



NEWLY LICENSED ARCHITECTS

AN UPDATE WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 NOMA CONFERENCE RECAP

2024 NOMA BARBARA G. LAURIE STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

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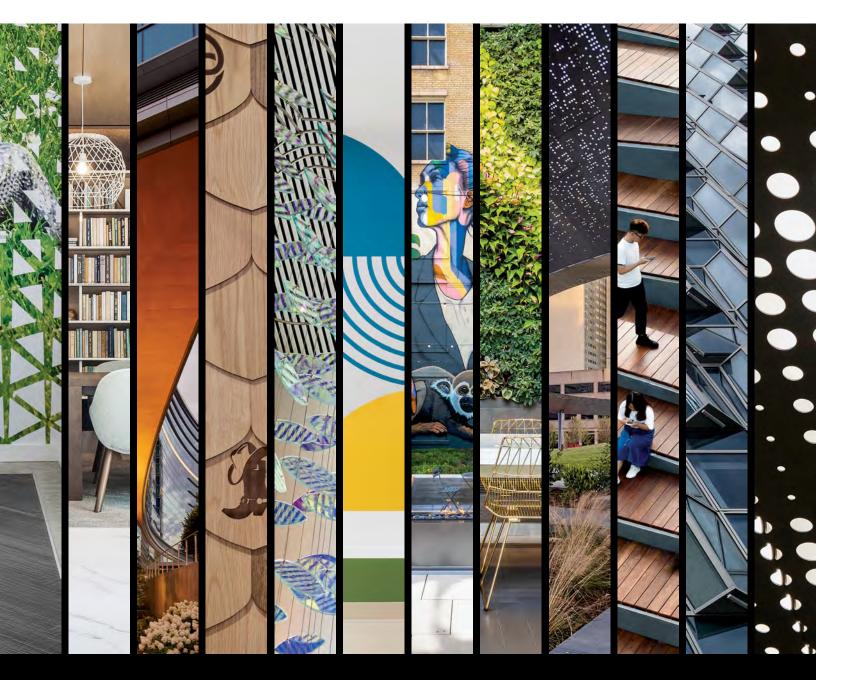
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EDITORIAL: Amber LaCroix, LaCroix Communications DESIGN: Susan Ackermann Graphic Design

NOMA PROJECT PIPELINE

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT **FALL 2025**

or every injustice in this world, there is a design, a plan, an architecture built to maintain and sustain it.

In the absence of an affirmative counter—a principled protest—we are destined to repeat the ills of our past. Design is an act of protest: to challenge the conditions of context geographic, social, cultural—such that the world we create is left better than the world we encountered.

When I took the stage this year at the American Institute of Architects Annual Conference on Architecture and Design as the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award Recipient, I felt compelled to establish what design justice is and means. The Whitney M. Young Jr. Award distinguishes an architect or architectural organization that embodies social responsibility and actively addresses relevant issues such as affordable housing, inclusiveness, or universal access.

This moment echoes the 1960s, when the country's social consciousness was challenged and social movements demanded reexamination and organization. We face many of the same challenges NOMA's founders confronted. Black architects constitute only 1-1.5 percent of licensed professionals. The number of licensed women architects has slowly increased but remains less than 30 percent of all registered architects. In this moment, when more individuals are being marginalized, we must honor the origins of our founding by prioritizing support of Black-owned firms, building capacity for community impact, strengthening political and allied relationships with other diverse and minority organizations,

and supporting firms of varying sizes and

We must revisit our past to grow our future, inviting into conversation, policy, and design more like-minded organizations in fields like urban planning, community development, and the broader design ecosystem. There is strength in partnership. There is also the inspiration and energy of our engaged younger members and allied partners, who are more diverse and active than ever.

DESIGN JUSTICE

Partnering

In addition to industry partners, we are seeking the company and allyship of national organizations in complementary fields. NOMA Executive Director Tiffany Brown and I recently attended the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) in Washington, D.C., September 23-25. The conference's primary goal is to advance the global Black community by informing policy, developing leaders, and educating the public. It serves as a key public policy event focused on issues that impact Black communities worldwide. We met leadership across nonprofit fields advocating for issues that intersect with the health of the communities we serve as architects and designers.

The ALC is widely recognized for convening policymakers, activists, and community leaders to shape dialogue around healthcare, education, social justice,



and economic empowerment, ultimately influencing policy and advancing equity. It equips leaders with tools for progress, presents cutting-edge research like the Black Policy Playbook for an Equitable America, and uplifts culture through celebrations of Black excellence. We discussed with policymakers their plans and explored ways that the built environment and NOMA's work intersect with their initiatives. We've begun new relationships with professionals we met at the conference and look forward to seeing where they lead.

Similarly, our NOMA conference convenes thought leaders in architecture, design, and community organizing, but with a focus on the built environment's role in equity, justice, and representation. Instead of legislative solutions, NOMA's convening emphasizes design justice, professional development, and pathways for future architects—particularly through mentorship and our Project Pipeline program for youth. Both gatherings celebrate Black culture, leadership, and civic engagement, but where







Inducted as NOMA President at The eXchange NOMA Conference in Baltimore, October 2024

the CBC ALC shapes national policy, the NOMA Conference shapes the spaces we live, learn, and work in—each advancing Black excellence and equity from distinct yet complementary arenas.

DESIGN JUSTICE Power & Place

As we build strength in partnerships, we are announcing ways to keep our members connected and engaged. This new year, we will host monthly town halls to maintain dialogue, share resources, and strengthen our collective voice in addressing the challenges facing our profession and communities.

In this issue of NOMA's magazine, you'll find a special preview of a new passion project—another way to elevate and share the powerful stories of our members. Launching soon, I'll be debuting a new podcast, Power & Place, which will spotlight the rich fabric of modern NOMA history by exploring the intersection of people and place.

The first episode features NOMA members as they reflect on their experiences navigating significant challenges in their communities. In this issue, we're including excerpts from that conversation, where they speak with honesty and courage about

resilience, the strength of community, and the deep bonds of belonging that make their neighborhoods home.

I'm deeply grateful to those who entrusted me with their stories. Their willingness to share their lived experiences underscores what Power & Place is about: honoring the narratives that shape us and recognizing the profound connections between who we are and where we live. I remain humbled and inspired by the strength of NOMA members to keep moving forward and fighting in the face of adversity.

DESIGN JUSTICE

Called to Serve Society

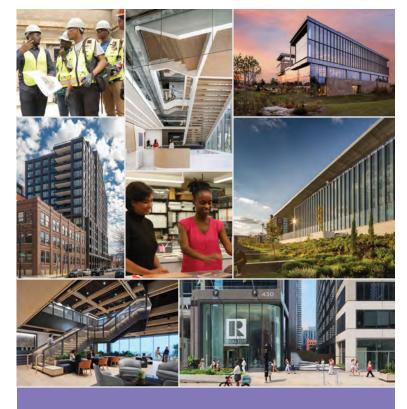
The next few decades will see fundamental shifts in power throughout our society, the way our field works, and how our work relates to the people we serve. We have this remarkable opportunity to be on the right side of history and help shape that change. As Whitney M. Young Jr., National Urban League's Executive Director, said in his pivotal 1968 AIA address, "It took a great deal of skill and creativity and imagination to build the kind of situation we have, and it is going to take skill and imagination and creativity to change it."

These initiatives—our strategic partnerships with organizations like the CBCF, our monthly town halls fostering community dialogue, and platforms like Power & Place amplifying member voices represent more than programs. They embody design justice in action: creating spaces for connection, elevating marginalized narratives, and building the collective power necessary to transform our profession and the communities we serve.

As Young rightly concluded his pivotal speech in 1968, so it remains today: we can do this. We are bigger than ever, almost 4,000 members strong. There is strength in our members, allied partners, and focused mission to ensure that the spaces we design reflect the full dignity and potential of all people.

I look forward to connecting with you at the conference, and thank you for your commitment to NOMA, each other, and the communities we serve.

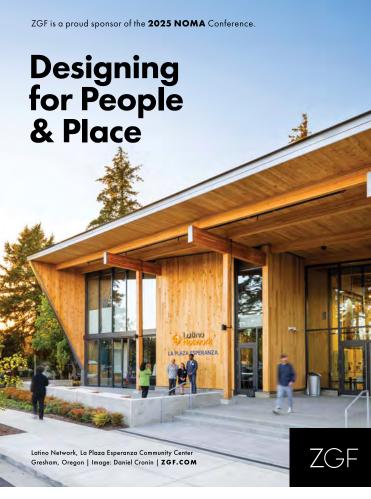
Bryan C. Lee Jr., NOMA, FAIA, is National Organization of Minority Architects 2025-2026 President. Lee was the recipient of the 2025 AIA Whitney M. Young Jr. Award and is the founder and director of Collogate Design.



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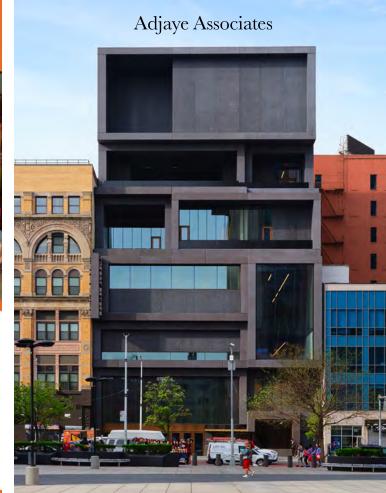
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Contact

Erica Cochran Hameen, PhD. NOMA Associate Professor Director for Student Affairs ericac@andrew.cmu.edu





NOMA CONGRATULATES
NEWLY LICENSED MEMBERS





NOMA is honored to recognize the accomplishments of its members who achieved architecture licensure in 2025. Conference attendees who have recently passed their ARE exams will be recognized at a pinning ceremony for their accomplishment.

