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Benefits

▸ Members Discounts and Exclusive Event Offerings:
  ▸ Educational Presentations
  ▸ Conferences
  ▸ Symposia & Panel Discussions
  ▸ Architectural Tours
  ▸ Services Information
  ▸ Bi-Monthly E-Bulletin with member only information and announcements
  ▸ Discounted Classes at UCLA Extension for Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Design

▸ Networking, Referrals & Job Posting Opportunities

▸ Mentoring and Mutual Support

▸ Students and emerging or returning professionals can gain valuable skills and experience by volunteering for our board or committees; manage projects or manage people, create presentations, organize events, or hone your public speaking and gain exposure to the architecture and design community

▸ ARE and LARE Study Groups

▸ AWA+D Salon: a Monthly Member Gathering of Lively Topical Discussions

▸ Opportunity to list your business in the AWA+D “Find a Professional” Directory
ABOUT AWA+D

The Association for Women in Architecture and Design is a Professional Society dedicated to supporting career and educational endeavors for women in these fields for almost one hundred years.

OUR MISSION
To advance and support Women in the allied fields of architecture and design. We encourage and foster high levels of achievement by providing
▷ Educational programming
▷ Mentoring
▷ Illuminating career opportunities for professional and students in these fields
From Four Women to a National Movement

The Association has a rich history dating back to 1915. The Founders were four female architectural students at Washington University in St. Louis: Mae Steinmesch, Helen Milius, Angela Burdeau and Jane Pelton. After being denied entry into the men’s architectural fraternity, these pioneering women organized their own society, called La Confrerie Alongine. Upon discovering interest from female architectural students at other campuses, in 1922 a national student association was formed that they called, Alpha Alpha Gamma. Mae Steinmesch recounted the forming of the organization, “In 1915 there were four girls in the School of Architecture at Washington University. Apprised of the fact there were other women enrolled at other Universities in the same field, we organized...”.

Between the years of 1924-1948 as female students graduated, they formed professional chapters to provide support for the challenges they faced as women entering the workforce. The professional society flourished and in 1948 at their National Conference in San Francisco, they voted to rename the professional chapters “The Association of Women in Architecture and Allied Arts (AWA).” Even at that time, it was apparent that women in similar fields were experiencing the same professional challenges, thus they expanded the name to additionally represent landscape architects, interior designers, artists and engineers.

By 1950 there were nearly twenty student and professional chapters across the country. The pressures of maintaining a national Association, including funding annual conventions and publishing a newsletter the Keystone, precipitated a re-organization in 1964 and thus the national organization dissolved. Professional and student chapters continued in cities and universities across the nation.

The Los Angeles Area Association

The Association for Women in Architecture – Los Angeles (AWA-LA) was one of the largest and continues to be the only surviving original chapter of AWA. In 1975 we wanted to better reflect the broadening of our membership to include anyone interested in supporting women in the professions, including men, so “for Women” was introduced to replace the original “of Women” in our name. Our organization’s legacy has had a significant national impact as its membership has always included incredibly renowned practitioners and leaders. Among our notable “firsts” is Norma Sklarek, credited with being the first African-American woman to receive her architectural license in New York and the first woman in our country to be elected a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). In 1985 Ms. Sklarek joined the Margot Siegel AIA Architecture firm, established by our
member, Margot Siegel, in 1971. Along with fellow AWA-LA member, Kate Diamond, the union of these three members created the largest woman-owned and operated firm of its time in the western United States: Siegel, Sklarek, & Diamond. Each of these women are a great inspiration to young women entering the profession. Sadly, Norma Sklarek passed away February 6, 2012.

**AWA+D Today**
Distinct in its equal inclusion of professionals from across the architectural and design fields our professional membership currently includes: Architects, Interior Designers, Graphic & Product Designers, Urban Planners, Environmental Designers, Landscape Architects & Designers, Building Engineers, Contractors and students enrolled in these fields. We recognize the tremendous advances and rapid changes impacting all design disciplines and we embrace the need for and benefit of greater collaboration and exchange. In 2012, to emphasize our commitment to furthering the cross-pollination of a range of design disciplines and to refocus and refresh the organization’s programming goals, AWA-LA formally became known as the Association for Women in Architecture + Design (AWA+D). We offer innovative programming not found elsewhere, as well as the time and space for women to contribute more to the design profession while becoming more successful individuals.
Board Organization

