




GSA Design Awards 2008
Call for Entries



U.S. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

U.S. General Services Administration Public Buildings Service

Honoring Excellence in Design + Construction



I am pleased to announce the Call for Entries for the U.S. General Services Administration's 2008 Design Excellence and Construction Excellence Awards. I encourage you to submit your entries in this competition.

Collaboration is a key element to the success of GSA's capital construction program—collaboration with our customers, private-sector design and engineering professionals, artists, the construction industry, and among GSA's regional and central offices. Our design and construction awards program is an opportunity to: (a) evaluate this and other elements of our design, art, and construction processes, (b) highlight distinguished projects that can serve as models, and (c) honor those individuals whose skills, creativity, and hard work have produced these exemplary projects.

Through our buildings, GSA makes quality government visible to the public. We want our new buildings to contribute to the nation's public architectural heritage and, through our modernization program, extend the useful life of our older buildings, many of which are historic landmarks. Above all, we want our buildings to be highly efficient and functional for our customers, environmentally responsible, and of enduring value in the communities in which they are located.

We look forward to receiving and reviewing your entries. I thank you for your time and effort and wish all participants the best of luck in this year's competition.



DAVID L. BIBB
Acting Administrator

GSA Design Awards 2008

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is the largest public real estate organization in the United States. The agency manages an inventory of 350 million square feet of workspace for over 1 million federal employees in 2,100 communities. It is also responsible for maintaining, renovating, restoring, and modernizing our existing inventory of 1,500 federal buildings. As such, GSA has not only a responsibility but a mandate to set the highest standards of excellence in building design and construction. What we design, build, and preserve today is a legacy of public architecture and art that will be used and enjoyed now and by future generations. GSA, through its Public Buildings Service, carries out this important trust in partnership with private firms and individuals across the country.

The GSA Design Awards Program recognizes the outstanding achievements that result from these partnerships. The program has a broad number of categories from architecture and art to sustainability and construction that encompass virtually every way design, art, and construction professionals contribute to the quality of the federal workplace and leave an enduring imprint on America's built environment.

We invite entries from individuals and firms that have worked on GSA-sponsored projects during the past five and a half years. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in March 2009.

Eligibility

Entries must be for projects authorized by GSA and completed between January 1, 2003, and September 2, 2008. In the field of architecture—for new construction only, On the Boards design concepts approved by the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service between January 1, 2003, and September 2, 2008, are also eligible.

The Design Awards Program is open to:

- Contract design professionals, contractors, construction managers, artists, and/or firms and organizations that have completed or are working on projects for GSA or under GSA authority.
- GSA employees or former employees who have or had professional responsibility for a GSA-authorized project.

Non-winning entries to previous GSA Design Awards Programs may be resubmitted if the project was completed between January 1, 2003 and September 2, 2008.

No entry fee is required and entries must be received by noon, Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

Evaluation Criteria

- Success in responding to GSA project objectives and requirements
- Innovation in devising solutions or meeting specific needs
- Technical and functional proficiency
- Aesthetic sensibility
- Achieves GSA's environmental goals
- Cost effective on a life-cycle basis
- Timely project delivery
- Ability of the project to serve as a model for others

Entry Categories

Architecture—Completed Projects

Architecture—On the Boards New Construction

Art in Architecture

Conservation and Restoration (Including Art Conservation)*

Construction Excellence*

Engineering and Technology

Graphic Design/Signage

Interior Design/Workplace Design

Landscape Architecture

Lease Construction*

Modernizations*

Preservation Design*

Sustainability/Energy Conservation*

Urban Design and Planning*

*See next page for a more detailed description of these categories.

Entry Requirements

Conservation and Restoration (Including Art Conservation)

acknowledges excellence in protecting the original fabric and intent of a work of art or architecture, applying exemplary methodologies to its analysis, treatment, and documentation, including the application of innovative technologies to achieve a successful outcome.

