

Grants for Research in Architecture 08-09



Checklist

Deadlines and other important dates

- **August 1, 2008**
Deadline for submission of proposals
- **November 2008**
Announcement of awards
- **November 1, 2009**
Submission of research report
- **Spring 2010**
Publication of book; final symposium

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Rafael Viñoly Architects will award up to five research grants to individuals for original research on transformations in the built environment within dynamically changing societies. Citizens of all countries are eligible to apply, and all regions of the world are eligible as subjects of research, although the firm has a particular interest in studies addressing China, the Middle East, Russia, and South America. The deadline for submitting a proposal is August 1, 2008.

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Call for Proposals



Committed to supporting the creation of architectural knowledge that is informed by the conditions of practice, Rafael Viñoly Architects is offering the awards through its Training and Research Programs in recognition of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Recipients of the research grants are not employees of the firm but independent researchers who may elect to spend a portion of their time as resident Fellows at the firm's New York City office. Rafael Viñoly Architects intends to publish the Fellows' final papers in book form and to sponsor a conference in New York City to present and discuss their work.

Call for proposals

Rafael Viñoly Architects is offering multiple grants, of up to US\$60,000 per project, for original research on transformations in the built environment within dynamically changing societies. This theme encompasses disciplinary changes within architecture and related fields as well as broader social, cultural, or political transformations that may be driving them. Examples of appropriate themes include:

- New demands for housing and infrastructure due to urban immigration in China, South Asia, and Africa
- The proliferation of new cities in sparsely populated regions of the Middle East
- Decreases in urban and regional populations resulting from demographic shifts (Japan, Europe, Russia, the United States)
- Threats to historic resources posed by development or changing political climates in Russia, Eastern Europe, and former European colonies
- Escalating stress on water, sanitation, communications, and transportation systems caused by aging infrastructure
- Changing interpretations of cultural heritage prompted by the activism of native peoples (the Americas, the Pacific, and elsewhere)
- Environmental challenges to societies around the world caused by global warming, rising sea levels, and increasing oil and gas prices

Rafael Viñoly Architects seeks insights into how these and other transitions are reshaping the work of architects and others charged with managing the built environment. Research may consider historical factors, but emphasis should be placed on current issues, developments, opportunities, problems, or solutions.

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Research topics should be tightly focused, emphasizing original research.

Projects may focus on architecture or any aspects of the built or designed environment, including design, engineering, construction, planning, project delivery, and conservation; techniques, technologies, practices, and materials; economic, social, and political factors; and trades, crafts, and professions. Research may focus on a single discipline or be multidisciplinary.

Projects should lead to clearly defined deliverables that can be produced within the grant period. Deliverables must include a publishable article or report but may also include other products. Final reports must be submitted in English but may be accompanied by a version in a second language of the researcher's choice.

Eligibility

Awards are made to individuals or teams of individuals and not to institutions. Citizens of all countries and practitioners of all disciplines are eligible to apply; current employees of Rafael Viñoly Architects and their families are not eligible.

Terms of Fellowship

- I. Rafael Viñoly Architects will provide selected recipients with:
 - a. Total financial support up to US\$60,000 per project, including stipends and research expenses
 - b. Professional support as appropriate and at the discretion of Rafael Viñoly Architects, including consultation with the firm's staff of architects, engineers, and designers, and, if desired, a period of residency at the firm's New York City office

- c. Design, production, and distribution of a published volume and Web publication including the results of the Fellows' research. Rafael Viñoly Architects reserves the right not to publish any submission

II. Selected Fellows will be responsible for:

- a. An initial and an interim presentation at the firm's New York City office. (For short projects, the interim presentation may be waived.) The firm may, at its expense, invite the Fellows to additional meetings, presentations, or discussions
- b. Monthly progress reports
- c. A publishable manuscript in English, due on November 1, 2009
- d. Participation in a final symposium in New York City in early 2010

III. Visas

Rafael Viñoly Architects will provide official invitations that may be needed by immigration officials for visits to the firm's offices, periods of residency, or participation in the final symposium. However, it is the Fellow's responsibility to make any necessary visa arrangements.

