

RIBA

President's Medals 2026

Entry Nomination Form

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President's Medals 2026

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is now inviting nominations from schools of architecture for the 2026 RIBA President's Medals.

First awarded in 1836, the RIBA President's Medals demonstrate the Institute's long-standing commitment to excellence in architectural thinking and practice. Through the Bronze, Silver and Dissertation Medals, RIBA recognises the passion, imagination and dedication of architecture students from around the world, celebrating work that challenges conventions and inspires change. These awards continue the mission established in RIBA's 1837 Royal Charter: to advance the discipline of architecture and deepen understanding of the arts and sciences that shape it.

Please read **Section 1: Guidelines and Requirements** carefully before completing **Sections 2 and 3**.

Once completed, this form must be emailed, along with the entry's digital-only submission materials, to presidents.medals@riba.org.

All information provided in this form will be treated in the strictest confidence and in accordance with [RIBA's Privacy Policy](#).

1 Guidelines and Requirements

1.1 Award Categories

For the 2026 RIBA President's Medals, schools of architecture worldwide are invited to nominate entries in the following categories:

RIBA Bronze Medal

Up to two design projects may be submitted as two separate entries. Projects must be produced by students who are enrolled in, about to complete, or who have completed the current or most recent academic year of:

- a RIBA Part 1 qualification, or
- the first three years of a five-year professional architecture qualification not validated by RIBA.

RIBA Silver Medal

Up to two design projects may be submitted as two separate entries. Projects must be produced by students who are enrolled in, about to complete, or who have completed the current or most recent academic year of:

- a RIBA Part 2 qualification, or
- the final two years of a five-year professional architecture qualification not validated by RIBA.

RIBA Dissertation Medal

One dissertation may be submitted as a single entry. It must be produced by student(s) enrolled in, about to complete, or who have completed the current or most recent academic year of a professional qualification in architecture (RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 for RIBA-validated institutions).

Each judging panel will award one medal per category and may additionally commend up to five entries.

In addition, the Bronze and Silver Medal panels will select winners for the following awards:

- **Serjeant Awards for Excellence in Drawing (Part 1 and Part 2)**

Presented in memory of architect Denis Serjeant, recognising outstanding technical and creative achievement in architectural drawing.

- **RIBA Awards for Sustainable Design (Part 1 and Part 2)**

Established in 2019, these awards recognise proposals that best address social, political and environmental sustainability.

1.2 Entry Content

Schools may determine their own internal criteria and processes for selecting entries and nominees. All entries must be prepared and submitted jointly by the author(s) and the tutor(s) or dissertation supervisor(s) responsible for the work.

All content included in an entry must be created by the nominee(s) or used with explicit permission.

Where Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been used to generate or modify any images, text, or other content, this must be clearly declared, stating both the tool used and its purpose. Failure to disclose AI-generated content may result in disqualification.

Collaborative entries are permitted. If a group submission wins, all contributors will receive equal credit and share the award.

All entries must be written in English or accompanied by an accurate English translation.

Each entry is expected to demonstrate:

- a thorough and original analysis of the brief
- a coherent and comprehensive approach to the chosen subject(s)
- independent critical thinking
- an understanding of architecture's social purpose and its contribution to sustainable development

Each entry must include:

- a completed **Entry Nomination Form** (Section 2)
- a completed **AI Use Acknowledgement Form** (Section 3)
- a completed **Entry Release Form** (Section 4)
- **two sets of illustrated boards** (JPG format only):
 - **Set 1:** up to 10 high-resolution boards (minimum 300 dpi or at least 7,000 × 4,500 pixels)
 - **Set 2:** the same boards at web-compatible resolution (maximum 1MB each). These will be published on *presidentsmedals.com*

Any image captions or credit lines must be concise and supplied separately, with each board clearly numbered and cross-referenced.

Boards may include single or composite images and supporting text. The full set of boards should present a visually clear, coherent narrative that allows the proposal to be understood by a general viewer.

Note: As entries are primarily reviewed on PCs or laptops, landscape orientation is strongly recommended for boards, films, and portfolios.

