

# The 31st SEASIDE Prize™ Celebration

## SEASIDE Institute™ 2025 Seaside Prize Recipients

By Christy Milliken  
Executive Director, SEASIDE Institute™

The SEASIDE Institute™ is thrilled to announce the recipients of the prestigious 2025 SEASIDE Prize™. The Prize, which is awarded annually, celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of architecture, urban planning, and community development. On this momentous occasion of the Seaside Prize, the Seaside Institute is honored to bestow this recognition upon two distinguished individuals: Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson. The celebration will take place the week-end of Feb. 7 - 9, 2025, with a variety of events and symposia.

Architects and academics Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson are co-authors of the groundbreaking *Retrofitting Suburbia* series of books. For over 20 years, they have documented and advocated for successful redevelopment, re-inhabitation, and greening of dead shopping malls, aging office parks and other parking-lot-dominated real estate into more resilient, just, and community-serving places. Their book *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* (Wiley, 2008, updated 2011) won the Association of American Publishers PROSE Award for best architecture and planning book of the year. A sequel, *Case Studies in Retro-*

*fitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges* (Wiley, 2021), won a Great Places Book Award from the Environmental Design Research Association. Their work has been widely featured, including in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, PBS, and TED.

**Ellen Dunham-Jones** is professor and director of the MS in Urban Design at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, where she hosts the *Redesigning Cities* podcast series. She has been honored as the 2018–19 Woman Educator of the Year by Architectural Record, the 2023 Plym Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois and by Planetizen in 2017 and 2023 as one of the 100 most influential urbanists. Author of over 100 papers and book chapters on contemporary design theory and practice, she maintains the suburban retrofit database, tracking over 2,500 entries.

She is a Fellow and past board chair of the Congress for the New Urbanism and currently serves on the steering committee of the Urban Design Academic Council.

**June Williamson** is professor and director of Graduate Programs in Architecture at The City College of New York's Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. Her sole-authored book *Designing Suburban Futures: New Models from Build a Better Burb* (Island Press, 2013) contextualizes and documents an



Ellen Dunham-Jones



June Williamson

innovative urban design ideas competition for re-envisioning suburban areas of Long Island. She serves on the board of directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. She has practiced and taught architecture and urban design across the United States in New York City, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, and Boston.

The Seaside Prize is a testament to the tremendous impact June Williamson and Ellen Dunham-Jones have had on the built environment. Their books and teachings inspire architects, planners, urban designers, developers, and community leaders to retrofit aging, underperforming suburban properties to address urgent challenges, disrupt automobile dependence, improve public health, support an aging society, leverage social capital for equity, compete

for jobs, and add water and energy resilience. Together they have worked to bring change to education and to communities to “Retrofit Suburbia.”

The Seaside Institute will formally present the Seaside Prize to Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson at the awards ceremony on Feb. 8, 2025, by Seaside founder Robert Davis. The ceremony will be hosted at The Chapel at Seaside, and it promises to be an evening of celebration, reflection and inspiration. 🌊

**For more information about the Seaside Prize and the Seaside Institute, please visit our website at [SeasideInstitute.org](https://SeasideInstitute.org).**

# From Pienza to SEASIDE®

## Bridging historical visions with modern urbanism

By Kimberly Stanley  
Marketing & Development Coordinator,  
SEASIDE Institute™

On June 20 & 21, 2024, Seaside's Town Founder, Robert Davis, attended a meeting that brought together an esteemed group of architects, planners, government officials, and academics, both in person and remote. This was an initial meeting to plan the Congress on Beauty and the Built Landscape, which will take place the summer of 2025. The meeting was held in the beautiful Sala Regia in the Palazzo dei Priori in Viterbo, Italy.

During this time, Davis presented the quaint town of Pienza, Italy (the Città Ideale), located in Tuscany. This “City of Ideas” was the creation of the great humanist, Enea Silvio Piccolomini, who later became Pope Pius II. He aspired to transform his birthplace into his vision of a utopian city, honoring the principles and philosophy of classical times and the Italian Renaissance. Because of his vision, Pienza became the realization of a dream – much like Seaside. Architect Bernardo il Rossellino designed the village under the guidance of Leon Battista Alberti. A group of beautiful and harmonious buildings were completed to form the central square in only three years.

