bronze and Silver Medals must have been produced during the most recent academic year and as part of, respectively, a RIBA Part 1 or RIBA Part 2 course (or equivalent in the case of professional qualifications in Architecture not validated by the RIBA).

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
- creative vision as reflected in all aspects of the design proposal, including the detail
- fitness for purpose not only in response to the brief, but also in addressing wider concerns such as accessibility and sustainability
- the effectiveness of the design proposal in relation to its context
- the quality of the spatial experience it offers to individuals and the community
- the suitability of its structural and servicing systems
- the selection and detailing of materials

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

05. Submitting an entry

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

- 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 One 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.

Nominees are advised that the entries will be viewed and assessed by the judges on PC, laptop, or tablet screens and, as such, a landscape orientation layout is recommended.

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.

06. Supporting materials

The President's Medals judging panels welcome and encourage the submission of supporting materials that allow nominees the opportunity to include content that substantiates the design and thinking processes associated with the entry. Supporting materials allowed include:

- one digital portfolio authored by the nominee(s) featuring only content related to the entry, saved as a single PDF with no more than 30 pages, each in A3 size, 150dpi, and 1,754 x 2,480 pixels
- one single audio-visual piece authored by the nominee(s) submitted as MP3 or MP4 formats only, and with a maximum duration of 4 minutes

07. Deadlines for submissions

Nominees must email the links to download their entries to presidents.medals@riba.org by the following deadlines:

- Dissertation Medal: **3pm on Friday 21 July 2023**
- Bronze Medal: **3pm on Monday 31 July 2023**
- Silver Medal: **3pm on Monday 31 July 2023**

Owing to the large number of entries received every year, the 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 by the email provider (and not the receiver).

The RIBA will not be responsible for undelivered emails and entries.

08. Winning entries

The school responsible for nominating the Dissertation Medal winning entry will be asked to produce and submit two printed and bound copies of the dissertation. These 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 two printed and bound copies 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).

09. Copyright and intellectual property

The 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) nominee(s) agree(s) to allow the 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).

By submitting an entry for the RIBA President's Medals, (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 of the image.

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.

The 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.

10. 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:

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