
RIBA President's Medals 2020

Guidelines and requirements

The Royal Institute of British Architects is now welcoming nominations for the 2020 RIBA President's Medals from schools of architecture worldwide.

Awarded since 1836, these are the RIBA's oldest awards and continue to this day to embody the principles enshrined in the Institute's founding charter of 1837:

"the general advancement of civil architecture [...] 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 institute, the RIBA President's Medals have continuously celebrated the contribution of architecture to social betterment by rewarding innovation and competence. Entries are, therefore, expected to demonstrate

- 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.

The RIBA is inviting schools of architecture to nominate, out of work produced by students during the 2019/20 (or most recently completed) academic season, the following:

- **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 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 at Part 1 and Part 2, correspondingly.

The content of each submission must have been produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission. Entries may have been produced jointly by more than one student; in case an award is made to a jointly produced entry, the prize will be shared.

Dissertation Medal submissions

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

- studies of significant buildings and architects;
- specific 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.

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 preiate 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 a 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 academic qualifications such as Masters or PhD programmes are not eligible.

Bronze and Silver Medals submissions

Submissions for the Bronze and Silver Medals must have been produced during the most recent academic year and as part of a RIBA Part 1 or RIBA Part 2 course, respectively (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 different subjects, methodologies and presentations, and will be asked to assess the quality of the schemes in respect of:

- architectural ambition, ideas, and the extent of innovation;
- design vision as reflected in all aspects of the design, including the detail;
- fitness for purpose, especially in response to the brief, but also in terms of wider concerns like accessibility and sustainability;
- relationship of the design proposal to its context;
- the spatial experience it offers;
- the appropriateness 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.

Guidelines for submissions

Nominees must save the content of their entries on a cloud storage platform (such as Dropbox, WeTransfer, Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive, etc.) and submit a link to download the content to presidents.medals@riba.org. Each submission must contain the following:

- fully completed Student Nomination Form
- fully completed Tutor Information Form
- two sets of the same images (as JPG files only) illustrative of the project produced by the nominee(s) or used with permission, in the following formats:

Set One: 10 images at high resolution, with each image at a minimum 300dpi density or at least 40cm on the shortest length, approximately 7,000x4,500 pixels. All images must be sequentially numbered in the order they are intended to be displayed, starting at 01 and finishing at 10 (e.g. 1234_01, 1234_02, and so forth). If the entry contains more than 10 JPGs only the first 10 in the sequence will be used.

Set Two: 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, and numbered in the same format as in Set One. 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 in a separate document identifying each numbered picture with its corresponding text.

Entries in the Dissertation Medal category must include one Portable Document File (PDF) of the dissertation, which must be submitted with the completed Student Nomination Form, the Tutor Information Form, and the two sets of images. This file is an essential part of the submission as it will be used by the judges as a reading copy.

All materials submitted (JPGs, MP4s, PDFs, etc.) must not show the name of the student, the tutor, the School of Architecture / University either in an immediately visible way or in their metadata. **Entries containing such information will be disqualified.**

Supporting materials

The President's Medals judging panels welcome and encourage the submission of supporting materials that, although not essential, allow nominees the opportunity to include content that substantiates the design and thinking processes relating to the entry.

Supporting materials allowed include:

- In the Dissertation, Bronze, and Silver Medal categories: one audio-visual piece authored by the student nominee submitted in MP3 and/or MP4 formats only, and with a maximum duration of 3 minutes per entry.
- In the Bronze and Silver Medal categories: one digital portfolio authored by the student nominee featuring only content related to this entry and no other work produced during their studies. This portfolio must be saved as a single PDF and contain fewer than 30 pages at A3 size, 150 DPI, and 1,754 x 2,480 pixels each page.

Winning entries

The school responsible for nominating the Dissertation Medal winning entry will be invited to submit two printed and bound copies of the dissertation that will be catalogued and archived in the RIBA Collections and accessible for public consultation from the RIBA Library.

Equally, the schools responsible for nominating the Bronze and Silver Medals winning design projects will be invited to submit two printed and bound copies of each winning entry, with each volume containing printed versions of the main set of 10 images as well as the content of the supporting digital portfolio (if applicable), and a USB drive containing the supporting audio-visual file (if applicable).

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 nominee(s) as the author(s) of the entry; or in publicising the RIBA President's Medals themselves. The nominee agrees to sign the Visual and Written Release Form to this effect. 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. 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 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.

Submissions deadlines

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

- Dissertation Medal: 3pm on Friday 31 July 2020
- Bronze Medal: 3pm on Friday 18 September
- Silver Medal: 3pm on Thursday 24 September

The RIBA will not be responsible for undelivered emails and entries. Owing to the large number of entries expected, we will not be able to confirm receipt of submissions.

To ensure that your entry has been delivered, we strongly recommend that emails are issued with a request for delivery receipt.

Timetable for 2020

Deadline for Dissertation Medal	3pm on Friday 31 July
Deadline for Bronze Medal	3pm on Friday 18 September
Deadline for Silver Medal	3pm on Thursday 24 September
Judging of Dissertation Medal	TBC
Judging of Bronze Medal	TBC
Judging of Silver Medal	TBC
RIBA President's Medals ceremony	Tuesday 1 December (TBC)

Inquiries about any aspect of the RIBA President's Medals should be made to:

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