OFFICERS
- President
- Vice President
- Parliamentarian
- CFO
- Secretary

DIRECTORS
- Programs
- Systems
- Mentorship
- Communications
- Development
- Membership

CHAIRS
- Education
- Systems
- Mentorship
- Social Media
- Community Outreach
- Membership
- Salon
- Licensure
- Blog Editor
- 50/50
- Symposium
- Graphic Designer
- Advocacy
- Tours
- Newsletter Editor
- WikiD/Archivist
Member Stats

Yearly membership is **over 200** consisting of approximately:

**Diverse Fields**
- **15%** Landscape Architecture Professionals
- **15%** Others including engineers, urban planners, educators, artists, sustainability consultants, product representatives
- **25%** Interior Design Professionals
- **45%** Architecture Professionals

**Leaders**
Over one third of the membership are Principals, Business Owners, Partners and Senior Leadership

**Location**
95% of Members are located in LA County
In diverse communities ranging from the Valleys to South Bay, Santa Monica to Pasadena
Events (2013-2018)

Community Engagement

Advocacy Committee (monthly)
Womens March
Volunteer Days (series)
dwell (annual)
Salon (monthly)

Educational

ADA and the Law Webinar
BIM: An honest conversation
Building Seagram
Cocktails +
  Cocktails + Leadership
  Cocktails + Cash
  Cocktails + CEUs: Health, Safety + Wellness
  Cocktails + Codes
  Cocktails + Construction BIM
  Cocktails + Copyrights
  Cocktails + Credentials CEU: WELL
Code Update Seminar
Conversation with Clarke Knight
Cultural Frameworks in Indigenous Architecture
Femmes Fatales Pecha Kucha Night
  (with LA Forum) (annual)
Salon Deux
Women of Design: Breakfast with Inspiration
Speed Talks (with WiA, SoCalNOMA, AAA/e)
  Speed Talks: Ripple Effects

Meetings

Annual Meeting
Board Meeting (monthly)
Symposoium (annual) See pgs XX-XX

Mentoring

Lunch Mentoring
Mentoring Event: Family and Design – Can We Have it All?
Mentorship Event: Mid-Career Conversations
Mentorship Forum (series)
Mentorship Matchmaking Event (series)
Round Table Mentoring (with WiA)
Speed Mentoring
Stand Out From the Crowd Portfolio Review
Mixers
ARE(2) / LARE Launch Party
AWA+D Leadership Mixer
Cocktail + Fundraiser for Nina Briggs’ Documentary “Practitioners”
Cocktails + Headshots
Dekton Wine + Cheese Event
Julia Morgan Legacy Event
Holiday Mixer (with WiA, ASID Pasadena, and NAWICLA)
Member Mixers
Triple Mixer: A Night of Speed Talks (with WiA, SoCalNOMA)
Spring Member Mixer
95th Anniversary Summer Soiree

Tours
Abramson Teiger Architects, Office + Project Tour
Ace Hotel Theater
Architecture of Cuba + Office Tour, MGS Architecture
Columbia Square
Elevon Campus
Emerson College
Gable House
Global Citizen: The Architecture of Moshe Safdie
Gulmac LA Office
Natural History Museum - North Campus
Santa Barbara: City’s Public Market, County Courthouse, the historic Mission, El Encanto + unique newer projects
Sheats-Goldstein Residence
Studio Argente
SWA Group Studio
THE REEF
Wilshire Boulevard Temple

Study Groups
ARE Weekly Study Group – Overlap Study: Structural
LARE Study Group

Workshops
Architectural Photography
Coffee + Concrete
Face Your Fears: Harnessing Your Inner Public Speaker
Face Your Fears 2: Proposal Writing Workshop
Herstories (series)
Urban Draw (series)
Understanding the WELL Building Standard – Full Day Workshop
#wikiD (series)
#wikiD with Guest Speaker Julia Donoho, AIA, Esq
Writing for Visual Thinkers
Benefits: premium sponsorship package, which includes:

- Listing on AWA+D Website for fiscal year
- Recognition in all printed materials and in the AWA+D Newsletter, feature on AWA+D social network postings
- Full paid membership for five persons
- $75 professional membership (vs $95 original price) for all the new members
- Free admission for all AWA+D events for five persons
- Complimentary job posting for 6 months
- Special mention (via signage) at all sponsored events
- Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events

DIAMOND

Donation amount per year: $5,000
Benefits:

