

# NOMA

M A G A Z I N E



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THE  
DUAL  
PANDEMIC

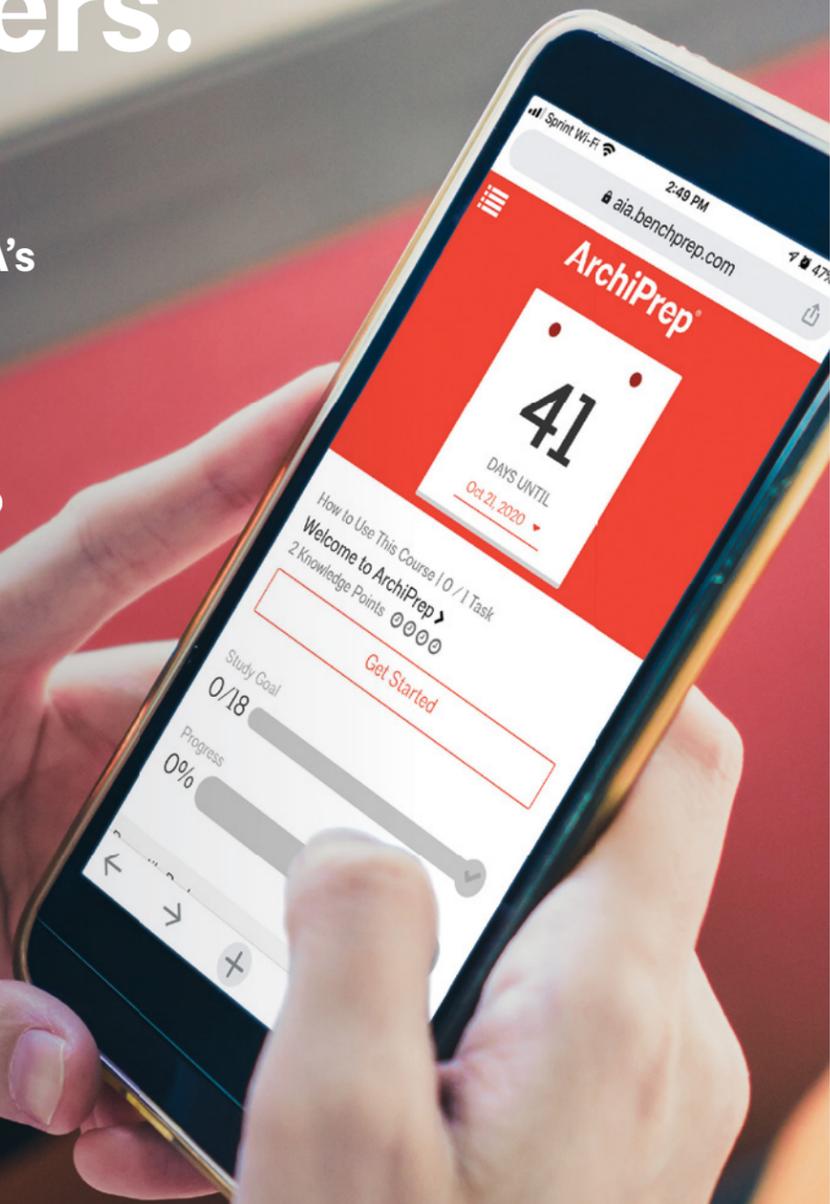
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**SFNOMA PROJECT PIPELINE**  
10 Years of Design Justice

# Where Do We Go From Here?

**Dear NOMA Family:**  
It has truly been an honor to serve and grow as a leader during my two-year term as NOMA

President. We have accomplished so many great things together, yet we still have much more to achieve in order to make our profession and the built environment more inclusive. Together, we have thrived through 2020, a year characterized by crisis, with a newfound appreciation for the resilience of our members and our organization. While we confront the reality of a long road ahead to recovery from the pandemic, we must draw closer to one another while also staying physically apart. Although

we didn't get to meet in Oakland for our annual conference in October, we still ended up hosting the most well attended NOMA conference in our history with over 1,700 virtual participants. This is a testament to the power of the NOMA bond and the sense of community that we so appreciate from this incredible network.

As we witnessed our membership more than double over the past two years, our growth illuminated the possibilities embedded within NOMA. The relationships we have with our industry partners have been amplified through our intentionality around building bridges to ACSA, AIA, AIAS, NAAB, NCARB and others. Our new corporate

membership program, NOMA President's Circle, has offered firms, schools and organizations an opportunity to formally join us in the important work of diversifying our profession. As a NOMA member, corporate or individual, I cannot thank you enough for either remaining committed to NOMA, re-engaging with us, or joining NOMA for the first time. I firmly believe that there is strength in numbers and that our organization will continue to flourish with a robust and diverse membership. Again, thank you for being ALL in for NOMA!

In case you are wondering what happens when I leave office on December 31st, I'd like to share some insight and confidence in the future of

NOMA. My successor, Jason Pugh, is an amazing leader who is committed to advancing the initiatives that we have worked on together over the past two years. We are very much aligned in our philosophy on how NOMA can serve our members and enhance the overall potential of our great profession. You will hear more from Jason soon, but suffice it to say that NOMA will be in good hands. As for me, I will serve as Immediate Past President for the next two years and support Jason's initiatives while helping to steer the initiatives that were launched during my administration, including NOMA President's Circle, the NOMA Foundation Fellowship program and the 2030 Diversity Challenge. I am also looking forward to supporting NOMA's 50 Year Anniversary efforts as we plan to celebrate in Detroit at our annual conference from October 20–23, 2021. Save the date and please plan to join us in person and/or virtually.

The bigger question that I'd like to address is where we will go from here as a community of architects, designers, planners and built environment professionals who wish to design a better future for everyone. It goes without saying that 2020 has challenged us in ways that we never imagined would be possible. We are encountering inconvenient truths about our society that we must confront head on. In response to the murder of George Floyd, NOMA's leadership mobilized quickly to finalize a revamped mission statement on May 31, 2020:

**NOMA's mission, rooted in a rich legacy of activism, is to empower our local chapters and membership to foster justice and equity in communities of color through outreach, community advocacy, professional development and design excellence.**

While these words are important, they are empty without action. This is why we provided some very specific

action items for your consideration, calling on everyone to be **B.R.A.V.E.**  
**Banish racism**  
**Reach out to those who are grieving**  
**Advocate for the disinherited**  
**Vote in every American election**  
**Engage each human you meet as you would want to be engaged**

From the 2020 U.S. election, we saw why it was so critical that we encouraged our members to vote. Thank you to everyone who exercised your right to vote, helped register other voters and volunteered to support the election process. It is clear that our nation is extremely polarized, which resulted in such a close race for the White House. Now that the votes have been counted, we must count on each other to be B.R.A.V.E. and hold all of our elected officials accountable for the progress that will be required to make us stronger as a nation. I once heard someone say that the left wing and the right wing still belong to the same bald eagle that represents America. It is important that we learn to fly together with grace, or we all will continue to struggle with the divisiveness that can compromise our great American spirit of possibility.

We can and we will do the work to bring our possibilities to the forefront. As we celebrate the first woman elected to serve as Vice President of the United States, we see that possibility front and center. The fact that Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris is also the first Black and first Asian American, and the first HBCU graduate to serve in this role is monumental for so many Americans who could not imagine this before such a historic election. As an organization that represents the same great possibilities offered by our nation, we must also do the work required to increase diversity in our profession. In addition, NOMA must look beyond our industry and work together with others to uplift our communities, help to end mass incarceration, advance social equity,



maintain housing affordability, fight climate change and help close the health and wealth gaps experienced so acutely by communities of color. This is part of our duty as architects to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, meaning the entire public. NOMA's new mission challenges us to reimagine what is possible.

With so much potential represented by NOMA, the future of our organization is bright. To keep the momentum strong, we need each of you to renew your membership in 2021, if you haven't already, and get involved with your local chapter. While NOMA National sets policy and serves as the voice of the organization, the real work happens at the chapter level. As such, I would like to thank all of the leaders of our NOMA chapters, large and small. You may think that your tireless work goes unnoticed, but it does not. NOMA would not be where we are as an organization without your commitment to excellence and service to our members. Thank you all so very much. Our mission would not be possible without our dedicated members from across the organization, which includes over 115 student and professional chapters representing over 2,000 members. We have ambitious goals for NOMA, and with your support, we will succeed.

So, where do we go from here? To make our mission possible.

ALL the best,

**KIMBERLY DOWDELL**  
2019–2020 NOMA National President

GREAT DESIGN  
BEGINS WITH A  
**DIVERSITY**  
OF PERSPECTIVE



EDITOR'S PAGE



**How** does the human “fight or flight” response work when you’re being attacked on multiple flanks by two formidable adversaries? By definition, we experience fight or flight as a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event, attack, or threat to our survival. The challenge is that at the moment there are few places to which we can flee, and the only people around to fight are the loved ones we’re lucky enough to share space with throughout these times of the dual pandemics—COVID-19 and systemic racism.

Tragically, it appears to have taken the murder of brother George Floyd to reveal to all those who witnessed the graphic event, as captured by the ubiquitous cell phone video, the brutal ways that systemic racism continues to keep a knee on the collective neck of Black people, not only here in America, but around the entire globe. As many try to convert their outrage into constructive action, questions abound as to how and where to direct their energy and resources. Meanwhile, time has seemingly accelerated as many of us work from home, isolated from physical contact with our friends and colleagues. The worst thing that any of us could allow to happen is paralysis or fatigue that would stand in the way of our individual and collective responsibilities to “get into good trouble,” so that the death of Floyd and countless other Black people at the hands of law enforcement will not have been in vain.

But out of tragedy comes opportunity. The NOMA Magazine was originally conceived to address the lack of coverage given to our members by the mainstream

architectural press, no matter the excellence of our projects and accomplishments. Thankfully, the profession, led by NOMA, the AIA, and the AIA Large Firm Roundtable has changed course and made significant commitments to move onto a righteous path that is just, equitable, diverse and inclusive. Today, we are noticeably present and accounted for in such publications as *Architecture Record*, the *Architects Newspaper*, and *Architect Magazine*. For us, this represents opportunity. There is a heightened interest in building teams that represent a diversity of thought, expertise, and frankly, lived experience. Whether you’re a firm owner or an employee, this is the time to seek new opportunities where they are being created, and to refocus on the ones you might have pursued in the past with only limited success. The decision-making lens is expanding, so what was seemingly out of reach before, may be attainable now, if for no other reason, we are being seen and heard differently at this moment in time, and hopefully as evidence of an altered paradigm by mainstream society. Lastly, this is the time when we need to make significant inroads within our own client base. Black clients need to know who we are, what we’re about, and what their responsibility is to support and work with us. All things considered, we will turn tragedy into opportunity as we enter this brave, new world.

**R. STEVEN LEWIS**  
FAIA, NOMAC, LEED AP Principal  
Urban Design at ZGF Architects



hok.com

# GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

By **DAIMIAN S. HINES** AIA, NOMA

In 2018, the Government of Jamaica, acting through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, launched an international competition to design a new parliament building. Since securing its independence in 1963, the country's parliament has met at a temporary location, Gordon House in Kingston, the capital city. The Government envisioned a state-of-the-art facility that will signify its independence and stable democracy. For all competitors, teams were required to include a registered Jamaican architect and also a minimum of fifty percent Jamaican citizens or those of Jamaican diaspora.

Jamaican-born Gordon Gill of ASGG served as the competition patron in promoting the design process's transparency. The Urban Development Corporation of Jamaica managed the competition process which was comprised of a distinguished jury of design industry leaders throughout the island and other Caribbean

countries. Subsequently, the jury and separately the voting public made final selections and rankings for competitors in this two-stage process. Our team consisted of four individuals: **Daimian S. Hines**, AIA, NOMA; **Christopher Bent**, Assoc AIA; and **Gregory Lake**, AIA, who are all Jamaican born and now residing in Texas. Additionally, the team included **Evan Williams**, JIA, a practicing architect in Kingston, Jamaica. Some 37 proposals were submitted, and five shortlisted. Among the entrants was British architect David Adjaye.

In March 2019, the Honorable Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced the winning teams. Our team—named after the country's motto, "Out of Many, One People"—won both the coveted People's Choice and Design Jury first-place selections. Hines Architecture + Design (design architect) joint-ventured with Design Collaborative Ltd. of Jamaica (architect of record) to deliver the building design as well as a comprehensive campus masterplan. Our team also collaborated with the office of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill, who was commissioned to deliver a masterplan for a government oval project which is adjacent to our project's 52-acre site. As our site was the focal point of the larger master plan, the work of the two teams needed to be a confluence of themes. > Continues on next page



**PROJECT NAME**

Government of Jamaica  
New Houses of Parliament

**COMPANY NAME**

Hines Architecture + Design  
WWW.HINESAD.COM  
DAIMIAN.HINES@HINESAD.COM

**PROJECT LOCATION**

National Heroes Park, Kingston,  
Jamaica W.I.

**COMPLETION YEAR**

On the Boards, Estimated 2023

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

Hines Architecture + Design (HINESAD)

**ROLE**

DESIGN ARCHITECT: Programming, design  
and construction documentation services

**US TEAM**

PIC: Daimian S Hines, AIA, NOMA,  
LEED BD+C

PM: Christopher Bent, Assoc AIA

PA: Nico Stearley AIA, LEED BD+C

PD: Chris Oliver, AIA

BIM MANAGER: Logan Kemp

ID DESIGN MANAGER: Juliana Touma, RA

DESIGN SUPPORT: Juliet Serem, AIA, NOMA

DESIGN SUPPORT: Clayton Fry, AIA

CONSULTANT: Gregory Lake, AIA

INTERN: Antonio Perez

INTERN: Kenny Nguyen

INTERN: Maggie Au

INTERN: Jhamaria Hewell

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: Burohappold

CIVIL ENGINEERING: Vogt Engineering

MEP ENGINEERING: DBR Engineering

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: OJB

ACOUSTICS: Bai

FOOD SERVICE: FDP

SUSTAINABILITY: Syncrho

FAÇADE: MGI

SPECIFICATIONS: Lisa Murray & Associates

INTERIOR DESIGN: SPADPS

LEGAL: Egbuono Law

**Design Collaborative Ltd (DCL)**

**ROLE**

Architect of Record

**JAMAICA TEAM**

PIC: Evan Williams, JIA

ARCHITECT: Jason Scott

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR: Abigail Evans

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: Hue Lyew Chin

CIVIL ENGINEERING: Hue Lyew Chin

MEP ENGINEERING: Satyn

LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT: Maryanne

Twymann

QUANTITY SURVEYOR: Handel Bowen,

Burrowes & Wallace

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING: Premier Land & Water

ENVIRONMENTAL: Environmental

Solutions Ltd.

LAND SURVEY: GEO Graphics Ltd.