- 1 Omar Aboulezz
 MASSACHUSETTS
- 2 Alonzo Colon MARYLAND
- 3 Dina Elawad
- OHIO
- 4 Deysy Cruz-Escobar GEORGIA
- 5 Amber Gaines TEXAS
- 6 **Kelvin Haywood**NEVADA
- 7 Camille Jackson TEXAS & NORTH CAROLINA
- 8 Robert Johnson ARIZONA
- 9 Naomie Laguerre MASSACHUSETTS

- 10 **Jeily Mata**NORTH CAROLINA
- 11 Wilson Meeks
 MISSOURI
- 12 Hirbod Norouzianpour
- 13 Mario Oliver TENNESSEE
- 14 Jasmin Piesel
 TEXAS & FLORIDA
- 15 Ropo Sanni ILLINOIS
- 16 Leah Schroeder
 MASSACHUSETTS
- 17 Asya Shine
 NORTH CAROLINA
- 18 Nada Shuaib

 MASSACHUSETTS

- 19 **Brittney Sooksengdao** WASHINGTON, DC
- 20 Shane Todd
 COLORADO
- 21 Liliana Torres
 NEW YORK
- 22 Kionna Louise Walker INDIANA
- 23 Wei-Tse Yuan
 CALIFORNIA

NOT PICTURED:

Leslie Epps NEW YORK

Ebehi ljewere NEW YORK

Candace Seda MARYLAND





NOMA ALTADENA FIRE RESPONSE

A Community's Resilience and Rebuilding Efforts

he first NOMA (National Organization of Minority Architects) podcast, *Power & Place*, captures the experiences of Southern California architects who lost homes in the January 2025 Altadena, CA, fires and their ongoing rebuilding coalition efforts. Altadena is an affluent, unincorporated community in Los

Angeles County, situated at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, just north of Pasadena. It is known for its diverse architecture, historic connection to early settlers and fruit farming, and as a significant destination for African American families since the Civil Rights era, including NOMA members.

The interview was hosted and edited by podcast host and originator, NOMA President **Bryan C. Lee, Jr.**, NOMA, FAIA.

Personal Stories of Loss and Survival

Carla Flagg, NOMAC, AIA, a longtime NOMA council member and Altadena resident of 55 years, experienced the most profound losses. Her family home—where she was born and raised—was completely destroyed. As she recounts:

"My folks purchased the home and then got pregnant with me, and then I came along... the house that was destroyed in the fire is the house that basically I was born into."





Carla Flagg's family home in Altadena where she was born and raised, was one of thousands of homes completely destroyed by the fires last January.

The fire's impact was swift and unexpected. Carla was traveling when the fires began in Pacific Palisades, initially feeling secure since they seemed distant. However, she woke to evacuation texts from her sister, and within hours, everything was gone:

"We're being evacuated. I have to leave now...

And then a couple hours later, the house is gone."

Tragically, Carla's sister, who lived in the family home, became ill in February after the fire, was hospitalized in March, and passed away in April, compounding the family's grief.

Charles T. Bryant, NOMA, AIA, past president of SoCal NOMA and the Foothill Chapter of AIA, lost his home in what he describes as a less traumatic evacuation than many others experienced. He and his wife left for work that morning when the power went out, initially not thinking it was serious:

"I grabbed my hard drive off my computer and she grabbed the passports... whatever I have on now, like my watch, you know, I had it on... We've been through this drill before and I didn't wanna take the time."

When they returned the next morning, they witnessed the final stages of destruction. Charles noted the random nature of the fire's destruction and shared practical observations, including advice against using creosote railroad ties for retaining walls: "They burn a long time and they burn completely, and they are very toxic."

Steven Lewis, NOMAC, FAIA, former National NOMA president, experienced a harrowing near-miss. He and his wife Jill initially stayed at his cousin's house, not expecting the fire to reach their neighborhood. When they returned to collect belongings:

"When we turned onto the block and saw everything burning... there was a guttural, fight or flight response... the wind was still blowing and trees and homes were burning."

Miraculously, firefighters were able to save their home by extinguishing fires in their backyard, though three homes across the street were lost. Lewis reflects on the randomness: "It is random... the area's completely decimated and then all of a sudden there's a house and it's made out of wood. You think, how did this survive?"

The Character and History of Altadena

The speakers paint Altadena as a historically significant multicultural community. Carla describes growing up in a "melting pot" where her parents actively encouraged diversity by informing friends when neighboring homes became available.

Steven explains Altadena's unique position in housing history:

"It was one of the few places that was not redlined and therefore, middle class black families settled in Altadena and started to grow their family roots really deeply."

The community's Black population p eaked at 42 percent in 1970 but had declined to 18 percent by the time of the fire, with 60 percent of those residents being seniors, including Steve and Charles.

Charles Bryant was initially drawn to Altadena by the San Gabriel Mountains, describing his first encounter: "That's when I saw what real mountains were... since then, that's one of the things that brought me to Altadena." He purchased his first home there in 1983 for \$75,000, calling it "the best kept secret."



"The preservation of cultural memory is going to be really important...
We need to hold that up, lift that up whenever and wherever possible."

STEVEN LEWIS, NOMAC, FAIA

NOMA's Organized Response

Matthew Trotter, NOMA, AIA, president of SoCal NOMA, led the organizational response. The first step wasn't action-oriented but focused on emotional support:

"This town hall did not start with what are we gonna do? What's our response? It was just a session to... tell stories, to weep, to cry, to be angry... to create an environment and a space where our members could just feel heard."

This approach created "collective empathy" that motivated broader support from NOMA members and the wider community.

The coalition's work evolved through several phases:

- + Listening and Advocacy: Initially serving as community voices at public meetings
- + Rebuild Readiness Packages: Creating comprehensive property information packets to help residents interview architects and discuss their needs
- + Professional Directory: Connecting residents with NOMA architects and other professionals
- + Partnership Development: Working with organizations like Neighborhood Housing Services and the Altadena Alliance





The coalition now operates three main

- + Individual Consultations: One-on-one calls with residents using property packages
- + Altadena Alliance Partnership: Working toward 280 free architectural services for residents through philanthropic funding
- + RLA Coalition MOU: Collaborating with Neighborhood Housing Services for comprehensive resident support

Economic and Development Challenges

Charles Bryant raised critical concerns about property speculation and displacement:

"You could buy a 5,000 or 6,000 square foot lot a year ago for about \$1 million, right?... And you can buy that same lot right now for \$600,000 or \$700,000... If people, us, I'm talking about Black people, need to understand this and we need to get on the ball and try to buy as much of that property as we can."

He illustrates this with a personal anecdote about a neighboring lot whose owner incrementally raised prices from \$400,000 to \$500,000 as Bryant's building construction progressed, eventually asking \$2 million

Carla, Steven and Charles noted that most affected residents are either underinsured or uninsured, creating complex rebuilding scenarios. Charles describes consulting situations where families need guidance on everything from subdivision possibilities to mortgage options for multigenerational households.



Vision for the Future

Steven emphasized the importance of maintaining Altadena's cultural identity:

"The preservation of cultural memory is going to be really important... we need to hold that up, lift that up whenever and wherever possible... there are white folks, no shade on them at all, that really want to be up in here. And somehow, for many, the history of a place begins the day that they moved in."

The speakers see rebuilding as an opportunity to demonstrate architecture's value and connect more Black architects with community members actively seeking their services. Charles notes: "there's many people out there looking for Black architects."

National NOMA Support

The podcast conversation concludes with planning for expanded support, including:

- + Regional coordination across West Coast NOMA chapters
- + Training programs for architects unfamiliar with Altadena's specific
- + Development of consistent service delivery
- + Clear communication channels between local, regional, and national NOMA levels

NOMA's Power & Place

The devastating personal impacts of the Altadena fires and the remarkable organizational response by SoCal NOMA are a model for how NOMA rises to the challenge when members are in crisis. Carla, Steven and Charles demonstrate how professional architecture organizations in place—like SoCal NOMA and housing organizations—can serve not just as trade groups but as family support systems during crises. The work illustrates the intersection of disaster response, community preservation, economic justice, and professional practice showing how architects can serve as technical experts and cultural stewards in rebuilding efforts and the power that can yield.

Altadena was once a multicultural haven for a minority community and we are hopeful the history can be retained, while preventing displacement, supporting remaining and returning residents, through what will likely be a years-long rebuilding process.

To hear more about this story, tune into NOMA's Power & Place podcast to be released in November 2025. Look for more information to come.



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AN UPDATE WITH THE NOMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP

Tiffany D. Brown, MBA, NOMA, Assoc. AlA, became NOMA's Executive Director in 2021. Serving NOMA in this position for four years and as a volunteer with NOMA for over fifteen years prior, Brown knows one thing to be true—NOMA members show up for each other and care about architecture and design as an equitable practice that can advance communities. We asked her to reflect on the past year.

With a new board and leadership in the candidacy of Bryan C. Lee, Jr., what are the biggest changes you've seen in NOMA's advancement and direction?

We've had a lot of changes this year, with half the NOMA board being brand new, as well as a new president. With newly elected leaders comes new and fresh ideas, and renewed energy which makes me very excited as I implement the necessary changes for NOMA's growth. Bryan's expertise in design justice and community engagement work brings a more direct approach to advocacy, which

is a part of NOMA's roots and as well as a part of our strategic plan. We are forming and renewing relationships with organizations of importance, including the National Urban League, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the Black Architects + Interior Designers Association (BAIDA) in Canada. These relationships are helping return us to our mission of working with partners who have common goals.

Bryan first introduced NOMA to his work in this space in particular, as the chair of NOMA's New Orleans Annual Conference in 2015 with Design As Protest. How he has "The loyalty of NOMA members and the energy that exists in our leadership, board, and growing membership—bringing in new voices, faces and ideals—keeps us moving forward."

implemented design justice and community engagement on his own as part of his professional work, and now to support NOMA in applying it to what we do under his leadership is impactful, and will be more impactful over the next year now that the seeds of the work are planted.

What are you most proud of?

