

Announcement: Award-winning paper in 2009

Papers published in *Urban Design and Planning* are eligible for awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers. Papers from any of the ICE journals can be nominated for several awards. In addition, each journal has awards dedicated to their specific subject area.

On Friday 8 October 2010, ICE president Paul Jowitt presented an award to the following paper published in *Urban Design and Planning* in 2009. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Barry Clark allocated the awards.

The Reed and Mallik Medal was presented to: Lang J (2009) International urban design: theory and practice. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Urban Design and Planning* **162**(1): 7–17, doi: 10.1680/udap.2009.162.1.7.

Abstract

Urban design focuses on the development of unified goal-oriented development projects. They vary in scale from new towns to neighbourhoods to blocks of cities. Much of the significant work is now executed by a limited number of multi-national professional organisations on behalf of development companies that invest internationally and municipal authorities seeking an important place on the world stage. The schemes, wherever they are located, have a degree of homogeneity about them and pay little heed to local climatic conditions, ways of life and aesthetic values. They are international. In reaction there have been a number of neo-traditional schemes that draw heavily on past urban forms or design principles for inspiration. They do not, however, capture the imagination as much as the bold designs of globalisation. In addition, there has been a continuing call to work closely with local communities. All these approaches achieve much but have many opportunity costs associated with them. A neo-functional, ecological approach to design promises more. Can designers, however, implement such an approach?