GEOTECH: NHL Engineering

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

Hines Architecture + Design



Commentary by **DAIMIAN S. HINES AIA, NOMA**

# ARCHITECTURE OF EMOTION

**It is not often that architects have an opportunity to work on a transformational design such as the Jamaican parliament building.**



Prime minister the Honorable Andrew Holness, noted that this project will be the most important in the history of the country. I had the opportunity to study in India where I was able to visit Chandigarh, the country's capital. There I was able to experience the masterwork of Le Corbusier's designs for the buildings that comprised the Indian parliament. This was a magnificent experience and was made even more profound as I was able to build a relationship with one of the country's most notable architects Balkrishna Doshi, a protege of Le Corbusier.

I also had the opportunity to study in Berlin, where I and fellow students toured the then under construction iconic German Chancellory, which spans the Spree River, with the lead Architect Axel Schultes.

I did not imagine that in 2018 I would be conceptualizing a modern vision for my country of birth. This experience was both surreal and a source of great pride. I was extremely emotional during the entire design process. When I was eight years old, my family migrated to America so that my sister and I would have a chance at a better education. After graduating from university and practicing in Chicago, Houston, and Southeast Asia, I returned to Houston where I started a boutique design office. I leveraged relationships across the world to compete with notable competitors as British architect David Adjaye and French architect Hugh Dutton.

My emotions were fuel during this almost one-year-long international competition. The process included several trips to the island

which were educational, enlightening, and in some cases, a trigger for memories long forgotten. Never did I think our team would sweep the competition awards nor did I allow myself to dwell on the possibilities. My core focus was on producing the body of work required to compete.

As a small office, I was confident we could compete. I had studied at a top college for architecture, I had worked in large scale competitive design firms, and I had recently built a sixty-person office in Southeast Asia with a long time cohort Daniel West, AIA.

Since winning the commission, I have been asked to speak about the competition process and the design of the Government of Jamaica's new parliament building. I often start a speaking engagement with a preemptive disclaimer noting that I may become emotional.

I have since abandoned the disclaimer and embraced the notion that architecture should and can be emotional.

I, therefore, implore our NOMA design community to seek and deliver projects that evoke strong emotion, challenge traditional forms of practice and endeavor to compete whenever an opportunity arises.

The building program centers on two debate chambers. The spaces are the House of Representatives and Senate debate chambers. The balance of the program includes other parliamentary support spaces, offices, a museum, a library, visitors accommodations, and other amenities. Critical adjacencies drove the program development to support various user interfaces while simultaneously segregating government and visitor circulation and access protocols.

The project site is quite significant in the collective history of the island nation. The site resonates as a reminder of the island's colonial past. The site is currently underutilized as downtown Kingston experienced a substantial exodus of commerce to New Kingston, which is the new central business district. The design solution is a circular building that is legible at both urban and human scales. In analyzing the oval site, a former colonial-era horse racing track, coupled with the notions of the country's motto "Out of Many, One People," suggested a circular building that would have no perceived front, back, rear, or side profiles. The building form would always present a front while the landscape would define the vehicular and pedestrian site access and circulation pathways.

HINESAD collaborated with OJB Landscape architects whom without hesitation signed on early during the competition stage of the pursuit. Through a series of workshops with local stakeholders and government officials, our team developed an informed site program that captured the imagination of our client. Our vision was a dynamic park that included a series of outdoor rooms that formalize a variety of functions and activities.

Some of these functions included a national memorial shrine area where the country's national heroes are or will be interred, a plant

nursery, a public amphitheater, formal parliament access and demonstration areas, an extensive water wall plaza, and a walking trail loop with defined areas for future art installations. The site, therefore, is divided into three primary zones. The site to the north includes a large flexible community space for activities such as the annual kite festival. The center of the site consists of a civic plaza with community amphitheaters and a featured water wall in addition to the parliament building and parking garages capped by planted roofs. The southern campus contains a formal and historic program. This space includes a renovated shrine area for national heroes including interred prime ministers, governors-general, and historic figures as well as a new heroes pavilion.

The building shape resulted from the analyst site and historical notions. During the competition stage, I felt it was important, as Design Architect, to query team members regarding their childhood memories as well as their aspirations for the island nation. The expression of the building façade is envisioned as a series of precast concrete X-shaped columns. The column shape was derived from a study of geometries contained within the Jamaican flag. We wanted the flag to be experiential as an occupiable space. We also wanted the columns to be a metaphor for the relationship between the island's citizens and their elected representatives as inter-connected pillars that form the foundation of the country's system of parliament. The building plan maintains a clear circulation strategy with a central circulation boulevard and circular loop around two interior gardens which introduce natural light from rooftop skylight glazing systems. Rich woods, stones, planting, and feature walls to incorporate local art define the main circulation routes throughout the building.

# UPDATE ON LFRT COMMITMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP WITH NOMA

By **TIM DUFAULT** FAIA, LEED AP®

In our June 5th open letter to the members of NOMA, the member firms of the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) committed to work in partnership with NOMA to create meaningful change, equitable work environments, and build systems which will make real our core values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Since the member firms of the LFRT represent the 60 largest architectural firms in the country, we have a unique platform and opportunity to make a difference, and we are committed to doing just that. In the last several months, we have engaged our member firms in activities designed to facilitate that change, including:

Committed \$250,000 over five years to fund the NOMA Fellows program. 2020 represents the second year of that commitment and we look forward to continuing to invest in the bright future of our profession;

Committed over \$127,000 in member and general fund contributions to the seven HBCU Schools of Architecture to fund student support programs that provide relief for high need students as they return to campus/classes under difficult economic conditions;

Committed over \$88,000 in member and general fund contributions to NOMA to expand and support the NOMA fellows program for emerging professionals working in internships at architecture firms across the country;

Committed over \$88,000 in member and general fund contributions to the Architects Foundation to fund ARE grants for African American young professionals as they study and take the licensing exam;

Formulated contract language denouncing racism and discriminatory practices that architects face in client, contractor, and vendor interactions;



Hosted forums on justice and equity in design including a webinar led by Bryan Lee Jr., of Colloqate Design. View at [colloqate.org/talks-bryan-lee](http://colloqate.org/talks-bryan-lee);

Hosted a forum of Deans of the Colleges and Schools of Architecture around the country in which 110 participants including 32 deans and

LFRT MEMBER FIRMS

Ayers / Saint / Gross	Jacobs Global Buildings
Beck	JLG Architects
BIG	Kirksey Architecture
BWBR Architects, Inc.	Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, P.C.
Callison RTKL Inc	KTGY Group, Inc.
Cannon Design	Leo A Daly
CBT	Little
Clark Nexsen	LPA
Cooper Carry Inc.	LS3P
Corgan	MG2
Cunningham Group Architecture, Inc.	Moody Nolan
DLR Group	NBBJ
EYP	NELSON
Ennead Architects LLP	Page, Inc.
EwingCole	Perkins + Will
Flad Architects	Perkins Eastman Architects, PC
FreemanWhite, Inc.	Populous Group, LLC
FXCollaborative	Quinn Evans
Gensler	RAMSA
Gould Evans, Inc.	RS&H
Gresham Smith	Shepley Bulfinch
Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. (HGA)	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
HDR Architecture, Inc.	SmithGroup
HED	Solomon Cordwell Buenz
HKS, Inc.	Stantec Architecture
HLW International LLP	tvdsdesign (tvs)
HMC Architects	WATG
HNTB Architecture	Woods Bagot
HOK Group, Inc.	ZGF Architects, LLP
Hord Coplan Macht	
Huckabee	
Huitt-Zollars	

their students in a dialogue on the virtual practice, how justice and equity are being addressed in their schools, how to increase the number of black architects, and what additional actions we can take together to achieve a JEDI profession;

Supported the founding of the NOMA President's Circle with more than half the member firms committing across all levels of the Circle;

Our HR leaders are working on sharing processes in recruitment, interview, and hiring practices that reduce the impact of implicit bias in the hiring process;

Penned an open letter to producers of digital media content on the lack of representation of people of color, especially black people, in digital entourage and demanding they immediately correct the problem;

Began a program with the seven HBCU Schools of Architecture to bring additional resources and content to support their students through mentorship, shared instruction, seminars, and dedicated internships;

Holding a joint meeting of the LFRT and NOMA leadership in conjunction with NOMA's national virtual conference, October 14-18, 2020.

These activities are only the start. Our Justice and Equity = Diversity and Inclusion (JE=DI) task force continues to meet monthly to develop strategies and tactics we can implement in our firms, develop language we can adopt across the profession on justice and equity, and promote broader and deeper discussions on race, racism, and architecture's role in solving the problems in our profession and in our built environment. In support of this goal, we are developing programs for the senior leadership of our member firms to evaluate the culture of architecture with a focus on building intercultural humility, self-awareness, and opportunities for all.

The LFRT remains committed to ongoing support and partnership with NOMA leaders locally and nationally to achieve our shared vision of a profession that embraces all people of color and creates opportunities for the growth and development of a new diverse generation of firm leaders. As the CEO's of the largest architecture firms in the country, we are committed to making a difference in our own firms, holding each other accountable, leveraging architecture as a tool to break the chains of systemic racism, and continue to build our partnership with NOMA to double the number of licensed black architects by 2030.



# UPGRADE YOUR SOFTWARE: TIPS FOR MASTERING THE VIRTUAL WORKPLACE

By **JOEL AVERY**, NOMA

If there were a singular instance demonstrating the poignance of our current technological climate it would've been this past Saturday when, at the end of our weekly family get together, my eighty-four year old father bowed his head in prayer and thanked God for Eric Yuan and the digital marvel he founded in 2011. The praying is a habit of dad's but the vocalized gratefulness for Zoom or any technology is a very new thing. Did the crippling, global effects of COVID-19 bring something

new out of Silicon Valley; new enough to change a luddite octogenarians' heart? Or was there really a more profound software shift that took place?

You can still do well at your business without knowing the difference in the answers to that question but your life, and the life of your teammates will be easier if you know that the real answer is the latter. Mastering the virtual workplace isn't as much of a tech challenge as it is a matter of objective analysis. Here are some key points that hinge on our brains (the ultimate software) and way of thinking more so than digital wizardry.

## **YOUR WORKSPACE OR YOUR LIFE**

One of the newest realizations is that people that work from home often work harder and longer hours. This means you need to take greater care of the space you'll be occupying. Use all of your ergonomic skills to optimize desk and chair height particularly to minimize stress on your wrists, arms and back. Standing desks offer the most documented health benefits.

Minimize clutter and distractions as far as possible while providing a range of focal points. Having places for the eyes to rest near, distant and

everything in between, provides good exercise for ocular muscles and can help ease the effects of chronic screen time.

**Standing workstation benefits**  
[tinyurl.com/standing-workstation](https://tinyurl.com/standing-workstation)

**Resting your eyes**  
[tinyurl.com/resting-eyes](https://tinyurl.com/resting-eyes)

## **MEETING SKILLS ON FLEEK**

Avoid the business productivity killer: bad meetings. The only thing worse than a face to face, terribly designed conference is the same thing but with a screen, bad audio and an extra 20 minutes

> Continues on page 17

**Right:** The pattern cast into the 3,600 bronze-colored corona panels at the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** alludes to the ornate ironwork found in southern cities typically designed and fabricated by Americans of African descent. Architectural Collaboration: Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup (The Freelon Group joined Perkins&Will in 2014)

**Below:** The mural at the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights** pays homage to the graphics of rights movements.



# Now more than ever, diversity matters in design.



**We know how painful 2020 has been for Black communities and people of color. We're hurting, too. But in moments of crisis, together we rise. Today, tomorrow, and always.**

We're serious about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our firmwide commitment is to provide more mentorship, do more outreach, and create more opportunity. Because your voice counts. And the world needs to hear it.

**Perkins&Will**

[perkinswill.com/diversity-and-inclusion](https://perkinswill.com/diversity-and-inclusion)

# COMMITTED TO A JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE

Gensler's commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion are foundational to our guiding principles. The murder and ongoing disenfranchisement of Black Americans has prompted us to "double-down" on our efforts to foster social justice and our role in shaping and creating places of belonging.

Gensler is thrilled to partner with NOMA to drive change in the architecture industry and bring more diversity to the profession. Our partnership aims to improve the recruitment, education, training, promotion, and success of architects from diverse backgrounds and perspectives within our organization.

**WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE OUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND LEARN ABOUT WORKING AT GENSLER AT [GENSLER.COM/CAREERS](https://www.gensler.com/careers)**



Designing for equity and inclusion starts by empowering young people to affect change in their communities.

Dwight-Englewood School Hajjar STEM Center, Englewood, N.J.

## UPGRADE YOUR SOFTWARE

Continued

tacked on to make sure everyone knows you're the boss and they better still be working hard!

If you are the one leading the meeting do everything within your power to make sure it is not a waste of time. Remember, people are working too long as it is. Meetings need to be more concise and impactful than ever. Agendas, inviting only the needed individuals and setting time limits can vastly improve workplace moral.

After content, using the best virtual meeting tips is key. Having a good camera is almost as important as having a good microphone. After that, lighting might be the most important element. Avoid strong back lighting as much as possible. Eye contact with the camera and not staring at your own screen with create a better connection with your colleagues.

Lastly, GoToMeeting, Teams, Zoom, Join.Me all have their dark side. Part of it is really the extra stressful reality of the current world but research has shown "Zoom Fatigue" is a real thing that many of us battle every day. Mindful individuals will make the best use of the technology while using it sparingly.

**5 steps to great meeting**  
[tinyurl.com/great-mtg](https://tinyurl.com/great-mtg)

**25 tips for remote meetings**  
[tinyurl.com/remote-mtg](https://tinyurl.com/remote-mtg)

**Zoom Fatigue**  
[tinyurl.com/mtg-fatigue](https://tinyurl.com/mtg-fatigue)

### REDUCE RELIANCE ON EMAIL

That's right. Email, the 30 year old technology has been outdated for at least a decade. These days most of us have more than one email address to keep track of

and we spend as much as an hour a day simply sorting, reviewing, responding to and searching for that one specific message.

If your office is already part of the Microsoft Office 365 environment then Microsoft Teams is the clear and easy choice for a communications upgrade for your team. Slack, Asana and many other products provide the same critical concept: hierarchical organization for collaboration and centralized critical data. 30 project emails with 4 different recipients sent at various times with multiple copies in the body of the text produces a digitally dead product that can only be resuscitated with either a brilliant memory for what and where things exist in your inbox or via constant searching. The collaborative tools obviate that by simply putting all of the messaging in a logical location accessible by all.

**Be creative, ditch email**  
[tinyurl.com/inc-com-email](https://tinyurl.com/inc-com-email)

**No, really, research shows email is evil**  
[tinyurl.com/forbes-emails-productivity](https://tinyurl.com/forbes-emails-productivity)

**All about Microsoft Teams**  
[tinyurl.com/team-grp-chat](https://tinyurl.com/team-grp-chat)

**An overview of multiple collaboration platforms**  
[tinyurl.com/techradar-tools](https://tinyurl.com/techradar-tools)

### REDUNDANCY

This is another area that hasn't changed just because the workplace is mostly virtual. All core business processes need to have a "plan b" especially in the middle of a pandemic. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that anything can and will go wrong. Already having a plan in place for what to do when it does will

not only ease stress but it may save your company.

