

2011 SPOKANE MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

Call for Entries

The Mayor's Urban Design Awards recognize and thank people who contribute to Spokane's quality of life and help implement the City's Comprehensive Plan through good urban design. The awards will highlight the importance of creative thought, technical proficiency, and the relationship of good urban design to our city's economic health and overall well-being. These bi-annual awards will be announced by the Mayor during a Spokane City Council meeting. Award winners will receive a Certificate of Recognition and be showcased on the City's Urban Design website.

Qualifications to Enter

An urban environment is made up of many elements including buildings, bridges, streets, sidewalks, parks, plazas, nature corridors, trees and public art. So ANY project in the Spokane region—large or small, public or private—is eligible for submission and will be considered if it meets the following criteria:

- Completed between January 1, 2005, and August 1, 2011 and has not been previously submitted;
- Can be judged against some or all of the "15 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane" which are consistent with Comprehensive Plan objectives and "Smart Growth" principles; and
- Contributes to the City of Spokane's quality of life.

Entry Submittal Categories

Within Spokane City Limits: 1. Completed Projects. 2. Visions and Master Plans.

Regional: 1. Completed Projects. 2. Visions and Master Plans. Examples might include projects located outside the city limits that have been designed to protect the Spokane River or Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, transportation projects, or recreation/tourism projects that directly benefit citizens of the City of Spokane.

Levels of Awards for Entries Submitted

- **"Mayor's Choice Award"** - highest honor for overall urban design excellence.
- **"Urban Design Merit Award"** - distinguished work in meeting specific criteria for good urban design.
- **"People's Choice Award"** - all entries will be displayed for 3 weeks at River Park Square, thus giving the public an opportunity to vote for their favorite submitted design.

Spokane Design Review Board Special Acknowledgements

In addition to the awards for submitted projects, Spokane's Design Review Board (DRB) will nominate projects for special recognition by the Mayor. The categories for these DRB Special Acknowledgements will be:

- **"Creative Citizen(s)"** - person or group whose work has enhanced Spokane's urban fabric.
- **"Heritage Project"** - a design that has significantly contributed to Spokane's quality of life.
- **"Shrinking Lilac"** - when it becomes apparent to the DRB that the designer/developer was too modest to submit excellent work.

Judging

The City of Spokane's Design Review Board will develop recommendations to the Mayor who will make the final selections for the Mayor's Choice and Urban Design Merit Awards. The identities of applicants will be concealed until all judging is complete. Jurors will not review projects with which they've been involved.

Registration forms are available on the 3rd Floor, City Hall or online.

Application deadline, 12:00 noon, Monday, August 1, 2011.

For more information:
Julie Neff, Urban Designer
509-625-6082 or jneff@spokanecity.org



www.spokanecity.org
Tami Palmquist, City Planner
509-625-6157 or tpalmquist@spokanecity.org

2011 SPOKANE MAYOR'S URBAN DESIGN AWARDS

15 Qualities of Good Urban Design in Spokane

1. Community Enhancement

Good design contributes generously to the public realm, and enhances the sense of community pride. It provides opportunities for social interaction and strengthens the self-image and identity of the community.

2. Human Scale and Richness

A good urban place recognizes the complexity of human beings – and appeals to the intellect, emotions, senses and spirit. The experience of a place can be enhanced by manipulating its features; for example, using a variety of materials, creating differences in scale, and changes in light. The evidence and use of human dimensions helps people relate to, interpret, and appreciate the built environment. Good places lift the spirits and are pleasing to the eye and mind.

3. Human Needs

A well-designed place will consider and provide for all human needs, will offer a variety of choices for how to use the space, and will be convenient, comfortable, safe and accessible.

4. Variety

"Variety is the spice of life!" We humans prefer a variety of experiences, and variety is therefore an essential ingredient of good design. Variety of experience implies places with varied forms, colors, textures, lighting, uses and meaning. A variety of uses creates opportunities for people to interact and is particularly important for a healthy community. For example, a variety of uses in the same building or public place helps to ensure that people will be using the area more hours of the day.

5. Safety

A good place will be perceived as safe as well as be safe. The physical arrangement of a place can greatly contribute to personal safety. A good place will be designed so that users of activities and spaces are visible rather than concealed. Public areas with pedestrian amenities and buildings with plenty of windows reduce the opportunities for crime against people and property, because they are more people-friendly, they attract activities, and they allow for natural surveillance.

6. Public and Private Space

A good place in Spokane will utilize design elements to clearly delineate public, semi-public, and private spaces. A good design will consider its entire site to ensure its proper use and maintenance in the present and the future.

7. Flexibility and Adaptability

A good place will be able to accommodate a large range of uses, activities and purposes over the daily and weekly cycle, seasonal patterns, and its lifetime.

8. Connectivity

Spokane's citizens have stated that it must be as easy to walk in Spokane as it is to drive. Good places in Spokane will be designed first for pedestrians, next for bicycles and alternative modes of transportation, and then for cars. The design should allow people to have a high number of and access to transportation choices.

9. Accessibility

Good public places are accessible to all members of our community. Good places take into consideration universal design principles as well as people from all walks of life.

10. Place-making

The result of good design is a strong sense of place and identity. 'Place' nurtures people's health, their happiness, and sense of well-being by connecting to a deeper sense of meaning. Successful spaces become a 'place' when people attach meaning, take ownership, and purposely choose to live and be in these spaces.

11. Comprehensible

We can take full advantage of a place only if we can get oriented quickly—we need to be able to understand it, interpret it and have meaning for its use. A good place provides clear points of reference and allows people to construct a mental map so they know where and how to use the space.

12. Environmental Sensitivity – Contextual Fit

A good design is sensitive to its setting whether natural or built. It is connected to its surroundings and will improve the quality of the environment(s) of which it is a part.

13. Urban Greenscape - Green Infrastructure

Spokane's citizens value the City's urban forest, native habitats, natural landforms, nature space networks, and connecting corridors. A good design will protect and add to these features. The greenscape of the city is an integral part of the urban fabric and is a continuous medium rather than a local or site-related "landscaping/plantscaping" enhancement.

14. Sustainability

Urban sustainability includes not only energy use but also economic, social, cultural and ecological concerns. Good spaces in Spokane will contribute to the objective of wise and responsible use of natural resources; and will preserve and enhance the natural environment elements that define Spokane's quality of life.

15. Regional Character

Good urban design in Spokane will help people understand the significance of this area including the "lay of the land" and its natural and cultural history. It will retain and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and historic sites that define the Spokane region.