I'm very proud of the transitions we made over the years between leadership groups and members, and the growing interest in NOMA. The loyalty of NOMA members and the energy that exists in our leadership, board, and growing membership, bringing in new voices, faces and ideals keeps us moving forward. It's wonderful to see members campaigning and vying for leadership positions and not being "voluntold" to step up and fill roles. Even when times feel tough or dark, our members highlight the promise around NOMA as a leading organization, inspiring to our students and emerging professionals, as well as our NOMA Council members. They share that they are pleased how NOMA has evolved. That means a lot to all of us.

To add to that, I'm humbled by, and thankful for, our partners who keep showing up and supporting us. Even though DEI has been attacked and people of color in leadership positions have been questioned, our partners

and allies haven't wavered. Even in discouraging times, NOMA still values our members, and our supporters still value what we do.

What are you most concerned about?

There are difficult times in our timeline of life. This is one of them. We made big strides, but now have to defend our success again. The attack on DEI and the impact on our profession and students is real. I am aware that our students and professionals are suffering where funding has been cut and programs have been eliminated. Students and professionals feel threatened by immigration activities and activism. In times like these, we know even attending conference is a choice that puts strains on budgets and wallets. I'm very thankful for NCARB, who stepped in and made possible funds for NOMAS students to attend this year's conference. Again, our partners keep showing up for us in big and small ways. At the same time, it wasn't that long ago that NOMA members showed up five to a room at a conference. No matter the cost, we were committed to getting to the conference and to make sure NOMA stays strong. NOMA members are resilient and resourceful, and we should never lose that strength and tenacity.

What do you have hope for?

In NOMA. That we can keep providing a space and place for people of underrepresented minorities and continue to be seen as a source of optimism, advancement, belonging, enlightenment and joy. That we keep advancing cultural change. I have hope in our members and allies. Places like NOMA's annual conference, or others of similar nature, where we know we are welcomed and can be ourselves. NOMA will be there to keep providing a space and place where we can be seen as a source of optimism for people. We are in some heavy and dark times, but with more members and partners than ever, we can find hope and promise in a future that sees the merit of everyone's ability to be architects, designers and planners for the future.

NOMAS CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT



NOMAS 2024 STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY NOMAS

he Louisiana State University (LSU) chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) earned the title of 2024 Student Chapter of the Year for its exceptional commitment to building community, promoting professional growth, and engaging in impactful service. Through a well-rounded and inclusive calendar of events, the chapter successfully supported its members while making a lasting impact on campus and beyond.

Building Community Through Social Events

The chapter's commitment to creating a supportive environment has resulted in high retention rates, with members feeling valued and connected to the organization. Over the past year, the chapter successfully increased its membership through targeted recruitment efforts and inclusive programming. By engaging with first-year students during orientation and hosting welcoming events, the chapter attracted a diverse range of members who are passionate about architecture. The chapter's commitment to creating a supportive environment resulted in high retention rates, with members feeling valued and connected to the organization. This sense of community is strengthened through

meetings, mentorship, and peer support, fostering a strong network among members.

LSU NOMAS prioritized creating a welcoming, inclusive environment through thoughtfully curated social events that encouraged connection and camaraderie among members including:

- A movie night brought students together for a film screening centered on architectural themes. The relaxed setting sparked thoughtful discussion and helped deepen relationships.
- A Spring Semester Kickoff Party welcomed new and returning members with games, music, and an architecture trivia contest. The event introduced the chapter's mission while helping break the ice early in the semester.
- They also hosted Candy Grams, allowing students to send kind messages and treats to one another—fostering encouragement and peer support during the semester.
- A Spring Skate Night Social, a Fall Game Night, and a first-dayof-studio meet-and-greet for first-year students, offering warm introductions to NOMAS and the LSU architecture program.





"Together, we can accomplish so much and create a lasting impact on the future of design."

JENNIFER R. WHITE

LSU NOMAS 2024–2025 President, 2024 NOMA Student of Year

These events collectively reinforced a strong sense of belonging, fostered friendships, and encouraged active participation across all year levels.

Empowering Students Through Professional Development

In the 2023–2024 academic year, LSU NOMAS hosted over five professional development events designed to educate, mentor, and prepare students for success in the field of architecture.

- The Educate & Elevate Speaker Series featured professionals such as Dr. Anzilla Gilmore, NOMAC, FAIA, who shared her journey in facilities management and navigating the profession as a Black woman; Andrew Gazda, who presented insights on urban renewal through his work on The River District; and Breanna Booker, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, an architectural designer who offered honest advice on professional growth and lessons learned early in her career.
- A hands-on InDesign Workshop provided students with critical layout and graphic design skills essential for pinups and portfolio presentations.
- The chapter also offered First-Year Office Hours, giving personalized mentorship and academic support from upperclassmen to help newer students succeed.
- A Portfolio and Resume Workshop prepared members for the school-wide career fair by offering design feedback and interview tips.
- The flagship Professional Development Day brought together alumni and industry professionals for headshots, mock interviews, portfolio reviews, and a panel discussion—empowering students to enter internships and careers with confidence.

Making a Difference Through Community Service

LSU NOMAS also demonstrated a strong commitment to service, participating in and organizing several outreach events. Members attended community-based projects such as Habitat for Humanity, a local cemetery cleanup, and LSU's 4th Grade Day, where they introduced young students to the field of architecture. The chapter also hosted two impactful Light-A-Fire events—one at Liberty High School and another at McKinley Elementary—introducing architecture to high school and elementary students and sparking early interest in design thinking.

"Recognizing the LSU NOMAS chapter as the Student Chapter of the Year highlights our remarkable achievements and sends a powerful message about the importance of community," said Jennifer R. White, LSU NOMAS 2024-2025 President, 2024 NOMA Student of Year, and LSU B.Arch. 2025. "Together, we can accomplish so much and create a lasting impact on the future of design."

Through a robust calendar of events focused on community, career readiness, and service, LSU NOMAS has exemplified leadership, inclusion, and impact—making it a deserving recipient of the 2024 Student Chapter of the Year award.

NOMA PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER SPOTLIGHTS



of NOMA chapters expands, more BIPOC architects and designers are becoming engaged, benefiting from and contributing to the organization's mission.

The dedication of local chapters is evident through their efforts to uplift professional members and inspire emerging professionals in architecture and design. Each year, in conjunction with the national conference, NOMA honors a large chapter (with 51 members or more) and a small chapter (with 50 members or fewer) for their outstanding achievements.

In 2024, we recognized NC NOMA (Raleigh, NC) and NOMA Utah (Salt Lake City, Utah) for their exceptional programming and significant impact on their communities. Their dedication and hard work exemplify the spirit of NOMA and its commitment to advancing the field of architecture and design. Congratulations to both chapters for their remarkable accomplishments!



NOMA 2024 Chapter of the Year Large Chapter

NC NOMA

Committed to Diversity: Reaching Across Lines, Building Bridges & Elevating Voices

NCNOMA, the North Carolina chapter of NOMA, exemplified commitment to mentorship, cultural celebration, and community building through a range of impactful programs. Led by President Vershaé Hite, NOMA, AIA, and Vice President Danial Mai, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, and building on the success of its virtual heritage month discussion series launched with VANOMA, NCNOMA expanded conversations to honor Black History, Arab American, and Asian American Pacific Islander heritage, with upcoming events for Hispanic Heritage month.

The chapter also convened a panel of international practitioners to share insights on navigating immigration and licensure, hosted its signature Creatives & Cocktails event honoring Women's History Month, featuring community leaders and artists, and gathered members statewide for a casual coffee meet-up during the AIA Aspire Conference. In Charlotte, NCNOMA's local celebration of the national Black Women in Architecture Brunch drew 40 attendees, raised nearly \$5,000 to support the Black Women's Association Network and 2025 ARE scholarships, while providing both an open community gathering and a private space for Black women architects to connect and share experiences.

What is Architecture? Building Awareness

In 2024, NCNOMA deepened its K-12 engagement through hands-on community programming and broad educational outreach. In April, the chapter partnered with Prism Design Lab and [Diversify Architecture] to host a family-friendly event at the renovated Durham County Main Library, where 75 attendees explored activities such as children's book readings, "Design and Build Your Dream Home," and urban planning and design exercises led by local practitioners. Extending its impact into schools, NCNOMA contributed to the One Book, One School campaign, distributing 155 copies of What Is Architecture? to every elementary school in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties. Featuring a young girl of color as its protagonist, the book introduces architecture to early learners, offering representation and inspiring nearly 90,000 students today—and up to 186,000 over the next five years—to see themselves in the field.

During 2019–2024, the chapter hosted 10 Project Pipeline camps, hosting more than 200 students. This past year, campers were hosted by



Equity, Licensure, Community and the Pipeline Built Through NCNOMA Programs

In November 2023, NCNOMA launched its inaugural ARE Scholarship Gala at the Harvey Gantt Center in Charlotte to address the lack of local financial resources for BIPOC practitioners pursuing licensure. The event fundraising enabled two emerging professionals funds to cover \$2,500 of their Architect Registration Examination and study materials. Since the scholarships inception in 2023, NCNOMA has awarded 5 scholarships, with one recipient completing licensure since being awarded.

Building on its 2020 memorandum of understanding with AIA North Carolina, renewed in 2023, NCNOMA advanced the Equity and Inclusion Challenge, a year-long voluntary call to action that provides firms with monthly resources and recommendations to help foster belonging and drive measurable progress in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The challenge is paired with the Equitable and Inclusive Practice Award, established in 2023 as a standing recognition of firms leading with intention in this space.

NCNOMA also prioritizes support of local NOMAS chapters, forming close relationships with the UNCC and NC State chapters, as well as advocating for the development of an architecture program at NC Central University and subsequent NOMAS chapter.

Advocating for Design Policy

In 2024, NCNOMA leadership joined AIANC at the National AIA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., where they met with Congress members to advocate for key legislation including the Design in Democracy Act, the Beautifying Federal Civic Architecture Act of 2023, and the Tax Relief of American Families and Workers Act of 2024. The experience underscored the importance of state-level advocacy, prompting NCNOMA to actively encourage member participation in AIANC's North Carolina Legislative Day.