How do you keep you and your team productive when the office internet is out? How about when their home internet is out? Redundancy like that used to be something for large enterprises. These days most metropolitan areas and even the suburbs have multiple ISP's. In the remote economy two hours of downtime could easily equate to the cost of an entire year of duplicate high-speed internet bills. For best protection choose different technologies and providers for your internet service. If you have a Comcast cable service and on a fiber service from Spectrum. This puts your critical needs into two different technologies with two different providers requiring multiple types of failures to completely disconnect you.

### SAVE AND SAVE YOURSELVES

All of your data everywhere needs to be backed up. It's very possible, now that you've got so many people working from home, there's a chance you've got data outside the office that is not a part of your standard backup routine. There are far too many options for replicating your files for this to be a real problem.

Seriously, at this stage even home users should be backing up their data both locally (to a cheap external hard drive) and remotely to one of many total cloud backup services like Backblaze or iDrive.

It's important to mention here that OneDrive, Dropbox and similar technologies can help replicate individual files but in their most common configurations they are sharing tools and not backup tools.

**Backblaze home (single price "unlimited" cloud backup)**  
[tinyurl.com/backup-home](https://tinyurl.com/backup-home)

**Backblaze business**  
[tinyurl.com/backup-business](https://tinyurl.com/backup-business)

**iDrive home**  
[tinyurl.com/idrive-home](https://tinyurl.com/idrive-home)

**iDrive business**  
[tinyurl.com/idrive-business](https://tinyurl.com/idrive-business)

**Local Mac backup via Time Machine**  
[tinyurl.com/time-backup](https://tinyurl.com/time-backup)

**Review of multiple services**  
[tinyurl.com/blog-cloudbackup](https://tinyurl.com/blog-cloudbackup)

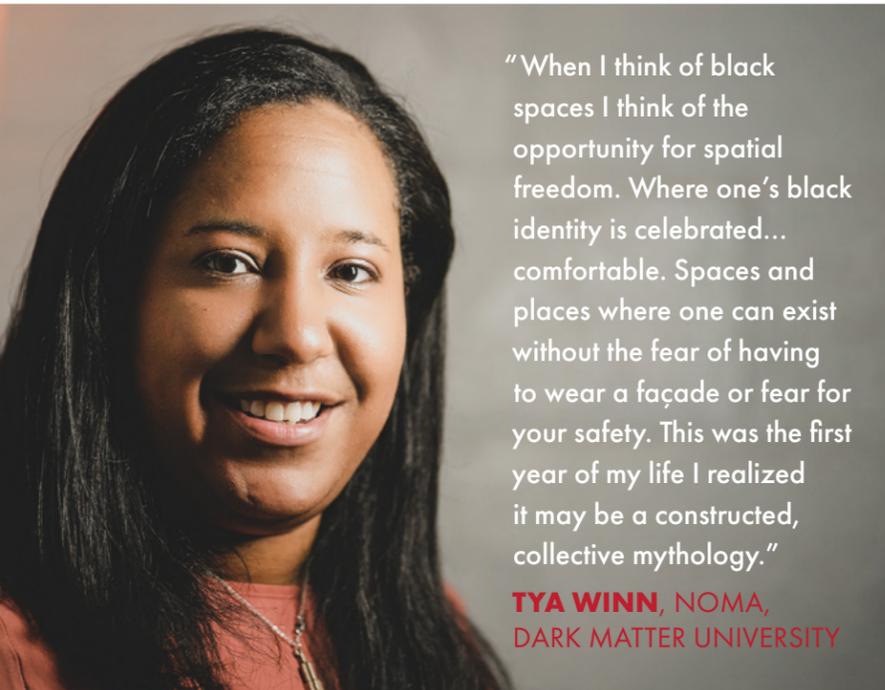
Almost every tech noted here has been around for over a decade. Leveraging the capabilities of the best while limiting the usage of the marginal requires an upgrade to our critical thinking but the benefits will live well beyond the end of the pandemic.



**JOEL AVERY** is the principal of the design and technology consulting firm CREATIVENESS. He's worked with architecture firms, advancing their understanding and use of technology—keeping clients coast to coast informed, empowered and secured for more than a quarter century. NOMA brought Joel on board officially as Chief Information Officer in 2018.  
[joel@CREATIVENESS.com](mailto:joel@CREATIVENESS.com)

# 35 WORDS

## BLACK SPACE



“When I think of black spaces I think of the opportunity for spatial freedom. Where one’s black identity is celebrated... comfortable. Spaces and places where one can exist without the fear of having to wear a façade or fear for your safety. This was the first year of my life I realized it may be a constructed, collective mythology.”

**TYA WINN, NOMA, DARK MATTER UNIVERSITY**

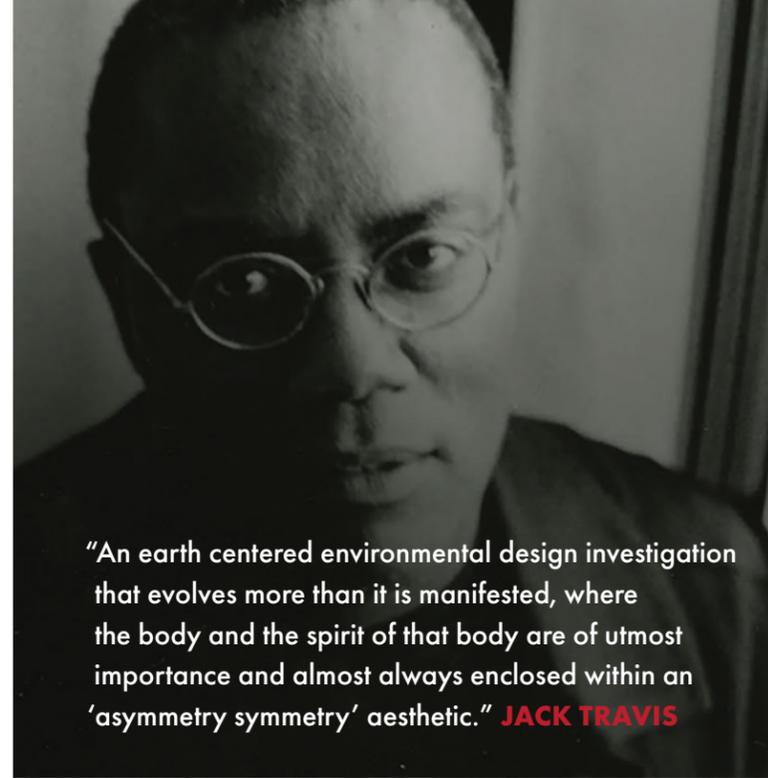
“Black space is in part a place of celebrating and sharing how we can thrive in the face of anti-Black racist practices that perpetuate the cultural, economic, and political harm enabled by our built environmental work on our communities.”

**KOFI BOONE**



“Freedom is often haphazardly construed by the misgivings of independence. The liberties of freedom and independence are lost to an instability founded on the inability to find something of value in ourselves. The failure to achieve these liberties supposedly comes from a personal perspective that you, yourself, do not willingly share equitably. However, true freedom flourishes from trust both ways, which flows from interdependence with others. We have lost the ability to blissfully trust one another in the places we’ve grown accustomed to, the places we love, and the simple being that comes from this. Liberty cannot exist until we remove racism from every facet of society. Therefore, we cannot obtain the independence of liberty or its freedoms until we end discrimination. The poorest of people, in their darkest hour, seek the trust of others when in need. COVID-19 showed us that the same is true for the most gloriously rich in our culture, which dire enough will seek the same trust.”

**ULYSSES SEAN VANCE, III**



“An earth centered environmental design investigation that evolves more than it is manifested, where the body and the spirit of that body are of utmost importance and almost always enclosed within an ‘asymmetry symmetry’ aesthetic.” **JACK TRAVIS**



“Black space to me is a space of Pride without boundaries set by physical or mental constraints. Within our dual pandemic Black Space has transformed to be a fragile yet critical space where I must protect my peace while continuing to push for a better future for black and brown Architects.”

**SAMANTHA JOSAPHA RA, NOMA, NCARB**



“We must imagine and build spaces of liberation, where black life can thrive, but this will be only be possible if we first abolish the (institutional) spaces where black life does not matter.”

**MABEL O. WILSON**

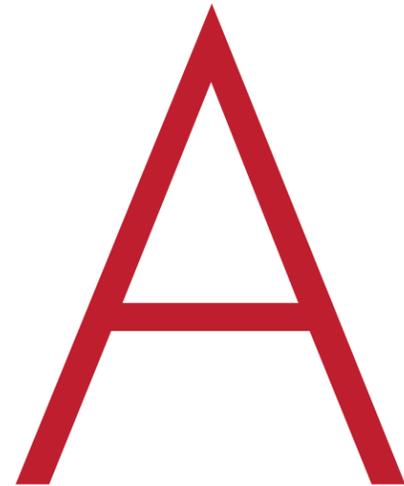
“The train of capitalistic exploitation of black bodies has come to crashing halt. COVID-19 has exposed white America’s infatuation with historical erasure. The act of rebellion is generations of triumphant survival and a reckoning that silenced voices have not forgotten their past and predetermined future. Sacred black space is defined by the culture of resilience, because around these parts, this train will result in not 6 feet apart but 6 feet under.”

**CHRIS LOCKE**



# LEED FOR DIVERSITY

By MICHAEL MARSHALL



As a practicing architect for almost thirty years, who happens to be an African American, I would like to share my thoughts on the need for diversity in our profession, and a few ways to possibly achieve it. It has been noted by economists and other international thinkers that all trends and indicators predict that in the next 50 years 75 percent of the world's population will live in urban settings. There is obviously an advantage here, as we evolve on our planet and as resources become increasingly scarce, sustainable, cultural and racially-diverse environments will be necessary to achieve an equitable balance, bringing people from different backgrounds and ethnicities together in peaceful coexistence as this migration to urban centers occurs. Architects, planners and designers who share the same backgrounds of the various people coming together in urban environments will need to function as mediators to convey the nuances of the different groups that



have been traditionally separated by socioeconomic and other factors. Diversity in the profession of architecture is an imperative.

As it stands now, minorities are woefully underrepresented in the field and practice of architecture. From my perspective I can see that there are steps being taken to correct this imbalance but it will take perhaps a few generations to achieve effective results. I think there are some "affirmative" steps that can now be utilized to correct this present day disparity of representation in the practice of architecture.

There are two areas I see where corrections are needed: 1) inside large corporate architectural practices where there should be more advances in the hiring and promotion of women and minorities at meaningful levels, and 2) in the need for collaboration between woman- and minority-led firms teamed with larger mainstream corporate practices. This must occur not only where there are public-private partnerships,

Just as there is certification of buildings that are LEED CERTIFIED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), I propose an institutional rating system or certifications for architectural firms that will establish what are good standards in achieving diversity and inclusion.



per government policy, but also for local and federal government projects for economic development. This goal of equity should also be the target in the private sector where, unless there is some mandate for inclusion, it is never considered as a positive means to bring in new voices for the design of our communities.

I would like to offer a solution that is more "carrot" than "stick" as a possible remedy to this situation that I have witnessed, personally and professionally.

In my past experience the sharing of services and, in particular, fees for an architectural project, depending on the scale of the project, can result in push back from larger corporate architectural practices to collaborate with woman- and minority-owned small businesses, even when there is a call for inclusion as part of a mandate to achieve diversity. In addition to the sharing of fees and services, there is also the sensitive subject of artistic authorship of the design of a project. The titles of "Design Architect" and "Architect of Record" usually settle this issue, but with true collaborations in the design of projects this can sometimes result in a difficult call. I have found that M.O.U.s at the start of the project is highly recommended for clarity of tasks and responsibilities of the teaming and is now a standard practice of our collaborations.

So here is my pitch for the "carrot".

Just as there is certification of buildings that are "LEED Certified" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), I propose an institutional rating system or certifications for architectural

firms, monitored by a group outside of the normal professional organizations that architects are associated with that will establish what are good standards in achieving diversity and inclusion. I propose that these agencies, similar to Standard and Poor's or Moody's would function not unlike these rating systems: as recommendations for understanding the diversity and inclusions intent of particular architectural practices.

This rating can be leveraged in a competitive fashion for winning commissions in the private sector or public sector. For the private sector developers of public or private projects, they can achieve certification for being good corporate citizens for bringing together diverse design teams, in return for regulatory approvals, as the LEED ratings are now a bonus and are sometimes mandatory depending on the jurisdiction. I think this can be a certification that will allow private sector firms to brand themselves as making socio-economic inclusion a normal "business as usual" process. Collaborations with small businesses, and woman- and minority-owned architectural practices could then have a business development advantage nationally.

In conclusion I want to see diversity and inclusion "monetized." I want to show that diversity is a great investment now and for our future.

Respectfully,  
**MICHAEL MARSHALL**, AIA, NOMA, NCARB

**NOMA FOUNDATION  
FELLOWSHIP INAUGURAL  
COHORT**



# 30+ STUDENTS AWARDED VIRTUAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS TO SUPPORT PROFESSION'S DIVERSITY EFFORTS

By **AMBER LACROIX**

**T**he National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) recently announced the placement of 30 architecture students as the inaugural cohort of the NOMA Foundation Fellowship (NFF). The NFF is a two-month virtual research fellowship hosted over the summer at leading architecture firms across the country. Fellows engage in design research and benefit from firm mentorship. Amidst COVID-19 and record unemployment, NFF provides professional experience to underrepresented students with the goal of keeping them engaged in the profession and providing a pipeline to eventual employment. In all recessions, including the current one, minorities are often the most adversely impacted by job loss.

“During this time of economic uncertainty, we have an imperative to support the next generation of minority architects looking to find their way in the profession

and the NOMA Foundation Fellowship program, funded by the American Institute of Architects Large Firm Roundtable (AIA LFRT), is helping us to achieve that,” said NOMA President and HOK Principal, Kimberly Dowdell, NOMA, AIA, LEED AP. “Mentorship, experience, and exposure are all key to the success of any architect. NFF formalizes that support structure for minorities and connects NOMAS members to firms expressing an interest in supporting the next generation of architects, recognizing the growing importance of diversity to the field.”

NOMA originally launched the NFF as a three-month summer design fellowship; however, COVID-19 forced the redesign of the program to ensure that fellows and firms were availed of meaningful experiences while protecting their health and wellness.

“The new NOMA Foundation Fellowship program is the first initiative to launch since we announced the AIA Large Firm Round Table 2030 Diversity Challenge, which calls

The inaugural fellowship cohort includes the following architecture students and graduates placed at design firms across the U.S.

