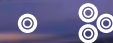


the **NATIONAL**  
**ORGANIZATION**  
of **MINORITY**  
**ARCHITECTS**



M A G A Z I N E



**Birmingham  
Conference Recap**  
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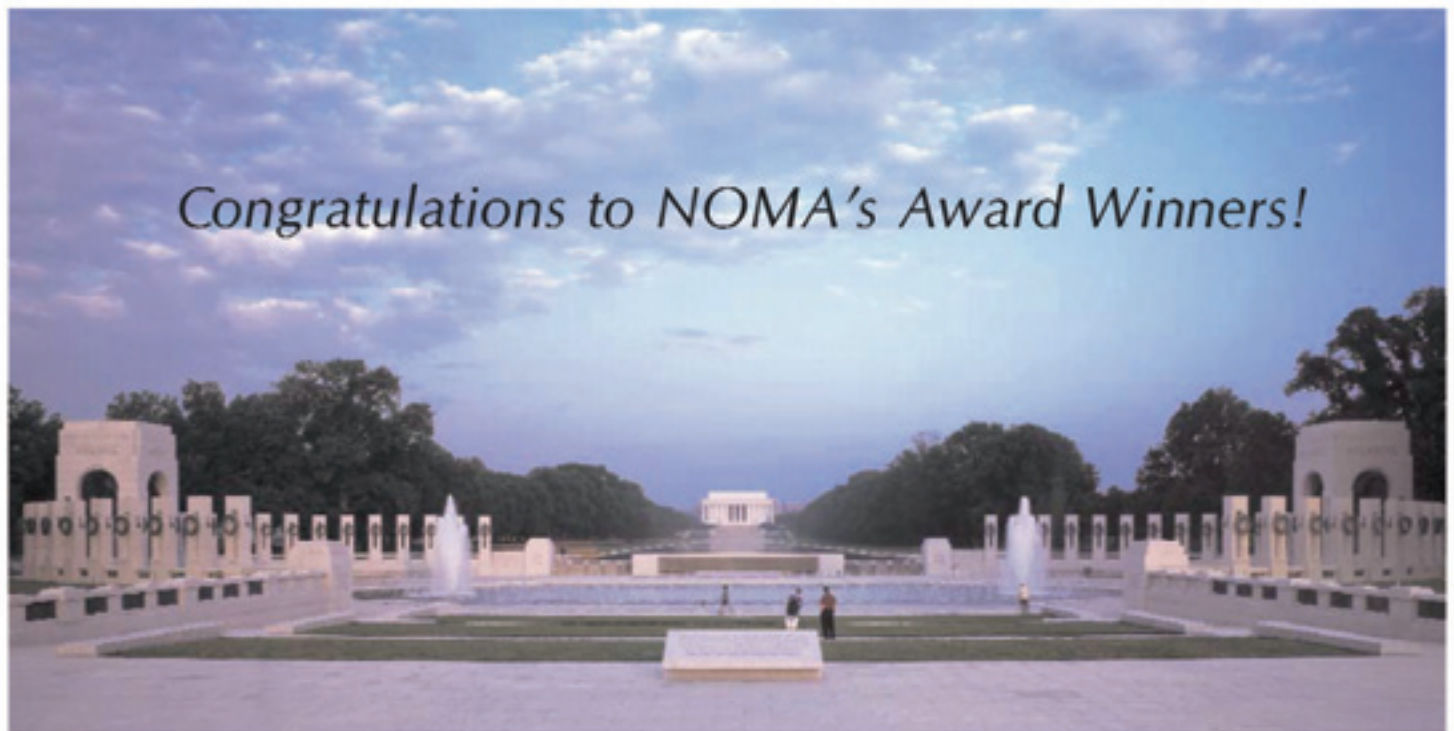


**NOMA Members  
Celebrate Design  
Excellence**  
page 16



**NOMA Comes Home  
to New Orleans**  
page 23

*Congratulations to NOMA's Award Winners!*



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The NOMA Magazine has a reader base of 20,000 that includes 1,500 licensed African-American Architects and hundreds of other minority architects dispersed throughout all level of government, the corporate world, institutions, and privately owned professional practices. Many of these men and women have final authority to specify a combined total of billions of dollars annually in construction materials, building equipment, fixtures, and furnishings. Many are owners and partners in architectural firms that range in size from 130 persons to sole proprietor. Additionally, Contemporary Architect Magazine is distributed to the Congressional Black Caucus and NOMA Counterpart Professional Organizations in the fields of law, medicine, real estate development, engineering & technology, film, television, music, general entertainment and more. Others include over 5,000 graduate intern architects, 5,000 architecture students, and thousands of affiliated professionals. If you wish to place your ad in Contemporary Architect Magazine or on the NOMA website, please contact use at [info@noma.net](mailto:info@noma.net).

