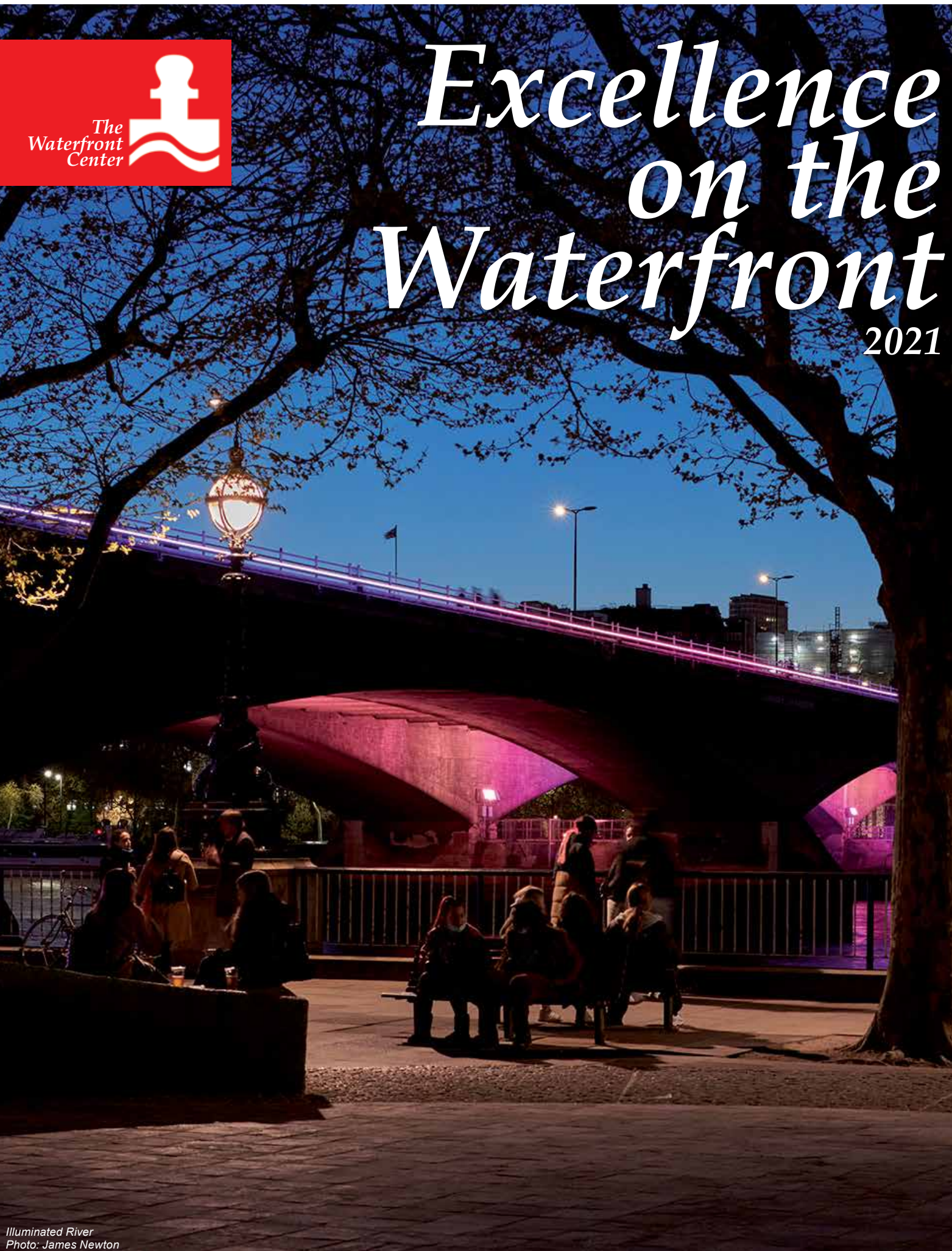


The  
Waterfront  
Center



# *Excellence on the Waterfront*

2021





The  
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## Excellence on the Waterfront 2021

This year's jury was led by Domenica Stasiak of Indigo River, New York. Her jury colleagues included Matt Grady, Gramor Development, Inc, Tualatin, OR and Steve Dumez, EskewDumezRipple+ New Orleans, LA. Waterfront Center co-directors Ann Breen and Dick Rigby hosted and facilitated the jury event.