**GABRIEL ANDRADE**  
University of Virginia  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

**STORM CAMPO**  
Woodbury University  
CUNINGHAM GROUP

**CARL'DRAIL CANNON**  
Kent State University  
ZGF

**IN-SAN CHIANG**  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
GRESHAM SMITH

**NGOC LINH DANH**  
Morgan State University  
GOULD EVANS

**TAKUMI DAVIS**  
Carnegie Mellon University  
DESMOND ARCHITECTS  
Davis will also participate in the ZGF INSTITUTE.

**JAMEICA DEMERCADO**  
California Baptist University  
HORD COPLAN MACHT

**AARON DEROUX**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
HED

**MONIQUE DORROH**  
Penn State University  
FXCOLLABORATIVE

**KERISTEN EDWARDS**  
Tulane University  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

**DESIREE GREEN**  
Ball State University  
GENSLER

**NANCY GUERRERO**  
Prairie View A&M  
CANNONDESIGN

**DAMION HARDY**  
Mississippi State University  
WIGHT & CO.

**DIANA HERNANDEZ**  
Serrano California Baptist University  
HED

**WALTER HUNT**  
Kent State University  
CANNONDESIGN

**SAMI JABER**  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
NBBJ

**ROBERTO MEDINA**  
Ball State University  
COLLOQATE

**CHRISTINA MEYER**  
North Dakota State University  
LS3P

**NIMAH MOHIUDDIN**  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
MASS DESIGN GROUP

**BARBARA NASILA**  
University of California, Berkeley  
CUNINGHAM GROUP

**KENNY NGUYEN**  
University of Houston  
MOODY NOLAN  
He will also participate in the remote SHEPLEY BULFINCH Summer Experience Program.

**OLAOLUWAPO ODUKOYA**  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
CALLISONRTKL

**HIMESH PATEL**  
New York Institute of Technology  
AYERS SAINT GROSS

**MALACHI PURSLEY**  
Louisiana State University  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

**ROSARIO ROJAS**  
California Baptist University  
ROTHSCHILD DOYNO  
COLLABORATIVE

**SYDNEE SAMPSON**  
Tuskegee University  
EYP

She will also participate in the remote ZGF INSTITUTE.

**TYLER SAUTER**  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
CANNONDESIGN

**DEJANAE WRIGHT**  
Morgan State University  
KTGY ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

for us to increase the number of licensed Black architects from 2,300 to 5,000 by 2030, expanding representation from 2 percent to roughly 4 percent Black licensed architects in the U.S.,” said Carole Wedge, FAIA LEED AP, President of Shepley Bulfinch and AIA LFRT Chair. “It’s more important now, than ever, that we find meaningful mentorship, growth and job opportunities for students and recent graduates so that we may continue to diversify the field of architecture and reflect the race and gender of the communities that we serve. We are inspired to learn about the experiences of the fellows and the professionals who will mentor them will have. We have much to learn from our younger generations for they are the future of our profession and built environment.”

The fellowship application process was open to any National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) members in good standing. The virtual program ran for eight weeks from July 6–August

28, 2020. The fellowship funding is paid for in large-part by the AIA-LFRT donations to NOMA. Fellows’ work is capped at 100 hours for a \$2,000 stipend; however, host firms offered additional funding to supplement the fellows’ work and hours.

In addition to the fellows and firms matched above through the NFF, KTGY Architecture + Planning extended internships to two additional finalists, Zai Cook of Virginia Tech and Ferdinem Bartolon of University of Detroit Mercy. Aaron deRoux, a 2020 M.Arch graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, placed at HED, was also named the 2020 Kenneth E. Casey Fellow. Kenneth E Casey, AIA, NOMA passed August 3, 2019. NOMA honored Casey with the creation of a new fellowship named in memory of his legacy.

Most NOMAS students who accepted the fellowships are seeking full-time employment, post-graduation, from their architecture programs.

“The uncertainty of COVID-19 has caused so much stress in the lives of degree-seeking students. I’m extremely grateful for the NOMA Foundation Fellowship paired with the support of AIA firm members and others. It is an opportunity and privilege that truly keeps me engaged in the profession,” said Monique Dorroh, a third-year M.Arch student placed at FXCollaborative, and part of the NOMAS Penn State chapter. “I’ve spoken to firms who offer professional development to students by providing advice and hosting summer workshops. This is an amazing first step! However, I pray that students are able to find additional ways to become engaged in the profession. As young designers we can change the future, designing more each day with safety, sustainability, and justice in mind. We only need the opportunity to show what we are made of. This is mine.”

# SPATIAL SHIFTS

## NOMA 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**T**he National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) concluded their first virtual conference Saturday, October 17, 2020, with industry architecture awards, honoring leadership and social, economic, and environmental design, for professionals and students. At the most widely attended NOMA conference, with over 1,600 registrants, the online audience also honored outgoing NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell, NOMAC, AIA, NCARB, SEED, LEED AP BD+C, and inducted incoming NOMA President Jason Pugh, NOMA, AIA, AICP, LEED AP. Pugh's two-year presidential term will start January 1, 2021, which is also the beginning of NOMA's 50th year.

"NOMA's awards ceremony is an annual highlight for NOMA members, when we step back, reflect and take stock of accomplishments, from those beginning their architecture journey as students, to those completing licensure, and so many who are changing their communities through built work," said Dowdell. "With this being my last ceremony as president, the awards meant even more, acknowledging leadership, allied partners, and the NOMA family that has made the success of this unprecedented year possible. NOMA has achieved so much in our first 49 years and we look forward to engaging our members and the broader architecture community to further expand our impact over the next 50 years."

During the awards ceremony, Dowdell, HOK Principal, and Anzilla Gilmore, FAIA, Rice University's assistant director for project management and engineering, were both elevated to the National Organization of Minority Architects Council (NOMAC), the highest level of recognition within NOMA. The following leadership awards were announced:

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD IN ACCESS

MELANIE RAY, NOMA, AIA, LEED GREEN ASSOC., NCARB  
JUSTIN TAPLET, NOMA, AIA  
CRAIG AQUART, NOMA, AIA  
KATHY DIXON, NOMAC, FAIA

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD IN LEADERSHIP

ANTOINE BRYANT, NOMA, ASSOC. AIA, APA  
JUNE GRANT, NOMA, RA, SF NOMA PRESIDENT  
ROD HENMI, NOMA, FAIA, LEED AP  
TYA WINN, NOMA, ASSOC. AIA

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD IN LEGACY

R. STEVEN LEWIS, NOMAC, FAIA  
WILLIAM (BILL) J. STANLEY, III, NOMAC, FAIA  
RALPH JACKSON, FAIA, NOMA  
BRYAN HUDSON, NOMAC, AIA

### NOMA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

TIFFANY MAYHEW, NOMA, ASSOC. AIA, NOMA PROGRAM MANAGER

### FOUNDER'S AWARD

JOEL AVERY, NOMA, NOMA'S CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

### NOMA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

TIFFANY BROWN, NOMA, ASSOC. AIA, MBA, NOMA EXECUTIVE MANAGER

### NOMA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR: SOCAL NOMA

### NOMA MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER: NC NOMA

OAKLAND+



I attended my first NOMA conference in Atlanta in 1991—and it was that conference that made me a NOMA convert. By conference end I felt in complete support of the work I saw being nurtured in NOMA. Over the years I built admiration for—and good relationships with—people who I only knew from NOMA conferences. The conference became a way to meet and form alliances with colleagues from across the country. The conference was also a time to try to get some continuing ed credits while reflecting on what it meant to be an architect in America today, what it meant to be a black architect, and what it meant to be a black female architect in America today.

Thus, I was very concerned when I realized that this year's NOMA Conference was not going to support the chance encounters of the past. But as I discovered, **the new Zoom-like conference format had its advantages. This format made it possible to attend more sessions than in-person. And the savings of time, energy and money normally spent traveling to the conference city, made it possible for more people to attend with less stress.**

During the virtual conference I learned how to communicate with friends in the Chat strip and how to 'socialize' alone/altogether following the bartender's instructions. There were great talks and fascinating presentations and games and music. Bottom line is that while I hope next year's conference is not virtual, should it be, I will definitely be there—from the lounge chair in my bedroom.

Roberta Washington, NOMAC, FAIA

**N**OMA partnered with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Design Corps for this year's NOMA/NAACP/SEED Awards. Dowdell is a co-founder of the Social, Economic, and Environmental Design (SEED) Network, established in 2005. The awards highlight the built and conceptual projects in architecture, community design, and economic development that exemplify Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). The following projects were named 2020 SEED/JEDI Award Winners:

### 2020 SEED/JEDI AWARD WINNERS

MEMORIAL TO ENSLAVED LABORERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

ENVISION COMANCHE

TULSA, OK

7933 TREE LANE

MADISON, WI

THE WEATHERIZATION KIT PROJECT

PITTSBURGH, PA

BIBLIOTECA CAMINANZA

PORTLAND, OR

THE CHICAGO MOBILE MAKERSPACE

CHICAGO, IL

PATHWAYS TO EQUITY: WEST OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS PROJECT

OAKLAND, CA

The SEED/JEDI Awards jurors included: **Carl Anthony**, architect, author and urban/suburban/regional design strategist; **Kimberly Dowdell**, NOMA President; **Maya Henderson**, sustainability professional; **Christopher Lee**, AIA, Mark Cavagneo Associates; **Marquis Miller**, Chief Diversity Officer, City of Chicago, Office of the Mayor; **Jacqui Patterson**, Environmental and Climate Justice, NAACP; **Paloma Pavel**, Earth House Center; **Laura Shipman**, Community Development and Planning, One Treasure Island; **Jimmie Tucker**, FAIA, NOMA, LEED AP, Self + Tucker Architects; and **Barbara Brown Wilson**, University of Virginia.

### LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS: NOMA PRESIDENCY

NOMA recognized outgoing President Dowdell for her accomplishments over the past two years, which includes doubling NOMA's membership to more than 2,000 members; achieving corporate engagement through diversity, equity and inclusion program, President's Circle; launching a new NOMA Foundation Fellowship; securing NOMA's formalized position as a partner with peer organizations, AIA, AIAS, ACSA, NAAAB, and NCARB; and leading through COVID-19, developing unifying messaging during the country's social awakening. Dowdell's administration also established a revamped mission statement and authored a 2021–2023 strategic plan for NOMA.

"I focused my presidency on openness through #ALLinforNOMA to gather a broader spectrum of members so that together we could talk about how to ensure that no group of people will ever feel left out again," said Dowdell. "While there is a focus on the issues facing Black architects because that is where we still see the greatest disparities, our non-Black members will learn more about these issues and help us address them for all minority groups. We need the majority in the profession, our white colleagues, to not only understand what the challenges are, but to join

# OAKLAND +

I have been attending NOMA conferences since 1993 and I always enjoy seeing everyone in person. This year I did not know what to expect for a virtual conference but I was so excited after the last panel on Saturday. I was part of a panel with Sharon Sutton, David Hughes and Zevilla Jackson-Preston. I liked the fact that the seminar details were up before the conference began and our panel was getting feedback. While there were some glitches during the process, everything went well. I enjoyed the chat feature and if this was an in person conference we could not talk during a seminar, it was a good way to check in with all of my NOMA family. All of the panels I signed up for were informative and the panelists were dynamic and thoughtful. I am sitting in front of my computer for 6 hours they better be! Another nice feature was I was able to watch all the panels I could not attend and I liked that feature. I liked the reporting feature to obtain my CEUs quickly. I am hoping this will be NOMA's one and only virtual conference and looking forward to seeing everyone in Detroit next year.



**Andrew Thompson**, AIA NOMA, LEED AP BD+C

The National Organization of Minority Architect's 48th Annual Conference, for me, will be forever historized as the year NOMA, in the fullness of its national capacity, embodied its conference theme to "spatial shift." 2020's COVID-19 pandemic presented one of the greatest social challenges our nation has ever faced. Nonetheless, NOMA showed its resilience and innovativeness, by pivoting conference from a completely physical, to a complete virtual platform. The conferences virtual interfaces of Remo & Big Marker were exceptionally interesting to maneuver through. I would like to identify a potential idea here being, there should be a way to lure, wave, or attract person's in the lobby (logged into the site) into virtual presenter spaces/booths. Similarly, when one logs into Facebook, or Instagram, the app will let you know when someone is online. This would be very helpful for career and graduate fair reps. I personally experienced this during my time spent as a graduate rep for Syracuse Architecture. Outside of that, I enjoyed the open networking opportunities this year's conference offered. I could access nearly any person and/or event with a click. I also noticed the attendance advantages of virtual events. Normally at conference, you may fit 50-100 people in a lecture room. Yet, during this conference, I joined discussions where there were over 200 attendees. This allowed me to be present for any discussion, only to soon realize that I could recap them virtually post conference. Now that's equitable access. GO NOMA!

**DJ Butler**  
SYRACUSE ARCHITECTURE NOMAS PRESIDENT



in the movement to eradicate them for everyone in the field. I hope that those who have joined us feel more clarity around and commitment to the future of diversity, equity and inclusion in architecture. As much as the industry has stepped up to support us, we are here to support them in their journey, too. Our diversity in membership will only help us be more successful in the future."

Dowdell inducted Pugh as the 2021-2022 president by "passing the staff," a tradition from NOMA's founding in 1971. A licensed architect and certified planner, Pugh is an Associate Architect and Urban Designer at Gensler's Chicago office. Pugh has a passion for helping develop underserved communities and the next generation of designers and architects. He previously served as the president of the Illinois NOMA chapter 2015-2016, and also served on Chicago's Associate Board of the ACE (Architecture, Construction, and Engineering) Mentor Program. Pugh has a B.A. from Howard University, one of seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities with an architecture accreditation, and a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University.

"I'm honored to lead NOMA into our 50th year and start the next half-century of programming and progress," said Pugh, NOMA incoming president. "One of the main goals for the next two years is to build upon the great work and progress President Dowdell and membership have accomplished during her tremendously impactful administration. We want to find ways to bolster the programs and initiatives launched by both the National Executive board and our local NOMA chapters to date, and ensure it dovetails with our expanded platform to Educate, Elevate, and Empower our membership base and chapters across the country."

### ACADIA + AUTODESK + NOMA COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

ACADIA and Autodesk announced a new award at the NOMA conference for students and professional work. An ACADIA/Autodesk jury evaluated submissions to the Barbara G. Laurie and Phil Freelon Design Award competitions on the use of computational technologies toward societal and/or environmental goals, and the exploration and creative use of computational design tools and/or computational thinking in the project design process and visualization. ACADIA and Autodesk were thrilled to inaugurate these awards with NOMA.

### INAUGURAL ACADIA + AUTODESK + NOMA COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

#### STUDENT DESIGN

1ST PLACE  
LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY "FUSION"

HONORABLE MENTION  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA "INTERWEAVE"

#### PROFESSIONAL DESIGN

1ST PLACE  
SMITHGROUP  
"SOCIETY'S CAGE"

HONORABLE MENTION  
PERKINS+WILL  
"RESILIENT PLANNING AT MULTIPLE SCALES: PUERTO RICO"

"I focused my presidency on openness through #ALLinforNOMA to gather a broader spectrum of members so no group of people will ever feel left out again.... I hope those who have joined us feel more clarity around and commitment to the future of diversity, equity and inclusion in architecture.... Our diversity in membership will only help us be more successful in the future."