For the **Dissertation Medal**, entries must include a single PDF file containing the complete dissertation. This file will serve as the judges' primary reading copy and is mandatory.

1.2.1 Supporting materials

For Bronze and Silver Medal entries, a digital portfolio is strongly encouraged (though not compulsory). This may be used to expand on:

- sources of inspiration
- concept development
- technical skills
- design resolution
- research processes

Portfolios must:

- be submitted as a single PDF
- be saved at 150 dpi and 1,754 × 2,480 pixels
- not exceed 30 pages, including covers, contents pages, and blank pages

Across all three medal categories, nominees may also submit one film or sound recording (MP4 or MP3 formats only) as supporting material. The recommended maximum duration is four minutes.

1.2.2 Anonymity Requirements

All submitted materials must be entirely anonymous. Names of students, tutors, supervisors, or institutions must not appear in filenames, visible text, or embedded metadata.

Entries containing URLs or QR codes linking to external content will be disqualified.

1.3 Bronze and Silver Medals Entries

The Bronze and Silver Medal judging panels welcome a wide diversity of subjects, methodologies, and presentation formats.

Entries will be assessed on:

- architectural ambition and innovation
- creative vision
- evidence of research and critical thinking
- fitness for purpose in response to the brief and global challenges (e.g., accessibility and sustainability)
- responsiveness to context
- spatial quality for individuals and communities
- appropriateness of structural and passive/active systems
- suitability of materials selection and detailing

Methodologies and presentation formats should be appropriate to the subject matter and support clear communication.

1.4 Dissertation Medal Entries

The Dissertation Medal judging panel welcomes a broad range of subjects, methodologies, and formats.

Subjects may include (but are not limited to):

- studies of buildings or architects
- analyses of places, spaces, or urban conditions
- representations of architecture in visual or literary arts
- investigations into alternative architectural practices
- historical, social, cultural, environmental, contextual, or theoretical research

Methodologies may include (but are not limited to):

- archival research and historiographic analysis
- critical design-based or design-writing approaches
- qualitative, ethnographic, or interview-based research
- engagement with fine or visual arts
- philosophical, ecological, or aesthetic inquiry
- critical histories of technology

The panel welcomes imaginative, speculative, and innovative scholarship of all kinds, with particular emphasis on the written word as a means of communicating architectural ideas.

Formats may include extended written dissertations, portfolios of writing, multimedia-supported investigations, or other structured approaches to architectural discourse.

Whatever format is adopted, it must be appropriate to the subject and support clear analysis and argument.

Dissertations must have been completed as part of a RIBA Part 1 or Part 2 qualification, or an equivalent professional programme. Dissertations produced for postgraduate academic or research degrees (e.g. MSc, MA, PhD) are not eligible.

1.5 Copyright and Intellectual Property

RIBA does not claim ownership of any content submitted for the President's Medals.

By submitting an entry, the nominee(s) grant RIBA permission to use, reproduce, display, and publish the work in print and digital formats for non-commercial purposes related to the President's Medals, including:

- press and media materials
- exhibitions
- presentations (with appropriate credit)
- promotional activity

This permission does not extend to the publication of full written dissertations unless separately agreed with the author(s).

Nominees are responsible for ensuring that all submissions are original, authentic, free from plagiarism, and that AI tools are used responsibly and transparently. Any third-party material must be used with full permission and properly credited. RIBA reserves the right to edit, remove, or disqualify entries that are suspected of infringing third-party rights.

All nominees must complete **Section 3: Entry Release Form**.

1.6 Submitting an Entry

Entries must be saved as an individual folder on a cloud-based platform (e.g., Dropbox, WeTransfer, OneDrive, Google Drive). The download link must be emailed to presidents.medals@riba.org.

Physical submissions will not be accepted.