For these reasons—building community and advancing design understanding, working with partners—NCNOMA is a model large chapter leading NOMA into the future.









NOMA PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER SPOTLIGHTS

NOMA 2024 Chapter of the Year Small Chapter

NOMA UTAH

n 2024, NOMA Utah was recognized as Small Chapter of the Year for its outsized impact and meaningful contributions to the profession despite being a relatively young and small chapter. At the core of NOMA Utah's success is its commitment to mentorship and professional development, where the chapter has actively created spaces for senior architects to connect with emerging professionals. Through these engagements, members have gained valuable guidance on self-advocacy, career growth, and leadership pathways within architecture. By building intentional mentorship bridges, NOMA Utah is helping to ensure that the next generation of diverse architects feels supported and empowered to thrive.

A defining achievement was the chapter's Project Pipeline program, which introduced 60 middle school students to architecture through two immersive weeks of design education. This initiative nurtured curiosity about design and expanded awareness of architecture as a viable career for underrepresented youth in Utah. Through hands-on learning and exposure to architectural role models, the program reinforced NOMA Utah's commitment to inspiring future architects and strengthening the pipeline of diverse talent in the profession. They secured almost 20 architecture and design organizations as donors and

NOMA Utah was intentional about raising the profile of minority architects in the broader design and construction community. The chapter's work has been featured in AIA Utah's Reflexion magazine and honored with a Presidential Citation from AIA Utah, further underscoring its influence and visibility. In addition, NOMA Utah consistently seeks collaboration, partnering with local organizations such as Women in Architecture, YAF Utah, and Art x ARC to broaden









its reach and impact. These partnerships reflect a grassroots strategy rooted in community engagement, advocacy, and coalition-building. They hosted multiple networking and mentorship events at area firms.

Beyond programming and outreach, NOMA Utah fostered a strong and active leadership team, ensuring sustainable growth for the chapter. The board and committees remain dedicated to advancing the chapter's three major goals: expanding Project Pipeline, deepening mentorship opportunities, and offering support for ARE preparation. Together, these initiatives highlight a proactive and forward-looking approach that strengthens not only the chapter but the broader design community in Utah.

Through these efforts and under the leadership of Dwight Yee, NOMA, AIA, Board President, and Tang Yang, NOMA, AIA, Board Vice-President, NOMA Utah demonstrates that size is no barrier to impact. The chapter's ability to connect, advocate, and inspire has set a powerful example for other chapters nationwide, making its recognition as Small Chapter of the Year a well-earned honor.



































"My experience defied expectations. The program proved to be both delightful and remarkable. The organizers ensured ample communication, equipping me adequately for participation in the numerous hosted events. Collaborations with various sponsors and firms aimed at enhancing students' transition into professional practice further emphasized the program's value."

JAYDEN WOULLARD

Tuskegee University
Gresham Smith Intern

HBCU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NOMA'S HBCU PDP EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

OMA's Historically Black College & University Professional
Development Program (HBCU PDP) was launched in 2020 by
partnering with the seven HBCUs with accredited architecture
programs. The HBCU PDP highlights the value of access, preparation,
and connection, ensuring that the future of the profession reflects a
wide range of perspectives, experiences, and contributions.

Each year, the HBCU PDP develops a series of workshops and seminars for students and firms to participate in throughout the year. These monthly events focus on topics ranging from interviewing tips to salary negotiations, a speed networking workshop, and a career fair.

To recognize students for their commitment to the HBCU PDP program, the Prescott Reavis Grant was established. The grant, made possible by the generous donations of the HBCU PDP firm sponsors, is in honor of **Prescott Reavis** (1972–2022), NOMA, NCARB, LEED AP, SEED, an HBCU architecture graduate, NOMA leader, spatial activist, architect, planner, award-winning educator, and dedicated supporter of architecture students and emerging professionals, to celebrate his contributions to the industry. These grants support the repayment of student loans, moving expenses, cost of living expenses for interns working in cities away from home, and other expenses associated with the transition from school to the profession.

Grants are awarded based on each student's active involvement in the program, their demonstrated financial need, and their commitment to giving back. Fifteen 2025 grant recipients were chosen for 2024–2025 and are featured on the opposite page.

A new program restarts each July. Students and firms must register between then and October to participate. Find more information at www.nomacef.org/hbcupdp.

ABOUT THE HBCU PDP

- + Since its founding, the program has connected over 500 students with more than 40 architecture firms and hundreds of professionals nationwide.
- + Over 15 Prescott Reavis Grants were distributed in May 2025
- + 120 firm representatives and volunteers have hosted student sessions since the program's inception
- + 2024–2025 50 participating firms and sponsors
- + The program presents multiple seminars, networking workshops, and a career fair during the academic year.



NEW HEIGHTS REACHED AT 'THE EXCHANGE' IN BALTIMORE

ore than 1,500

attendees set records,

including the pinning of 40 newly licensed

architects onsite, while

honoring individual,

chapter and design award-winners and

NOMA President Pascale Sablan and

incoming President Bryan C. Lee Jr. at

NOMA's national conference October 22-27,

2024, in Baltimore, bringing together more than 1,500 professional designers, students,

and partners from across the globe. Titled

elevated the impact of people of color

The eXchange, the 2024 NOMA conference

architects, designers, and allied professionals

through conversation, educational seminars,

community exploration, and networking

events to share perspectives that influence

the future of the built environment. The

event opened October 21 with a special

by groundbreaking West African female

practitioners, Farida Abu-Bakare, Tosin

Oshinowo and Nmadili Okwumabua, who

Derrick Adams, Baltimore-based nonprofit

Charm City Cultural Cultivation founder.

are redefining architecture across borders, and

invitation White House tour. The exchange

of ideas continued through keynote addresses

witnessing a peaceful transition between



OPPOSITE Opening night of The eXchange kicked off with a marching band welcome and the largest attendance of any NOMA conference to date.

RIGHT NOMA Presidents Bryan C. Lee Jr. (2025–26) and Pascale Sablan (2023–24) on an AIA/NOMA panel with 2023 AIA President of Emily Grandstaff-Rice.

BELOW Derrick Adams, founder of Baltimore-based nonprofit Charm City Cultural Cultivation provided one of two keynote presentations.









The conference celebrated the pinning of forty newly licensed architects among NOMA's membership.

The conference also celebrated the pinning of 40 newly licensed architects. Recognized by President Pascale Sablan, NOMAC, FAIA, LEED AP, and the NOMA Board of Directors, with representatives from the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB) and the American Institute of Architects present, this was the largest class of newly licensed architects pinned at a NOMA conference.

"We are achieving greatness and making history, advancing the mission of diversity in architecture and the design field by growing our number of architects, members, allied professionals, and ways to access the pipeline into the design industry," said NOMA 2023-2024 President Sablan. "As society's attention wavers, NOMA's conference is a moment to celebrate our resolution together, as we continue to focus on our communities, build our chapters, and show the world the power of unity and the strength of our commitment.

NOMA ended the 2024 calendar year with 46 professional chapters, including two international chapters, and 128 student chapters. More than 60 sponsors supported the conference and over 70 architecture firms, organizations and universities exhibited at the graduate and firm fair.



Keynote speakers Nmadili Okwumabua, Tosin Oshinowo, and Farida Abu-Bakare with NOMA Executive Director Tiffany D. Brown.



"Last year's conference exceeded expectations with the most professional and student member participation ever, celebrating industry milestones and leadership transitions and elevations. It is with this same anticipation that we looked forward to gathering in Kansas City, to celebrate even more milestones. We can't wait to share and reflect back on another year of growth. The best is yet to come."

TIFFANY BROWN, MBA, NOMA, Assoc. AIA NOMA Executive Director

NOMA Magazine, Fall 2025 | NOMA.net PHOTOGRAPHY BY VSDAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

FD3

Ideas Transform Communities

HDR is proud to partner with NOMA as a sponsor of the 2025 Annual Conference and Barbara G. Laurie Student Design Competition.

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At SSOE Group, architecture is more than design, it's a commitment to shaping spaces that inspire, perform, and endure. Discover how SSOE Group is shaping the future.



ACT BOLDLY TO DESIGNA BETTER FUTURE.

NOMA AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP, HONORS, AND ELECTIONS

2024 NOMA AWARDS GALA



he conference witnessed the ceremonial passing of leadership and the historic NOMA wooden staff between 2023–2024 NOMA President Pascale Sablan, NOMAC,

FAIA, LEED AP and 2025–2026 NOMA President **Bryan C. Lee Jr.**, NOMA, FAIA, at the NOMA Awards Ceremony. Lee, whose term began on January 1, 2025, served with Sablan as NOMA's president elect for the past two years, designed to help prepare the incoming president for the position.

"I asked #NOMAStandUp and we did, but with the new leadership of Bryan C. Lee Jr., we will mobilize and march," said Sablan. "'Dèyè mòn, gen mòn' in Haitian Creole translates to, 'Beyond every mountain, there's another mountain.' This is our mantra. We have reached new peaks and are prepared for the challenges ahead. I am proud to hand over to Bryan a stronger and bigger organization and am humbly ready to follow his leadership and support him on the NOMA board as we move our organization ever forward. May your journey be empowered by the strength of our unity and enriched with the wisdom of our collective experiences."

With the elevation of Lee to NOMA President, NOMA elected and announced at conference the 2025–2026 Vice President and 2027–2028 President as **Saundra Little**, NOMA, FAIA, LEED AP, Quinn Evans Architects Principal and Noir Design Parti Co-Founder. Little, a member of NOMA Detroit, has been a NOMA Board of Directors member and NOMA Detroit chapter President.