—KIMBERLY DOWDELL

### NOMA 50: Detroit Homecoming in 2021

NOMA is honored to celebrate our 50th Year Anniversary in Detroit, where our twelve founders convened for the 1971 AIA Conference. Over the past five decades, NOMA has grown to over 2,400 members in over 120 professional and student chapters in North America. In 2021, we invite you to join us in Detroit as we honor our history, relish in our present day accomplishments and look to build a brighter future for our profession and our communities.

We invite you to watch our NOMA Homecoming Detroit 50 commemorative video at [www.NOMA.net](http://www.NOMA.net), written and performed by Detroit native, Jessica Care Moore, with original music by John Bunkley, also a Detroiter. The film was commissioned by NOMA and executive produced by Kimberly Dowdell and Tiffany Brown. Commercial real estate firm, Bedrock Detroit sponsored and provided in-kind services to produce the powerful video that we are all so proud to share. Many thanks to Bedrock and the entire NOMA team for helping to make this possible. Please join us in Detroit, October 20-23, 2021. To pre-register, please visit [www.NOMA.net](http://www.NOMA.net). We are NOMA...the frontline of architecture begins here.

THANK YOU TO  **GRAPHISOFT**  
A NEMETSCHER COMPANY

# IN MEMORIAM

**VAN B. BRUNER, JR.** FAIA, NOMA  
1931–2020

Van Buren Bruner, Jr., FAIA born in Washington DC in May 1931 passed away on July 10, 2020 at the age of 89 in Acworth, Georgia.



Bruner was an architect known for his leadership on diversity and inclusion. He started his own business, The Bruner Firm in 1968 and received the AIA Whitney M. Young Award in 1975 for his work in broadening diversity in architecture and advocating for community participation in urban planning projects.

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**ROBERT T. COLES** FAIA, NOMA  
1929–2020

Robert Traynham Coles, FAIA passed away on May 16, 2020 at the age of 90 years old. Born in Buffalo, NY in 1929, Coles graduated from Buffalo Technical High School before attending Hampton University from 1947–1949, and receiving his architecture degree from the University of Minnesota in 1953. In 1955, he received a Master of Architecture from MIT. In 1963, Coles opened his own firm Robert Traynham Coles, Architect PC, in Buffalo, New York. Throughout his career

he was seen as a trailblazer from his extensive work with NOMA and the AIA. Coles received the 1981 Whitney M. Young Award and was elected to the College of Fellows where he became the first black chancellor. Coles used his status in the College of Fellows to create minority scholarships and further work to advance an urban agenda for the architecture profession and the AIA Edward C. Kemper Award in 2019. Robert Coles was well respected within the community, a mentor to many.

**RICHARD T. HENMI** FAIA  
1924–2020

Richard (Dick) Toshio Henmi, father of active NOMA member, Rod Henmi, and the architect of the “Flying Saucer” and many of the most memorable buildings defining the St. Louis skyline, died peacefully on July 7, 2020 at the age of 96. Featured in the recent PBS documentary, “Mid-Century Modern in St. Louis,” Dick was one of the leading architects of this design movement in St. Louis.

Born and raised in Fresno, California, Henmi was one of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans (two-thirds of whom



were citizens) who were thrown into detention camps during World War II. He along with Gyo Obata, co-founder of HOK were able to leave the camps and study at

Washington University in St. Louis, the only architectural school open to the interned Japanese Americans. He eventually became chief designer with the oldest St. Louis firm, Russell Mullgardt Schwarz & Van Hoefen), which later became Henmi & Associates.

**NATHANIEL SCOTT HILL** AIA, NOMA  
1950–2020

Nathaniel Scott Hill, 69, of Orlando, Florida passed away Tuesday, March 24, 2020. He was born on April 16, 1950 in Orlando, Florida. Nathaniel is a Jones High School Alumni. He



went on to further his education and earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University, Alabama Class of 1975. He was active in the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a active member of NOMA Orlando.

**HARRY OVERSTREET** AIA, NOMA  
1938–2019

Harry Lee Overstreet—well-known Berkeley architect, politician, and civil rights activist—passed away on November 24, 2019 at the age of 81 years old. Overstreet was born in 1938 in Conehatta, Mississippi. His legacy lives on in the San Francisco Bay Area as he and long-time business partners Hans and Tim Gerson developed Gerson-Overstreet Architects in 1968. The firm designed and retrofitted prominent public institutions including schools, housing complexes and cultural centers across northern and southern California.



Overstreet was a member of the AIA and served as the 14th President of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) from 1989-1990. He initiated the efforts that would eventually establish student chapters of NOMA, now known as the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS), which includes over 600 students at more than 80 schools in 2019.

His memorial service was held on December 12, 2019. Harry will be remembered for all the joy and wisdom he imparted on his family and friends throughout his life and his legacy will live on through all of those who he mentored and supported in the field of architecture and beyond.

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**PHIL FREELON, 1953–2019**

ne of NOMA’s principal missions is to serve as a champion and advocate for the design excellence of its members. As such, we continue to recognize and celebrate their work through the annual Professional Design Awards, recently renamed in honor of our brightest star, **Philip G. Freelon, FAIA, NOMAC**, who we lost to Lou Gerhig’s disease in July of 2019. Phil’s creativity in expressing culture through

architecture and design is unmatched. By associating him with these awards, there is no question that the bar has been raised. Happily, our members are up to the challenge, as you will see in the following pages. For many years, the design achievements of our members were largely overlooked by the mainstream architectural press; however, in the wake of George Floyd’s tragic killing and the exposure of others like him, our profession, as well as society at large, has become “woke” and is now paying attention to the special things we bring to all we do, including architecture. Currently, the architectural press has made an extreme effort to cover Black architects and their work. While we are thrilled to see the recognition, it will remain NOMA’s purpose to elevate us, and in the process, inspire those who have the pleasure of viewing the magazine. **Enjoy the work.** >>

**THE JURORS**

**NICOLE HOLLANT-DENIS**, AIA, NOMA, PRESIDENT, AARIS DESIGN STUDIOS, PLLC

**TONJA ADAIR**, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP PRINCIPAL, SPLICE STUDIOS, INC.

**EDWARD DOUGLAS DUNSON, II**, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, ARCHITECT / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE

**PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL  
DESIGN AWARDS  
VISION CATEGORY**

**HONOR WINNER**

## PERKINS & WILL Yanel de Angel, NOMA, FAIA

**PROJECT NAME**  
Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales: Puerto Rico  
Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja,  
Puerto Rico

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
Puerto Rico, United States

**YEAR PROJECT COMPLETED**  
2020

**SQUARE FOOTAGE**  
41.7 sq. mi

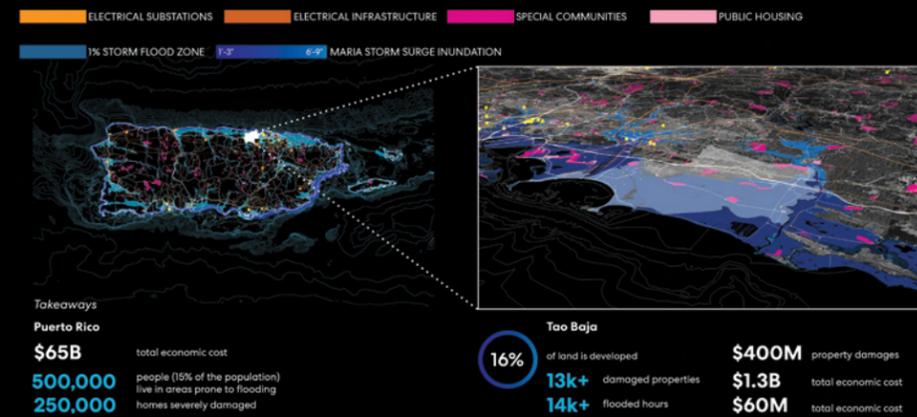
**OWNER NAME**  
Desirie Pearlman, Puerto Rico

**ARCHITECT'S NAME**  
Yanel de Angel, FAIA, NOMA, Principal Perkins  
& Will

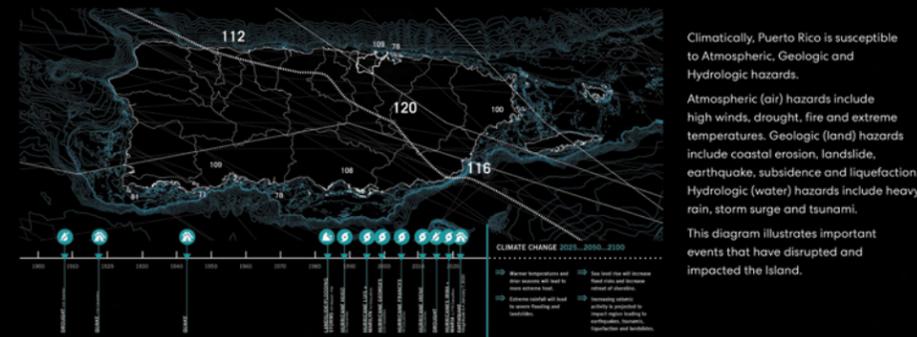
**STATEMENT OF DESIGN PROGRAM**  
The destruction in Puerto Rico caused by Hurricane Maria is still evident across the island. The Hurricane as well as the aftermath of dealing with poor infrastructure, unsafe construction practices, lack of an emergency plan, no access to clean food, water or medicine contributed to the deaths of over 4,000. Our campaign has an interdisciplinary focus to "create a resilient future for the island." From this effort a global, interdisciplinary non-profit organization was formed known as AREAresearch.org, in which ResilientSEE is one of the initiatives. The ResilientSEE name stems from a multi-lens approach to achieve resilience that considers **social, economic** and **environmental** vulnerabilities. The framework plan for Toa Baja is helping the Municipality centralize existing information, identify gaps in data and think strategically about 'resilient' solutions to implement.

Resilient planning requires strong community engagement and a co-authorship process that promotes self-advocacy. We design the process before designing the project because we strive to amplify the community voice, create consensus and empower them to design their own future.

### Vulnerabilities:



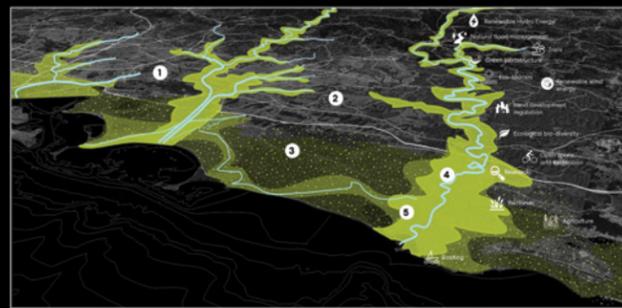
### Understanding the Vulnerabilities: 120 Years of Catastrophic Natural Events in Puerto Rico



### Three Driving Principles for Toa Baja Moving Forward:

#### 01 Restore The Ecology

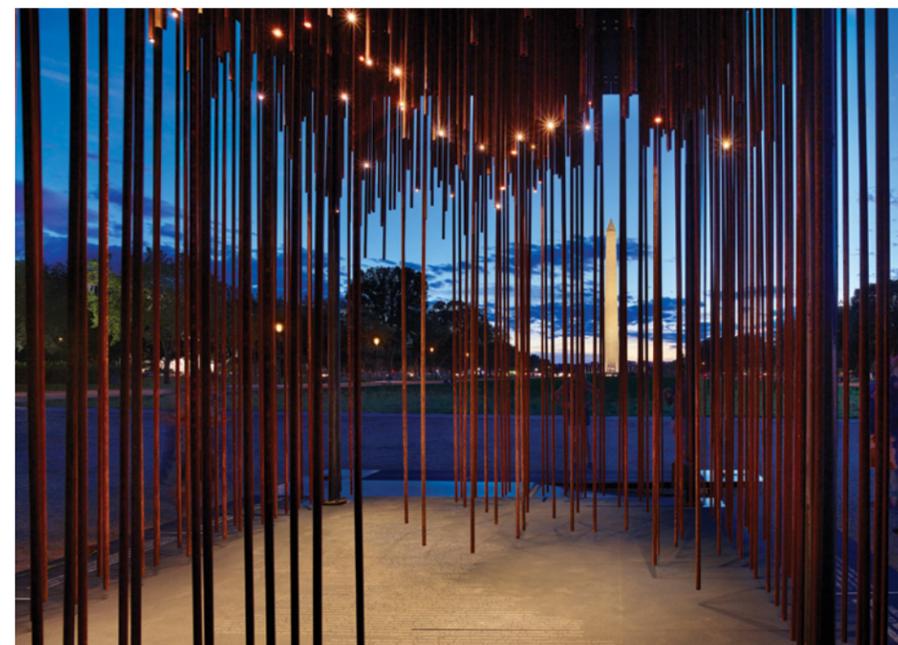
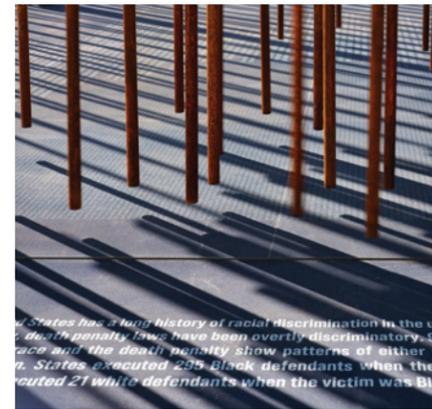
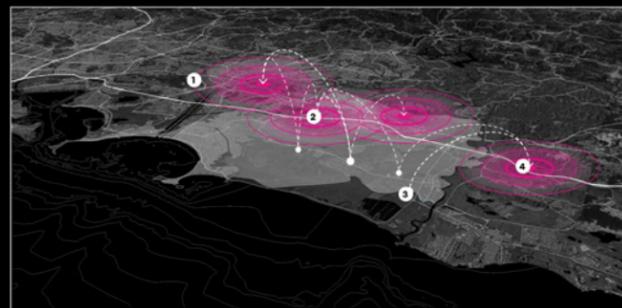
- Cultural and Economic Transformation**  
Ecological corridor for recreation, education, tourism and increase employment and development opportunities
- Green Infrastructure**  
Connect the ecology with green corridors of mobility and infrastructure
- Ecological Landscape**  
Performative landscapes that provide ecological and flood protection benefits
- Regeneration of the River Corridor**  
Enhance flood resiliency and water quality. Restore a functional and diverse ecosystem
- Open Spaces and Recreation**  
Create spaces for discovery and play that develop an identity for the region



### Three Driving Principles for Toa Baja Moving Forward:

#### 02 Develop a Social and Civic Infrastructure

- Walkable Communities**  
Robust multi modal corridors and design guidelines to promote a walkable community
- Civic Anchors and Community Hubs**  
Civic amenities, emergency shelters, community assembly spaces, culture and art centers as urban destinations
- Social Health and Wellness**  
Relocate developments from critically vulnerable zones and low lying flood plains
- Urban Centers and Schools**  
That support mixed uses, walkable communities and enliven public realm



**PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL  
DESIGN AWARDS  
SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY**

**HONOR WINNER**

## SMITHGROUP Dayton Schroeter

**PROJECT NAME**  
Society's Cage

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
Washington, DC

**YEAR PROJECT COMPLETED**  
2020

**SQUARE FOOTAGE**  
500 sq ft

**OWNER NAME**  
Dayton Schroeter

**ARCHITECT'S NAME**  
Dayton Schroeter, SmithGroup

**CONSTRUCTION/BUILDER**  
Gronning Design + Manufacturing, Washington  
DC Office

**STATEMENT OF DESIGN PROGRAM**  
Society's Cage is a timely interpretive installation born in the aftermath of the George Floyd and Breonna Taylor murders as our society reckons with institutional racism and white supremacy. The public installation features a bold interpretive pavilion sculpted to symbolize the historic educates visitors and functions as a sanctuary to reflect, record, and share personal thoughts. It is conceived in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement as a mechanism for building empathy and healing.

