

niagara
community
DESIGN AWARDS
in Urban Design and Architecture
2011

call for submissions

www.niagararegion.ca

Niagara Region
Building Community. Building Lives.

 NIAGARA
SOCIETY of
ARCHITECTS
www.niagaraarchitects.com



Objective

The objective of the Niagara Community Design Awards is to recognize and celebrate excellence in design in the Niagara Region that demonstrates the application of Smart Growth Principles. This year's awards will continue to focus on projects that enhance the built environment, efficiently use land, and demonstrate creativity and vision.

Design features urban design, architecture, planning and related disciplines and includes buildings, a group of buildings, subdivisions, parks, master and community plans and other projects as listed in the Award Categories.

Evaluation Criteria

Project submissions will be judged on the basis of how well the project achieves the intention of the category, demonstrates Niagara's Smart Growth Principles and how it considers issues such as the following:

- Compatibility, fit or enhancement of the existing urban/natural context;
- Design (such as architectural or landscape) innovation and environmental quality in Niagara;
- Appropriate technical and functional requirements (e.g., pedestrian and vehicular circulation, site utilization, storm water management, servicing); and,
- Larger sustainability objectives (e.g., preservation, re-use of products, variety of energy sources, permeable paving, etc.).

Smart Growth Principles

- Mix land uses
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighbourhoods
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

Eligibility

1. All projects must be substantially completed. For a project this means ready for occupancy and/or use. For a policy or plan this means approved or adopted by Council.
2. Projects that were completed after 2001 will be considered for Award Categories A through I. Projects completed up to twenty-five years ago may be considered for Award Category J.
3. Projects/persons or groups must be in or have significantly contributed to community design in Niagara, Ontario.
4. Former winners and honourable mentions may not be resubmitted for the same category.



Award Categories

Nominations for any specific project/person or group may be submitted in one category only. All projects submitted will be considered for Overall Excellence. All references and requirements to projects throughout this document refer to Award Categories A through I. References and requirements for an individual refer to Award Category J.

A. SMALL SCALE PROJECT

This award recognizes an infill or redevelopment project that is smaller in scale or nature that demonstrates excellence in design. The project may be a new building, or an addition to an existing structure and be under 600 m² (6458 ft²) in footprint and/or a maximum of three storeys in height. This project creatively and effectively uses the site, is complimentary to the existing surroundings, and intensifies or provides additional choice within the area.

B. LARGER SCALE PROJECT

This award recognizes an infill or redevelopment project that is larger in scale or nature that demonstrates excellence in design. The project may be a new building, an addition, or a redevelopment of an existing structure and be greater than 600 m² (6458 ft²) in footprint and/or greater in height than three storeys. This project creatively and effectively uses land, is complimentary to the existing surroundings, and intensifies and provides additional choice within the area.

C. PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT

This award recognizes excellence in design of the spaces between the places, and presents a significant improvement to the public realm. This category may include public art, parking lots, parks, or road realignment that effectively integrates with the surrounding buildings, is accessible, and contributes to the beautification and use of the site.

D. ARCHITECTURE

This award recognizes architectural excellence by a Niagara architect, and may be a new building or addition to an existing. Architectural excellence may include use of urban design, new technologies, design, building layout, or integration of styles. This award recognizes a high degree of creativity. This award is sponsored by the Niagara Society of Architects.

E. SUSTAINABILITY

This award recognizes projects that meet a higher standard of environmental efficiency, such as LEED certification. The award could be for residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial buildings; may be public or private and could be within urban or rural/agricultural areas. Included in consideration of this award is site design, building materials, sense of place within Niagara, and/or environmental efficiency.

F. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT

This award recognizes an improvement to the façade of a building that may or may not have internal improvements. The primary feature of this award is the revitalization of the street face of the building that demonstrates creativity. This award may recognize heritage restoration or a more modern approach.

G. ADAPTIVE RE-USE

This award recognizes the re-use of an existing building or buildings, and possible intensification of a site. The primary feature of this project is the re-use of the former building(s) in a manner that demonstrates creativity, reintegrates the site into the community, and provides a mix of uses and choice into the surrounding neighbourhood.



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H. BROWNFIELD

This award recognizes the revitalization of a former brownfield site into one that once again integrates with the fabric of the community. The Brownfield award differs from Adaptive Re-use, as the focus of this project involves site examination, any required remediation and redevelopment. The winning project demonstrates the Smart Growth Principles through creativity, site development, utilization of existing servicing, creation of a mix and/or intensification of uses, and integration with the surroundings.

I. POLICY & PLANS

This award recognizes an approved Official Plan, Neighbourhood/Secondary Plan, Design Guideline, Community Improvement Plan, Master Plan or development plan that focuses on the Smart Growth Principles such as a mix of uses, walkability, and compact development. Also considered important to this award is an effective public consultation process.

