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Contact: Kate O'Donnell,
703.506.2895
kodonnell@edra.org

Environmental Design Research Association Announces the Recipients of the 13th Annual Great Places Awards

Awards presented at Great Places Awards Reception in Chicago

June 2, 2011 (McLean, VA) – Four exemplary projects in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, and urban design have been named winners of the 2011 Great Places Awards, and were honored during the 42nd annual conference of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA), May 25-28, 2011. The EDRA Great Places Awards recognize professional and scholarly excellence in environmental design and pay special attention to the relationship between physical form and human activity or experience.

The 2011 **Place Design** Winner, "**The Steel Yard**," (submitted by the **Klopfert Martin Design Group**) in Providence, R.I., is a public intervention that upends commonly held notions of blighted neighborhoods and shows the potential for real, applied re-use. Its innovative design solution provides a site that both solves inherent environmental issues and fosters a community non-profit's organizational flexibility and growth.

The 2011 **Place Planning** Winner, "**Steelbridge Skatepark Development Plan**" (submitted by the **City of Portland, Oregon/Portland Parks and Recreation and DAO Architecture**), began as an exercise in urban repair to resurrect disjointed neighborhood connections and brings pedestrians, bicycles, skateboarders, and neighbors to and through the site. The result is a plan that connects a district's broken circulation network while creating a unique urban landscape.

The 2011 **Place Research** Winner, "**Measured Change: Tracking Transformations on Bayou Lafourche**," (submitted by **LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio, Louisiana State University**), is a project that represents human-centered research of the highest order. Taking a three-fold approach to the study of Bayou Lafourche, it tracks the scalar dimensions of cultural, environmental, and infrastructural transformation along the Louisiana coastline and throughout the Mississippi Delta.

The 2011 **Place Book** Winner, "**Cities for People**" by **Jan Gehl** (submitted by **Island Press**), details the work Gehl and others have done in cities to show ways in which policymakers, planners, and architects can make cities lively, safe, sustainable, and healthy. A Professor of Urban Design (rtd.), Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Gehl is widely credited with creating and renewing urban spaces in cities around the world.

Roberta Feldman, Director Emeritus, City Design Center, College of Architecture and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago, presented the awards during a reception on May 26 at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. *Metropolis Magazine* and *Places Journal* served as media sponsors of the awards program.

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1760 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102
p. 703.506.2895 f. 703.506.3266
www.edra.org



Entries addressed the full breadth of environmental design and related research activities, including architecture, landscape architecture, planning, urban design, interior design, environmental psychology, and the physical sciences.

The esteemed jury for the 2011 Great Places Awards featured **Sidney Brower**, Professor in the Urban Studies and Planning Program in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at the University of Maryland; **Mark Cameron**, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Design Center; **Carol Macht**, RLA, ASLA, Hord Coplan Macht Landscape Architecture; **Glenn LaRue Smith**, Principal, Smith + Murray Studios, Inc; and **Patricia Zingsheim**, Associate Director of Revitalization and Design, D.C. Office of Planning.

To view or learn more about each of these projects, visit www.edra.org.

About EDRA: The Environmental Design Research Association is an international, interdisciplinary organization founded in 1968 by design professionals, social scientists, students, educators, and facility managers. The purpose of EDRA is the advancement and dissemination of environmental design research, thereby improving understanding of the interrelationships between people, their built and natural surroundings, and helping to create environments responsive to human needs. For more information on the organization, membership, and services provided, visit www.edra.org.

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