

Design Directions 2007/08

An innovative programme of awards

RS&A

Schedule

Dates for submission of Entry Forms/Fees and Work

Thursday 22 November 2007

Deadline for Entry Form(s)/fee(s) for all projects

(except for the Adding Value project: deadline for Entry Forms/Fees for this project only is Friday 7 March 2008)

Entry Forms/Fees should be sent under separate cover – **not** with your entry – to:
RSA Design Directions Registrations
8 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6EZ
UK

Monday 19 November – Friday 14 December 2007

Submission period for all project entries

(except for the Adding Value project: deadline for Entry Forms/Fees for this project only is Friday 7 March 2008)

Entries will be accepted at **Brooks Transport Services Ltd** on any weekday within the dates stated between 08:00-18:00, excluding weekends and bank holidays. Entries arriving after 18:00 on 14 December 2007 will not be accepted

Please remember that entries (except the digital submissions for the *Sandals and Inclusive Worlds* projects*) should be sent or delivered to:

Brooks Transport Services Ltd
Unit 2/15
Second Avenue
Bluebridge Industrial Estate
Halstead
Essex CO9 2SU
UK

All entry forms/fees should be sent or delivered to:

RSA Design Directions Registrations
8 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6EZ
UK

**Sandals* and *Inclusive Worlds* digital submissions should be sent or delivered to: RSA Design Directions Sandals/Inclusive Worlds (delete as appropriate), 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ, UK. The full competition entry (ie flat work etc) should be sent to Brooks in the normal way

Domestic greenclean

Innovative ways to manage domestic waste

Background

Local councils now require that we manage and recycle our household waste more efficiently. Councils generally define household waste in six categories:

- general waste
- organic waste (including reasonable garden waste)
- bottles
- cans
- newspapers
- cardboard

Such household rubbish can be unhygienic, smelly and generally nasty and now, in some parts of the UK, homes need to accommodate these types of waste for longer than before as many councils in England are running an alternate weekly collection (AWC) system. Under the new collection system, ordinary household waste collections now take place once a fortnight, rather than once a week, with recyclable materials removed on alternate weeks. There are many arguments around this issue. There is the view that by reducing collections, households will be encouraged to recycle more; doing so will help keep waste out of landfill sites, and thus be a significant action that individuals can take to help to tackle climate change. On the other hand, there is the possibility of rats, foxes and maggots feasting on rotting food left outside in bins for longer. Whatever your view, it does seem that we now need to consider new ways of managing the waste types defined above and to rethink the process of removing this kind of domestic waste from the home – crucially the stage from 'kitchen bin' to 'refuse truck'.

Brief

To begin with, examine the full scope of household waste and how people currently deal with it and then propose an innovative alternative that addresses the need to hold waste in the home until it is collected (by the refuse truck) and one that encourages and supports recycling in an efficient way. For the purposes of this brief, you should focus on the defined list of waste shown above.

As well as regular household waste collected by the council (as listed above), remember that from time to time there are other kinds of waste generated in the home that have to be taken to the local recycling centre (eg heavy furniture, electrical and electronic equipment, building waste etc). Whilst you do not have to propose a fully resolved solution that takes these into account (you should concentrate on household waste only), you should avoid an isolated design solution (such as 'just another bin') in favour of design work which is part of a coherent system.

Think about solutions that can make this an easier and more pleasant experience. Your final proposal should be something that it is desirable to have in the home or that has no aesthetic impact at all. By 'in the home' we mean something that is either sited inside the house or, where space allows, somewhere else on the property (garden, garage etc)

Do not feel restricted on cost; primarily what is required is an innovative and creative approach that leads to an original and practical solution. If the cost is high however, ensure that what you propose can justify a high cost. Consider, too, the long-term environmental impact of your design solution.

Research

Your research should also examine the whole landscape of waste management, recycling and domestic waste in order to ensure you understand fully the context in which you are working (see Resources section on the website).

Also, as part of your research, consider the many different types of householder in the UK to ensure that you fully understand the scope of the problem you are addressing:

- flat/terraced house dwellers, with little or no garden, who keep their waste in black plastic sacks and put it out (often on the street) for collection every week
- detached or semi-detached dwellers, with garden front and rear plus a garage, perhaps with council specified wheelie-bins placed somewhere within garden (unsightly) – sometimes one for general waste and one for organic waste. In addition, two recycling boxes – one for paper and one for cans/bottles/tinfoil
- large households with access perhaps to a waste skip

Other considerations to bear in mind:

- the needs of all users including older and disabled people. You should make your solution as inclusive as possible for all users
- consider a national solution rather than just one that is local to your area
- home security – i.e. if you site any low-lying structure outside the house – ensure that it cannot be used to gain access to windows etc by burglars

Audience

Your proposals should be research led, based on the needs of the users and the way they live

Aims

- demonstrate that you understand the challenges of this problem
- show that you can creatively translate the insights from your research into an innovative solution
- to support easier, wider and more efficient recycling
- the design must be able to be manufactured

Submission Details

Entries must comply with the following:

- A3 boards (max. 4) showing visual research material, design development and final designs (including a drawing or photograph of final solution, where applicable)
- a short typewritten statement (max. 400 words, sans serif, 14pt) expressing idea development from research to final designs, to help communicate your proposal
- maximum of one sketchbook only, related to the brief
- all work (except the sketch book) should be submitted on A3 lightweight card and everything should carry an RSA label on the back; do not submit work in plastic sleeves or on foam board, metal, wood or perspex, or in boxes; these requirements are in the interests of students to ensure the safety of their work whilst in storage and transit and in the interest of the safety of the handlers. It will also ensure that your work can be displayed for judging
- do not submit any models or mock-ups; shortlisted candidates will be asked to bring these to interview