The initial installation of Society's Cage coincided with the March on Washington in support of Black Lives Matter on August 28, 2020, and was located prominently on the National Mall from August 28 through September 12, 2020.

The main takeaway from this experience is to help the visitor understand that the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor are not anomalies, but rather the latest examples in a 400+ year historic pattern of unmitigated, unbound, systemic, anti-Blackness in the United States. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge and reckon with the severity of the racial biases inherent in the institutional structures of justice and creates a space for collective reflection, contemplation, sharing and healing.

**PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL  
DESIGN AWARDS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION,  
RESTORATION & RENOVATION  
CATEGORY**

**HONOR WINNER**

## NICHOLAS BRINEN

**PROJECT NAME**  
Potters at Neve Hall

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
Charlottesville, VA

**YEAR PROJECT COMPLETED**  
2019

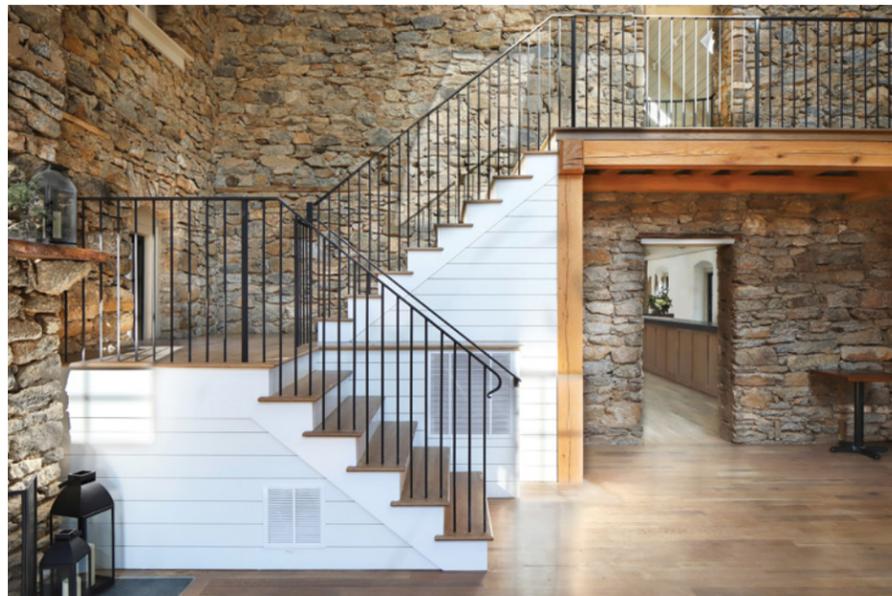
**SQUARE FOOTAGE**  
4,190 sq ft

**OWNER NAME**  
Dan Potter, Charlottesville, VA

**ARCHITECT'S NAME**  
Nicholas Brinen, NOMA

**CONSTRUCTION/BUILDER**  
Evergreen Builders, Charlottesville, VA

**STATEMENT OF DESIGN PROGRAM**  
Neve Hall stands as the first Episcopal worship space in the Charlottesville, Virginia. Built in the 19th century this stone structure is idyllically located in a heavily wooded area on the outskirts of the city limits, which provides a lush canopy of foliage and views of the blue ridge mountains beyond. This surrounding landscape has an appropriate impact on the experience of tasting local natural cider and it was important to preserve the context and views. There was also a great amount of object-empathy for the historical stone envelope and palimpsest of plaster work on the interior shared by the team and client. Regarding material palette, we selectively excavated plaster work in some areas to expose more stone and preserved plaster layers that provided depth in other areas. Exposed timber elements were introduced to firm up the masonry structure from the interior and support the new configuration of the second floor. Other design operations aimed to breathe new life into this existing stone envelope with strategic daylighting and adaptable spaces for a variety of events ranging from tasting rooms to singular, large events. Apertures in the newly constructed roofs and subtracted portions of the second floor were strategically placed to connect the intersection of the two halls with light, views, and a new connecting stairway. All of which was inspired by what was already existing inside and surrounding the historic building.



**PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL  
DESIGN AWARDS  
UNBUILT CATEGORY**

**HONOR WINNER**

## AECOM Pierre Roberson

**PROJECT NAME**  
YMCA Flint

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
Downtown Flint, Michigan

**YEAR PROJECT COMPLETED**  
Schematic design 2019, construction TBD

**SQUARE FOOTAGE**  
60,000 sq ft

**OWNER NAME**  
Janet Tweedle, Flint Michigan

**ARCHITECT'S NAME**  
Pierre Roberson, AECOM

**STATEMENT OF DESIGN PROGRAM**  
The proposed new Downtown Flint YMCA is a 60,000 square foot recreation facility to replace the existing facility. It will be sited 1 block south of the existing facility, on the current parking lot which is owned by the YMCA. Major programmatic elements include, a gymnasium, a wellness center, public lobby, and aquatics center. The current YMCA presents a vertically linear aesthetic, reminiscent of a typical 70's era office building. There is very little transparency, which creates a physical disconnect. The YMCA Flint is much more than what meets the eye—it has historic roots. Many NBA players spent time at the Y as young athletes and, in turn, created an emotional connection to the space. New building respects the vertical aesthetic of the old but creates a better sense of physical and visual connection to the community with the introduction of transparent façade systems. By peeling away the historic exterior, we are unveiling a new beginning for the building and deepening its existing social connection with the community.

**PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL  
DESIGN AWARDS  
BUILT CATEGORY**



**HONOR WINNER**

**MOODY NOLAN**

**PROJECT NAME**  
Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Martin Luther King Branch

**PROJECT LOCATION**  
Columbus, Ohio

**YEAR PROJECT COMPLETED**  
2018

**SQUARE FOOTAGE**  
18,700 sq ft

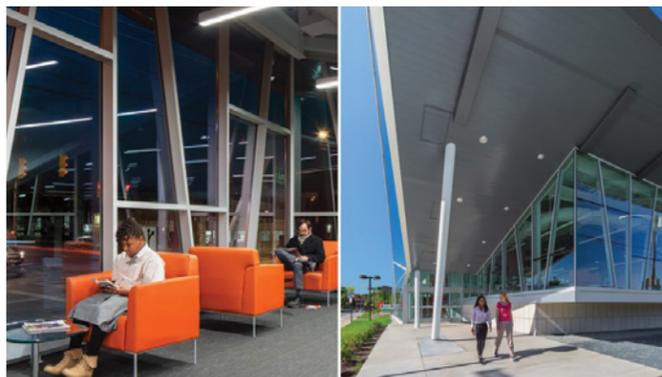
**OWNER NAME**  
Columbus Metropolitan Library

**ARCHITECT'S NAME**  
Moody Nolan, Inc., Columbus Ohio

**CONSTRUCTION/BUILDER**  
Turner Construction, Columbus Ohio

**STATEMENT OF DESIGN PROGRAM**  
The Columbus Metropolitan Library MLK Branch is the first library in the country named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Design inspiration comes directly from his writing: "We must utilize the community action groups and training centers now proliferating in some slum areas to create not merely an electorate, but a conscious, alert and informed people who know their direction and whose collective wisdom and vitality commands respect." The major components pull you in from the entry and porch element at the northeast corner. These elements are connected on the south and west by adult, staff and public meeting spaces. They are connected on the north by the children and teen areas put out on display at the street.

The building site is special to the community and the branch history. Using this site helped to take advantage of the neighborhood history, existing walkability, bus stops, and adjacency to nearby schools. The site selection also helped re-use an urban site and preserve landscapes within the neighborhood. It becomes a visual statement that transitions the residential to the public.



**VISION CATEGORY**

**ARMANARCHITECTURE PLLC**, Sky Gardens of San Jose, San Jose, CA



**BUILT CATEGORY**

**PERKINS & WILL**, Camp Southern Ground, Lodge One, Fayetteville, GA



**BUILT CATEGORY**

**VINES ARCHITECTURE**, Durham County Main Library, Durham, NC



**UNBUILT CATEGORY**

**PERKINS & WILL**, Morrow High School, Ellenwood, GA



**SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY**

**EVOKE STUDIO ARCHITECTURE**, North Carolina Central University Television Broadcast Studio Renovation, Durham, NC



**UNBUILT CATEGORY**

**PERKINS & WILL**, Sycamore Hill Gateway, Greenville Town Common, Greenville, NC

## STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

**E**very year, NOMA recognizes leadership excellence in their student chapters. Led by NOMA professionals across the country, the University liaisons and Student Representatives work with the NOMA Board to identify emerging talent in their student chapters.

### UNIVERSITY LIAISONS

ANDREA-VASILE HOXHA MIDWEST REGION

MELANIE RAY NORTHEAST REGION

ANDREA SIMPSON SOUTH REGION, OUTGOING

GABRIELLE RILEY WEST REGION, OUTGOING

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

RICARDO RAMOS NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 2020 GRADUATE

LESLIE EPPS CITY COLLEGE OF NY

### NOMAS MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The 2020 National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) Student Member of the Year is **Shaela Nelson**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Our Student Member of the Year demonstrates a continued commitment to NOMA throughout their undergraduate and now graduate career. Shaela Nelson was selected based on her selfless commitment to the health and wellness of her fellow members, leading such initiatives as self-care yoga sessions and food insecurity drives for students. Her leadership shows the importance of a balanced life of architecture and mental health. **Congratulations Shaela!**

### NOMAS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The NOMAS Chapter of the Year winner is **Orange NOMAS of Syracuse University**; with an Honorable Mention going to **Illinois Institute of Technology, NOMAS IIT**.

Orange NOMAS of Syracuse University was chosen based on their extensive list of social and professional activities, which included speaking out about social justice and inclusion on their campus, the judges were most impressed by their unique "A Dollar and A Dream" Speed Networking event, hosted in collaboration with the Syracuse chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers and the Black Graduate Student Association.

However, it was a such a tough decision, and the judges also acknowledged the NOMAS chapter of the Illinois Institute of Technology as the Honorable Mention. Their dedication to providing an action-packed calendar of social, professional development, and design events really stood out!

Congratulations to both chapters!

### 2020 NOMA BARBARA G. LAURIE STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

The 2020 NOMA Barbara G. Laurie Student Design Competition was focused on a project led by The Black Cultural Zone (BCZ) Community Development Corporation, in collaboration with seven environmental and housing justice organizations, to create a net positive mixed-use community-owned development in Deep East Oakland. The vision of the community is to maintain in perpetuity Black space and culture while being stewards of ecological balance and renewal in Deep East Oakland. While COVID-19 prevented many chapters from visiting the site in person, we are grateful to the BCZ team for hosting a virtual townhall with partner organizations for the students earlier this year.

To make this project even more challenging, the submission requirements had to change in order to accommodate the demands of this era of social distancing. Unique to this year is that teams submitted a video narrative of their project for Round 1, which was reviewed by jurors prior to the start of conference.

Jurors for the SOM-sponsored student competition included:

**Oswaldo Ortega**, AIA, LEED AP BC+C, NOMA, NCARB, Gensler

**Maurice Hamilton, Jr.**, AIA, NCARB, SOM

**Javier Arizmendi**, FAIA LEED, SOM

**Arturo Vasquez**, AIA, Stantec

Out of 29 schools who entered the competition, the winner was picked out of seven NOMAS chapter finalists, which included:

CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY AT SAN LUIS OBISPO

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

LAWRENCE TECH UNIVERSITY

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

WOODBURY UNIVERSITY

The jurors were impressed with how each team approached the challenge of the video submission and commend the students for using this unique opportunity to tell the stories behind their projects.

Projects were judged on their cultural expression, design excellence, net-positive energy integration, and presentation creativity.

Winners are featured on page 38.

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Alyssa Mayorga, Jacob Moskowitz, Yashwitha Maram Reddy  
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**Joseph F. Thomas Visiting Professorship**

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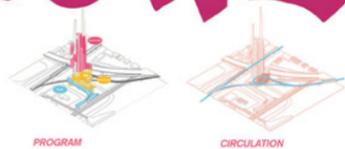
[soa.cmu.edu/apply](http://soa.cmu.edu/apply)

**2020 NOMA BARBARA G. LAURIE STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION**

**FIRST PLACE**

# CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY AT SAN LUIS OBISPO

Even before Round 1 deliberations had started, the jurors unanimously agreed that Oakland Flowz was the clear winner of this year's competition. Jurors appreciated that the team took the opportunity to think outside of the site, reusing the train cars as a thematic message of mobility to the community. The project demonstrated a higher provocation of thinking that was beyond the rest of the competition; a true symmetry that really flowed. The graphics were simple and clear in a presentation that successfully and professionally illustrated their project. It represented an architecture that is not only contextual but universal; a paradigm that could be applied to other cities.



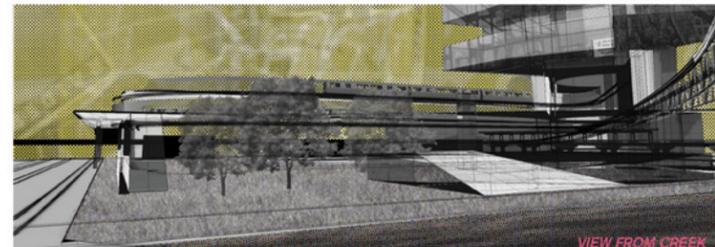
Our proposal takes advantage of current BART transportation infrastructure in Oakland to broaden community outreach and accessibility to public essentials. Historically, new transportation infrastructure has torn neighborhoods apart and accelerated gentrification and the displacement of local communities. We have reimagined this new infrastructure completely differently: the project deploys "train cars" that make use of the existing tracks as well as new strategic connections to travel throughout the city of Oakland, broadening community connections and outreach.