Construction Excellence recognizes the importance of the builder in translating the architect's vision into concrete, steel, glass, and stone. Entries will be judged on how well specific construction procedures and practices have been applied to GSA capital projects. Factors to be considered include: management of overall construction costs; completion of projects on time and within budget; management of change orders; reduction of claims and litigation, and design deficiencies; and quality of construction for the approved design.

Lease Construction expands the reach of GSA's design excellence criteria to include not only federally-owned facilities but also facilities built to suit and leased by GSA for a federal client. GSA believes that all facilities housing federal employees, whether owned or leased, should exemplify the highest standards of design and construction excellence.

Modernizations are major renovation projects in non-historic buildings.

Preservation Design recognizes model preservation design approaches and innovative design solutions to challenging preservation and adaptive use problems, especially those that creatively resolve conflicts between preservation goals, building codes, program requirements, and other design goals. Projects must be consistent with GSA's preservation policy and stewardship goals, as well as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Sustainability/Energy Conservation addresses a spectrum of issues. These include siting that leverages energy conservation and minimizes impacts on the surrounding environment; the recycling of materials on the site prior to construction; the use of recycled, environmentally-friendly materials in the new construction; the conservation of water and energy; and the design of interior spaces that are flexible and effective work environments. Criteria include conservation as a pervasive strategy in the building's conceptual development and design, the integration of conservation with other design priorities, and the value of the approach as a model for other projects. LEED certification is desirable for projects submitted in this category.

Urban Design and Planning recognizes the role that design and collaboration play in shaping public spaces and neighborhoods at and around GSA properties. The jury will consider how well GSA building and landscape elements contribute to a cohesive urban fabric, looking for an approach that supports local urban design and planning goals.

The entry must clearly communicate, in visual and narrative form, the scope and outstanding features of the project and be organized to facilitate easy review by the jury.

Materials must be in transparent sleeves inside a standard white 1 1/2" three-ring binder with insertable pockets on the spine and covers. The project name, location (city and state), and category must appear on the front and the spine of the binder. No deviations from this requirement are permitted.

A complete binder must be submitted for each entry. If you wish to enter the same project in more than one category, submit a separate binder for each category. The information submitted should describe the outstanding features of the project and address design challenges relevant to the specific entry category. A project entered in more than one category should not be simply the submission of a duplicate binder containing the same information.

Include the following items in the binder, in the order listed:

- Two copies of the entry form provided, typed in no smaller than 10-point type. Entries in a format other than the official entry form will not be considered. (Photocopies are acceptable.) Electronic copies of the entry form are available at www.gsa.gov/designawards. These can be filled out on-line for those owning the software to create PDFs.
- An executive summary of the project and the reasons it merits consideration for an award in the chosen category.
- A narrative, not to exceed three typewritten, single-spaced pages, that summarizes the project and gives pertinent details on its design and/or construction quality and accomplishments. Please address the purpose, goals, design methodology or construction process, results, cost effectiveness, timely delivery, and significance of the project. State why it is a model of excellence.
- Lessons learned bullets setting forth why the project is a model.
- Reductions of drawings (such as plans, elevations, and sections) that will fit in the binder sleeves without folding. All entries in the categories Architecture—Completed Projects, Architecture—On the Boards, Modernizations (if project includes work on the exterior of the building), Landscape Architecture, Art in Architecture (if the artwork is installed on the building or perimeter), and Lease Construction must include a site plan.
- Professional-quality, black and white and/or color photographs and/or renderings of the project. These must show different views and be printed so that there is one image per face of the plastic sleeves in the entry package. For buildings, views should include the surrounding context, not simply the building as an isolated element, all elevations, and important interior spaces. An identification of the view shown must accompany each image.

Conservation and Restoration, Modernization, and Preservation projects must include before and after photographs of the same locations/views.

Construction Excellence entries should have photographs showing the quality of exterior and interior craftsmanship.