The jury reviewed the submittals and selected eight honorees according to the Center's award criteria. It was impressed by the caliber and geographic range of entries. Winners included a diversity of scales within each selection criteria:

- Regional (e.g Yangtze River) to local (e.g Fritz Hedges Waterway Park)
- Complex (Learning from the Yimin River, Vishakapatnam, Andrah Pradesh) to straightforward (Bee Branch Creek Restoration)
- Artful and beautiful (Illuminated River) to playful (Juneau Downtown Seawalk)

The entries exhibited serious attention to the resolution of environmental issues and to design detailing. Entries also emphasized a strong belief in the capacity of waterfronts to become sites for public use and appreciation after reclamation and restoration. These transformations continually reinvigorate communities and their economies, and highlight the importance of precious water resources as critical environmental and community values.

The Waterfront Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary year in 2021, an anniversary that emphasizes the enduring power of our and our partners' commitment to how water enhances the public realm along its natural and community shorelines. May that commitment long endure, especially in these troubled times.

**Dick Rigby & Ann Breen**  
Co-Directors  
The Waterfront Center



### The 2021 Jury

**Chair: Dominica Stasiak**  
Principal, Indigo River  
New York, New York USA

**Steve Dumez, FAIA**  
Principal - Director of Design  
EskewDumezRipple+  
New Orleans, Louisiana USA

**Matt Grady**  
Vice President  
Director of Development  
Gramor Development Inc.  
Tualatin, Oregon USA



Photo: James Newton

The **Excellence on the Waterfront Awards** program was initiated in 1987 through grants from the Design Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. The honor awards recognize high quality design and development work. Entries are accepted from around the world for plans, built projects and student submissions. The Center also recognizes citizen efforts through the Clearwater Award.

**Top:** Illuminated River,  
The Thames, London, UK

**Opposite:** Fritz Hedges Waterway Park  
Seattle, WA USA

**Opposite bottom:** Juneau Downtown  
Seawalk, Juneau, AK USA

**Cover:** Illuminated River  
The Thames, London, UK

**Dick Rigby & Ann Breen**  
Co-Directors  
The Waterfront Center

**Awards Book Produced by:**  
Chris Carlson  
Steve Durrant, FASLA  
Seattle, WA USA



Photo: Walker Macy



2021 Excellence  
on the Waterfront  
Awards

## Criteria

An interdisciplinary jury of professional planners, designers, city officials, and community, business and development representatives determine the awards using the following qualitative criteria:

**Sensitivity of the design to water.** Document how the entry makes use of the waterfront and water resource, how it provides for active public enjoyment of the waterfront, and, where possible, provides for physical and visual access to and along the waterfront.

**Quality and harmony of design.** Show how the entry fits into the natural or man-made surroundings, and incorporates and celebrates the unique historic and cultural features of the community, particularly as they relate to the waterfront. The human scale of the project/plan is also a consideration.

**Civic contribution.** State how the project has helped the economy of the community, boosted civic pride or has otherwise had a positive affect on the area. Show how the work is sustainable and how it is economically viable over the long run.

**Environmental values.** Show how environmental values are stressed. This aspect and the importance of sound science is very important to juries.

**Enrichment.** Show how the project or plan contributes to the overall cultural richness of the community. Where applicable, relate how the entry provides interpretive information, art or other facilities to explain an area's waterfront heritage and natural values.

**Degree of difficulty.** Describe how various natural, political, jurisdictional, economic or permitting obstacles were overcome.

## TOP HONOR PROJECT

### The Shipyards

North Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

## HONOR AWARDS – PROJECTS

### Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project

Dubuque, Iowa USA

### Fritz Hedges Waterway Park

Seattle, Washington USA

### Illuminated River, The Thames

London, United Kingdom

### Juneau Downtown Seawalk: Douglas Bridge to Gold Creek

Juneau, Alaska USA

### Learning through the Yimin River: Resilient Waterfront Design

Hailar, Inner Mongolia China

### Returning to The Yangtze River: The Resilient Riverfront Design of The Kowloon Bund

Chongqing China

## HONOR AWARDS – PLAN

### Vishakapatnam Beachfront Redevelopment Project

Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh India

## CLEARWATER AWARD

### Nisqually Land Trust

Lewis, Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington USA



Photo: J.A. Brennan PLLC



Honor Award  
PLAN

**Vishakapatnam  
Beachfront  
Redevelopment  
Project**  
Vishakapatnam  
Andhra Pradesh  
India



Submitted by:

**Harsh Goel**

INI Design Studio  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
India

**Greater Vishakapatnam  
Municipal Corporation**

Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh  
India

**Resources:**

[info@inidesignstudio.com](mailto:info@inidesignstudio.com)  
[gvmc.apdrp@gmail.com](mailto:gvmc.apdrp@gmail.com)

This project is a comprehensive master plan for a 30 km beachfront in Visakhapatnam, a city of 2 million people on the Bay of Bengal on India's eastern shore. It includes detailed restoration plans for beach and urban infrastructure damaged during Hud-Hud Cyclone in 2014; redesign of the entire site to conserve cultural sites and ecologically sensitive habitats (e.g. turtle nesting sites and sand dunes), and; improvements to mixed uses that range from urban areas to parks, fishermen settlements, tourist and vendor areas.

