

Terms of Reference RAIC Gold Medal

Edited by the RAIC Awards Committee, July / August 2021
Approved by the RAIC Board August 2021

1. Purpose

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Gold Medal is the highest honour that the Institute can bestow in recognition of a significant and lasting contribution to Canadian architecture. The honour recognizes a significant body of work deemed to have lasting influence as demonstrated through excellence in design; excellence in research; and/or excellence in education. It considers the individual's breadth and scope of expertise; established presence within the public sphere; exemplary approaches to environmental sustainability; support and advancement of social justice; and commitment to the future generation of architects.

2. Eligibility

Any individual is eligible to be nominated to receive the Gold Medal. The Gold Medal may be awarded to more than one individual (for instance, the partners of an architectural firm) where it is clearly demonstrated that the nominees have individually and collectively met the selection criteria.

An award may be given retroactively at the discretion of the jury and the Board. A nomination can be made posthumously.

3. Call for Nominations

Nominations can be made by one or more members of the RAIC. Previous nominees may be re-nominated.

4. Submission Requirements

Submissions will be completed using the RAIC online submission platform.

The following items must be completed or provided:

1. Completed submission form;
2. A brief biography of the nominee(s), not to exceed two (2) pages;
3. A report which summarizes the contributions of the nominated individual(s) to the field of architecture, not to exceed twenty (20) pages;
4. Letters of support from clients, collaborators, etc. Each letter of support should outline their relationship with, and experience of, the nominee, and why they believe the nominee(s) should receive the Gold Medal;
5. Background information such as awards, publications, etc. (optional);
6. Up to thirty (30) representational images (optional);

7. A numerical index listing all images, providing descriptions and full credit information for each (if applicable).

5. Selection Process

The National Committee of the College of Fellows shall appoint a Jury of five each year which will be Chaired by the Chancellor of the College (or his/her/their delegate).

The jury will consider any, or all, of the following core areas:

- Demonstrated excellence in design, assessed by great depth of purpose and effort in the candidate(s)' work, having a cumulative and lasting effect on the profession of architecture in Canada, as shown by their record of awards, and the quality and significance of their portfolio of work;
- Demonstrated excellence in education and research, assessed by the breadth of endeavour, having influenced the practice of architecture, the teaching of architecture and/or research in architecture, as shown by an account of the candidate(s)' career and bibliography of published work;
- Demonstrated ability to transcend specific areas of expertise, having made connections between areas of focus that might be considered circumscribed, as shown by innovations achieved in their work, and through testimonials and/or letters of support;
- Demonstrated established presence within the public sphere, assessed by the widely known quality of their work, as shown by recognition in the national and international press.

6. Number of Awards

One award will be conferred. At its discretion, the Jury may elect not to confer an award.

All un-awarded nominations will be carried forward for five consecutive years, after which the nomination will lapse. The nominator(s) may modify/revise the submission to bring it up to date.

7. Frequency

The award is to be offered every year.

8. Public Presentation

The presentation of the award will be made at a public event. The Gold Medal recipient will be invited to deliver an address upon receipt of the award.