2025 Professional Awards
CALL FOR ENTRIES

Each year, the Potomac Chapter ASLA honors the best in landscape architecture in the DC metropolitan area through a juried awards program.

As was the case last year, all members and applicants will be notified in advance of the names of the winning firms and projects (although not the level of the award). All awards will be presented at our Awards Gala in May.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY:

The Potomac Chapter awards program is open to individuals, firms, agencies, and academic institutions. Entries should either be designed by offices located in the Greater DC metropolitan area OR be projects that are located in the Greater DC metropolitan area.

2025 AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE:

- Recognition at the Annual Awards Gala and framed certificate

- Award entry posted on potomacasla.org

ENTRY CATEGORIES:

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture for single-family residential use. Professional entries in this category must be built. Typical entries include: Individual single-family residential or individual townhome projects; activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation, or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; affordable landscape concepts and innovations; and more.

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DESIGN- BUILT

Recognizes site specific works of landscape architecture or urban design. Professional entries in this category must be completed and realized.

DESIGN- UNBUILT

Recognizes innovative vision within landscape architecture or urban design for projects that have not been constructed.

ANALYSIS, PLANNING, AND URBAN DESIGN

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Recognizes print, digital, video, and audio media that communicates landscape architecture principles, techniques, technologies, history, or theory.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Recognizes public interest projects designed to directly benefit social equality, humanitarian, community or environmental needs and causes; or processes that are community-centered and engage a broad and comprehensive group of stakeholders

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Recognizes projects focused on historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and projects related to the inventory of historic resources.

PUBLIC and NON-PROFIT PROJECTS

Recognizes the wide variety of significant planning and landscape design work that is completed in the public and non-profit sectors that promotes the mission and goals of the profession of landscape architecture including policy and regulatory advances. Recognizes the achievements of governmental and quasi-public agencies, civic authorities, non-profit organizations, or individuals working in the public or non-profit sectors where they

- Protect, conserve, or enhance environmental resources or ecosystems
- Maintain and restore historic/cultural resources or systems
- Prepare and implement landscape designs
- Create policies and regulations that improve landscape performance, or
- Advance policies and plans that address sustainability, resilience, performance criteria, equity, or human well-being.

To be eligible for this category, the submission must provide a strong and compelling narrative along with quality graphics outlining the goal of the project and how the implementation of the project or program has been met. Provide information showing the data, such as infographics (e.g. baseline and performance data) as needed, and other supporting images to demonstrate the success of the project. Entries in this category must have a specific landscape design focus and must address the specific submission criteria noted below.

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ENTRY FEE:
Potomac Chapter Member: $155 per entry
Non-Potomac Chapter ASLA Member: $275 per entry

DEADLINE: Friday, March 21st by 11:59 PM ET

SLIDEROOM:
Entrants will need to create an account on SlideRoom prior to filling out the Awards Entry Form and Submittal Package. A different email address is required for each entry. If you log in with your SlideRoom account from a previous year, be sure to select the current year's program from the "Directory" to the left side of your Dashboard. Click the link below to access the application.

You can also sign up for a SlideRoom account and open the application here.

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS:

MERIT AWARD
Recognition for superior professional accomplishment.

HONOR AWARD
An esteemed award for excellence in landscape architecture.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Highest award of recognition for a distinguished landscape architecture project stands out above all the rest.

EVALUATION CRITERIA for all categories EXCEPT Public and Non-Profit Projects:

Quality of Work	25 pts.
Originality of Thought/Approach/Methodology	20 pts.
Clear Intent	20 pts.
Relationship to Physical or Cultural Context	10 pts.
Stewardship and Sustainability	10 pts.
High Performance or Pioneering Use	10 pts.
Overall Quality of Submission	5 pts.