This mobility within the system provides several needs: when out and about, they create a unique marketing opportunity; provide exposure for artists and vendors; and bring in advertising revenue. During operating hours, some of these retail cars can also pull into an expansive platform where certain cars are showcased and staged in the public realm. This allows residents and the people of the surrounding community to shop and sell, as an extension of the black cultural zone throughout a wider variety of neighborhoods and means. In sum, our project intends to leverage mobility of architecture in order to serve, to support, and to protect vulnerable communities in a constantly shifting world.

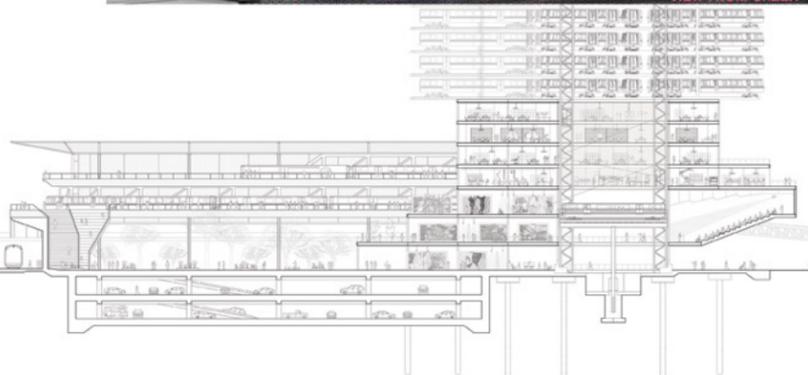
SECTION THROUGH GROUND PLANE AND PODIUM



VIEW FROM BART CAR APPROACHING THE BUILDING



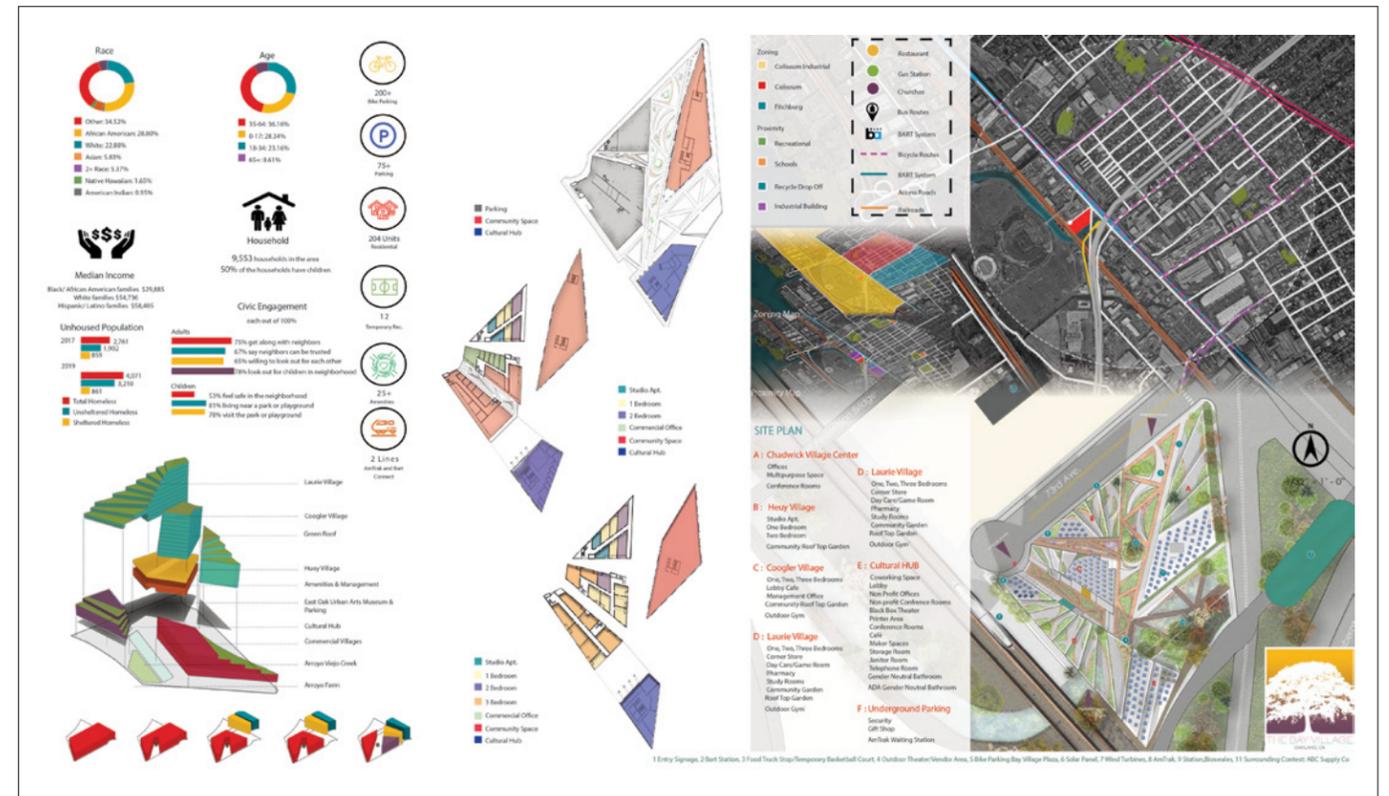
VIEW FROM CREEK



**SECOND PLACE**

# TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

The public spaces made from the introduction of the shard-like forms in The Bay Villages were interesting and dynamic. The materials used were reflective of the cultural expression and were successful in a surprising way. The graphics and video themselves stood strong on their own, but their professional presentation took it over the top for this team. Jurors felt that the project successfully brought together a long history of the diaspora, using the creek as an impactful tool for placemaking. The beautiful video illustrated a public ground level that really sings and creates a sense of community, and specifically, a community in Oakland. It was clear that this project started with the people, and that is not easy.



**THIRD PLACE**

# WOODBURY UNIVERSITY

The plan of The Djembe was a powerful draw for the jurors, who saw a richness that speaks to African-American culture. In their Round 2 presentation, the team brought a rich interpretation of ideas to a form that, while unconventional, was evocative and thought outside of the box. The project was praised for its strong cultural connection, and the team spoke about the project in a way that was from the heart. The presenters were charismatic and thoughtful, and delivered what many jurors called the best presentation.



**HONORABLE MENTION**

# LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Jurors struggled with narrowing down their choices to the top 3, resulting in heavy debate. For this reason, they want to specifically acknowledge Fusion by Lawrence Tech with a Design Excellence Award. Although juror's questioned the form of the development, they were captivated by the energy and thoughtfulness of the design. It demonstrated the concept that this is an architecture designed to stay and designed to grow. In addition, this simple and elegant design featured a phenomenal presentation that one juror even called the best video.



Leading with diversity, equity, and inclusion brings our work to the next level

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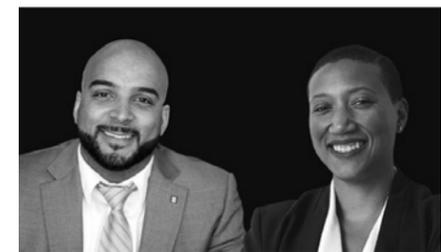
DESIGN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

mithun.com

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RE-PRINT ARCHINECT, OCTOBER 10, 2020

# KIMBERLY DOWDELL AND JASON PUGH DISCUSS NOMA'S CORE VALUES, MENTORSHIP, AND THE UPCOMING 2020 NOMA CONFERENCE

By KATHERINE GUIMAPANG



Fast forward to the present, 2020 reflects examples of progress but also displays moments

National architecture organizations have expressed their efforts towards inclusivity, equity, and diversity. One organization, however, continues to embody those values by leading from example and creating moments for individuals to be involved and amongst people whose multifaceted backgrounds add to the strength of the future architectural academia and professional practice. The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) has continued to push through and establish themselves as a group that reflects a different leadership type towards efforts of advocacy, diversity, and inclusivity within the profession.

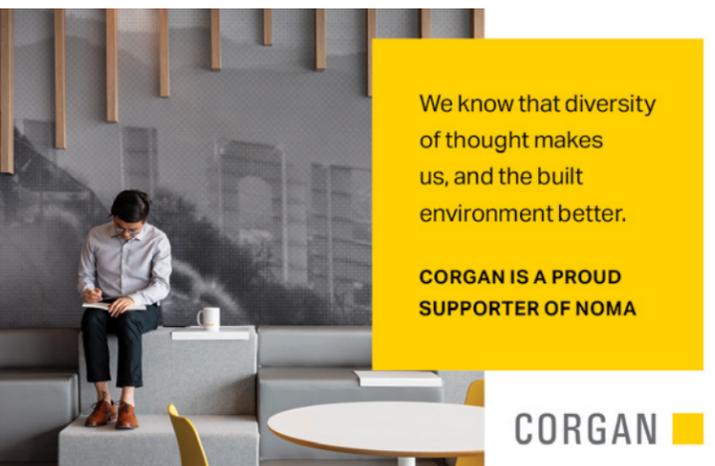
"I think that everyone approaches the 'doing' of architecture in their own way," explains current NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell. "NOMA celebrates the various ways in which our members contribute to our collective built environment. At the end of the day, architects are called upon to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Our members do this in nearly every way imaginable."

Leading into the upcoming 2020 NOMA Conference, Archinect connected with current NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell and incoming NOMA President Jason Pugh to discuss the organization's growth, their hopes towards elevating design justice, and the importance of the upcoming NOMA conference.

where the core values of what it means to be an architect today are challenged. As of September 2020, NOMA has grown into an organization with over 1900 members with active professional and student chapters across the country. In-person conferences were abruptly put on hold this year due to COVID-19, and as a result, the conference format experienced changes. The conference planning team and co-chairs June Grant, NOMA, RA, SF NOMA President, and Rod Henmi, NOMA, FAIA, LEED AP, created a way to make this an opportunity to break down physical barriers and invite the world to experience what NOMA has to offer. When asked about the upcoming conference and its digital format, Dowdell shared her thoughts. "I'm excited about being able to connect with NOMA members and guests from across the country and around the globe through the convenience of our new online conference platform.

While it's certainly disappointing that we are unable to convene in person this year due to COVID-19, the silver lining of going digital is the heightened access that our students will have to our content, eliminating their concerns about raising money for attending an in-person conference. This format also offers all of our attendees a wonderful way to connect with us on their schedule, accessing our on-demand content when it is most convenient for them. This is especially valuable for licensed architects who will be able to earn continuing education learning units during the conference to maintain their credentials."

Following her statement, incoming NOMA President Jason Pugh shared what the conference would be like for someone who hasn't attended before. "The annual NOMA conference is like a family reunion more than anything, even for first-time attendees. Both professionals and students are welcomed with open arms and able to connect with a wider network of architects, planners, educators, and activists from across the entire country. Granted, this year will be different with the new virtual format, but the NOMA conference planning team has



We know that diversity of thought makes us, and the built environment better.

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been amazingly resourceful and creative as they pulled together to pivot, adapt, and respond to challenges due to the global Coronavirus pandemic.”

### UNPACKING THE 2020 NOMA CONFERENCE

What has the architecture industry learned and unlearned in the past year? Everyone can agree that 2020 has brought a wave of stress, uncertainty, and loss. Despite a tumultuous year, organizations have responded and mobilized towards establishing ways for the industry to change and grow for the better.

Dowdell and Pugh have worked together with NOMA's members and conference organizers to create an environment that would reflect an in-person event's spirit and energy. To learn more, we asked both Presidents a few questions to unpack the conference and its goals.

What do you hope conference participants gain from this conference? What are the desired takeaways?

**Pugh:** The conference serves as an opportunity for us to reaffirm our core values and passions, which initially led us into this field, and recharge our corporate batteries, which can quickly drain throughout the year as we navigate through a tough industry with minimal diversity and minority representation.

**Dowdell:** It would also be incredible if people found opportunities to meet new mentors and mentees in this digital environment. We're not sure how the interactions will play out since this is our first attempt at facilitating a digital conference. Still, my hope is that it fosters connections that otherwise would not have been possible, further demonstrating the power of the NOMA network.

Many architects we've spoken with are not aware that NOMA's conference, and organization, is open to everyone, not just minorities. Can you talk about the value of joining NOMA for those that don't identify as a minority?

**Dowdell:** I was intentional about naming my platform for 2019–2020 ALL in for NOMA in an effort to not only highlight the importance of Access, Leadership, and Legacy but also to be clear about the fact that all people are welcome to join our ranks. Sure, NOMA was founded by twelve Black architects in 1971, which was largely because they could not find a place where they felt like they were seen or where they felt like they belonged. At NOMA today, it is important that everyone knows that we see you and that you belong in this profession. There is a saying that you can't be all things to all people, and to some extent, that is accurate.

What I hoped to accomplish by articulating our openness to everyone was to get a broader spectrum of members together to talk about how to ensure that no group of people will ever feel left out again. There is a focus on the issues facing Black architects because that is where we're seeing the greatest disparities. Ideally, our non-Black members will learn more about these issues and help us address them, which actually helps all minority groups and ultimately everyone.

I like this concept of solving the greatest challenges first to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Prior to ADA, spaces were designed with little consideration for those in wheelchairs or with varying other different needs relative to access. Today, virtually all buildings can easily accommodate wheelchairs, which actually makes buildings more accessible to everyone. By focusing on helping those who need the greatest level of support, all people are better served. Architects who are currently viewed as Minorities face unique challenges that I think we would all like to see fade away. We need our White colleagues to not only understand what the challenges are, but



“Kim and I have worked in lockstep over the last year to ensure the new programs created during her administration will continue to expand in creative ways to meet the needs of our valued members and reinforce the value in being a part of NOMA.” —JASON PUGH

also to join in the movement to eradicate them. #ALLinforNOMA

The voices of Black and Minority architects has greatly amplified this year, as the nation looks inward at years of systemic racism. What do you hope this increased awareness will bring to the profession?

**Pugh:** At the end of the day my hope is that it honestly brings REAL CHANGE. Real change in the way we attract, mentor and support the next generation or minority architects and designers. Real change in the way firms recruit, retain and elevate their black and brown professionals. Lastly, real change in the way we engage, partner and support our clients to collectively serve marginalized and underserved communities.

**Dowdell:** In addition to change in service to achieving sustainable progress, it is vital that we open up lines of communication between different groups to foster discussions that didn't necessarily exist before.

### DESIGN JUSTICE, THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE, AND MENTORSHIP

Many know that NOMA advocates for diversity and inclusivity in the profession, but what does the organization stand for in terms of how we “do” architecture? Some might call this “Design Justice”?

**Dowdell:** Some are working to advance design justice, while others are more focused on corporate interiors, residential design, adaptive reuse, airports and public art. What is most critical to our profession and ultimately to our society is that the authors of the future of the built environment represent the communities that they serve. When an architect gets involved in a process or a project, the world should be a better place because of their contributions.

Jason, what do you hope to accomplish and carry-on as the newly appointed president?

