

Category Descriptions:

Category I: Design - Constructed Projects

Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture within the sub-categories listed below. This category is for built works in landscape architectural design. For large incremental projects, at least the first stage of construction must be completed to be eligible for an award.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

Category II: Design - Unrealized 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 will not occur.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

Category III: Residential Design

Recognizes site-specific, built works of landscape architecture for residential use. Residential design-build work encouraged.

Typical entries include: single or multi-family residential projects; activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation, or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; historic preservation; affordable landscape concepts and innovations; gardens, and more.

Category IV: Burnham Awards for Planning and Analysis

Recognizes the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, or evaluate landscape architectural design. Comprehensive plans, master plans, feasibility studies, and design guidelines and standards are examples of submittals for this category.

Typical entries include: comprehensive plans, master plans, feasibility studies, design guidelines and standards, urban, suburban, rural or regional planning efforts; development guidelines; transportation, town or campus planning; plans for reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning in relation to legislative or policy initiatives or regulator controls; cultural resource reports; natural resources protection; historic preservation planning, and more.

Category V: Communications

Recognizes achievements in communicating landscape architecture information, technology, theory, or practices to those within or outside the profession.

Typical entries include: print media, film, video, audio, presentations, online communications; interpretive design; and exhibition design. Also includes public or written documents such as books, articles, videos, and audio recordings of presentations on landscape architecture history, art, or technology; educational material intended for the non-technical consumer; events or public service; or material that increases awareness of landscape design, environmental or conservation issues.

Category VI: Landscape Architectural Research

Recognizes research projects that identify, examine, and address challenges and problems that are resolved using solutions of value to the profession. Typical entries include: 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.

Category VII: Historic Landscapes

Recognizes the restoration and/or renovation of historically significant landscapes. Entries may include parks, residential, institutional, and any historical renovation projects.

Category VIII: General Design - Undergraduate Project

Recognizes academic excellence and outstanding examples of landscape architecture by Illinois landscape architecture undergraduate students. These awards honor works that represent the academic forefront of the profession of landscape architecture and embody high levels of creativity and imagination. Any undergraduate student or student team currently enrolled in an accredited program of landscape architecture is eligible to submit a project for consideration provided that all students involved are currently members of a sanctioned ILASLA student chapter.

Typical entries include: landscape architecture projects that meet the criteria within the categories of General Design, Residential Design, Analysis and Planning, Research, Communications, and Community Service brought about through collaborative effort among undergraduate students from landscape architecture programs and allied and/or complementary disciplines.

IX. General Design - Graduate Project

Recognizes academic excellence and outstanding examples of landscape architecture by Illinois landscape architecture graduate students. These awards honor works that represent the academic forefront of the profession of landscape architecture and embody high levels of creativity and imagination. Any graduate student or student team currently enrolled in an accredited program of landscape architecture is eligible to submit a project for consideration provided that all students involved are currently members of a sanctioned ILASLA student chapter.

Typical entries include: landscape architecture projects that meet the criteria within the categories of General Design, Residential Design, Analysis and Planning, Research, Communications, and Community Service brought about through collaborative effort among graduate students from landscape architecture programs and allied and/or complementary disciplines.

X. Landmark Award

Recognizes a distinguished landscape architecture project completed between 15 and 50 years ago that retains its original design integrity and contributes significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located. Typical entries include: parks, plazas, sculpture gardens, botanical gardens, river walks, and more. Public officials and agencies, civil and historic preservation organizations, and interested individuals and entities are encouraged to submit to this category.

XI. Jensen Award

Recognizes landscape architectural design that exemplifies the ideals and values of Jens Jensen. This category recognizes built or unbuilt projects that represent his design principles of using native plants, ecological processes, and reconnecting people to the landscape with harmonious design. Projects which contribute towards the protection and long-term management of natural resources with a focus on conservation and sustainable design may also be awarded the Jensen Award.

Awards:

President's Award

Only one President's Award of Excellence may be given to a project in each entry category, and only when merited by the jury. This award is given for an outstanding advancement of the landscape architecture profession, and for projects that exemplify the land stewardship ethics upon which the profession was founded.

Honor Award

A maximum of 20% of the entries in any of the categories may be given this award for superior professional achievement.

Merit Award

Projects which demonstrate merit in design and/or environmental responsibility shall be given this distinction. Any number of entries in any of the categories may be given this award.

Landmark Award

Only one Landmark Award may be given to a project. This award is given for superior achievement in retaining the original design intent and contributing significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located.

Jensen Award

Only one Jensen Award may be given to a project. This award is given to projects that exemplifying the ideals and values of Jens Jensen.