- Full paid membership for two persons
- Full paid admission for five tickets to the Annual Symposium
- Special mention (via signage) at all sponsored events and AWA+D social network postings
- Listing on AWA+D Website for fiscal year
- Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events
- $75 Professional membership (vs $95 original price) for up to 20 new members
- Complimentary job posting for 3 months

PLATINUM

Donation amount per year: $3,000
Benefits:
▷ Recognition in all printed materials
▷ Full paid membership for one person
▷ Full paid admission for two tickets to the Annual Symposium
▷ Special mention at all sponsored events
▷ $75 Professional membership (vs. $95 original price) for up to 15 new members
▷ Listing on AWA+D Website for fiscal year (size appropriate)
▷ Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events

GOLD
Donation amount per year: $1,500
**Benefits:**

- Recognition in all printed and electronic materials relating to the event
- Full paid admission for 4 tickets
- Special mention at the sponsored event
- Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events

**EVENT SPONSOR GOLD**

Donation amount per event of: **$1,200**
**Benefits:**
- Recognition in all printed and electronic materials relating to the event
- Full paid admission for 2 tickets
- Special mention at the sponsored event
- Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events

**EVENT SPONSOR SILVER**

Donation amount per event of: **$500**
Benefits:

- Recognition in all printed and electronic materials relating to the event
- Full paid admission for 1 tickets
- Special mention at the sponsored event
- Optional company-supplied promotional materials for display at all sponsored events

EVENT SPONSOR BRONZE  Donation amount per event of: $250
Contemporary architects and designers have unprecedented choice regarding how to practice. While such an open field allows for more personal freedom, finding an inspiring career model—or creating your own—can be challenging. This year’s AWA+D SYMPOSIUM aims to showcase different paths to professional practice, as well as highlight some of the considerations involved in shaping a career that feels both authentic and fulfilling. One panel discussion will address what it is like to practice in small, medium, and large architecture firms, and to sometimes find yourself jumping between them. Another will focus on design-oriented practitioners navigating alternative career paths. Following the panels, breakout sessions led by the panelists and other industry representatives will continue the conversation on a more intimate level.

PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

S/M/L: Different Scales of Architectural Practice
At a time when “being an architect” has a more diverse definition than ever, it is no surprise that one size does not fit all. The scale of practice in which we choose to work has tremendous impact on our exposure to different kinds of projects, responsibilities, learning processes, and firm cultures. In our first panel, women leading architecture firms of varied sizes will compare and contrast their different paths and perspectives.

Navigating “the Swerve” in Design Practice
In her autobiography Becoming, Michelle Obama describes transforming herself from a lifelong “box-checker” into a “swerver,” someone who gave herself permission to take risks and shift her professional trajectory away from one based on abstract notions of achievement in favor of more personal satisfaction. Many of us in the architecture and design industries have also found success and fulfillment in deviating from traditional practice. In our second panel, we will hear from a few of these “swervers” about what it takes to forge a unique career path, and what they learned along the way.
Panelists

Hsinming Fung, FAIA
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Partner and Design Director
Mithun | Hodgetts + Fung

Lise Bornstein, AIA
MODERATOR
Partner, Killefer Flammang Architects

Audrey Sato
MODERATOR
Principal Architect
Sato Architects, Inc.

Hsinming Fung’s design practice is energized by her lifelong commitment to the arts and education. As Partner and Design Director of the newly merged Mithun | Hodgetts + Fung, Hsinming brings purpose, creativity and high production standards to an architectural practice widely admired for innovation and experimentation. Among her recent projects are a new performing arts center at CalArts and the design of the Chapel of the North American Martyrs in Sacramento. In addition, Ming was the recipient of the Rome Prize Fellowship in Design and was appointed by President Clinton as Council Member of the National Endowment of the Arts. In 2016 she was elected to Fellow by the AIA, and has served as President of the AIA/Los Angeles and President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. As a leading figure in architectural education, she has lectured internationally, and has held twice the Eero Saarinen Chair at Yale University and the Herbert Baumer Distinguished Professorship at Ohio State University. Currently, Fung teaches at SCI-Arc and serves as Director of International Programs. Past positions at SCI-Arc include Director of Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Programs.

As a partner at KFA, Lise is in charge of project concept and design; incorporating a love of art and community while developing client goals and vision. Focused on creating projects with a big design idea, Lise has managed projects with complex entitlement packages, multiple funding sources and significant community outreach while working collaboratively with clients, consultants, contractors and in-house teams.