J. LEADERSHIP & LEGACY

This award recognizes an individual or group that has acted as a pioneer in the Niagara community in achieving good community design and the Smart Growth Principles. This award also recognizes projects completed within the last twenty-five years that provide a lasting example of good community design and a signature landmark within the community. The works or deeds attributed to this person, group or project can be used as examples for others and benefit not only a specific area, but the larger Niagara community.

Overall Excellence Award

An Overall Excellence Award may be presented to a project that demonstrates an extraordinary level of ingenuity and creativity; includes a mix and/or intensification of uses; considers pedestrians; integrates and compliments the community; and features compact development. Nominations will not be accepted for this award; it is decided at the sole discretion of the Review Committee from the nominated projects, and may not be awarded each year.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, November 18th, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.** **All submissions must be submitted to the Niagara Region Integrated Community Planning Department** located on the second floor of Campbell West in Niagara Region Headquarters at 2201 St. David's Road in Thorold.

Submissions received after this time will not be considered.

An e-mail notification will be sent to confirm that your submission materials have been received using the email provided in the Nominator's Contact Information.

Review Process and Committee

Decisions will be based on the information provided on the submission forms and display boards. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to address all of the issues on the application forms. The Review Committee may, at their discretion, tour a short list of submissions for a better visual understanding of the project.

The Review Committee reserves the right to change the category of any submission if it deems appropriate. The Review Committee reserves the right to not grant an Award or Honourable Mention in any given category if there is a lack of submissions or if the submissions do not exhibit the quality expected.



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The Review Committee will adjudicate all categories of awards. The Review Committee members are:

- Richard Baker, OAA (Retired)
- Glenn Barr, P.Eng
- Hugh Gayler, MA., PhD
- John Gittings, OAA, MRAI
- Ken Gonyou
- Ruedi Hofer, OALA, CSLA
- Douglas McNaughton, APA (Can), ICIA, RPA, AIPFM (UK)
- Bryan Morris
- Barbara Wiens, MCIP, RPP

Notification and Recognition of Winners

Winners of the awards will be notified in December. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in late January.

Niagara Region will recognize award recipients in press releases, on the web, and at the Awards Ceremony. It is expected that this year's ceremony will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

All submissions become the property of Niagara Region and can be used to advertise the Awards or for any other purpose that the Niagara Region sees fit.

Questions and comments may be directed to:
Terri Donia, Awards Coordinator
Email: terri.donia@niagararegion.ca
Phone: 905-685-4225, Ext. 3374
Fax: 905-641-5208

Address

Niagara Community Design Awards
c/o Integrated Community Planning
Campbell West, Second Floor
Niagara Region
2201 St. David's Road West
P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7

Submission Instructions

This section contains instructions and all necessary forms to submit a project/individual for the Niagara Community Design Awards. A separate submission form and requirements must be prepared for each nominated project or individual.

There are three components of the submission:

- the submission forms,
- display panel(s), and
- CD containing all materials.

At the discretion of the Review Committee, a submission will not be considered for an Award unless it is complete and contains all components.

SUBMISSION FORMS

The submission forms will provide the Review Committee with information about the project/individual, participant identification and a release statement.

Please supply all requested information.

Additional forms can be obtained at the following website:

www.niagararegion.ca

or by contacting:

Terri Donia, Awards Co-ordinator
Email: terri.donia@niagararegion.ca
Phone: 905-685-4225, Ext. 3374

Information Session

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Niagara Region Headquarters



DISPLAY PANELS

The display panels will be used by the Review Committee in judging the submissions, with any additional questions being answered by information provided on the submission forms.

Please adhere to the following instructions closely:

- Submissions should be mounted on 30" x 40" (762mm x 1016mm) board/foam core in portrait format. Up to two boards may be submitted. Please do not submit tri-fold panels.
 - All display panels must clearly show the title of the award category for which they are being submitted.
 - All display panels must clearly show the name of the project or individual.
 - Project builder/developer/architect, etc. names should not be the focus of the display (unless the award category is Leadership and Legacy) but may be located on the display board no larger than business card format.
 - All projects must have a well-labelled location map and a legible site plan.
 - A minimum of four well-labelled images shall be included. Expected as part of these images is a photograph of the project/individual, and an image/site plan of the project that demonstrates the before and after of the site and buildings.
 - A brief, legible and point-form description of the project/individual should be provided on the panel that clearly demonstrates why the submission is being made for the category. This should provide the Review Committee, and any others viewing the panel, with a snapshot of the project. Maximum length is equivalent to one (1) 8 ½" by 11" sheet of paper of a font that is 12 pt or greater. *(Please provide this information on a CD in Word format, as this information may be used to describe the project for the award presentations or media.)*
- A brief, legible and point-form description of the project/individual's contributions should be provided on the panel that clearly identifies how the project demonstrates the Smart Growth Principles (previously outlined in this application) and design excellence. Maximum length is equivalent to one (1) 8 ½" by 11" sheet of paper of a font that is 12 pt or greater.

All images and descriptions must also be provided on a CD. All images/site plans, etc. should be of a quality of 300 dpi or higher in a .jpg or .tiff format. Please label the images and disc clearly. Photographs must not be restricted against publication or any other form of publicity.

