2025 CALL FOR ENTRIES
Professional Awards

Arizona
American Society of Landscape Architects

SUBMISSIONS DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025 / 4PM

ASLA
ARIZONA

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Arizona ASLA Awards program celebrates professional and student excellence by recognizing the firms, individuals, and agencies responsible for outstanding works of landscape architecture and environmental planning that promote an enhanced quality of life in Arizona and beyond.

DESIGN AWARDS GALA

Please join us for an evening of great food and socializing as we celebrate our design community! The 2025 Design Awards Gala will be held at **The Clayton House on Saturday, March 22, 2025.** Additional information will be emailed and posted at

www.azasla.org.

ELIGIBILITY

Entrant(s) must reside in Arizona, or the project must be located in Arizona. Individuals, firms, owners, public agencies, organizations, or other entities may enter as long as the project's creative team includes an Arizona registered landscape architect, a graduate of a landscape architecture program or a faculty member of a landscape architecture program.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Projects previously submitted which have not received an award in any category are eligible for resubmission, however, the project construction or design (if un-built) must have been completed within the last 10 years. The deadline for all entry submissions is Friday, **JANUARY 10, 2025** / 4pm - standard and/or Friday, **JANUARY 17, 2025** / 4pm - late deadline, an additional $50.00 late fee will apply. Late entries after Friday, **JANUARY 17, 2025** / 4pm will not be accepted.

Visit us at https://www.azasla.org/2025awardssubmittal and follow instructions on the form.

All entries become the property of AZASLA and will be retained in the AZASLA Archives. Entrants are responsible for clearing photographs with photographers for publication and reproduction by AZASLA. AZASLA retains the right to publish photos submitted in winning entries in the Mesquite Journal Magazine, on the ASLA website, in promoting the awards program, and in other products in conjunction with promoting landscape architecture.

All questions regarding the 2025 Arizona ASLA Chapter Awards should be submitted via email to: **Karla@azasla.org.**

Winning submittals will be posted in the Mesquite Journal and on www.azasla.org

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD
The jury may select one overall entry that represents an outstanding advancement in leadership, contribution, understanding and/or achievement in the field of landscape architecture in Arizona.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
The jury may select one overall entry that represents an award of excellence (the highest level of achievement) in each category at the discretion of the jury.

HONOR AWARD
Recognizes superior achievement in landscape architecture. Any number of honor awards in each category may be given at the discretion of the jury.

SELECTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Professional Awards Jury will review all eligible submissions and may select one Award of Excellence and any number of Honor Awards in the General Design, Residential Design, Analysis & Planning, Communications, and Research categories. The Professional Awards Jury may select one Landmark Award recipient.

Entrants will be notified of the results following the jury meetings.

The awards will be announced to the media in coordination with special coverage in Mesquite Journal and on the AZASLA website.

Recipients will be honored at the awards presentation ceremony during the AZASLA Awards Ceremony in Spring 2025.

Questions? Contact the AZASLA Honors and Awards Program Manager at **Karla@azasla.org**

WINNING STRATEGIES

What makes a submission a winner? Here are some tips for improving submissions to awards programs:

KEEP IT SIMPLE AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS.
While it is tempting to customize a submission in hopes it will stand out from all the others, the best way to draw the jury's attention is through clear narrative description combined with high-quality photos and graphics. Printing out the narrative description in landscape style instead of portrait, using colored ink, or submitting a collage in order to include more images can detract from your presentation or even get the submission disqualified. Keep the focus on communicating the project's value to the jury.

FOCUS ON THE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION.
Provide the information requested in a direct, simple style. Highlight what makes the project unique, its environmental components, its long-term value, and how it raises the bar for the profession. Resist the temptation to overwrite. Use an easily readable font—Arial is good—in at least 10-point size. Increasing line spacing from single to 1.2 and double-spacing between paragraphs makes the narrative more readable as well.

REMEMBER—PHOTOGRAPHY IS KEY.
Let's face it, the best narrative in the world cannot make up for poor photography. For design competitions, hire a professional photographer to shoot your project. Lighting is particularly important, and professional photographers can show your project to its best advantage. Be creative: Shoot the project in different seasons, during the day, and at night, if appropriate. Have the photos shot or scanned in a high-resolution (dimensions should be 3,000 pixels x 2,400 pixels, at a minimum of 300 ppi, pixels per inch) electronic format (jpeg is fairly universal). Do not submit color copies of photos; submit professionally processed photos no smaller than 8 x 10 inches.

ORGANIZE.
Do not wait until the last minute to prepare your awards submission. Maintain an awards file. Most entry requirements for awards programs are set from year to year, and changes in procedure are minimal. Gather materials early and allow plenty of time for review. Two-person proof the narrative and captions for misspellings and typos. Neatness counts.

LET PLANTINGS MATURE.
Where site plantings are a key design component of a project, wait for the plantings to mature before photographing it for your portfolio or for awards submissions. Some firms wait up to three years before photographing projects.

CONSIDER SUBMITTING PROJECTS IN LESS-TRADITIONAL CATEGORIES.
Most competitions have several categories for submission. For example, the AZASLA Professional Awards Program features five: General Design, Residential Design, Analysis and Planning, Communications, and Research. The combined design categories are by far the most competitive, with twice as better photography or allowing plantings to mature, can turn the project into a winner.

BE PREPARED TO WIN.
Find out when the results will be announced and get ready. If you do not have a regular public relations staff person in place, designate someone to field media calls and to coordinate your firm's promotion of the award. And remember to let your receptionist know what types of calls may be coming in and who the contact person is.

AWARDS JURY
The 2025 Award Entries will be juried by an out of state ASLA Chapter.

