

2024 ASLA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

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Is there ambition in consistency, or is it a sign of stasis? The design firms responsible for this year's winning projects may be familiar—there are several multiple ASLA award winners in this cohort—and the projects recognizable, but a closer read suggests the profession's growing mastery of the large-scale, the long-term, and the highly complex.

Befitting the increasing depth of the 465 entrants to this year's professional awards, the jury broke into two groups for the initial round of judging. One jury, chaired by Glenn LaRue Smith, FASLA, reviewed the categories of Analysis & Planning, Communications, the ASLA/IFLA Global Impact Award, and Research; the other, chaired by Jennifer Nitzky, FASLA, reviewed General Design, Residential Design, and Urban Design. Both juries reviewed the Landmark Award. The discussion ranged widely over professional and academic issues and developments, some perennial in their nature (dull graphics, unsupported claims of sustainability or diversity) and others new and tacked decidedly to the moment (neurodiversity, artificial intelligence).

Adapting to and even countering the climate emergency remain embedded in, if not the main subject of, many of the winning projects. The juries were encouraged by the number of entries that dealt with fire suppression and other disasters, particularly in the Communications category, which is aimed toward the public, and there were lively discussions on building back after catastrophe. Only four Awards of Excellence were granted from the 38 total awarded, with none in Residential or General Design, the two typologies where the majority of landscape architects are employed. Of those singled out for Awards of Excellence, two circles—A Green Ring for the Ancient City of Pompeii by Studio Bellesi Giuntoli in Analysis & Planning, and the Atlanta BeltLine by Perkins&Will in Urban Design—spoke to the lasting power of a classic form in the service of public good.

A full list of team members and contributors for each project can be found on the ASLA website, www.asla.org.



EVAN BAUMANN PHOTOGRAPHY

130	Communications
142	Research
150	Analysis & Planning
164	ASLA/IFLA Global Impact Award
166	Urban Design
176	Residential Design
188	General Design
206	Landmark Award

The Bay: "One Park for All" in Sarasota, by Agency Landscape + Planning, Cambridge, Massachusetts — Honor Award, General Design

General Design

HONOR AWARD

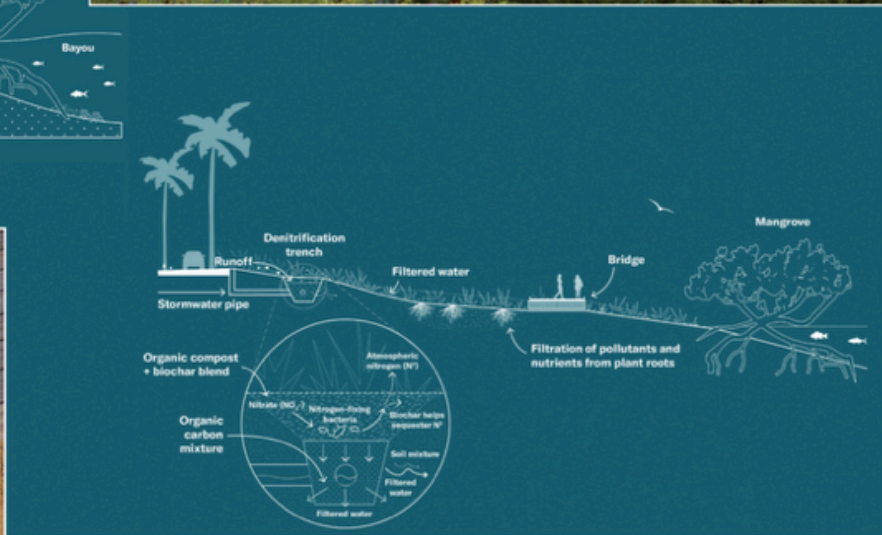
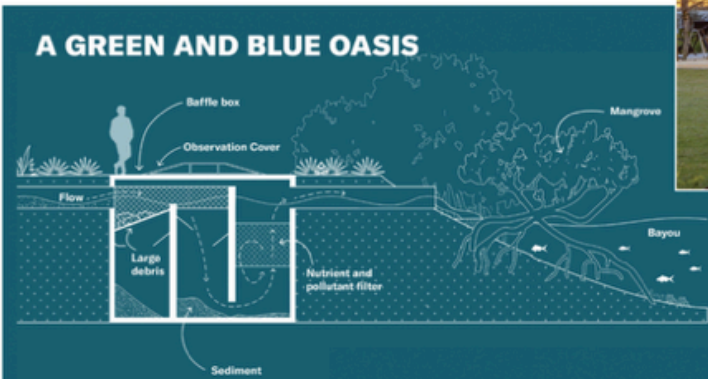
The Bay: "One Park for All" in Sarasota

Agency Landscape + Planning
Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Bay—Sarasota, Florida's new waterfront park—transformed an unsightly parking lot into a sustainable oasis reflecting the unique built and natural context of the coastal city. Designed by Agency Landscape + Planning, the 10-acre park incorporated community principles articulated during an intensive engagement process with focus groups and local experts: connectivity, activation, cultural vitality. The site includes a mangrove walk, concessions pavilion, shade structure, beach, and living shoreline, as well as a giant wooden ibis that has quickly become a local landmark. The group performed an inventory of baseline ecological metrics against which future improvements could be measured. Rain gardens and denitrification trenches perform ecosystem services, while the site holds and treats 70 million gallons of stormwater. With etched wood decking, crushed coquina, oolite, and metal sculptures, the Bay celebrates the "refined ruggedness" of Sarasota. "Community-driven design that is truly for the community is evident in this submission," said a juror.

CLIENT: The Bay Park Conservancy

AGENCY LANDSCAPE + PLANNING: DARRIN EVAN; BARNUM PHOTOGRAPHY AND MAPS AGENCY/MICHAEL TOZZI/MAN; BOTTOM: THE PHOTOS; MAPS AGENCY/MICHAEL TOZZI/MAN; OPPOSITE TOP PHOTO



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