"Over the next two years, together, we will continue the growth of this organization," said Lee. "We will continue to lift the work and stories of our members, our communities, and our cultures, ensuring that your voices reach rooms. We will strengthen the capacity to support students, parents, and teachers through the project pipeline, and we will ensure that our HBCUs can assert a value proposition defined by our spatial and cultural knowledge in our neighborhood communities. I am immensely grateful for the trust you have placed in me to lead. I am proud to step into the role as the next president of the National Organization of Minority Architects."

In addition to numerous NOMA member and chapter awards, and announcements and elections of new organizational leadership, the evening included the honoring of the Phil Freelon Professional Design Award winners, winners of the NOMA Barbara G. Laurie Student Design Competition, and the elevation of five remarkable NOMA members to the NOMA Council, NOMAC.







LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMA Counsel Induction (NOMAC)

Ding A. Griffin, NOMAC, FAIA, IIDA

Rainy Hamilton Jr., NOMAC, FAIA NOMA DETROIT, DETROIT, M

Donald I. King, NOMAC, FAIA NOMA NW, SEATTLE, WA

Pascale Sablan, NOMAC, FAIA, LEED AP

NYCOBA, NEW YORK, NY

Katherine Williams, NOMAC, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP

DCNOMA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vice President

Saundra Little, NOMA, FAIA, LEED AP

NOMA DETROIT, DETROIT, MI

Midwest Regional Vice President

Ashlen V. Williams, NOMA, AIA I-NOMA, CHICAGO, IL

Northeast Regional Vice President

Oswaldo Ortega, NOMA, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

PHILANOMA, PHILADELPHIA, PA

West Regional Vice President Craig Atkinson, NOMA, DBIA,

IFFD AP

SOCALNOMA, LOS ANGELES, CA

Treasurer

Teonna N. Cooksey, NOMA NYCOBA, NEW YORK, NY

NOMA UNIVERSITY LIAISONS

NorthEast Region

Joshua Sswebuwufu, NOMA. Assoc. AIA

BOSNOMA, BOSTON, MA

Midwest Region

Tianna St. James, NOMA, Assoc. AIA NOMACOLUMBUS, COLUMBUS, OH

South Region

Colby Mitchell, NOMA, Assoc. AIA

Student Representative

Patricia Negrón Meléndez

THE SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN NOMAS CHAPTER, SAVANNAH, GA

MEMBER AND CHAPTER HONORS

NOMA Member of the Year

Tami Chen, NOMA, AIA NOMA PDX, PORTLAND, OR

NOMA President's Award

Jonathan Moody, NOMA, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, FITWEL

NOMACOLUMBUS, COLUMBUS, OH

NOMA Five Star Chapters for consistent performance

NOMA ATLANTA

ATLANTA GEORGIA **BosNOMA**

BOSTON, MA

NOMAColumbus

COLUMBUS, OH

DC NOMA WASHINGTON, D.C.

I-NOMA

CHICAGO, IL NOMA PDX

PORTLAND, OR SoFlo NOMA

NOMA Large Chapter of the Year NC NOMA

raleigh, nc

NOMA Small Chapter of the Year NOMA Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

NOMAS Member of the Year

Jennifer White, Louisiana State

University

BATON ROUGE, LA

NOMAS Chapter of the Year Louisiana State University

BATON ROUGE, LA

Special Recognition

Baltimore Mayoral Honor

Founding NOMA and Baltimore chapter member, Leon Bridges, for his contribution to the profession and his community

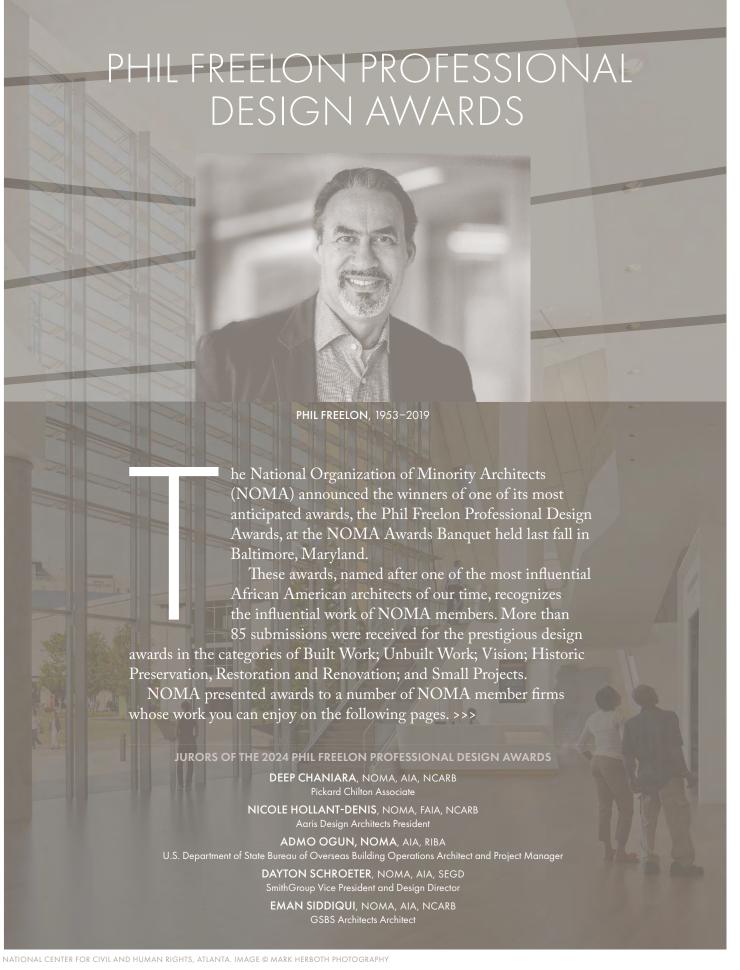












2024 PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AWARDS BUILT CATEGORY





2024 PHIL FREELON
PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AWARDS
UNBUILT CATEGORY









HONOR AWARD

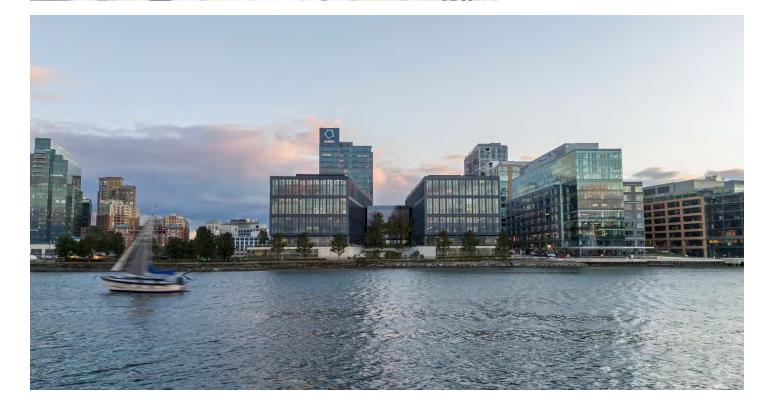
KOHN PEDERSEN FOX (KPF)

JEFF KENOFF, FAIA, NCARB
Principal Design Architect
GREGORY MELL, NOMA, AIA,
Director

GEORGINA LALLI, NOMA, AIA Senior Associate Principal

T. Rowe Price Headquarters

Baltimore, Maryland



2024 PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AWARDS SMALL PROJECTS CATEGORY



HONOR AWARD

MOMENTX

FEIFEI FENG, NOMA, AIA Architect of Record

QIANGRU HUA

Collaborator, Architect

Wellington Courtyard
San Carlos, California







HONOR AWARD

R. McGHEE & ASSOCIATES

RONNIE McGHEE, NOMA, FAIA, LEED AP, NCARB Architect of Record, Principal in Charge

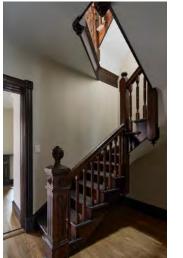
Mary Church Terrell House Washington, D.C.













2024 PHIL FREELON PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

CITATION WINNERS





BUILT

CAPLES JEFFERSON ARCHITECTS

EVERARDO JEFFERSON, NOMA, AIA AND SARA CAPLES, NOMA, AIA Architect of Record & Principal Design Architect

Louis Armstrong Center Queens, NY



UNBUILT

BASKERVILL

BURT PINNOCK, NOMA, FAIA Principal Design Architect

The Shockoe Project
Richmond, VA









BUILT

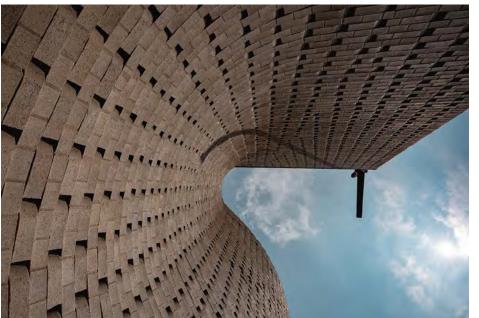
MOTO DESIGNSHOP

ERIC OSKEY, NOMA, FAIA Principal Design Architect

Arrupe Hall at St. Joseph's University
Lower Merion Township, PA



2024 PHIL FREELON
PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AWARDS
CITATION WINNERS











VISION

YNL ARCHITECTS

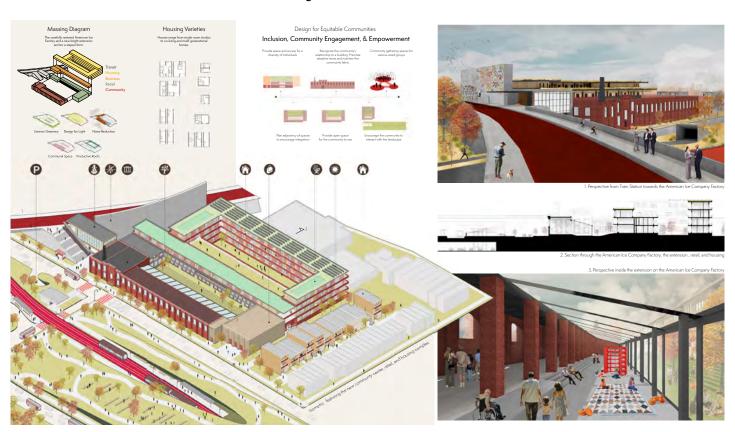
YU-NGOK LO, NOMA, FAIA
Principal Design Architect
Mobile Housing Network
Macau and Hong Kong, China



FIRST PLACE

TULANE UNIVERSITY

Restoring Common Ground



he 2024 NOMA Barbara G. Laurie Student Design
Competition brought together a diverse group of students,
from more than 40 NOMAS chapters, to collaborate,
innovate, and reimagine the built environment with a live
jury experience for the students October 25–26, 2024.
This year's project, Highway to Healing: The Transformation
of the West Baltimore I-40 Corridor, was a design proposal for a multimodal transit center to address the systemic injustices endured by the
West Baltimore community from the expansion of the U.S. highway
system. The competition's restorative justice project took place at a
pivotal moment when repair and reparations could become a reality
for West Baltimore, with a \$2 million grant for Baltimore through the
Reconnecting Communities Pilot and the vision for the Red Line from
Governor Wes Moore that would help to foster reconnection between
Baltimore's communities.