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**SAVE THE DATE**

October 12-15, 2006. The Argent Hotel, San Francisco, CA.  
**NOMA Conference**  
Hosted by the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, SFNOMA.  
For more information please contact us at [info@sfnoma.org](mailto:info@sfnoma.org) or visit [www.sfnoma.org/noc2006](http://www.sfnoma.org/noc2006).



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NOMA President, James R. Washington, AIA/NOMA

"NOMA IS STEPPING FORWARD IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA TO PROVIDE HELP AND SUPPORT WHERE NEEDED."

After having served two years as President, I can happily report that NOMA is in an excited state of growth and relevance to our members and constituents. Your interest and involvement in NOMA is what makes our efforts, activities, and initiatives possible. Furthermore, your active participation allows all of us to enjoy a culture of "Continuous Improvement". To all whose dues are current, I want to give thanks for your membership; and to our other colleagues, I encourage and invite you to join NOMA and become part of our commitment to make a positive impact on the profession, our communities, and the built environment. NOMA is stepping forward in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita to provide help and support where needed. The future outlook for the people and places that were devastated by the storms will depend on the sustained efforts of many organizations and individuals. NOMA is uniquely qualified to represent the interests of victims who historically have been marginalized from mainstream society. Accordingly, I am appealing to our members to become active and play a role in shaping the future of a new, diverse and inclusive Gulf Coast. What NOMA will become is largely determined, as it always has, by you, our members. But before we travel too far into the future, I want to share some of my thoughts about our recent annual conference.

The National Organization of Minority Architects held its "2005 International Congress & Exposition" in Birmingham, Alabama. All in attendance experienced a wonderful three days and nights, and I have to say if you were not there you really

missed a great conference. There were luncheons celebrating the newly registered architects and honoring NOMA's own Fellows in the American Institute of Architects, an active and productive Exhibitor's Fair, and content-rich continuing education seminars that once again formed the foundation for this year's incredibly successful conference. Our annual Awards Banquet was, as expected, an evening of elegance that celebrated the design excellence of our members. The evening featured a keynote address given by U.S. Representative Artur Davis, in which he addressed the importance of education, career advancement, and preparing the youth of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. In addition, he spoke passionately of the need for social justice, and why organizations such as NOMA need to exist. I was filled with pride the entire time. Many thanks go to BNOMA.

I am proud of the Birmingham chapter for their excellence and professionalism in successfully hosting this year's conference. I am especially proud of what we have accomplished as a Board,. In particular, I would like to commend the women and men who are making good things happen in the name of NOMA. If you think Birmingham was great, wait until you see what we are planning for next year's conference, when we take things to another level in San Francisco. Plan to be there and help NOMA continue to grow and serve its membership.

Looking ahead at the immediate future, my first  
*(Continued on page 8)*

## BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE REPORT



The "Bro's Arts" Ball is an annual highlight of the NOMA Conference, and 2005 was no exception.

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Architects across the country are still buzzing about the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Congress and Exposition of the National Organization of Minority Architects. The theme for the 2005 event was "A New Beginning," an appropriate catch phrase for the conference's first meeting in Birmingham and the largest in the organization's history.

The conference offered 32 professional workshops and 8 student classes to more than 400 attendees in three days. Workshops featured 67 panelists, and 21 exhibitors set up at the conference. Some of the more prestigious lecturers included Charles F. McAfee, CEO and Principal of

CFM; Calvin Kam, doctoral fellow at Stanford University Center for Integrated Facility Engineering and a Visiting Fellow at GSA Office of the Chief Architect; as well as residential and retail designer Jack Travis, who has worked for notable clients such as Spike Lee, Wesley Snipes and Giorgio Armani. Several Alabama experts also participated in the conference including Christopher Giattina, lecture on Sustainability; Bruce Lindsey, head of the School of Architecture at Auburn University, lecture on Auburn Rural Studio; Joseph P. Giattina, Jr., president of Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects, Inc. discussion on Equity in the Accreditation Process and

*(Continued on page 6)*

# PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

**1**—Architects David Kirk, AIA/NOMA, Derek Howard, NOMA, owner of DH Architects in Fairfield, Ohio, and Wade Price, NOMA from the Columbus-based firm Moody-Nolan Architects were featured in an article appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer.