For Lise, the ever-evolving LA cityscape is reimagining itself yet again amidst a new era of transformation in communities and the way people live and work. She believes this growth will lead KFA to new and exciting projects with creative partners, while offering new opportunities in urban infill development. She serves on the board for Step Up on Second and the board for the Association for Women in Architecture Foundation.

Audrey is the principal architect at Sato Architects, Inc. and host of the XX|LA Architects Podcast. Audrey founded Sato Architects, Inc in 2010, and she specializes in residential projects ranging from single-family remodels to small multi-family housing developments. Additionally, Audrey has experience working with notable historic buildings, and has inspected over 100 properties on behalf of the Mills Act program for the City of Los Angeles. Audrey’s love of architecture has increasingly led her toward roles in which she can impact the future of the profession. She has served as a lecturer in the Architecture Department at Cal Poly Pomona for five years, and advocates for a more equitable profession through her work as Vice-President of the Association for Women in Architecture and Design (AWA+D). Her show, the XX|LA Architects Podcast, features honest and in-depth conversations with leading women in architecture, to present a well-rounded view of leadership in and around our field. Besides architecture, Audrey’s interests include surfing, sogetsu ikebana, gardening, and her dog, Charlie Brown.
Panelists

**Emmanuelle Bourlier**
Co-Founder, CEO
Panelite

Emmanuelle Bourlier is the co-founder and CEO of Panelite. Having pioneered first translucent composite in 1998, Emmanuelle’s focus is on material innovation, specifically on the energy-saving, net-zero potential of honeycomb technology through daylighting, solar shading and greenhouse gas reduction. Panelite works with leading firms including OMA, Herzog & de Meuron, Gensler, HOK, and Diller Scofidio Renfro, for clients such as JetBlue, Google, Garmin, and Audi. Applications include corporate offices, hospitals, schools, transit hubs and universities.

Prior to founding Panelite, Emmanuelle was a designer at Groves & Co in New York and Christian Biecher Architectes in Paris. She holds a B.A. in Architecture from UC Berkeley, an M. Arch from Columbia University and a Certificate in General Management from UCLA’s Anderson School of Business (Executive Program). Emmanuelle is a creative, driven and collaborative leader who seeks opportunities for growth and positive impact. She has worked in Europe and the United States, demonstrating a forthright approach to leadership and an ability to balance visionary thinking with business fundamentals. She lives and skateboards in Los Angeles with her 9 year old son Nicolas.

**Anne Fletcher**, AIA, LEED AP
Managing Principal, Board Member, and Management Board
HOK, Los Angeles

Anne Fletcher leads HOK Los Angeles as Managing Principal, where she is responsible for the strategic direction and overall performance of the multidisciplinary practice and sits on the board of directors of the 1700+ person firm. An architect with over two decades of project management and design experience, she has led teams for many significant projects including dozens of mixed-use, hospitality, residential and transportation projects. Before relocating to Los Angeles in late 2017, she ran the HOK New York mixed- use practice and led The New LaGuardia Airport Masterplan, guiding the complex design and implementation of over $9.5 billion of simultaneous redevelopment.

**Monika Haefelfinger**, SIA
President
XTEN Architecture

Born in Basel, Switzerland, Monika Haefelfinger’s interest in art and design deepened during an apprenticeship with her father’s architecture firm in Sissach, Switzerland. Shortly after, she moved to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California, and graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree and Robert Allen Rogaff Award in 1992; two years later, she completed her Master of Science Degree in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University. Following her studies, she worked for Basel architectural office Herzog and de Meuron in Basel, Switzerland, and played a key role in the building several award-winning buildings including the Institute for Hospital Pharmaceuticals Rossettiareal in Basel, Switzerland.

Monika returned to the US to work for DMJM/Keating on notable high-rise building projects in Asia before establishing her own design studio. In 2000, XTEN Architecture was born in partnership with her partner and late husband Austin Kelly. Monika Haefelfinger currently lives in Los Angeles where she leads the firm with XTEN Principal, Scott Utterstrom.
Panelists

Terri J Moore is a Principal at moore+friesl, a design and fabrication consultancy based in Los Angeles. The firm specializes in projects with complex material and fabrication requirements at all scales. To produce their projects, the firm works closely with a network of fabricators in the USA, Canada, and Europe who specialize in a wide variety of materials. Their work has been featured in various publications, including Contract Magazine, Interior Design Magazine, and Surface & Panel.