The meeting also featured an interview with DPZ & CNU Co-Founder Andrés Duany and Architect Stan Eckstut as they joined in celebration of the 40th anniversary of their Progressive Architecture Awards in 1984. Eckstut received an award for the urban design of Battery Park City in New York and DPZ was recognized with an award for the Town Plan of Seaside in Florida. This citizen of merit award was Seaside's first national recognition, as detailed in *Reflections of Seaside*. Both projects were highlighted in the magazine on adjacent pages, demonstrating their influence in urban design over the past four decades. The jury noted their shared use of

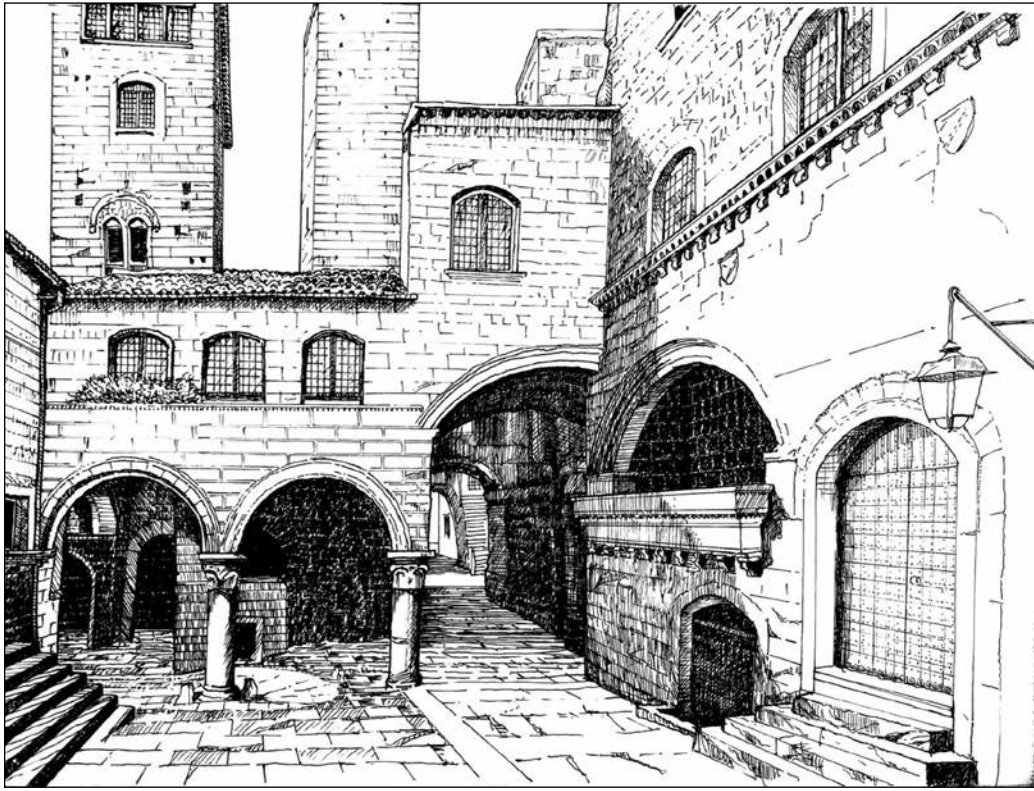
urban design codes, despite their differing scales. Event organizers, Architect and Urbanist Dhiru Thadani and Professor Antonio Latini, conducted the joint interview.

The symposium was sponsored by Viterbo's Vicesindaco della Bellezza (Deputy Mayor of Beauty). During the event, discussions included Seaside and other significant urban design projects such as Pienza, Renaissance Rome, Paris under Napoleon III and Baron Haussmann, and the White City of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. These examples are intended to inspire current and future civic leaders who strive to improve their communities.