**2**—Philip Freelon, FAIA/NOMA, principal and owner of the Freelon Group Architects, located in Durham, North Carolina is featured in the March 2006 issue of Metropolis Magazine.



**2**

**3**—Architect Sharon Sutton, FAIA, currently a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, presented the keynote speech at February's AIA Grassroots conference in Washington, DC. Ms. Sutton's remarks, which dealt head-on with issues of structural inequality of race in the profession of architecture, can be found at:

<http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek06/0224/0224sutton.cfm>.

**4**—Architect Ron Lipford, AIA/NOMA, principal and owner of AREL Architects, located in Clinton, Maryland is featured in the March issue of Black Enterprise Magazine.

**5**—Michael Marshall, AIA/NOMA, principal and owner of Michael Marshall Architecture is currently under contract to design a posh Rock Creek Residence for Black Entertainment Television's CEO, Debra Lee. The firm has received Commission of Fine Arts concept design approval and Advisory Neighborhood Commission

approval for the design of an "extension" to a 1939 Edward Durell Stone residence adjacent to Rock Creek Valley.

**6**—Genell Anderson, AIA/NOMA, with the AMAR Group was recently featured in "This Old House" T.V. dc rowhouse.

**7**—Kathryn Prigmore, FAIA/NOMA, project manager with the Alexandria, Virginia office of HDR, Inc., and DC AIA Board member received a National Women of Color Lifetime Achievement Award at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Women of Color in Technology Awards Conference in October.

**8**—Charleston, South Carolina-based architects Huff + Gooden, in association with BEA and landscape architect Walter Hood were recently selected from among a distinguished short list of teams to design the Virginia Key Beach Museum in Miami, Florida. The project is intended to be home to a cultural center and civil rights museum. Prior to the final selection, the jury consisting of Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Juan Antonio Bueno, Gary Hack, Richard Dozier, Richard Heisenbottle, Toni Griffin & Maurice Cox had short-listed a number of talented teams, including Freelon/Judson, & WRT, Miami; AARIS, Creative Front (Shawn Rickenbacker) & Julie Bargman.

**9**—Seattle-based writer Victoria Kaplan, Ph D. has completed a book titled, "Structural Inequality: Black Architects in the United States." The book is the result of interviews conducted by Ms. Kaplan with 20 Black Architects from around the country. The Forward is written by AIA 2007 President, R.K. Stewart, with cover art by former Howard University professor, James L. Wells.



**5**



**1**



**3**



**4**

*Congratulations go out to all of the People Making News in this issue of the NOMA Quarterly Magazine. If you or other NOMA members are making news, please let us know by forwarding information to [info@noma.net](mailto:info@noma.net)*

## BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE REPORT, CON'T.

"I HAVE TO SAY IF YOU WERE NOT THERE YOU REALLY MISSED A GREAT CONFERENCE," SAID NOMA PRESIDENT JAMES R. WASHINGTON

(Continued from page 4)

Team; and Cheryl Morgan, director of Auburn University's Urban Studio in Birmingham, insight on Portfolio Critique I.

"We had more seminars and more continuing education credits than NOMA has ever had at an event," said Creig Hoskins, South Region Vice-President for NOMA and a principal with Giattina Fisher Aycock. A highlight of the conference took place when the NOMA Fellows in the American Institute of Architects were honored. Distinguished Senegalese architect, Pierre Gutiabe Atepa, who traveled the farthest distance to attend the conference, addressed the Friday luncheon audience. Mr. Atepa transmitted the best wishes of Senegal's President, and extended an invitation to NOMA to convene its annual conference in Senegal. Hoskins lobbied to have the conference in Birmingham and recruited many of the workshop leaders. He also arranged tours of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the downtown loft district as well as a golf outing at Highland Park Golf and Racquet Club and a semi-formal awards banquet at Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, the hub for the three-day event.

"I have to say if you were not there you really missed a great conference," said NOMA

President James R. Washington.

"I was filled with pride the entire time. Many thanks go to the Birmingham chapter of NOMA."

NOMA's 2006 conference will be held in San Francisco, and 2005 attendees agree that the Birmingham event has set the bar for it and all future NOMA events. "That was a brilliant conference," wrote architect Heather Philip O'Neal of HPP International Architect in New York in a letter to Hoskins. "The Sky is our limit for the next one." 



