

Award-winning paper in 2015

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 7 October 2016, ICE president John Armitt presented an award to the following paper published in *Urban Design and Planning* in 2015.



Figure 1. Jim Eyre, Christopher T. Boyko, Anna Woodeson Barch, Christopher D. F. Rogers and Joanne M. Leach, some of the winners of the Reed and Mallik Medal, with ICE President, John Armitt

The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Nigel Wright allocated the awards.

Reed and Mallik Medal

The Reed and Mallik Medal, presented for the best paper published in *Urban Design and Planning*, was awarded to Leach *et al.* (2015).

Abstract

Planners, architects, urban designers and other built environment professionals engage with a myriad of checkboxes, guidelines, requirements and specifications, all of which potentially compromise creativity and innovation in urban design. Approaches that measure performance are accused of belying the nature of places as messy, plural, organic, accidental and emotive; trying to find a formula that works may tick boxes, but it risks creating soulless spaces, oppressing innovation and incorporation of inappropriate design elements. This paper argues that sustainability assessment methods do have something to contribute to creativity and innovation in urban design precisely because they encourage engagement with challenging and often complex societal priorities. Through interviews with built environment professionals and a critical examination of sustainability assessment methods, the authors suggest that such methods can promote creativity and innovation if they engage competently with sustainability, work at a scale that allows for both breadth and depth (typically greater than the building scale) and incorporate in their design a set of eight key characteristics designed to promote creativity and innovation.

REFERENCE

Leach JM, Boyko CT, Cooper R *et al.* (2015) Do sustainability measures constrain urban design creativity? *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Urban Design and Planning* **168**(1): 30–41, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/udap.13.00034>.