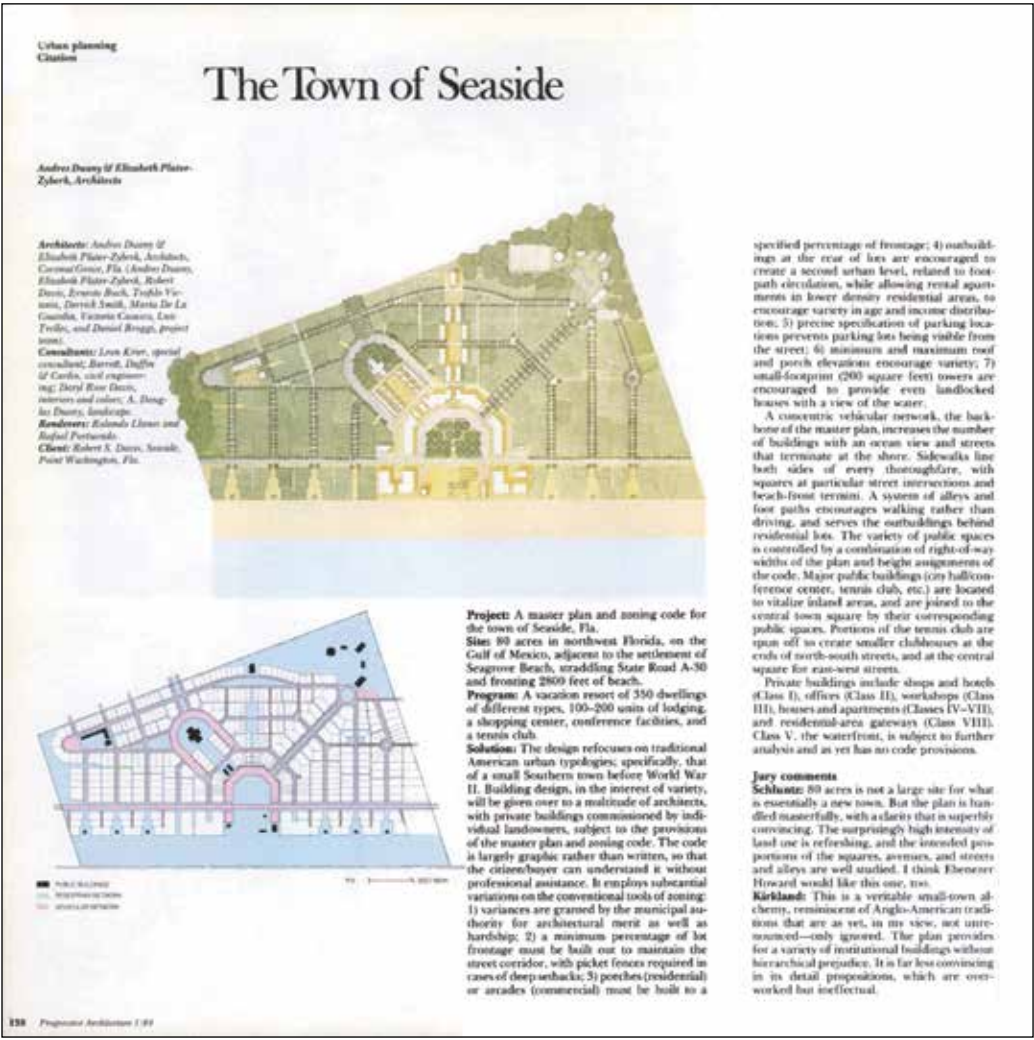
The meeting also highlighted the deep connection between Seaside and Pienza, a relationship that originated in 2001, when the Seaside Institute established the Pienza Institute. Their initiative involved selecting unique locations in Italy and beyond for architectural journeys that would blend historical insights with contemporary design principles. Each trip was a significant chapter in their ongoing exploration of urbanism, bringing together professionals and enthusiasts alike.

Robert Davis reflected, “Seaside is, I hope, a pilot project (at a tiny scale) that will, perhaps, be seen as having inspired civic leaders to think more clearly about walkability and livability as important values for rebuilding their own communities.”

Seaside stands as a prime example of what can be achieved with excellent urban design and a vision for a simpler era. 🌊



Viterbo, Italy. By Dhiru Thadani



The Town of Seaside Presented in the 1984 Progressive Architecture Awards. By Dhiru Thadani