Submission deadlines:

- **Dissertation Medal:**
15:00 BST (14:00 UTC), Monday, 20 July 2026
- **Bronze Medal:**
15:00 BST (14:00 UTC), Monday, 27 July 2026
- **Silver Medal:**
15:00 BST (14:00 UTC), Monday, 27 July 2026

Due to the high volume of submissions, RIBA is unable to confirm receipt of entries and accepts no responsibility for undelivered emails. Entrants are advised to request a delivery receipt from their email provider.

1.7 Contacting Us

For enquiries relating to the President's Medals, please write to presidents.medals@riba.org or contact:

John-Paul Nunes	Sophie Arp
Head of Education Projects	Education Projects Coordinator
john-paul.nunes@riba.org	sophie.arp@riba.org

2 Entry Nomination

This section must be completed jointly by the student(s) who authored the entry and by the tutor(s) / dissertation supervisor(s) responsible for overseeing its development.

If the entry was produced by multiple students or overseen by multiple tutors / dissertation supervisors, please use the extra rows or add more rows as required to provide details for all co-authors and co-tutors / co-supervisors.

Only the individuals named in this section will be acknowledged in any publications, press materials, awards certificates or ceremony speeches related to the awards.

Medal Category (please tick one per entry)		
<input type="checkbox"/> RIBA Bronze Medal	<input type="checkbox"/> RIBA Silver Medal	<input type="checkbox"/> RIBA Dissertation Medal

Entry title

School of Architecture / University	Course Name

Student Details*			
First Name	Last Name	Email	Telephone

Tutor / Dissertation Supervisor Details*			
First Name	Last Name	Email	Telephone

* Please ensure that the email address is valid until December 2027. A personal mobile / cell number is preferred in case we need to contact you regarding your entry.

Nomination Statement

(To be completed by the nominee(s))

Please describe your entry in no more than 250 words in the space below.

This statement should provide information about the concept, aims, and outcomes of your work. Aim for clarity and conciseness, using accessible language to convey the significance and originality of your project.

This statement will be used publicly in print and digital formats such as the awards website, press releases, exhibitions, and speeches.

Entry Brief

(To be completed by the tutor/supervisor(s))

Please provide a summary of the brief addressed by the student(s) in this entry, in no more than 250 words in the space below.

This statement should offer insight into the design context / dissertation topic, the methodology employed, and the solutions proposed. **DO NOT** include the name(s) of the student(s), the tutor(s) / supervisor(s), the course/unit, or the institution.

This information is for the judges only and will not be made public.

3 AI Use Acknowledgement

Nominees must disclose any use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of written or visual materials submitted as part of their entry. This requirement applies whether AI has been used for content generation, enhancement, refinement, or translation. It covers all materials, including drawings, images, visualisations, films, animations, moving-image elements of design projects, dissertations, narratives, project descriptions, and captions.

Where AI tools have been used, nominees must provide a clear and specific explanation detailing:

- the AI tools used (e.g. ChatGPT-5.4, Grammarly, Midjourney, Runway, Microsoft Copilot, Rendair);
- the prompts or inputs provided;
- where and how the tools were used within the submission; and
- the purpose of their use (e.g. concept development, rendering enhancement, diagram generation, grammar support, structural suggestions, or translation).

Examples of acceptable acknowledgements include:

- *“I acknowledge the use of Midjourney to generate image #02.”*
- *“I acknowledge the use of Microsoft Copilot to summarise my initial notes and to proofread the final draft of my dissertation.”*

A. Images / Drawings / Visualisations

No AI tools were used in creating, editing, or enhancing any submitted images.

AI tools were used.

Please acknowledge usage below:

B. Film / Video / Animation

No AI tools were used in producing or editing moving-image media.

AI tools were used.

Please acknowledge usage below:

C. Text (Project Description, Dissertation, Captions)

No AI tools were used for drafting, editing, summarising, or translating written text.

AI tools were used.

Please acknowledge usage below:

4 Entry Release

This section is to be completed by the nominee(s) who produced the accompanying entry for the 2026 RIBA President's Medals.

Completing this form is essential to allow RIBA to publish the content of the entry in the awards website (www.presidentsmedals.com), exhibition materials, press releases, social media channels, and ceremony speeches.