IV. Patents and copyrights

Patents for any products or processes developed with the support of Rafael Viñoly Architects will be jointly held by the researcher or research team and the firm. The firm will hold the copyright to the research report, but researchers will be free to publish and disseminate their work in other venues following publication of the final volume of essays.

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Application process, requirements, and deadlines

Candidates must submit a complete grant proposal by August 1, 2008. All proposals must be in English. No material other than that specifically requested will be accepted. Finalists may be asked to supply additional materials.

A complete application will include:

- I. Application form, available at www.rvatr.com, completed and signed by principal investigator.
- II. Attachments
 - a. Proposal narrative describing the major questions to be addressed, the project's goals and methods, previous investigations of the subject, major sources of information, and the reasons why the results will be significant (1,500 word limit)
 - b. Project budget including all related expenses, such as stipends to researchers, travel expenses, equipment, research materials, and fees for access to collections or other resources. For stipends, applicants should clearly indicate the rate of payment requested and the percentage of the researcher's (or researchers') time to be devoted to the project. For costs that will be incurred in currencies other than US dollars, applicants should state the exchange rate used for budgeting purposes. If necessary, notes should be used to explain how specific items relate to the project. Applicants should also include the cost of travel to an initial meeting and an interim project presentation at the firm's New York City office (the interim presentation may be waived for short projects: one page limit).

- c. Project time line indicating all major tasks and milestones up to submission of the final report (one page limit)
- d. Résumé of principal investigator and all research partners, if applicable (limit two pages per résumé and eight pages total)
- e. List of selected publications for principal investigator and all research partners, if applicable (limit two pages per researcher and eight pages total)
- f. Samples of publications or other relevant work (twenty-five page limit)

Proposals should be submitted electronically or in hard copy.

Instructions for submitting proposals electronically:

- All electronic submissions must be in PDF or Word format.
- Download the application form from www.rvatr.com: open the file in Adobe Acrobat Reader, fill it in, and save it as *[yourlastname]-app.pdf*.
- Create a second document including items a-e listed above, in that order, and title this document *[yourlastname]-attach.doc* or *[yourlastname]-attach.pdf*. All five items should be included in a single document.
- Create a third document including item f and title it *[yourlastname]-samples.doc* or *[yourlastname]-samples.pdf*.
- Attach all three documents to an email and send it to research@rvatr.com. Attachments must not exceed 4 MB in total.
- All emails must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (New York time), on August 1, 2008.

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Instructions for submitting proposals in hard copy:

- Download the application form from www.rvatr.com, print and fill it out.
- Complete items a-e and use a paper clip to attach them, in that order, to the application form.
- Complete item f, also using a paper clip.
- Place everything in a single envelope and mail or deliver it to:
Research
Rafael Viñoly Architects
50 Vandam Street
New York, NY 10013
USA
- All items must be on white, 8 ½ x 11 inch or A4 paper, single-sided. Ensure that each item has your last name at the bottom of the first page.
- All hard copy proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (New York time), on August 1, 2008.

Prospective applicants may email questions at any time before the application due date to:
Ned Kaufman

Director of Research and Training
research@rvatr.com

Rafael Viñoly Architects does not guarantee that all questions will be answered.

Selection process and criteria for evaluation

Only complete proposals that meet the submission guidelines and are submitted on time will be considered.

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of Rafael Viñoly Architects' staff members, and all decisions are at the firm's sole discretion. Finalists will be interviewed by the committee at the firm's expense. As a condition of funding a project for a grant, Rafael Viñoly Architects may, either before

or during the interview phase, request that the applicant consider modifications to the submitted proposal.

In evaluating proposals, the committee will consider the following criteria:

- Originality and significance of the proposed research
- Clarity of the research topic, goals, and methods
- Qualifications of the applicant or applicant team to carry out the project
- Feasibility of the project, including budget and time line

Rafael Viñoly Architects reserves the right not to make any awards.

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