Terri Moore co-founded moore+friesl with her husband Marcus Friesl. Terri Moore holds a Bachelor of Architecture from SCI-Arc and is a licensed architect in California. Terri’s prior experience includes high-profile healthcare, civic and institutional projects.

Patricia Rhee, FAIA, is a Partner at Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney Architects, and has been practicing architecture for 20 years. Patricia received her Master’s degree in Architecture from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Patricia was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2019, one of 21 women of nationally. She recently completed USC’s Ross Minority Program in Real Estate. She is currently on the Board of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce as well as the Economic Development Committee and recipient of the 2017 Culver City Women in Business Council Visionary Award. Patricia was also a Founding Co-Chair of the AIA Los Angeles Women in Architecture committee. She was recently a panelist for “Groundbreaking Women in Construction” with the National Association of Women in Construction. In 2015, her firm received the 2015 National AIA Firm Award, one of the industry’s highest honors. Her project experience ranges from civic to institutional and commercial developments of all scales and multiple delivery methods including design-build. Patricia believes that architecture should facilitate community gathering, bringing people together in daylit spaces, encouraging dialog and exchange.

Leslie Sydnor, AIA, is a Director at Cumming Corporation and is currently a program project manager at Long Beach Unified School District. She has been interested in making better places for the underserved since beginning her career in architecture in the late 80s. After graduating from Yale with a B.A. in Architecture, her first job was designing housing for homeless families for the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development. After receiving her M.Arch from UCLA, Leslie has spent most of her career involved in the design and construction of public schools. As a product of a New York City public school education she is very invested in the improvement of learning environments that can serve disadvantaged and impacted communities. In 2013 after over 20 years practicing architecture in both small and large architecture firms Leslie left traditional practice to work on the owner’s side, working for community colleges and urban school districts.

Study after study proves that diversity improves the bottom line. Leslie believes that viability and mentorship are keys to the diversification and future strength of the architecture profession. She currently serves as a mentor to several developing professionals and is a director on the board of AIA LA.
AWA+D’s 2018 symposium event **INTERSECTIONALITY** aims to catalyze the potentials of intersectional feminism within the Los Angeles design community. The curated panel discussion will strive to identify intersectional methodologies for professional and creative work, set new ambitions for collaborative models of practice, and advance the implications of inclusion in our field.
Panelists

LORI BROWN

Co-founder Archite XX,
Professor of Architecture Syracuse University

Lori Brown’s creative practice examines the relationships between architecture and social justice. She is the author of Contested Spaces: Abortion Clinics, Women’s Shelters and Hospitals and the editor of Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture. Her two current book projects include Birthing Centers, Borders and Bodies and co-editing the Bloomsbury Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture with Dr. Karen Burns. She is the co-founder and leads ArchiteXX, a New York City based women and architecture group working to bridge the academy and practice. She is Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University and a licensed architect in New York state.

GABRIELLE BULLOCK, FAIA, NOMA, IIDA, LEED AP

Principal, Director of Global Diversity Perkins+Will

Gabrielle oversees Perkins+Will’s Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement program, which works to support and strengthen a firmwide culture that embraces a diversity of people, colors, creeds, credos, talents, thoughts, and ideas. Her unique role as an award-winning principal and the firm’s Director of Global Diversity enables her to combine her passion for architecture and social justice to effect positive change at a micro and macro level. Gabrielle is regularly sought out around the world for her leadership and expertise in issues of social equity in architecture, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and physical and mental ability.

Gabrielle has spent her career focusing on complex and socially significant projects in the US and globally including healthcare and university projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Her passion is centered on the planning and management of socially responsible and culturally responsive architecture.

Gabrielle has been a key player in Perkins+Will’s success for nearly three decades. She’s worked in both the New York and Los Angeles offices, and became the first African-American and first woman to rise to the position of Managing Director of the Los Angeles office. Over the course of her career, she has led numerous complex and high-profile projects, including the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and one of the largest building projects ever completed for the University of California system.