Supporting Materials

- If submitting under the Policy & Plans category, at least one full copy of the Plan must be submitted.
- Publications, guidelines, reports or excerpts may also be submitted. Their submission, however, must not replace required components of the submission package.

APPLICATION FORM

- Submission Form 1: Entry Information
- Submission Form 2: Participant Information
- Submission Form 3A: Project Information
- Submission Form 3B: Project Information
- Submission Form 4: Policy & Plans
- Submission Form 5: Individual Information
- Submission Form 6: Permissions



Application Form

Please print clearly.

Submission Form 1 - Entry Information

(form to be completed for all categories)

Nominated Project/Individual Name (as it would appear on award):	
Award Category:	
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Small Scale Project	<input type="checkbox"/> F. Façade Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Larger Scale Project	<input type="checkbox"/> G. Adaptive Re-use
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Public Realm Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> H. Brownfield
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Policy & Plans
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Leadership & Legacy
General Nominated Project/Individual (the person that will be recognized should the project win):	
Project Location:	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
If selected, persons to be recognized:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Owner Information (if different from above):	
Name:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Nominator Information:	
Name:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	

Permission from owners/nominees is the responsibility of the nominator and must be obtained before making an entry (see Submission Form 6).



Please print clearly.

Submission Form 2 - Participant Information

(form to be completed for all categories)

Consulting Firm Name (if applicable):	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Architects (if applicable):	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Engineers (if applicable):	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Specialist Consultant (if applicable):	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	
Builder (if applicable):	
Contact Person:	Title:
Organization/Company:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.



Please print clearly.

Submission Form 3A - Project Information

(form to be completed for Categories A through I and Category J if a project)

Type of Development:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Number of Units:		
_____ Townhouse	_____ Apartment	_____ Community Space
_____ Semi-detached	_____ Commercial	_____ Hotel Rooms
_____ Detached	_____ Industrial	_____ Other
_____ Row House	_____ Office	
Approximate Size(s) of Units/Rooms:		Number of Units per acre/hectare:
Approximate Size(s) of Lot(s):		
Are the units designed according to principles of universal design/visitability? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, how many?		
Are the units rented or owned? <input type="checkbox"/> Rented <input type="checkbox"/> Owned		
What is the approximate cost to rent/own a unit?		
Do the units vary in design? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain:		
Is parking provided on the site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, please explain:		
Other comments:		

Attach additional pages if necessary, or provide additional information that better fits scope of project.



Please print clearly.

Submission Form 3B - Project Information

(form to be completed for Categories A through I and Category J if a project)

Date of Initiation:
Date of Completion:
Are there any other phases to project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please explain and outline their completion dates:
Approximate Cost of Project:
How/why was this project initiated?
Site/location features:
Please describe the community design benefits achieved after completion of project:
What common barriers were overcome and what lessons were learned as a result of this project? Please explain:
Other comments:

Attach additional pages if necessary.



Submission Form 4 - Policy & Plans

(form to be filled out for Category I only)

Please provide a minimum of one full hard copy of the policy or plan being submitted

Date of Initiation:

Expected Date of Completion:

Status of Implementation:

Council Approved? Yes No

Are there multiple phases to this policy work? Yes No If yes, please explain:

Please explain the intent of this policy work:

What Smart Growth Principles were met as a result of this policy?

Describe the public consultation process:

How does this policy/plan fit into the larger community context?



Submission Form 5 - Individual Information

(form to be completed for Category J for an individual, group, architect or firm)

Individual's Name:	
Company Name (if applicable):	
Length of time working in community design projects:	
Education (optional):	
Professional Affiliation(s) (optional):	
Length of time working in Niagara (optional):	
How has this person demonstrated being a leader when it comes to Community Design?	
Please provide information about important projects/activities relating to Community Design	
Project/Activity One:	Location:
Description:	
Project/Activity Two:	Location:
Description:	
Project/Activity Three:	Location:
Description:	
Project/Activity Four:	Location:
Description:	
Project/Activity Five:	Location:
Description:	
Lessons Learned:	
Other Interests:	
Other Relevant Information:	



Please print clearly.

Submission Form 6 - Permissions

(form to be completed for all categories)

All information/panels submitted become the property of Niagara Region, and will not be returned.

1. I certify that the information in this submission is accurate and complete.

I acknowledge that submission of an entry for the Niagara Community Design Awards grants the unrestricted publication of the submission material by Niagara Region. This includes the publication of images that may have a copyright.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

2. I am the owner of the project/person nominated for a Niagara Community Design Award. I authorize the use of images and information about my property/ person for the use of the awards, or for further advertising of positive community design efforts. Additional images and/or information may also be obtained. I also grant permission to the Review Committee to tour the site should this submission be short-listed for an award.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

How did you hear about the Niagara Community Design Awards?

- Newspaper Advertisement
- Regional Website
- Social Media
- Word of mouth
- E-mails
- Other _____