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NOMA Magazine | Nº 17 | Spring 2018 | Edited by: Kwesi Daniels | Designed by: Lou Moriconi



Editor's Message

Editor-in-chief Kwesi Daniels, NOMA, Assoc. AIA

Greetings! The 45th Annual NOMA International Conference was an energizing event, which brought the passion of our members to Houston, approximately one month after Hurricane Harvey. Harvey disrupted lives but it was no match for the enduring spirit of Houston, TX. It was powerful to witness our members converge and mobilize our collective efforts towards assisting in the recovery, with our Day of Service. As always it was a family affair as we reunited members from Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Washington D.C., New York City and all points in between. This year we came together at the Westin Galleria Houston, to explore architecture, via our theme, "MultipliCITY: Our Abstract Composition".



As you peruse this issue you will read about the labor of love our members gave during the day of service, captivating seminars like David Hughes' discussion on African Architecture, and the creative expressions which were on display during the annual NOMA student design competition. You will also read about the NOMA stories currently being captured by Pascale Sablan and Joel Avery. The hallmark of this issue is the review of the address Rick Lowe gave during the banquet. As always, this conference was packed full of fun, knowledge sharing, and opportunities to rekindle our bonds with one another. From the Day of Service, to being greeted by a

local high school marching band, to the Bros Arts Ball, to the seminars, the 45th NOMA conference left a great impression upon everyone in attendance.

As we enter the new year, the magazine also welcomes new leadership. Yu-Ngok Lo passed the responsibility of editing our magazine onto me this year, beginning with this issue. This is an honor I wholly accept and look forward to using our platform to sharing our collective voices with the world. As the new editor of the magazine I want to thank President Bryan Hudson, past editor Yu-Ngok Lo, and the rest of the board for entrusting me with this honor. Preparing this issue has been a learning experience, which was made easier through the input of the writers - Pascale Sablan, Gabrielle Riley, and Esop McNair. I must also thank Lou Moriconi, our graphic designer, for his invaluable assistance with ensuring the caliber of this issue was consistent with previous ones.

Kwesi Daniels, NOMA, Assoc. AIA Editor-In-Chief

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save some wood studs and terminate termites, that were damaged by termites, to be replaced with new studs during phase II of this service project. The community service event is special to me because it is the community and the citizens that we want to help when necessary.

There were a multitude of seminars and breakout sessions to attend during the NOMA conference. One of the sessions I attended during the conference, which was most interesting and informative. was the Afrocentric Architecture lecture presented by Architectural Fellow, Professor Hughes of Kent State University. Professor Hughes' presentation highlighted the distinction and similarities between the architecture in various countries throughout Africa and the subsequent architecture around the world. The different architectural cultures around the continent of Africa and their replicas or abstract compositions designed and built around the world, proved his tested theory of the origin of a myriad of architectural buildings. Professor Hughes' presentation was standing room only and inspired me to study more architecture in Africa. Also, as an emerging professional who is currently testing for licensure and teaching at the Art Institute of Indianapolis, Professor Hughes inspired me. His lecture challenged me to reach my students clearly with factual information about the origins of architecture and the many ways African architecture has influenced the field of architecture.

The NOMA conference is more than just an annual conference. It is a family affair of minority architects, designers, students, professors, business leaders, and emerging design professionals coming together to celebrate success in the profession. Other seminars during the conference, included diversity in architecture, and community involvement through architecture. Every year is a good moment to re-center my thoughts and initiatives towards architecture, com-







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Commitment to Advocacy

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

-Aristotle

Pascale Sablan, AIA, NOMA, LEED

am an architect, mentor and humanitarian/social advocate. My interest in and passion for architecture has been strong even before I began working in the field over a decade ago. I believe architects and designers have a responsibility to create a more humanistic society. My steadfast search for design excellence and humanity in each of my projects has successfully resulted in the creation of meaningful buildings. They have an enduring importance and cultural significance that express the aspirations of each of my clients. As a strong advocate of civic involvement, my contributions to the industry have advanced the art of architecture and design for the betterment of society and the environment. It has elevated the dialogue regarding the manipulation of technology, to direct the architectural design process, and bring greater visibility and a voice to the issues concerning women architects and architects of color.