Gabrielle graduated in 1984 from the Rhode Island School of Design with degrees in fine arts and architecture, becoming the second African-American woman in history to earn an architecture degree from that university. In 2014, she was elected by her peers as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and served on the AIA’s Equity in Architecture Commission. She is a member of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), a past board member of the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, and the AIA LA Center for Architecture and Urban Design Los Angeles. Gabrielle was recently named International Interior Design Association (IIDA) President-Elect 2017-2018.
Panelists

DANA CUFF
Professor of Architecture UCLA, Director of cityLAB

Dana Cuff is a professor of architecture at the UCLA where she is also Director of cityLAB, an award-winning think tank that explores design innovations in the emerging metropolis (www.cityLAB.aud.ucla.edu). Since receiving her Ph.D. in Architecture from Berkeley, Cuff has published and lectured widely about urban design, the architectural profession, and affordable housing. Working with California legislators in 2017, she was co-author of a State bill to encourage accessory dwelling units. She is author of several books, including The Provisional City about housing in Los Angeles, and Fast-Forward Urbanism. She heads a major program at UCLA called the Urban Humanities Initiative, funded by the Mellon Foundation.

MILTON S. F. CURRY
Della & Harry MacDonald Dean’s Chair
University of Southern California School of Architecture

Milton S. F. Curry holds the Della and Harry MacDonald Dean’s Chair at the University of Southern California School of Architecture. He was associate dean for academic affairs and strategic initiatives at the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture & Planning from 2010 to 2017, a tenured Associate Professor of Architecture and an affiliate faculty in the Department of Romance Literatures and Languages. Dean Curry was also project director of the Michigan/Mellon Project on Egalitarianism and the founder/director of the Michigan Architecture Prep enrichment program for high school students in Detroit.

Dean Curry has held teaching positions at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Arizona State University. He was Associate Professor of Architecture at Cornell from 2002-2010, and Assistant Professor from 1995-2002. Dean Curry has coordinated graduate and undergraduate design studios at all levels, and has taught theory-related seminars on architecture and cultural theory, urbanism and housing throughout his 24-year academic career.

With a consistent interrogation of urbanism, modernity, and racialized thinking, Dean Curry has amassed a body of work that sets out to imagine an “architecture race theory.” His writings and lectures, edited volumes, and creative works address race as part of the project of modernity and thus interconnected to its philosophical and aesthetic underpinnings and imaginings—including modern architecture/urbanism, social constructions of identity, and notions of the enlightenment and egalitarianism.

In 2008 he founded CriticalProductive Journal, to focus on issues of architecture, urbanism and cultural theory; and published two issues in 2011 (V1.1: Theoretic Action) and 2013 (V2.1: Post-Capitalist City), with new issues forthcoming starting in 2018. Dean Curry lectures widely and is currently at work on two book manuscripts that explore architecture race theory and contemporary urbanism, in addition to other creative projects.
Panelists

SARAH LORENZEN, AIA MODERATOR
Partner TOLO Architecture,
Professor of Architecture Cal Poly Pomona,
Resident Director Neutra VDL Studio & Residence

Sarah maintains one foot in practice and one in academia. She is a partner at TOLO Architecture (previously Peter Tolkin Architecture), architecture professor and former chair at Cal Poly Pomona, and resident director of the Neutra VDL Studio and Residences.

Sarah spent her first eighteen years living in Mexico City. At 18 she left Mexico to attend college in the U.S. to pursue a BFA in Drawing at Smith College and at the Atlanta College of Art. After graduating art school, she broadened her interest to architecture, receiving an M.Arch I from Georgia Institute of Technology and later an M.Arch II in Metropolitan, Research & Design from Sci-Arc. During her early career, Sarah worked on the design of research and technology buildings at Lord, Arch and Sargent Architecture in Atlanta and at MBT Architecture (now Perkins + Will Architecture) in San Francisco. Sarah has taught urban design and architecture courses at Cal Poly Pomona (2005-present) and at Georgia Tech (in 2000). In 2011-12 Sarah spent a sabbatical at TU Delft in the Netherlands conducting research on the influences of technology on mapping and urban development. In 2015 Sarah was honored by AIA LA with educator of the year.

IRMA RAMIREZ
Professor of Architecture Cal Poly Pomona

Irma Ramirez is a Professor of Architecture at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Her expertise is in the areas of housing and Urban Design focusing on social and cultural factors and community based design. Professor Ramirez holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master of Architecture and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles. Professor Ramirez has won national planning awards from the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners, and has lectured internationally in Mexico and China while developing working and teaching relationships with North China University of Technology in Beijing. She has published work in the area of urban housing and urbanism with a focus on social constructions of space and vernacular sustainable systems. She dedicates much of her practice and teaching to developing housing and urban methodologies for displaced communities in Mexico and to teaching interdisciplinary urban design studios in China and Japan.