- Photo captions, credits, and authorizations for reproduction allowing GSA to reproduce the images without compensation in print and electronic media, signed by the photographer (or his or her authorized representative), should be typed on a single sheet of paper for each photograph and attached to the back of the photograph. Please do not use rubber cement or write directly on the photograph.
- A CD or DVD with digital images of all photographs, renderings, and plans. One folder should contain high resolution TIFF or EPS images that when opened to 8" x 10" have a minimum resolution of 300 DPI. For highest quality, provide CMYK TIFF files if possible. A second folder should have JPEGs in RGB color mode that when opened to 8" x 10" have a resolution of 100 DPI. The two folders should be clearly labeled "high resolution" and "low resolution." The CD should be accompanied by a statement signed by the photographer (or his or her authorized representative) allowing GSA to reproduce the images without compensation in print and electronic media.

For Construction Excellence:

In addition to describing the construction process and quality of the finished product, applicants should answer the following questions:

- Budget—Was project brought in on or below budget? If not, give the reason.
- Schedule—Was project completed on or ahead of schedule? If not, why?
- Partnering—How was partnering handled to maintain a positive working relationship among all the project team members?
- Conflict Resolutions & Change Orders—How were conflict resolutions and change orders managed to mitigate impact on the project schedule and budget?
- Value Engineering—Was value engineering done on the project? If so, what was its effect on budget, schedule, and quality?
- Awards & Commendation—Did project win any local craftsmanship awards and/or have users provided letters on the quality of the facility?

All entry materials become the property of GSA and may be used to publicize GSA's Design Awards Program and other activities.

Entry materials will **not** be returned. Do not submit your only copies of photographic documentation.

GSA may request additional materials from award winners for publicity and exhibition purposes.

Design Award Entry Checklist (Please Complete)

- Standard white 1 1/2" three-ring binder with insertable pockets
- Cover with project name, location (city and state) and category
- Spine with project name, location (city and state) and category
- Completed entry form (2 copies)
- Executive summary
- Lessons learned
- Drawings
- Site plan, if required
- Photographs and/or renderings with descriptions
- Photo captions, credits and authorizations
- Narrative (maximum of 3 pages)
- CD or DVD with high and low resolution digital images
- Signed authorization by photographer to reproduce images

Additional requirements for Construction Excellence submittal:

- Budget
- Schedule
- Partnering information
- Conflict resolution and change orders
- Value engineering
- Awards and commendation

Deadline

All entries must be received by 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time, on Wednesday, October 15, 2008.

Mail or hand carry entries to:
Attn: Renee Pilone
GSA Design Awards 2008
U.S. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service (PMDD)—Room 3341
Office of the Chief Architect
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

For additional information and entry forms, please contact Renee Pilone.
Telephone Number: (202) 219-1086
E-mail Address: renee.pilone@gsa.gov

Judging

GSA will assemble a jury of nationally recognized private sector design professionals, artists, contractors, and construction managers to select award recipients at two levels: Honor Award and Citation. The jury may choose to make more than one award in any category, elect to make no award in a category, or switch a project to another category. Projects will be judged on individual merit according to the criteria noted.

Announcement and Presentation of Winners

Winners will be notified by letter. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in March 2009. Award plaques will be presented to winning firms and individuals and to the GSA officials under whose authority the work was performed. Individuals who provided support to each award-winning project will receive certificates of recognition.

Deadline: Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Entry Form (type or print)

Project

Project Name

Location

Award Category

If submitted in more than one category, specify what other category(ies)

Date of Completion

Design Cost

Construction/Fabrication/Printing cost Cost per sq.ft. or unit

Responsible GSA Official

Entrant

Name Role/Title

Firm/Organization

Street Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number Fax Number

E-mail Address

Name Of Firm/Organization As You Wish It To Appear on the Award

Signature Date

Credits

Include designers and design managers (or construction managers if Construction Excellence) who had significant involvement in the project for the category in which the project is submitted. Additional credit pages may be added and must accompany this entry. Please be inclusive in naming those individuals who should receive recognition. No names may be added after the entry deadline.

Contract Professionals

Name

Role/Title

Firm/Organization

Street Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

Name

Role/Title

Company

Street Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

GSA Professionals

Name

Role/Title

Responsible Office

Street Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address

Name

Role/Title

Responsible Office

Street Address

City/State/Zip Code

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-mail Address