



# 2012 Curry Stone Design Prize: Five winners

October 24, 2012

In a departure from previous years, and in honor of the fifth anniversary of the Prize, five winners have been announced as recipients of the 2012 Curry Stone Design Prize. A news report from Bend

The Curry Stone Foundation has announced the winners of the 2012 Curry Stone Design Prize. In a departure from previous years, and in honor of the fifth anniversary of the Prize, all five winners will share the award equally, each recognized with \$25,000 for their work as social design pioneers.

An awards ceremony will take place next 15 November, 2012, at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, followed the next day by a forum of presentations by the 2012 winners and panel discussions with a curated group of respondents. The awards ceremony and daylong forum are free and open to the public.

The Winners of the 2012 Curry Stone Design Prize are the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), Liter Of Light, MASS Design Group, Riwaq, and Jeanne van Heeswijk.

The CUP collaborates with students, policy experts and community advocates, and designers and artists to explain complex urban-planning processes and policy-making decisions through understandable visual communications and multimedia toolkits. Founded in 1997 by artist and designer Damon Rich and seven other co-founders and directed today by Christine Gaspar, CUP provides practical information to groups who need it most: immigrants, public-housing residents, and at-risk youth, to name a few.

Filipino entrepreneur and activist Illac Diaz created Liter of Light to provide residents of informal settlements in his country with a cheap daytime lighting source that can be produced and distributed locally. The solution is Diaz's figurative "liter of light," made simply from a clear plastic bottle that is filled with water and mounted in a metal tile. The tile is then easily installed in a typical metal roof. The inexpensive "bulb" disperses sunlight 360 degrees and lights up a room without need for kerosene or inventive wiring. Liter of Light is the first organization to widely distribute the solar bottle bulbs, and through a combination of social networking, open-source sharing, and hands-on building the organization has placed tens of thousands of these solar bottle bulbs in informal settlements worldwide.



Top: Jeanne van Heeswijk: 2Up2Down's headquarters, where a new bakery will be run by the Home Baked cooperative, 2011. Photo by Liverpool Biennial. Above: MASS Design: The Butaro Hospital in Rwanda's Burera District has 140 beds and serves 400,000 people. Photo by Iwan Baan

MASS Design Group is a Boston-based architecture firm that has created an alternative practice designing healthcare facilities in resource-limited settings, primarily in developing countries emerging from crisis. MASS brings high-quality design and implementation to where it is most needed, and at the same time brings other disciplines into architectural work (its core team includes public health professionals with no background in design). MASS's immersive process with their client identifies the broader needs of a community to ensure that the buildings aren't just beautiful, healthy and functional, but that they also "amplify" the mission of the client (often an NGO) who has commissioned them.

The Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation has spent more than two decades documenting Palestinian heritage and culture through holistic restoration of the built environment. Riwaq sees architectural restoration as a social and economic incubator; the projects it facilitates serve the public, create jobs, and strengthen

community identity. Riwaq has done pioneering work in a region greatly affected and fragmented by conflict, completing complicated, multi-stakeholder projects on a large scale in the face of many logistical and sociopolitical challenges. For Riwaq, conservation and historic restoration are not about creating a museum piece—they are tools for social and economic advancement.

Liter of Light top of the roof (photo) and logo. Liter of Light installed in a typical metal roof. Photo by Jeminah Ferrer

Jeanne van Heeswijk is an artist who facilitates the creation of lively and diversified public spaces, typically from disenfranchised or derelict sites. Her socially engaged practice generates new forms of encounter while challenging bureaucratic conventions and acquired rules. Van Heeswijk's work presents a fresh understanding of the role of art in the design world—that art actively works in shaping society, and that the ultimate artistic production lies within the evolution of the people involved in the process.

The Curry Stone Design Prize celebrates social design pioneers and the power of design as a critical force for improving lives and strengthening communities. "The mission of the Curry Stone Design Prize is a wide mission of social transformation," said Emiliano Gandolfi, Secretary of the Prize. "It's not about style anymore, it's about an approach. The Curry Stone Design Prize is one of the institutions that is enabling this transformation."



"The aim of the Prize is as much about sharing best practices of these emerging design disciplines as it is about the actual prize"



RIWAQ: Salfeet, senior citizens' activity center. Photo ©Riwaq Archive  
The Curry Stone Design Prize award ceremony and forum at the Harvard Graduate School of Design is a joint presentation of the Loeb Fellowship and the Department of Urban Planning and Design. The awards ceremony on 15 November, at 18:30 EST, will be live-streamed for global viewing. In addition to the award, each winner will be the subject of a short documentary video produced by the Curry Stone Design Prize Foundation. The videos will premiere at the awards ceremony and will be simultaneously posted online.

"The aim of the Prize is as much about sharing best practices of these emerging design disciplines as it is about the actual prize," said Chee Pearlman, Curator of the award. "Each of these emerging practices is taking on critical challenges, and in the films we can share their stories."

Center for Urban Pedagogy's Affordable Housing workshop: CUP's affordable housing workshops employ interactive materials like this felt chart that maps the median income of a neighborhood. Photo by Center for Urban Pedagogy  
Nominees for the Curry Stone Design Prize are selected by an anonymous, rotating group of social impact leaders representing broad fields of design, as well as humanitarian advocates from related disciplines. Emphasis is placed on emerging projects and ideas that may not have yet been taken to scale. The 2012 guest jurors include Domus editor Joseph Grima, Curator of International Art at London's Tate Modern Elvira Dyangani Ose and professor of Public Culture and Urbanism at the University of California, San Diego and founder of the Center for Urban Ecologies Teddy Cruz.



15 November 2012

**2012 Curry Stone Design Prize Forum Awards Ceremony**

**Harvard Graduate School of Design**

18:30 — 20:30

Cambridge, MA

Free entrance — RSVP [events@currystonedesignprize.com](mailto:events@currystonedesignprize.com)

16 November 2012

**Curry Stone Design Prize Forum with 2012 Winners and Respondents**

**Harvard Graduate School of Design**

10:00 — 16:00

Cambridge, MA

Free entrance — RSVP [events@currystonedesignprize.com](mailto:events@currystonedesignprize.com)

Circulation: 9708 Views Per Day

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