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**Announcement**



Urban Design and Planning

# Award-winning papers in 2022

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 13 October 2023, ICE president Keith Howells presented awards to the following papers published in *Urban Design and Planning* in 2022. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Tim Broyd allocated the awards.

## Sir Benjamin Baker Medal

The Sir Benjamin Baker Medal, awarded to the third best overall paper, was awarded to Hammond *et al*. (2022).

## Abstract

Environmental or 'ecological' footprints have been widely used as partial indicators of sustainability; specifically of resource consumption and waste absorption transformed in terms of the biologically productive land area required by a population. The environmental footprint of the Unitary Authority of Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) in the South West of England (UK) has been estimated in terms of global hectares (gha) required per capita. BANES has a population of about 184 870 and covers an area of 35 200 ha, of which two-thirds are on 'green belt' land. The UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath is the principal settlement, but there are also a number of smaller urban communities scattered among its surrounding area ('hinterland' or 'bioregion'). The overall footprint for BANES was estimated to be 3.77 gha per capita (gha/cap), which is well above its biocapacity of 0.67 gha/cap and 'Earthshare' of 1.80 gha/cap. Direct energy use was found to exhibit the largest footprint component (a 31% share), followed by materials and waste (30%), food and drink (25%), transport (10%) and built land (4%), whereas the water footprint was negligibly small (∼;0%) by comparison. Such data provide a baseline for assessing the Council's planning strategies for future development.

Reed and Mallik Medal winners (from second left) Ombretta Romice, Husam AlWaer and Sergio Porta with ICE president Keith Howells

## Reed and Mallik Medal

The Reed and Mallik Medal, presented to the best paper on urban design, was awarded to Romice *et al*. (2022).

## Abstract

Urban environments are complex, impacting on climate change, social justice and health globally and locally. Their spatial, social, economic, environmental dimensions are interlinked and must be studied from a complexity viewpoint. Yet, while complexity has successfully entered urban scholarship and practice in many fields, urban form, a key component of urban environments, is not yet studied in these terms and consequently they are not yet designed as complex. This paper argues that the discipline of urban design should be (re)defined as the understanding and design of urban environments as places of organised complexity. It can become the discipline best placed to manage a useful global overview of sustainable placemaking. It does so by tracing urban design's historical relationships and attitudes towards the evolution of the city, contrasting definitions of complexity in science, with the deterministic way in which the early urban design practitioners viewed design. It then looks at urban design's relationship with other design professions in the UK and suggests its lack of clarity and efficiency is an enduring consequence of this historic

Sir Benjamin Baker Medal winner Geoffrey Hammond (right) with ICE president Keith Howells

trajectory. Finally, it proposes urban design as the discipline concerned with the understanding and design of complex-adaptive urban environments and advocate its establishment as an independent *profession*.

## REFERENCES

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Romice O, Rudlin D, AlWaer H *et al*. (2022) Setting urban design as a specialised, evidence-led, coordinated education and profession. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Urban Design and Planning* **175(4)**: 179–198, https://doi.org/10.1680/jurdp.22.00023.