**Pugh:** One of the main goals for the next two years is to build upon the great work and progress Kimberly and the current National Board and staff have accomplished during her tremendously impactful administration. Together Kim and I have worked in lockstep over the last year to ensure the new programs created during her administration will continue on and be expanded in creative ways to meet the needs of our valued members and reinforce the value in being a part of NOMA. We want to

find ways to bolster the programs and initiatives launched by both the National Executive board and our local NOMA chapters to date, and ensure it dovetails with our expanded platform to Educate, Elevate, and Empower our membership base and chapters across the country.

What do you want to tell students and emerging professionals navigating through this profession?

**Pugh:** Stick with it! I know the educational requirements, multiple degrees, internships, and licensing exams can feel overwhelming, especially for young students when compared to their peers in other disciplines and industries. But I promise you the impact architects and planners have on our communities and the built environment as a whole is immeasurable and truly rewarding.

**Dowdell:** Find a mentor and be a mentor. There is always someone ahead of you and behind you who can both support you and use the support that you have to offer. Identify your tribe and build a strong network, leveraging NOMA as your professional support system. No one achieves success all alone. Ask for help when you need it and offer help when you can.

### PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT

Concluding the interview, we asked both Dowdell and Pugh to reflect on their work within NOMA and what they hoped for each other as they one leaves, and one enters a new chapter in their professional careers. “One of the interesting things most people don't know about this tall order to serve as the President of NOMA is that it's actually a six-year commitment to the national Executive Board as opposed to just a two-year term, which in and of itself is a long time when compared to AIA's one-year term.” shares Pugh. “The six years dedicated to NOMA first start with two years as President Elect, followed by two years as President, and then two final years under the next administration as the Immediate Past President. That said, although I'm sure Kim is counting down the days until she's able to pass the leadership reins over to me, she will still be within an earshot of my administrative team and I look forward to her ongoing counsel and valued input.”

Dowdell expresses that she encourages Jason to reach out to her and past presidents for support and advice. “Definitely pace yourself and don't feel like the weight of the entire organization is on your shoulders. You have a board and a staff that is committed to seeing you succeed, just as they were with me. Set realistic goals for yourself and for NOMA during your term and regularly monitor your progress towards those goals. Be sure to delegate responsibilities to others as much as you can because people will be reaching out to you for new things to consider and take on very frequently. Most importantly, take good care of yourself and your family so that you'll be able to strike the right work/NOMA/life balance.”

After connecting with Dowdell, Pugh, and other NOMA members, it's easy to identify that the organization is more than just an organization and their conference is more than just a conference. NOMA's goal is to bring people together and build up a sense of support and accountability towards what it means to be a minority architect by honoring the past, putting your best efforts for the present, and paving the way for the future.

The 2020 NOMA conference was held virtually October 14th through October 18th with a fantastic line-up of speakers, seminars, panel discussions, competitions, and parties. To learn more about the NOMA 2021 conference celebrating 50 years as a organization and how to become a NOMA member, visit [www.noma.net](http://www.noma.net).

### RESOURCES

## THE INCLUSION & DIVERSITY COMPENDIUM FOR DESIGNERS

The Inclusion and Diversity Compendium for Designers is intended to equip designers to take action in order to support more inclusive and diverse workplaces and communities.

Many, but not all, of the resources have a design lens. They were compiled by Marissa Louie (UX Design Director at Expedia) and recommended by dozens of diverse designers and design leaders from Designers Guild, Expedia, and other members of the design community.

We welcome you to help build out this document. Feel free to message Marissa Louie on LinkedIn with any suggestions for resources and topics to add.

Visit the Compendium at [bit.ly/designinclusion](http://bit.ly/designinclusion).

# NOMA HOSTS ITS ANNUAL SUMMER ARCHITECTURE CAMP VIRTUALLY

The National Organization of Minority Architects recreates the Project Pipeline summer camp to serve kids online.

By KELLY BEAMON

P

roject Pipeline returns this year—all online.

The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) has launched its annual Project Pipeline summer camps in an online format this year—a move that ensures the group can continue introducing 6th-through-12th graders to the fundamentals of architecture and design amid restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Access to programs like Project Pipeline is important for minority students to provide them with knowledge about careers in architecture and urban planning as we look to make the field of design more representative of the communities we serve,” says

Tiffany Brown, NOMA’s executive manager, citing the alarmingly small percent of licensed architects who are African American. (The number is less than 2 percent.) “Virtual learning isn’t the same as in-person learning. However, we need to push forward and try to meet students where they are, which is safe and at home during COVID-19.”

To enrich this year’s virtual experience, NOMA’s Project Pipeline team, co-chaired by Richie Hands and Bryan C. Lee, Jr., created a new eight-day camp online, supported by a curriculum which provides students the same lessons that they would receive in person.

As all Project Pipeline camps move to virtual spaces, NOMA “seeks to engage and inspire young designers to feel invested in the design of their neighborhoods,” says Lee. “These young designers explore the connections between privilege, power, and the architecture of oppression to address these issues from a position of justice.”

Last year, when camp was held in person in more than 30 cities, students learned design through scalar activities by turning their attention to the spaces immediately around them (i.e. rooms and houses). Then, expanding their scope, kids were asked to think about current and potential conditions in their neighborhoods. And finally, groups of students teamed up to design a skyscraper.

The virtual camp was successfully held for children within the United States during an eight-day experience from August 10–17, 2020.



Presentation on restorative justice. PHOTO BY EDGAR GARCIA



2018 SFNOMA Project Pipeline



SFNOMA PROJECT PIPELINE  
By PRESCOTT REAVIS

# 10 YEARS OF DESIGN JUSTICE

2020 marks the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the San Francisco Chapter’s Project Pipeline Camp. Initially developed by Deanna Van Buren, Rommel Taylor, and I in 2009, we envisioned a camp where middle school students would have a similar studio experience to college students. The camp was founded on four main pillars 1) Engaging young people on real-world community based projects. 2) Cultivating future visionary minds and civic leaders. 3) Teaching critical thinking and problems solving skills to build communal connections in neighborhoods. 4) To have young people become active participants in shaping their communities. Along with our pillars, we supplemented all our camp design projects over the last decade to have a clear focus on projects that deeply incorporate integrated sustainability and issues which resonate with young people, their needs, knowledge base, and interest. Our first camp held the summer of 2010 on the campus of California College

of the Arts in San Francisco, started with two days, moving to a four day camp over two consecutive weekends and, now, a five-day week-long camp. We curated an experience of skill-building and learning how to use design tools inclusive of practicing public speaking throughout. It also consisted of how to approach a design problem, site analysis, community engagement, conceptual design, design development, and concluded with a final public presentation and exhibition. The first several projects our young designers worked on were small scale projects, an urban kiosk located in a community plaza at a subway stop in the mostly Latino neighborhood of the Mission District in San Francisco; a redesign of a public plaza in the Bayview area, one of the last predominately Black neighborhoods in San Francisco, and a pocket park on a long time vacant site along a central corridor in the same area. Five years ago, we added two additional pillars; all our projects would be rooted in

PHOTO BELOW BY ASNASANIQUE FOUNTAIN



Romel Taylor working with students.  
PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS



Students build a model of a pocket park.  
PHOTO BY SHIRL BUSS



Deanna Van Buren working with students.  
PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

Project presentation.  
PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS



Urban Kiosk Model. PHOTO BY PRESCOTT REAVIS

**“Our pipeline students have proven to be able to meet any challenge we create for them. . . .**

These young designers attentively integrate sustainability and provide unique and intelligent designs rooted in the communities’ thoughts, ideas, and needs while showcasing their individual style.”

design justice and would integrate former pipeline students into leadership positions for developing and implementing the camp. Our shift to a week-long camp allowed students more time for design iterations and deeper integration of cultural, sustainability, and craftsmanship. With a robust pipeline of students who had completed the camp multiple times, we hired our first trio of Teaching Assistants (TA). The TAs were paid to help organize, run, and teach the camp as well as a way to develop future leaders in the profession. Two years ago, we elevated Breana Palmer and Cameron Clarke to be Assistant Camp Directors who have now been with us since 2012 and 2013 respectively, they both have helped to shape the program to have an integrated youth perspective and voice in the entire camp process, including curriculum development, leading teaching sessions, developing projects, providing the latest in teaching themes and methodologies occurring at the university level. They have become integral to making sure we have a successful camp from design mentors to our young student designers.

Our project focus has increasingly integrated justice, equity, and inclusion in the design problem; four years ago, our

students worked with the non-profit Urban Ed Academy, which focuses on delivering new models of the academic programming for black males and provided options for an outdoor learning parklet. Three years ago, the students in groups built upon a community plan to develop a new sustainable neighborhood on a former power plant site, then the students chose one building within their community plan to design out, including building 1/4” scale models. Two years ago, we made a profound shift and had our students design a youth restorative justice center as an alternative to the soon to be closed Juvenile Hall in San Francisco. We charged our young designers to create a safe space to heal, build trust, and provide career opportunities.

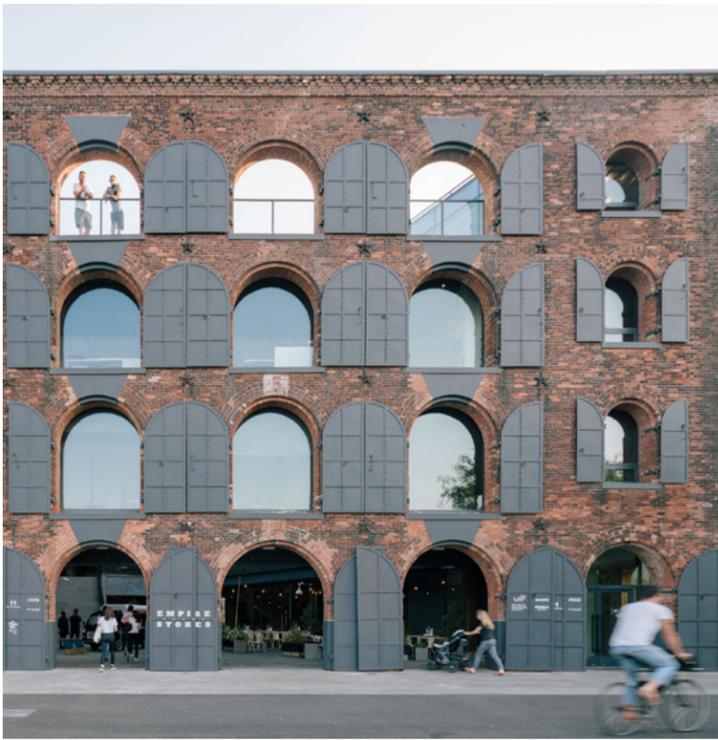
This year due to COVID-19, we crafted our first virtual eight-day camp; the design problem was based on the civil unrest throughout the country in response to the killings, excessive violence, and mistreatment of Black citizens by police enforcement. One of our newest TAs Umi Green came up with a Center for Civil Action and Equity located in East Oakland. Umi viewed the center as a space for in-depth discussion on civil and righteousness teachings as well as the untold

history of Black Americans. The center will train people in methods of peacefully protesting, provide a deeper understanding of Oakland and its role in advancing civil rights globally.

Our pipeline students have proven to be able to meet any challenge we created for them. On all the design projects, they have delivered solutions that were thoughtful in understanding the issues, taking into account the information they learned from visiting the site, and talking with the community. These young designers attentively integrated sustainability and provided unique and intelligent designs that were rooted in the communities’ thoughts, ideas, and needs while showcasing their individual style.

We are looking forward to the next decade, to see how our students will help to shape our local communities, profession, and the world, while upholding our mission of being Design Activists who education youth and empower under-resourced communities by creating a cadre of Spatial Activists.

**PRESCOTT REAVIS**, NOMA, LEED AP, SEED, NCARB, Co-Founder and Director SF Project Pipeline



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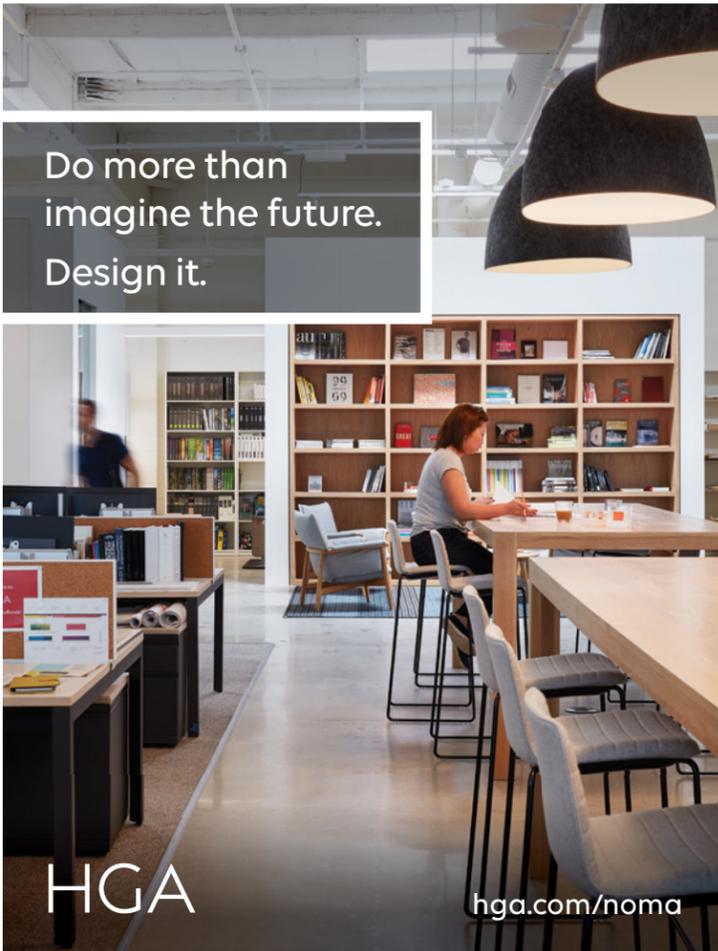


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# BUILDING CULTURAL CHANGE

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ur industry must respond to the racial awakening that is emerging across America in 2020. NOMA is working to bridge the cultural gaps that exist in the workplace by serving as a resource for firms, companies and institutions that have sought support with enhancing their diversity, equity

and inclusion (DEI) efforts. To help address the heightened demand for corporate engagement and DEI consulting services, we have created the **NOMA President's Circle (PC)** corporate membership program.

With our nation trending towards the majority of citizens being people of color by 2045, the time to foster cross-cultural understanding and respect is now. NOMA is proud to lead the charge in this important work within our field through a diverse membership roster of talented professionals and students along with a corporate membership community of forward thinking companies and institutions.

We sincerely appreciate our individual and corporate members for being **#AllinforNOMA**.

Become a NOMA or PC member today / [NOMA.net](http://NOMA.net)

### PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Many thanks to our inaugural cohort of NOMA PC members for committing to build a future that is more diverse, equitable, inclusive and harmonious.

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