In addition to those chapters and projects featured on these pages,

New York Institute of Technology from New York, NY received an honorable mention for "Threads of Healing" and a special recognition was given to Santa Monica College from Santa Monica, CA for its designation as the first community college chapter to participate in the BGL Student Design Competition.

The competition jurors were Jurors: Kate Diamond, FAIA, HDR Design Director; Emily Grandstaff-Rice, FAIA, NOMA, Perkins&Will Assoc. Principal; Alan Gombera, Gensler Studio Director; Aeron Hodge, Stantec Architecture Inc. Principal; Kuo Pao Lian, PI.KL Studio Co-Founder & Principal; Carrie Moore, AIA, Leed GA, SOM Technical Design Partner; and Dr. Meleny Thomas, South Baltimore Community Land Trust Executive Director

The competition and jury was organized by NOMA's University Liaisons:
Melanie Ray, NOMA, AIA; Andreea Vasile-Hoxha, NOMA, Assoc. ASLA;

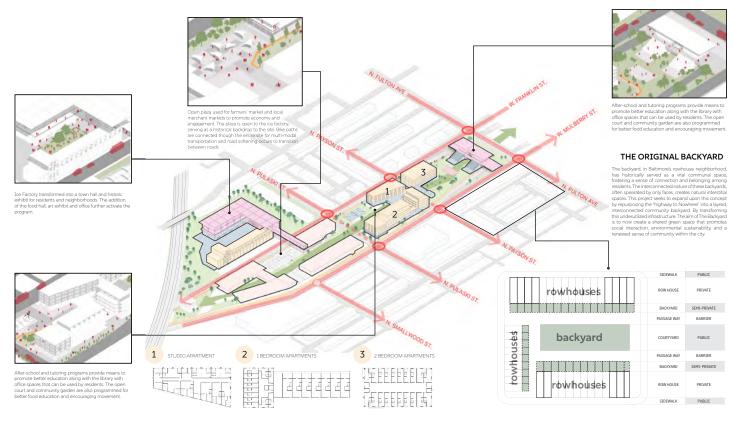
Melanie Ray, NOMA, AIA; Andreea Vasile-Hoxha, NOMA, Assoc. ASLA, Atianna Cordova, NOMA; Jamilla Afandi, NOMA, AIA, APA



SECOND PLACE

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

The Backyard





THIRD PLACE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Mending the Divide: A Needle, a Thread, and a Future Woven

NOMAC



A COUNCIL OF COUNSELORS

lifetime achievement honor is the induction of a NOMA member who has made a significant contribution to NOMA and is aligned with its mission and purpose. The formation of this distinction was rooted in African traditions involving essential knowledge passed to generations by elders who have wisdom, experience, and skills. Those honored would therefore

be bestowed the designation of "Counselors" and collectively be called NOMAC. Established in 1993, NOMAC serves as NOMA's Hall of Fame, honoring founders, past presidents, and other distinguished members for their wisdom and devotion to the organization. NOMAC members provide mentorship, historical perspective, and fundraising support while being recognized with medals, pins, and kente stoles at annual conferences. Today, NOMAC continues to guide and inspire future NOMA leaders, ensuring the organization's legacy endures.

ACTIVE NOMA COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leon Bridges, FAIA, NOMAC Standford Britt, FAIA, NOMAC William M. Brown, III, FAIA, NOMAC Gabrielle Bullock, FAIA, NOMAC William Davis, Jr., AIA, NOMAC Drake Dillard, AIA, NOMAC Kathy Denise Dixon, FAIA, NOMAC Kimberly Dowdell, AIA NOMAC Robert Easter, FAIA, NOMAC Carla Flagg, AIA, NOMAC Richard Franklin, AIA, NOMAC Ronald Garner, AIA, NOMAC Sanford Garner, FAIA NOMAC Anzilla Gilmore, FAIA, NOMAC **Brad Grant**, FAIA, NOMAC Dina A. Griffin, FAIA, NOMAC, IIDA Daniel Christopher Hall, FAIA, NOMAC Rainy Hamilton Jr., FAIA, NOMAC Andrew Heard, FAIA, NOMAC Rod Hemni, FAIA, NOMAC Kevin Holland, FAIA, NOMAC Bryan Hudson, AIA, NOMAC David Hughes, FAIA, NOMA David Kirk, AIA, NOMAC Donald I. King, FAIA, NOMAC R. Steven Lewis, FAIA, NOMAC Dennis Mann, FAIA, NOMAC Kenneth Martin FAIA NOMAC Charles McAfee, FAIA, NOMAC Cheryl McAfee, FAIA, NOMAC Charyl McAfee-Duncan, FAIA, NOMAC Clarence Mobley, AIA, NOMAC Heather Philip-O'Neal, AIA, NOMAC Kathryn Bradford Tyler Prigmore, FAIA, NOMAC Jason Pugh, AIA, NOMAC Marshall Purnell, FAIA, NOMAC Michael Rogers, AIA NOMAC Pascale Sablan, FAIA, NOMAC, LEED AP Carlton Smith, FAIA, NOMAC Charles Smith, AIA, NOMAC William J. Stanley III, FAIA, NOMAC, Hon. FRAIC Paul Taylor, AIA NOMAC Andrew Thompson, AIA, NOMAC Jack Travis, FAIA, NOMAC Jimmie Tucker, FAIA, NOMAC James Washington, FAIA, NOMAC Roberta Washington, FAIA NOMAC Katherine Williams, AIA, NOMAC, LEED AP

NOMAC IN MEMORIAM

William Brown II, NOMAC Leroy Campbell, FAIA, NOMAC Wendell Campbell, FAIA, NOMAC Kenneth Casey, NOMAC Earl Kai Chan, NOMAC John Chase, FAIA, NOMAC Paul Devrouax, FAIA, NOMAC James Dodd, NOMAC Phillip Freelon, FAIA, NOMAC Louis Fry, Sr., AIA, NOMAC Kenneth Groggs, FAIA, NOMAC Nelson Harris, NOMAC Jeh Johnson, FAIA, NOMAC Pedro Lopez, AIA, NOMAC Mortimer Marshall, FAIA, NOMAC Curt Moody, FAIA, NOMAC Robert Nash, FAIA, NOMAC Harry Overstreet, AIA, NOMAC Prescott Reavis, NOMAC Harold Williams, FAIA, NOMAC Robert Wilson, NOMAC

"As most can attest, attending your first conference is an experience that is hard to explain but was the catalyst that ignited my desire to be a part of such an inspirational organization."





CARIA FIAGG NOMAC, AIA

How did you first become interested in architecture?

My father liked to sketch. Although he passed away when I was six, I was always fascinated by his sketches. By the time I turned eight the idea of architecture as a profession was introduced to me by "The Brady Bunch" TV show, where the father was an architect. As a result, I started sketching houses for my family to live in when I grew up.

What year did you join NOMA and why?

In 1992, I learned of NOMA through Professor Bradford (Brad) Grant, NOMAC while attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. My first NOMA conference in 1993, was in Washington, D.C. at Howard University. As most can attest, attending your first conference is an experience that is hard to explain but was the catalyst that ignited my desire to be a part of such an inspirational organization. I returned to Cal Poly and became a founding member and first President of the NOMAS Chapter with a mission to increase awareness and membership for NOMA.

What is your most pivotal NOMA memory?

With over 33 years of service, how can I choose just one? My first NOMA conference was a pivotal moment that began my path of service for the organization. This would be followed by my local chapter embracing me and mentoring my career path. During this time with the encouragement of Drake Dillard, NOMAC and Steve Lewis, FAIA, NOMAC, I became the LANOMA (now known as SoCalNOMA) chapter secretary. In 2002, Drake Dillard nominated me for National Secretary, which began my years of service under the presidencies of James

Washington, Carlton Smith, Steve Lewis and Sanford Garner. Key memories during these years include:

- Supporting James Washington in 2005– 2006 to assist LouisianaNOMA during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- Supporting Steve Lewis and members in 2010 to provide relief in Haiti after the devastating earthquake by providing tents through CHF International Fund and RedCross relief
- Watching the growth of our Professional and Student membership and chapters.

In 2016, I supported Drake Dillard and Steve Lewis (Conference Chairs) for a successful NOMA Conference in Los Angeles and in 2020 became Assistant Editor to Steve Lewis for the NOMA Magazine. And of course, I am honored to be elevated to NOMAC in 2023. I am one of the few Council members who has not held a position as National President but selected based on my years of service.

How would you describe NOMAC and why is it important?

To me, the NOMA Council represents experience and history. It is important to remember and respect our origins, honoring our founders and traditions while taking these experiences to generate future growth.

You've had a few difficult years, with personal loss and the loss of your family home in Altadena, CA, in the 2025 Eaton wildfires, which were the 2nd most destructive in California's history. What remains important to you at this moment?

Family. My family is extremely important to me during this season.