The commitment to advocacy began in 2009 when I first joined the New York Coalition of Black Architects, (NYCOBA) | National Organization of Minority Architects, (NOMA) Executive board. There I was surrounded by like-minded, dedicated Architects who taught me how powerful our voice is, and how immediate our impact could be implemented into our profession. Together we collaborated and hosted numerous programs for Minority Architects in different stages of their career. Our programs included: Project Pipeline Architecture Day camp where we worked with elementary students to introduce them to the design profession; the Young Designers Conference held at Pratt Institute Brooklyn Campus, organized and programmed for high school and college students; Crafting the interview for mock interviews, portfolio reviews and panel discussion with HR professionals in the industry; and the Distinguished Member Award where we elevated and acknowledged the great work of our members and exposed their greatness to our members and the industry.

All of these civic engagements have culminated into my recent election as the NOMA Northeast Regional Vice President, which was announced during the 2017 NOMA National Conference in Houston Texas. Under this new role I will be part of the leadership of (7) local NOMA Chapters, New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C. I also hold the NOMA National Historian position where I gather content of our members and organizations, package them for national attention within our organization as well as for publication and for exhibitions.

The NOMA National Conference is a unique event because as a membership where one mostly engages on the local level we are all gathered in one space. 550-600 Minority Architects all together, brainstorming on how we can be catalyst for change. As Historian, I took advantage of the collective and collaborated with Joel Avery to interview our members, in order to capture their experience and inspirations as a minority Architects.

The Conference also gave me an opportunity to raise my voice and participate in 3 seminars. The "Thinking Collaboratively" lecture described my experience working on the Museum of the Built Environment and how we leveraged technology in the process. The Vortex Panel alongside Kathy Dixon FAIA, Devanne Pena AIA, and Camille Jackson focused on our experience as African American woman Architects. The last seminar was the Abstract Edge Panel, with Joel Avery and Jonathan Moody, where we discussed how we approach BIM and the use of technology in practice.

I am the 315th African American female Architect in the United States to attain my architectural license. As of 2017, there are only 400 women who hold this distinction. I share my advocacy journey with you, to hopefully inspire a drive to not just be the Architect whose work is featured on the cover of magazines, but to also be an Architect that changes the profession to be more inclusive, and to focus on the needs of the community.



Pascale Sablan, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP, joined FXFOWLE in 2007, and was promoted to Associate in 2014. She is Past President of the New York Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), Serve on the NOMA National Board, a member of the AlA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and a Board Trustee for The Mary Louis Academy, a private Catholic college preparatory academy in Queens. She has been recognized for her contributions to the industry with several awards and honors, including the Emerging New York Architect Merit Award-AIA New York and the NOMA Prize for Excellence in Design

NOMA







Oak Harbor Clean Water Facility Oak Harbor, WA

Carlton Smith, FAIA, NOMAC | Principal MWA Architects, INC.









Cleveland Metropolitan School District School of Arts Cleveland, $\bigcirc \mathsf{H}$

Moody Nolan, Inc. – Design Architect/Architect of Record Curtis J. Moody, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP













 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Memphis Business Academy} \\ \textbf{Memphis, TN} \end{array}$

Jimmie Tucker, NOMA, AIA Juan Self, NOMA, AIA Self+Tucker Architects



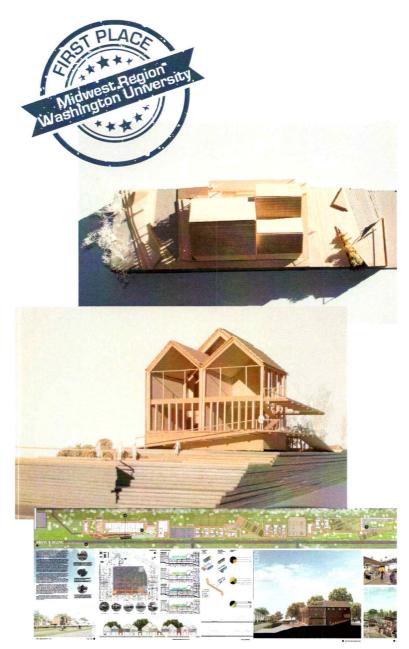
Student Design Competition Winners

Gabrielle Riley

This years student design competition brought 19 schools and NOMA's student chapters from across the four regions to Houston, Texas for the annual NOMA national conference. Coordinating the competition is a task filled with many emotions, ranging from stress to joy to tears, sometime all at the same time. Over the next few paragraphs we will rewind and walk through the experience of The NOMA Competition...