Dense uses along this beach create its diverse character but fragment its visual and experiential quality for residents and visitors. Sporadic development, severe beach erosion and a dramatic elevation difference

between the existing beach promenade and the water's edge illustrate serious issues facing the area.

The goal of the master plan is to recreate a healthy active beachfront that accommodates all users within a restored urban beach ecology zone that can withstand heavy use and evolving climate changes.

Seven strategies define the plan based on extensive site analyses and consultations with stakeholders and related groups. They include:

- 1 Restore the natural ecology of the beach to offset storm surges.
- 2 Restore and build man-made assets.
- 3 Enhance and strengthen coastal livelihoods.

4 Build resilient beachfront infrastructure.

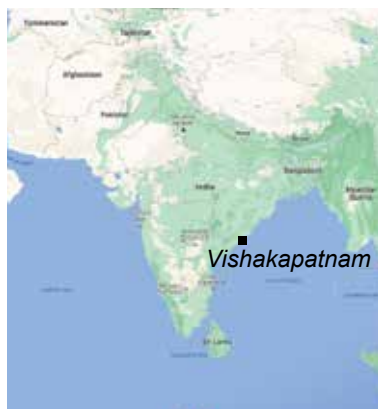
5 Strengthen physical and experiential public spaces along and with the beachfront.

6 Integrate the beachfront into the larger city and development network.

7 Develop additional public spaces based on current and anticipated needs.

The plan's unifying design details include a continuous 14 km cycling path, consistent signing, bench and lighting design, retaining walls with stepped seating focused on key water views, and native vegetation to revitalize the beachfront's ecology and to better integrate it into the larger urban waterfront landscape.

Nine location-specific intervention plans identify detailed designs for or improvements to existing uses, multi-use destinations and facilities that respond to specific user needs (i.e. vendors, fishermen).







Proposed Rushikonda Beach

The Waterfront Center



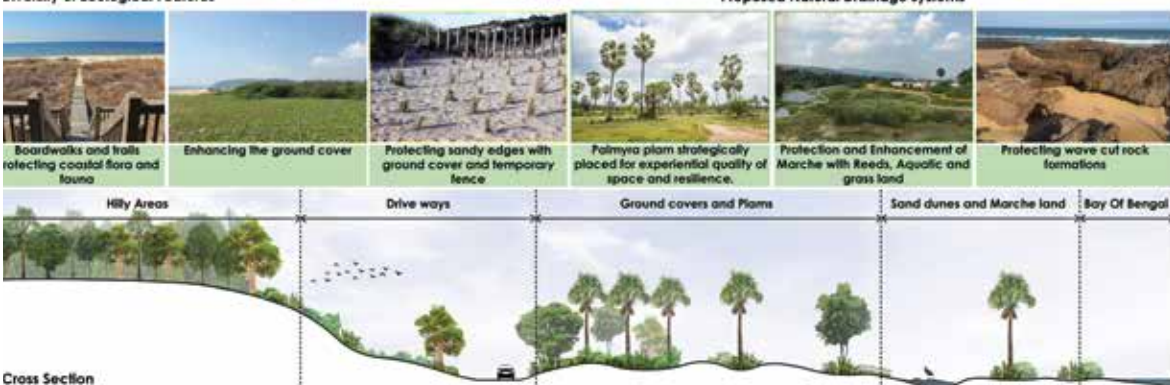
2021 Excellence on the Waterfront Awards

Art Design Studio



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## LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES- ADDRESSING THE ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE







**The Waterfront Center** is a non-profit, public interest educational organization working to assist waterfront communities make the wisest long-term use of their urban waterfront resources. Based in Washington D.C. and consisting of members throughout the world, the Center uses workshops, community consultations, conferences, awards programs and publications to help communities understand how their waterfront resources can contribute to community economic, social, recreational and aesthetic vitality. Since its founding in 1981, the Center has helped hundreds of communities of every size on every continent. For more information about its philosophy and work, contact:

[www.waterfrontcenter.org](http://www.waterfrontcenter.org)

Juneau Downtown Seawalk  
Juneau, Alaska  
Photo: J.A. Brennan Associates, PLLC