In Los Angeles with fellow SoCal NOMA members at the Bros Art Ball during the 2016 NOMA Conference.

With Kimberly Dowdell and Roberta Washington in Portland, OR at the 2023 NOMA Conference Awards Banquet after being elevated to NOMAC.

"Those who walked this path before us have generational knowledge, leadership and life experiences which need to be shared....All of us—NOMAC, NOMA, senior professionals, rising professionals, and students—can learn from each other."

How has the NOMA community supported you? How has NOMAC supported you?

I can truly say, NOMA, NOMAC, and SoCalNOMA is an extended family. The outpouring of concern, caring, condolences, and just checking on me during this series of tragic events has been incredible. My NOMA family has offered to walk alongside me, send me the latest updates of rebuild information, draft and take plans to the county of LA, or just simply listen, as I work my way through loss and grief.

I am encouraged by how SoCalNOMA stepped up in a huge way to not only offer support for several members who lost their homes or were affected by the Altadena fire, but to serve the Altadena community, especially focusing on its historic Black residents in their rebuilding process.

SoCalNOMA formed the Altadena Rebuild Coalition, which began by first meeting residents and listening to understand the devastation and loss. As a member that

lost a family home, this gave me a safe space to share and allowed my Altadena community a safe space to share as well. This first step formed a bond of trust that few other organizations have developed in this process. Such loss can feel overwhelming, and you want to help but don't know where to start. As a local chapter member, being part of the Coalition development made me feel as if I was helping my community, which is one of the things I have always admired about NOMA.

Months later SoCalNOMA is still consistently helping Altadena and providing much-needed resources for homeowners to meet Architects. Our members are representing NOMA at community events and participating in panel discussion groups to answer rebuild questions. The Coalition has even partnered with programs like "Shared Harvest Foundation" to assist with ADU construction and realizing that the number of affected families is beyond what SocalNOMA

can handle alone, the chapter is collaborating with NOMA West Region VP, Craig Atkinson, to develop a West Region Chapter Architects Directory as an additional resource.

As a community of architecture and design professionals, what relationship should exist between NOMA and NOMACbetween young and rising professionals, and senior professionals?

The relationship between NOMA and NOMAC or the next generation of leaders is about 'bridging the gap' and keeping communication open. Those who walked this path before us have generational knowledge, leadership and life experiences which need to be shared. As Steve Lewis has often said, "Who will tell our story?" NOMA and NOMAC would benefit from a recorded speaker's series or panel discussion about the history of the organization and lessons learned.

What advice would you give the next generation of NOMA members and future NOMAC leaders?

When I first joined NOMA as a student, and started attending conferences annually, I was not afraid to introduce myself to as many professionals as possible. It was an opportunity to network and find firms within my region. In doing so, I connected with Harold Williams, one of the NOMA founding members, and his lovely wife, Dr. Betty Williams. One of my first jobs was working as an intern for Harold's firm, HWA. I share this experience because all of us—NOMAC, NOMA, senior professionals, rising professionals, and students—can learn from each other. My advice is to communicate openly, listen respectfully and implement change honoring the past to make the future



To create equitable and inclusive places and spaces, we must strive to build a firm with people who represent the diversity and authenticity of the cities we reimagine.



Join us in our mission to create a better world through the power of design at gensler.com/careers.

Gensler + NOMA Sponsorship Program

The Gensler + NOMA Sponsorship Program aims to improve the education, recruitment, and advancement of historically underrepresented design professionals. Gensler actively supports team members' involvement and engagement with NOMA in various ways:

- Diamond Level Sponsorship of the annual NOMA conference
- Coverage of annual membership dues for active NOMA members within Gensler
- Gensler sponsorship & engagement of NOMA's annual HBCU Professional Development Program (PDP)
- Reserving 15% of our student summer internships for NOMAS members
- · Empowering passionate team members to actively engage with their local NOMA chapters
- Learn more about Gensler's NOMA sponsorship at our booth!















n partnership with the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT), NOMA was proud to announce the seventh cohort of fellows of NOMA Future Faces (NFF). The NFF Fellowship provides currently enrolled National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) members and recent graduates with access to internships with the top architecture firms

NOMA FUTURE FACES

across the country. This summer, 23 NOMAS members gained professional development experiences and internships with partner firms, further bridging the gap between underrepresented students and the architectural profession, offering a pathway towards future employment in the field.

The two-month NFF summer in-person fellowship was hosted at 22 leading architecture firms across the country from June 2-July 25, 2025. Fellows engaged in design research, project work, and firm mentorship. For many, it was their first internship experience; for a handful, it was their second consecutive summer as an NFF fellow.

The program, with a purpose to develop and propel forward the next generation of Black and minority architects, plays a crucial role in providing valuable professional experience to underrepresented students. Each fellow receives a \$2,450 relocation reimbursement and is eligible to receive a \$1,000 licensure stipend once they become a licensed architect.

This year, 69 percent of the students were in B.Arch programs, 11 percent were in B.S. or B.A. programs, and 20 percent were in M.Arch programs. To date, 147 fellows have participated in the program.

"We are so pleased to see the commitment of architecture firms in the U.S. step up to support young talent to advance

equity, diversity and excellence in the field," said Melanie Ray, NOMA, AIA, NFF NOMA Fellowship Director, and Hord Coplan Macht Senior Associate. "We see students come out of NFF shining, with increased confidence and direction in how they can be a part of the solution to our challenges and opportunities in the built environment. Five years into this program, we are seeing the results of the investment in our young members and professionals."

following the AIA LFRT 2030 Diversity Challenge. This challenge urged the architectural industry to elevate the number of licensed Black architects from 2,300 to 5,000 by to approximately four percent of licensed architects in the United States. The AIA LFRT has committed its funding greater number of fellows.

The program is supported by Tiffany Mayhew, NOMA Programs Manager, and Madison Summers, NFF Alumni Liaison and NFF Winter 2021 participant at Ashley McGraw

Started in 2020, NFF stands out as the inaugural initiative 2030, effectively doubling the representation from two percent through 2030, specifically aimed at expanding the fellowship program. The funding enables NOMA to award and support a

Architects.





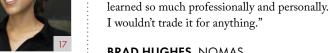












BRAD HUGHES. NOMAS

PROFILES IN

FELLOWSHIP

LILLIAN AYODELE, NOMAS New York Institute of Technology

B.Arch candidate

The School of Architecture, M.Arch candidate

"I was placed with one of my dream firms, Populous, in Kansas City, MO. They provided

minority students to stand out and be seen by large firms. To my host firm, Populous, I'm extremely grateful for this experience. I



a truly rewarding experience that's allowed me to grow as a designer and learn about a form of architecture I am genuinely passionate about. Future fellows

"I learned how to manage a hefty workflow and time-

audit my tasks to stay productive. This program should absolutely continue; it opens doors for

should definitely make the most out of the experience, soak up as much knowledge as possible, and proactively make connections."

SEBASTIAN SALAMANCA, NOMAS

Iowa State University NOMAS Co-President

"This fellowship was an amazing experience that shaped me professionally and personally. Surrounding myself with amazing projects,



while immersed within the NOMA culture, was an uplifting and inspiring experience. I was surprised by how connected NOMA

professionals are across chapters and states. I learned that the strength in NOMA isn't only through the local chapter, but through the workplace as well! Having fellow NOMA members in the workplace made it welcoming and enjoyable. In the future, I hope to work somewhere that recognizes the importance of community as much as the NOMA Future Faces program recognized it for me."

1 Jlees Ahmed ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF **TECHNOLOGY** TECHNOLOGY LS3PEnnead Architects LLP

2 Lillian Ayodele NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Populous

3 Alexander Collins* ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HED

4 Anna Magalhaes Filgueira ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY Page, now Stantec

5 Christian Gilbert FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY DLR Group

6 Youseff Hachchane* SCI-ARC HOK

7 Brad Hughes* THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE Populous

8 Kaleb Jenkins* LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY Kirksey Architecture 9 Rushali Joshi* ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF

10 Jeremy Lynn THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY Perkins & Will

11 Olivia Maasdam IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Smith Group

12 Anthony Gonzalez Martinez UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE Little Diversified Architectural Consulting

13 Ashley Ng'oma CORNELL UNIVERSITY CannonDesign

14 Eniola Olaleye UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY Leo A Daly

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*RETURNING FELLOWS

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PROJECT PIPELINE





"The Project Pipeline Summer Campus remains one of the most inspiring, rewarding and productive programs that NOMA offers, introducing minority youth to the architecture profession."

RICHIE HANDS, NOMA, AIA NOMA National Co-Chair of Project Pipeline





20,000 young people to career possibilities in architecture and design. In 2012, under the leadership of NOMA President Bryan C. Lee Jr. and others, a formal curriculum was established to guide host chapters nationwide. The curriculum covers fundamental concepts in architecture and design, including understanding city and neighborhood dynamics, developing sketching skills, using basic design software, and exploring resources to support students' continued journey in the field.

In addition to the annual Project Pipeline Summer Camps hosted by NOMA chapters, NOMA offers a Project Pipeline Summer Camp digital curriculum available to any student regardless of geography. The content explores similar topics and offers an introduction to architecture and design led by Hands and Bradshaw. The availability of the digital curriculum aims to further reduce barriers and provide greater accessibility to interested students.

"We see how students light up when they understand what architects, designers and planners can do in their cities and communities," said Bradshaw. "This program inspires hundreds of kids every year to consider a career in design as

1,000+ STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY STEP INTO THE

29 NOMA chapters hosted Project Pipeline Summer Camps to inspire youth on their potential impact on the built environment



OMA concluded its 19th summer of Project Pipeline Summer Camps, hosting 39 camps in 38 cities in the U.S. and engaging nearly 1,100 youth in the fields of architecture and design. Launched to create pathways for more Black architects, these camps underscore the vital role of mentorship and early exposure in guiding students towards careers in the built environment. This year, Project Pipeline remained steady with healthy camp sizes, with new camps added in Macon, GA, Madison, WI and St. Michaels, AZ, and multiple camps being hosted by single chapters including NOMA Detroit, NCNOMA, NOMA

Louisiana, NOMA of Central Texas, Wisco NOMA, and

NOMAtlanta.

"The Project Pipeline Summer Campus remains one of the most inspiring, rewarding and productive programs that NOMA offers, introducing minority youth to the architecture profession," says Richie Hands, NOMA, AIA, NOMA National Co-Chair of Project Pipeline, Gensler Project Architect. "It's hard to believe how far we've come with more than half of the NOMA chapters across the country hosting camps—and yet, as a profession, how far we still have to go. We take pride in our network of dedicated volunteers, returning and accomplished alumni, and most of all, the children who walk out of our camps feeling seen and inspired by the potential we start to tap into in their design

This is Hands' fourth year as NOMA Project Pipeline National Chair. Previously, he served as Co-chair along with NOMA President Bryan C. Lee, Jr., who served as Project Pipeline Chair. Hands is now Co-chair with Bryan Bradshaw, NOMA, NOMA Co-Chair of Project Pipeline, Colloqate Intermediate Designer.

Project Pipeline Summer Camps began in 2006 when the South West Ohio NOMA chapter organized the inaugural camp in Cincinnati. Since then, nearly 40 cities have hosted hundreds of camps, introducing more than

42 NOMA Magazine, Fall 2025 | NOMA.net NOMA Magazine, Fall 2025 | NOMA.net 43 well as provides tools to show them that they have adjacency to advocate for changes in their environment. We offer them exposure, education, a path forward, and inspiration to view themselves in future architects."

Partnerships

To deliver this comprehensive and successful early education curriculum in architecture, NOMA partners with both local and national organizations. Since 2017, General Motors has been a key supporter of Project Pipeline Summer Camps nationwide, contributing a range of resources to further the program's mission.

"Project Pipeline is a program that brings the design industry together in support of bolstering minority youth, who offer such hope and promise for helping shape a better future in every way possible," said Tiffany Brown, MBA, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, NOMA Executive Director. "We are so thankful for the support provided by our partners and volunteers, including General Motors, a steadfast sponsor over the years. We remain committed to this important and inspiring program."











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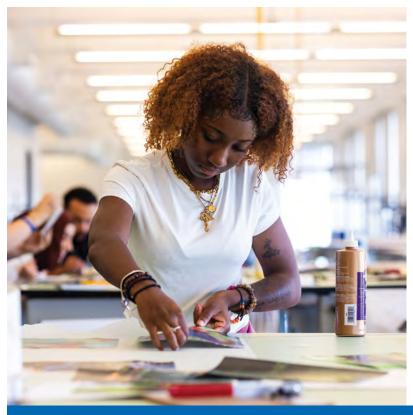
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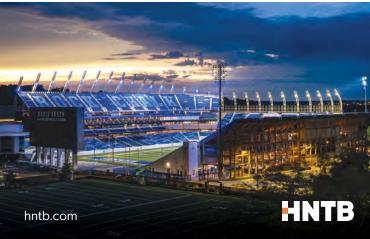
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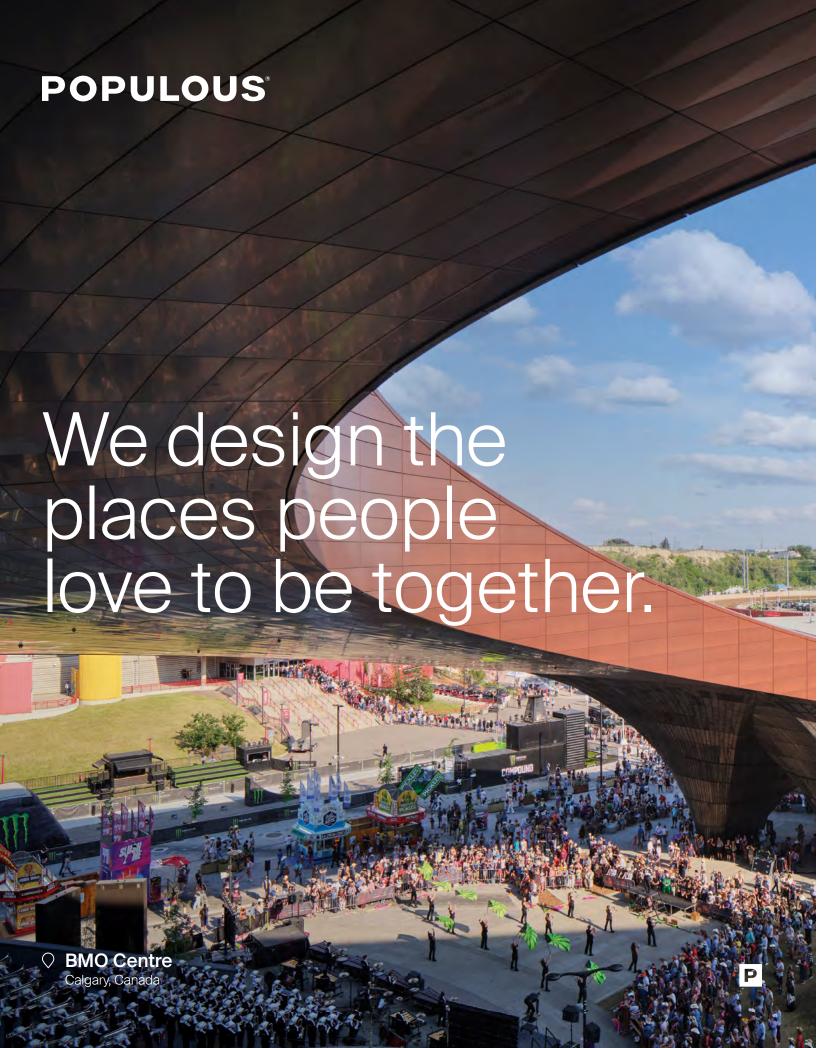
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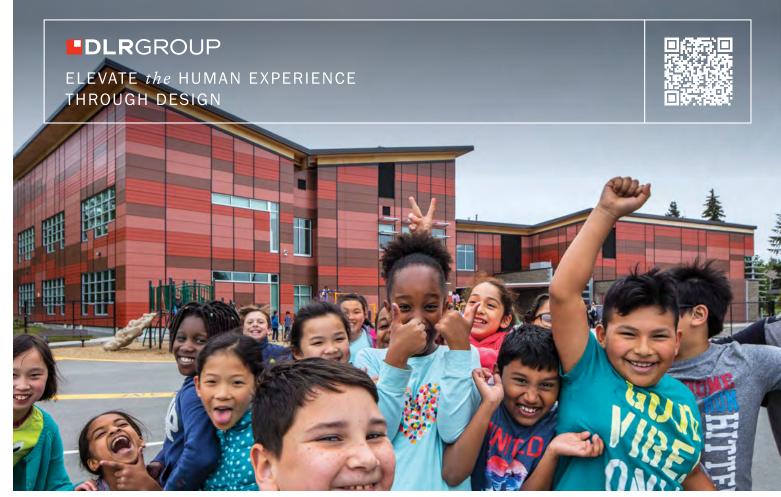
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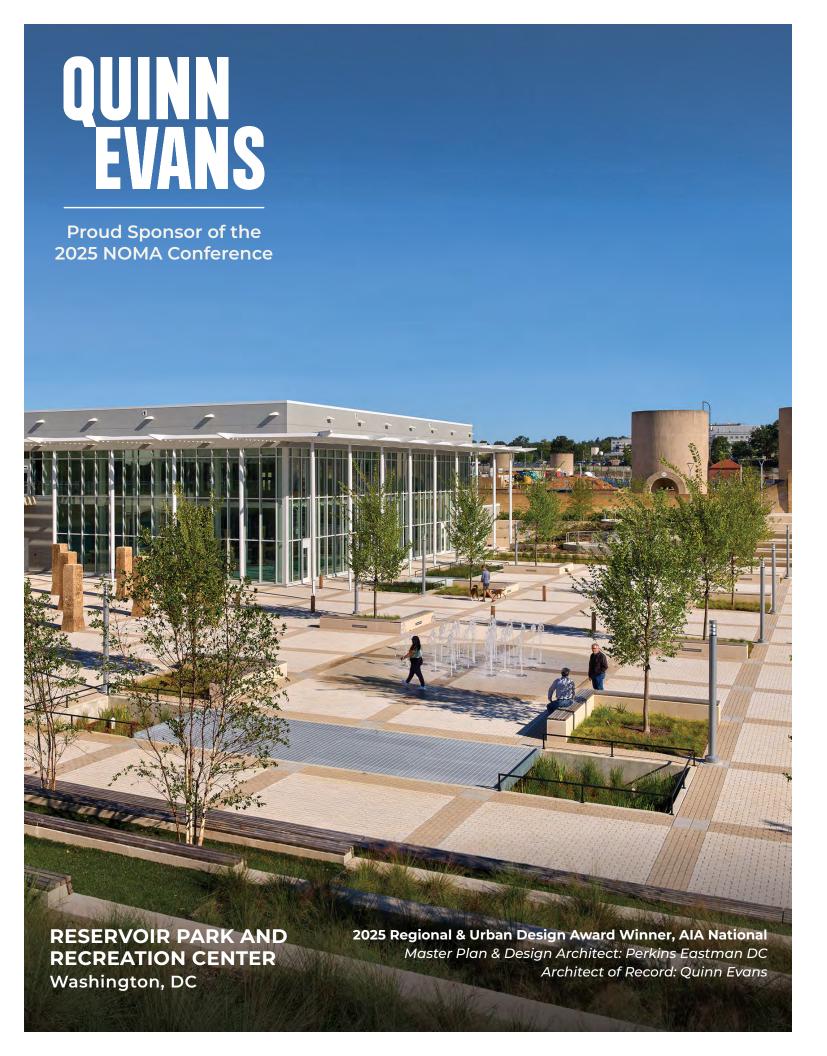




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