GENERAL DESIGN

RECOGNIZES: site-specific works of landscape architecture. Entries in this category must have been built.

TYPICAL ENTRIES INCLUDE: Single-site public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except entries qualifying for urban design or residential design categories); projects that include historic preservation, reclamation, or conservation; green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design; design for transportation or infrastructure; landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider the quality of design and execution; design context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and resilience strategies; and design value to the client, community, and to other designers. Emphasis will be given to projects that have attained or are registered for SITES certification.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Addressing the criteria for the General Design category, describe the project location, scope and size, site and context investigation, design program, design intent, materials and installation methods, environmental impact and concerns, collaboration with the client and other designers, and other significant issues. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.
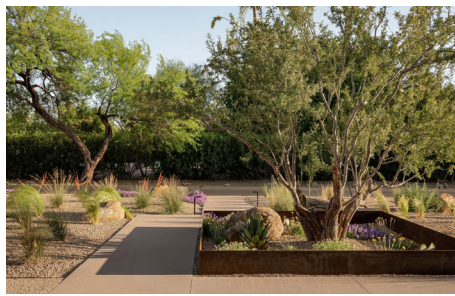
RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

RECOGNIZES: residential single and multifamily site-specific works of landscape architecture that elevate the design principles of quality, context/place, environmental responsibility, maintenance requirements and durability. Innovative design and construction techniques that help to reduce overall construction and maintenance costs will also be recognized. Entries in this category must have been built.

TYPICAL ENTRIES INCLUDE: Single family homes; high rise, multi-family production and custom home developments (market rate and non-market rate will be considered); transit oriented development (TOD); historic preservation, renovation or conservation projects; senior or assisted living developments; private or small gardens; new urbanism projects with multifamily development; projects located in Opportunity Zones; and more.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider the quality of design context and execution, materiality, environmental sensitivity, community benefit, sustainability through Low Impact Development (LID) incorporation, green infrastructure or additional site specific techniques that are innovative, site specific and maintainable. Emphasis will be given to projects that have attained or are registered for SITES certification.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Addressing the criteria for the Residential Design category describe the project location, scope and size, site and context investigation, design program, design intent, materials and installation methods, environmental impact and concerns, collaboration with the client and other designers, and other significant issues. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.

ANALYSIS & PLANNING

RECOGNIZES: the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, and evaluate landscape architecture design. Entries in this category are not required to be built or implemented.

TYPICAL ENTRIES INCLUDE: 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 regulatory controls; cultural resource reports; natural resources protection; historic preservation planning; and more.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider the quality of the analysis and planning effort; context; environmental sensitivity and sustainability; likelihood of successful implementation; and value to the client, the public, and other designers.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Addressing the criteria for the Analysis and Planning category, describe the project's goals and objectives, what kinds of environmental and social data were collected and analyzed, methods of analysis, how options were considered, how interested parties were involved in the project, how design was used in the process, how the project was or would be implemented, and how project is or will be administered and/or monitored, and other significant issues. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.
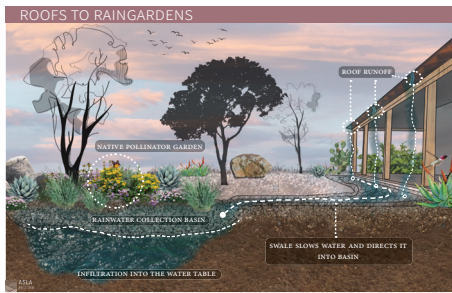
COMMUNICATIONS

RECOGNIZES: achievements in communicating landscape architecture works, techniques, technologies, history, or theory, and the lesson value to an intended audience.

TYPICAL ENTRIES INCLUDE: online communications - interactive & multimedia; print media, film, video, audio i.e. podcasts; interpretive design; exhibition design; public awareness campaigns; and more. If your media resides online, please provide an ad free direct link in your submission. You may also provide a link directly to YouTube or Vimeo, if your media is hosted there.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider the effectiveness of message presentation, the innovation in approach or delivery, and the value to the intended audience.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Describe the project and why it's award-worthy. Addressing the criteria for the Communications category, describe the intended purpose, audience, message(s), impact and effectiveness, distribution method (commercial bookstores, Internet, etc.), circulation/distribution (number), and other issues as appropriate. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.

RESEARCH

RECOGNIZES: Research that identifies and investigates challenges posed in landscape architecture, providing results that advance the body of knowledge for 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.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider clarity and importance of research question, hypotheses, or goals; significance of historical data, where relevant, and links to current knowledge; appropriate research design and use of rigorous methods of inquiry; the clarity of presentation of outcome; potential applications to practice; and the value to the field at large.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Addressing the criteria for the Research category, describe the problem researched, relationships investigated, method of inquiry used, results of research (which may refer to statistical or other analysis that can be included under "Images"), conclusions concerning the significance of the results, comparisons with past research, applicability to landscape architecture practice, the need for new or further research, and other significant issues. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.

LANDMARK

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, civic and historic preservation organizations, and interested individuals and entities are encouraged to submit projects in this category.

CRITERIA: The jury will consider the project's sustained value to the community it serves and the continued relevance of the project's design expression.

PROJECT TITLE (NAME): A submission must have a short, specific presentation title (containing no abbreviations) that indicates the nature of the presentation.

PROJECT STATEMENT/NARRATIVE: Describe the project and why it's award-worthy. Addressing the criteria for The Landmark Award, describe the project's original intent, design challenges, original surrounding environment (and how it may have changed), social concerns, history of use, community context, and impact on the public realm, the profession, and practice. (maximum word count 350)

IMAGES*: A maximum of 16 images may be submitted with each entry having no less than 5 images uploaded. Images must include at least (1) site plan.