The permission given below does not apply to sharing the full text of the written dissertation, which is subject to a separate agreement.

If the entry was produced by more than one nominee, each nominee must complete and submit their own copy of this section.

Entry Title	
Nominee's Name	
Nominee's Address	

(The Licensor, you, your)

- 1) You hereby grant to RIBA, for good and valuable consideration, permission to use the visual and written material submitted for the entry identified above under section 1.2 (the Material) whenever RIBA chooses to do so, in perpetuity, for all purposes related to the President's Medals, whether in print or online, in all formats and platforms, in any and all media now known or hereafter developed, including in RIBA President's Medals publications, whether published by RIBA or a third-party publisher on RIBA's behalf.
- 2) You consent to RIBA using your name, the Higher Education Institution that nominated you and your entry, your image and biographical information in connection with the permitted use of the Material as described above.
- 3) You represent and warrant that:
 - a) you are the sole owner of all copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property and proprietary rights in and to the Material
 - b) distribution and publication of the Material as authorized herein will not infringe any copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property or proprietary right of any person or entity
 - c) you are not a party, and the Material is not subject to, any contract or arrangement that would conflict with your permission herein

You agree to cover RIBA for all costs incurred as a result of any breach of the above representations and warranties.

This Entry Release Form shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with the laws of, England and Wales.

Nominee's Signature	
Date	

5 Social Media Information

If you would like your entry to be considered for publication on RIBA's social media channels, please complete this section.

Personal social media handles:

Institution's social media handles:

Entry hashtags

Please tick any hashtags that reflect the topics explored in the entry. Additional hashtags may be included if the options provided do not adequately represent the topics explored.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> #accessibledesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #fieldwork | <input type="checkbox"/> #religiousbuilding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #adaptivereuse | <input type="checkbox"/> #gallery | <input type="checkbox"/> #residential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #anthropology | <input type="checkbox"/> #governmentbuilding | <input type="checkbox"/> #retail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #architecturaldesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #greenfield | <input type="checkbox"/> #retrofit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #architecturaleducation | <input type="checkbox"/> #healthcarebuilding | <input type="checkbox"/> #robotics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #architecturalhistory | <input type="checkbox"/> #heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> #ruralsite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #architecturaltheory | <input type="checkbox"/> #hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> #school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> #inclusivedesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #semiotics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #artschool | <input type="checkbox"/> #industrialbuilding | <input type="checkbox"/> #sitebasedresearch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #biophilicdesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> #socialimpact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #brownfield | <input type="checkbox"/> #interiors | <input type="checkbox"/> #spatialculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> #landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> #spiritualbuilding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #community | <input type="checkbox"/> #lowcarbon | <input type="checkbox"/> #stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> #masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> #sustainabledesign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #criticaltheory | <input type="checkbox"/> #masterplanning | <input type="checkbox"/> #temporary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #culturalbuilding | <input type="checkbox"/> #miomimicry | <input type="checkbox"/> #theatre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #culturalstudies | <input type="checkbox"/> #mixeduse | <input type="checkbox"/> #theoreticalanalysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #danceschool | <input type="checkbox"/> #museum | <input type="checkbox"/> #thesis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #datacentre | <input type="checkbox"/> #naturalmaterials | <input type="checkbox"/> #timber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #decolonialism | <input type="checkbox"/> #parametricism | <input type="checkbox"/> #urbanplanning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #design | <input type="checkbox"/> #passivedesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #urbansite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #digitaldesign | <input type="checkbox"/> #pavilion | <input type="checkbox"/> #vernacular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #digitalfabrication | <input type="checkbox"/> #performancespace | <input type="checkbox"/> #workspace: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #dissertation | <input type="checkbox"/> #popup | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #educationalbuilding | <input type="checkbox"/> #postcolonialism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #environment | <input type="checkbox"/> #qualitative research | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #ethnographicresearch | <input type="checkbox"/> #quantitative research | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #feasibility | <input type="checkbox"/> #recycledmaterials | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |