RIBA President’s Medals 2017
Entry guidelines and requirements

The Royal Institute of British Architects is now welcoming nominations for the 2017 RIBA President’s Medals.

Widely regarded as the most prestigious awards in architectural education, the RIBA President’s Medals have been presented since 1836 to celebrate talent, promote innovation, and encourage excellence in the study of architecture worldwide.

Each school of architecture can nominate, out of work produced by students during the most recently completed academic season (2016/17):

- ONE dissertation for the Dissertation Medal category
- Up to TWO design projects for the Bronze Medal (Part 1) category
- Up to TWO design projects for the Silver Medal (Part 2) category

The RIBA will award one medal and up to three commendations in each category. In addition, the judges will also select the winners of the Serjeant Award for Excellence in Drawing in the Bronze and Silver Medals categories.

Dissertation Medal submissions

The judges for the Dissertation medal welcome submissions that explore different subjects, methodologies and presentations. Subjects might, for example, include studies of significant buildings and architects, particular places, generic spaces and everyday urban conditions, representations of architecture in the visual and literary arts, alternative architectural and related art practices, wider social, cultural and theoretical investigations, historical studies etc. 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; etc.

We encourage imaginative, speculative and innovative investigations and interpretations of all kinds, which principally focus on and celebrate the written word as an essential medium for the communication of 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 preeminate extended, structured writing.

In all cases, submissions are expected to demonstrate a comprehensive, rigorous and coherent treatment of their chosen subject, demonstrating original analysis in terms of information uncovered and/or the exercise of independent critical reasoning. 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.

The dissertation must have been written in, or translated into, English during a Part 1 or Part 2 professional qualification in Architecture. Entries produced for academic qualifications such as Masters, MPhil and PhD programmes are not eligible for this award.
Bronze and Silver Medal submissions

The judges for the Design Projects awards welcome submissions that explore different subjects, methodologies and presentations.

Judges are asked to assess the quality of the design of the scheme particularly in respect of its architectural ambition, ideas, and the extent of innovation; its design vision as reflected in all aspects of the design, including the detail; its fitness for purpose, especially in response to the brief, but also in terms of wider concerns like accessibility and sustainability; its relationship to its context; the spatial experience it offers; the appropriateness of its structural and servicing systems and the selection and detailing of materials.

In all cases, submissions are expected to reveal a comprehensive, rigorous and coherent treatment of their chosen subject, demonstrating original analysis and the exercise of independent critical reasoning. 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.

The content of each submission must have been produced during a RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 professional qualification in Architecture (or their equivalent, in the case of non-RIBA validated courses) as part of a single project and not to other work produced by the student in the course of the academic year.

Guidelines for submissions

Nominees must submit their entries digitally on either a CD/DVD/USB Drive, which must be accompanied by a completed and printed Check List Form (downloadable here). This is the only document that needs to be printed; everything else must be saved on the CD or USB drive, which must contain the following:

- Student Nomination Form and Tutor Information Form fully completed (downloadable here)

- Two sets of images (as JPG files only) illustrative of the project that must have been either produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission (see section on Copyright and Intellectual Property for more information) in the following resolution formats:
  - One set of 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 JPGs only the first 10 in the sequence will be used.
  - One set of 10 images 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. This set will be made public at www.presidentsmedals.com after the judging. If captions or credit lines are to be published, these must be provided as a separate Word document identifying each numbered picture with its corresponding text.

- In the case of nominations for the RIBA Dissertation Medal, entries must be submitted as both:
  - **ONE** printed hardcopy volume (which will be made available for the consideration of the judging panel),

  and
ONE Portable Document File (PDF), which must be saved together with the completed Student Nomination Form and Tutor Information Form. This file is an essential part of the nomination as it will be shared with each judge as a reading copy, replacing the printed document required in previous years.

- All materials submitted (images, portfolios, printed dissertations, PDFs, etc.) must NOT contain the name of the student or of the School of Architecture / University either in immediately visible format or in their metadata. Entries containing such information will be disqualified.

Supporting materials

In the case of nominations for the Bronze and Silver Medals, the judging panels strongly encourage that each entry is accompanied by a printed portfolio. This supporting material is an opportunity to include more images related to the project and to substantiate the design process. Portfolios must be A3 size maximum, and no thicker than 3 centimetres. The judging panels reserve the right to disregard portfolios submitted in other formats.

We recommend that portfolios are submitted inside standard sturdy black presentation or archival boxes, which will be returned together with the portfolio after the judging. These boxes should not exceed the following dimensions: 440mm x 330mm x 50mm.

Audio-visual supporting materials will also be welcome, and must be submitted as MP3 or MP4 files. Although limits to the length of these files are not imposed, nominees should consider that the judges have limited time to examine them; as such, we recommend a maximum duration of 4 minutes.

To make the supporting audio-visual materials accessible to the public on the awards website, nominee(s) must provide them as either the original files or in the form of a share link for YouTube or Vimeo (e.g. https://youtu.be/_cF-AzFVq-s)

All supporting materials must have been either produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission (see section on Copyright and Intellectual Property for more information).

Copyright and Intellectual Property

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

By submitting an entry for the President’s Medals the nominee(s) agree 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 nominee(s) 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 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. This means that the entry and any information submitted by the nominee(s) must have been produced by the
nominee(s) or otherwise be used with the permission of the rights owner and credit the rights owner appropriately.

The RIBA may, in appropriate circumstances and at its sole discretion, 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.

Posting and delivery

Entries must be posted or couriered to:

RIBA President’s Medals 2017

c/o John-Paul Nunes
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
United Kingdom

The RIBA will not be responsible for undelivered items, and will not pay for customs, VAT and transport fees incurred in the posting of entries. We strongly recommend that posted or couriered entries are sent with proof of delivery. Owing to the large number of entries, we will not be able to confirm receipt of an entry.

Entries can be delivered in person during the week (between 7am and 7pm) to 76 Portland Place (London W1), and on Saturday 16 September (between 10am and 5pm) to 66 Portland Place.

Entries MUST have reached the RIBA by 17:00 on the deadline (see Timetable for 2017 for deadline dates for the different categories below) to be eligible for judging.

Nominees will be expected to arrange for collection of their submissions from the RIBA after the judging process has been completed and no later than 31 March 2018.

Timetable for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for Dissertation Medal entries</td>
<td>5pm on Friday 14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Bronze Medal entries</td>
<td>5pm on Monday 18 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Silver Project entries</td>
<td>5pm on Monday 18 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading period for Dissertation entries</td>
<td>Monday 24 July – Monday 18 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judging of Dissertation Medal entries</td>
<td>Wednesday 20 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judging of Bronze Medal entries</td>
<td>Thursday 19 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judging of Silver Medal entries</td>
<td>Friday 20 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards ceremony</td>
<td>Tuesday 5 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awards exhibition open to the public in London</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 December 2017 – Sunday 14 January 2018</td>
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Should you have any questions about the RIBA President’s Medals, please contact:

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