EVALUATION CRITERIA for Public and Non-Profit Projects

Written Narrative	20 pts
Clarity of Planning/Design Process	10 pts
Graphic Representation	20 pts
Value to Defined Ecosystem	25 pts
Relative Success of Project	20 pts
Overall Quality of Submission	5 pts

MAXIMUM CRITERIA SCORE	100 pts

JURY MEMBERS:
Minnesota Chapter ASLA

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AWARD SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Potomac Chapter members and applicants will be notified before the Gala of the winning firms and projects (although not the level of the awards).

SUBMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:

1. The project submission process (application, project uploads, & payment) can be completed securely online by [clicking here](#)

2. All submissions are limited to **15 pages and 10MB maximum**. *The 15-page limit INCLUDES the Title & Narrative.*

3. **If a submission includes any reference to the design firm or team on any material submitted other than the Entry Form, it will be excluded.**

4. All submissions are to include the following information in the following order.

   Title: project name, location, awards category

   Project Narrative: In 200 words address as much of the following as possible.
   · Purpose and Scope
   · Project Requirements,
   · Role of the Landscape Architect
   · Project Approach/Methodology
   · Design Intent
   · Physical or Cultural Context
   · Stewardship and Sustainability
   · Landscape Performance
   · Pioneering Use of Technology or Materials
   · Effect on Public Perception of the Profession

   Illustrations:
   · Captions limited to 50 words.
   · Recommended: 3000 pixels x 2400 pixels, minimum 300 ppi.
   · Unlike ASLA National awards, multiple images/page are allowed.

   Optional Supplemental Materials ONLY APPLICABLE FOR COMMUNICATIONS/RESEARCH and PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PROJECTS CATEGORIES.
   · One-page Project Summary, in addition to the Project Narrative.
     Project Summary may include hyperlinks to original content.
   · Original media (print, video, audio, etc.) with cumulative limit of 10MB maximum.

5. By submitting an application, the applicant assures that all copyright holders have consented to the submissions and use of images for any Potomac Chapter multimedia, print or digital publications, presentations and online archive.

For questions, please email ccotter@potomacasla.org.

Submission Entry Format

1. **Portable Document Format (PDF)** – illustrating before/after views, site plans, elevations, sections and/or details:
   a. Maximum of 15 pages and 6,000 KB (10MB) total file size
   b. All pages must be clearly labeled with the project name

2. **Project Narrative** – (maximum 200 words) including project name and describing the following:
   a. Purpose and scope of the project – Describe the project requirements, planning or design philosophy, and design intent
   b. Role of the Landscape Architect – Describe the leadership and involvement in the project
   c. Local significance – Explain the project's value to the community and how it fulfills the responsibilities of stewardship, sustainability, and relationship to context
   d. Special characteristics – Explain why the project is unique or special, and how it solves unusual problems, incorporates new techniques, addresses budget constraints, affects public perception of the profession, etc.

3. Submittals for the Communications or Analysis & Planning category must also include a **Project Summary** (Maximum one-page 8.5"x11"), in addition to the Project Narrative

ENTRY MATERIALS
The following items must be received by the deadline, along with the entry fee, to be eligible for judging. Materials remain the property of Potomac ASLA unless other arrangements are made. Entrants will be acknowledged of receipt via email.

1. **Completed Entry Form**
   a. The Landscape Architect's name should appear ONLY on the entry form or risk disqualification
   b. Remove ALL other information identifying the entrant
   c. Judging will be blind

2. **Entry Fee**
   Payments may be submitted in one of two ways:
   a. On-line (preferred), or
   b. Check, through the mail.
      (Please make checks payable to the Potomac Chapter ASLA and remit to Christine Cotter, 13528 Wisteria Drive, Germantown MD 20874. Include the project name on the check)

Note: All payments must be received by the application deadline.

3. **Digital Data**
   a. All project images and narrative must be submitted in pdf format
   b. Sample Images: Include 4-6 high resolution images (minimum size of 300dpi) for award winner presentation and publication
   c. If submitting for the Communications or Analysis & Planning category, include the Full Document, Project Narrative, and Project Summary as a pdf file