



CALL FOR ENTRIES
2015/16

STUDENT RSA DESIGN AWARDS

INCLUSIVE CITIES

Brief

Design an inclusive building, place, or space so that it is easily and comfortably accessed and used by everyone.

Challenge and scope

The brief asks you to demonstrate how a concept, plan, strategy or design facilitates dignified, equal and intuitive use for all users, paying particular attention to the needs of disabled people, older people and families with small children.

The built environment can be a challenging place, particularly for older and disabled people as well as families. The barriers can be environmental, attitudinal and organisational barriers, and are often brought about because people have not been placed at the centre of the design. Campaigns such as those by Attitude is Everything, Level Playing Field, Muscular Dystrophy Trailblazers, and Leonard Cheshire Disability highlight the barriers many disabled people still face. Yet there are also unique and exceptional examples of inclusively designed buildings and places, including the Library of Birmingham – 2015 winner of the Civic Trust Selwyn Goldsmith Universal Design Award, and of course, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, which is developing into one of the most accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods in the UK.

Inclusive design goes well beyond simply satisfying the requirements of government legislation or regulations. It's about understanding people – their needs, their concerns, and what they really want from a building – and engaging the more social aspects of the built environment that others overlook. Whether you call it inclusive design, universal design or design for all – it's about socially sustainable design that puts people at the heart of the design process, which provides choice and flexibility, acknowledges diversity and difference and does not preclude anyone. Design of all scales can and should be more inclusive – buildings and the built environment are, before anything else, for people.

Inclusive design is a dynamic ever-developing field, and your creativity and passion can help to push the boundaries even further.

Inclusion is more than meeting the minimum standards set out in the Building Regulations or ticking a box against other technical standards – it is about thinking how people want to use the built environment.

Recognising that people can be disabled by their environment through inaccessible buildings and services, by the barriers in society including people's attitudes (stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice), and by organisations (inflexible policies, practices and procedures) will help you to think about how your building place or space can be inclusive.

Students and graduates of all built environment disciplines are encouraged to take part. You could be studying architecture, architectural technology, urban design, landscape design, town planning, planning, civil structural or building services engineering, building surveying, facilities management or any related discipline that impacts on the built environment.

In approaching this brief you may wish to think about the following:

- What is inclusive design?
- What lessons have been learned from London 2012 – the most accessible Olympic and Paralympic Games ever?
- Can you see a clear business case for inclusive design?

Entrants are urged to think creatively and innovatively about how applying the principles of inclusive design at the outset of a project can result in a more accessible and inclusive

building, place or space. You should also demonstrate effective engagement with disabled people and other diverse stakeholders – those with experience of physical, social and organisational barriers.

AWARDS

Paid Internship at
Buro Happold
Engineering

ODI Award of £1000

For full Award details, please see page 2.

The judging panel may decide on more than one winner and will allocate the awards accordingly. In addition, the judging panel may award commendations.



How this brief will be judged

- 1 **Social and environmental benefit** 20%
- 2 **Research** 15%
- 3 **Design thinking** 25%
- 4 **Commercial awareness** 10%
- 5 **Execution** 15%
- 6 **Magic** 15%

1 SEPT 2015
Briefs launch

10 FEB 2016
£25 early bird
entry deadline

10 MAR 2016
£35 final entry deadline

21 MAR 2016
2-stage judging
process begins

1 JUN 2016
Winners
announced

SUPPORTED BY



Office for
Disability
Issues

BUROHAPPOLD
ENGINEERING

Your submission could be a design, a concept, a plan or a strategy. For the purposes of illustration, the following would all be viable responses:

- the design of new building or part of a new building
- a proposal for a mixed-use scheme
- the redesign of an existing building or part of an existing building
- the design or redesign for a public space, a park or a street
- The design or redesign of a space - either internal or external
- a plan to improve access to a building of historic importance
- a concept that addresses the management of an occupied building
- a strategy for accessibility in a town centre or city location, or in a natural environment

... and many others are possible.

Judging criteria

There are six judging criteria that your entry will be measured against.

1 Social and environmental benefit

How does your design benefit society and the environment?

2 Research

Where did you go to research this issue? Whom did you speak with or interview? What questions did you ask? What did you learn?

3 Design thinking

We want to know about your thought processes and insights. Your insights might be research-based or intuitive, or a combination of both, but the judges want to see you relate the final concept clearly to these insights. What journey did you go through to get to the final result?

4 Commercial awareness

Does your design make sense from a financial point of view?

5 Execution

We are looking for a design that is pleasing and looks and feels well-resolved

6 Magic

We are looking for a bit of 'magic' – a surprising or lateral design solution that delights

Submission requirements

All entries must be submitted through our online entry system, accessed via sda.thersa.org. If you are unable to submit online, please contact us by email at: sdaenquiries@rsa.org.uk.

Entries should comprise the following (please note there is an upload limit of 10GB on all files submitted). Please ensure that your upload files do not exceed this limit.

- 4 x A3 PDFs (portrait or landscape), describing your proposal, your insights and research, the benefits you believe it will create, and possibilities of implementation and scalability
- 1 x A4 PDF or Word document of no more than 250 words describing your 'Big Idea'
- No more than 10 scanned pages of your sketchbook or computer modelling/sketches (if applicable) illustrating your development process
- 1 x 'hero image' – a singular image of your project that represents and sums it up in its best light

Please note: your submissions must not have your name, university or other identifying marks on them to ensure that work is judged fairly. If any entries do contain entrant, college or tutor names, we will contact you and ask you to re-submit your work without these, or remove them ourselves.

Key dates

Tues 1 Sep 2015 – Briefs launch and pre-registration opens

Wed 27 Jan 2016 – Competition opens for submissions via sda.thersa.org

Wed 10 Feb 2016 – Deadline for 'early bird' submission at reduced entry fee of £25

Thurs 10 Mar 2016 – Final deadline for online registration and submission (£35 entry fee)

Mon 21 Mar 2016 – Judging begins

Wed 1 Jun 2016 – Winners announced

Awards

There are two awards available for this brief.

Paid internship at BuroHappold Engineering

Remuneration: £2633 (London Living Wage)

Duration: 2 months

Location: Central London

The winning student will be paid directly by BuroHappold monthly. The winning student will have the opportunity to work on a range of projects, including within BuroHappold's Inclusive Design Team who work across all sectors including large city masterplans to small development projects.

ODI Award of £1000

Please note that the judging panel may decide on more than one winner and will allocate the award accordingly.

Sponsor information

BuroHappold Engineering is an international, multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy operating worldwide for the last 40 years, with a reputation for delivering creative, value led building and city solutions for an ever changing world.

BEPE Project, Office for Disability Issues

is a joint government/Mayor of London Paralympic Legacy Project inspired by the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, considered to be the most accessible Games ever, and by the inclusive developments being built in and around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, now a benchmark for achieving an inclusive environment.

The aim of the BEPE project is to embed inclusive design training into the initial and continuing education of our future architects, designers, planners, surveyors, engineers, facility managers and all the other professionals who have an impact on the accessibility of our built environment.

Brief devised by Julie Fleck, Project Lead Built Environment Professional Education Project (BEPE) at the Office for Disability Issues, Department for Work and Pensions and David Dropkin, Associate at BuroHappold Engineering in Inclusive Design.