The morning starts early for the students at 6am, in order for them to prepare their presentation areas. Some of the teams have models with lights, some have iPads with videos on display and some have neither. Now, keep in mind this is round 1 and the students will only have 5 minutes to give their elevator pitch. The point of the pitch is to give the jurors a taste of their final ideas, to instill a hunger for them to want to see more, and ultimately encourage a call back for the final round. Upon entry into the room, you may find a range of emotions. From students stressed and scrambling to mount boards and set up models to overly confident teams rolling in at the last minute — feeling like they have already won. And if anyone is watching the Liaisons, one may be walking around doing a headcount to determine who's missing, while another is making sure the room is presentation ready, whether that means helping students or making sure all the light fixtures are working, all while another liaison is prepping and preparing for the jurors arrival, wishing and praying they all show up and are on time.

One by one the jurors arrive and the liaisons say a silent "thank God", the students run through the last bits of their presentation before being dismissed until the jurors are briefed. This year we were graced with the presence of James Harrison, RA, NCARB of Harrison Kornberg, Susan Rogers Associate Professor and Director of the Community Design Resource Center, Tracy Stephens from Sunny Side Civic Club and Chrishelle Palay Houston Co-Director at Texas Housers. Each one of these jurors were selected for their connection to the site, scholarship and John S. Chase. The liaisons brief the jurors and allow the students back in.



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ි | 15 insightful critiques. The judges stand, receive the applause. As the clapping dies down, the judges face the audience of students and share enriching critiques to each team and some for the whole room. The judges make comments to the whole group "Do not use note cards when you know your project,"... "talk to the judges and not the floor or boards,"..."stick with your strongest presenter for both rounds and incorporate John S. Chase into the projects." The judges also disagree on some comments, which is helpful for the students to see. The students are dismissed. The judges tally up the scores and weigh in on each team and come to a 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd place and Honorable Mention within minutes. The liaisons scurry to alert the team of the finalist, complete the presentation for the awards banquet, break down the room and move the boards to cocktail hour! Time for the main event- the awards banquet!

This was the 20th annual NOMA Student Design competition and my 3rd event where I was both organizing and facilitating. From being a student, to a professional facilitator, the competition has come a long way. There was a time when the presentations would hold students, jurors and attendees for over 8 hours due to the length of the presentations. We are now getting upwards of 20 schools competing each year and the caliber of the presentations improves every time. The students are constantly raising the bar and bringing their A game. The one thing that makes this competition unique is the presentation, giving the students the ability to defend their work and witness their competition do the same. Every school from the Ivy leagues to the HBCU's are represented. In addition, the top architectural firms to small firms are in attendance and are constantly scoping out the top talent. Also, the students are able to log credit hours into NCARBs AXP to go towards licensure. This competition is a win-win for everyone, students, schools and professionals.







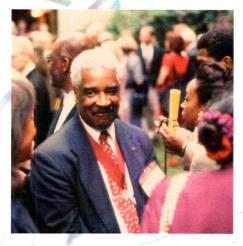
Gabrielle Riley is an Associate Architect with ZGF Architects. For the past two years, she has been on the Board of Directors, and the West Region University Liaison, for NOMA. In this role, she has managed and facilitated the Annual Student Design Competition for the Annual Conference and manages and/or creates student chapters in the West region.

A HISTORY OF NOMA

African American architects listened intently to what Whitney M. Young, Jr., the prominent civil rights leader and keynote speaker, had to say. He reminded those present that as a profession, architecture had not distinguished itself by its social and civic contributions to the civil rights movement.

The black architects in attendance that day had come from different parts of the country and did not know each other very well, but were all struck by the speaker's words and recognized that the situation of the black architect had to be improved. Three years later, in 1971, the black architects in attendance at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Convention in Detroit decided to organize to change the status quo. A local African American architect invited them to his office, where they had a chance to meet each other informally and discuss the desperate need for an organization dedicated to the development and advancement of black architects.

The thirty or so present at that meeting included some black architecture students who were anxious to meet the visiting black architects. These professionals recognized the desperate need for an organization dedicated to the development and advancement of African American architects. Prior to this time, there had been two other professional organizations that supported black architects: the National Technical Organization, established in 1926, and the Council for the Advancement of the Negro in Architecture, which ran from 1951–57. But new times required new methods. Present at the Detroit meeting were William Brown, Leroy Campbell, Wendell Campbell, John S. Chase, James C. Dodd, Kenneth B. Groggs, Nelson Harris, Jeh Johnson, E.H. McDowell, Robert J. Nash, Harold Williams, Robert Wilson, and Robert Coles. A cruise to the Bahamas a few months later brought together twelve of the founders and their wives, for the group's second meeting. Starting then, the wives would play a crucial role in running the organization through their support of their husbands' assignments.



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... as a profession, architecture had not distinguished itself by its social and civic contributions to the civil rights movement.



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