*A proud moment during the Birmingham conference when NOMA honored its members who have been elevated to the prestigious level of Fellow within the AIA*



*Pierre Gutiabe Atepa*

## REGIONAL UPDATES

### NOMA Western Region Update



The Western Region is in the midst of a major effort to double its membership. Its other major focus is to assist in NOMA's National Convention to be held in San Francisco, California, October 12 through the 15, 2006 at the Argent Hotel. Next quarter, the West Region plans to introduce its first regional Newsletter. Please contact [westregion@noma.net](mailto:westregion@noma.net) if you are interested in contributing to the Newsletter or towards the National Convention. Other Regional updates include:

LA NOMA held a Holiday Reception at former NOMA President Drake Dillard's home which honored NOMA Founder Harold Williams, FAIA. Roland A. Wiley, NOMA, of RAW International

was also recognized for his appointment to the Los Angeles Conservancy. In attendance were NOMA Legacy members Norma Schlarek, FAIA, and John D. Williams, former NOMA Vice President. The evening was held as a kick-off event to foster old and new members. The event was planned by long time member Montelle Mitchell.

Phoe NOMA continues to hold monthly meetings as it pushes towards full chapter status. Arizona offers some very unique opportunities in an economy that has recorded constant growth for a decade. With two schools of architecture, the potential for NOMAS is great. The chapter's programs include community involve-

## REGIONAL UPDATES, CON'T.

(Continued from page 6)

ment, seminars on marketing, trade show participation, and a school mentoring program.

SD NOMA has begun exploratory meetings to obtain full chapter status by hosting small events for its potential members. Because San Diego has a strong military presence and therefore, the chapter would bring a unique makeup of military, public and private Architects.

Denver NOMA is attempting to kick-start its chapter by using the impact of David Adjaye's work for the City's new Art Center. Its hosting small gatherings of both Principals and interested parties to discuss how NOMA members can become visible.

Seattle NOMA remains in a re-establishment position lead by a group that includes two FAIA members of NOMA. Although small in numbers, their impact on the City remains strong.

SF NOMA as Convention host has expanded its base to include all five schools of architecture in the Northern California area. The new NOMAS members will participate in the student competition. The competition looks to be better than ever with a unique program and judging criteria. It's web page is up and running at [www.sfnoma.org](http://www.sfnoma.org)

### NOMA Midwest Region Update



Presently the Midwest Region is working on several fronts:

Ohio Southwest NOMA Chapter is working with the AIA Cincinnati to develop a summer architectural camp focused on architecture. In a meeting on Feb. 16, 2006 it was decided to make the camp a day camp instead of a week-long camp. The camp will offer scholarships for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade inter-city students.

Detroit – Several NOMA members in Detroit are working to develop a NOMA Chapter in the

### NOMA Northeast Region Update

greater Detroit area. Any interested in working with the interest group should contact Rainy Hamilton.

St. Louis – Presently a group is working to re-initiate the chapter in St. Louis.

INOMA – INOMA recently participated in a Black History presentation on Black Creativity. This effort won the chapter an award in the Chicago area.

The Northeast Region has distributed its 2006 Event Calendar to all chapters. Next quarter, the NE Region plans to introduce its first Regional Newsletter. Please contact [northeastregion@noma.net](mailto:northeastregion@noma.net) if you are interested in writing for the newsletter. Other Regional news includes:

✦ DC NOMA continues to build its relationship with The National Trust for Historic Preservation by co-hosting a Black History Month Celebration on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Stephen Decatur House, a national historic landmark, in Washington, D.C. The celebration will include a lecture by John Wittington Franklin, *Chair, Maryland Commission on African-American History and Program Manager, National Museum of African American History and Culture*. Also, be on the watch for an article in *Homes of Color* magazine by DC NOMA officer Larry Jones and Dreck Wilson on the chapter's continuing focus on the works of architect Julian Abele.

✦ NYCOBA/NOMA is continuing its commitment to the NAACP ACT-SO program targeting high school students with interests in technology and science. Contact Heather O'Neal if you are interested in mentoring an ACT-So Participant in the New York area. More information is available at [http://www.naACP.org/programs/actso/actso\\_facts.html](http://www.naACP.org/programs/actso/actso_facts.html)

PhilaNOMA is slated to host the NOMA National Board in August for its 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting. PhilaNOMA has a full calendar of events for 2006 including "Adopt-A-School" week in March and a "Professional Development Seminar" in July.



(Continued on page 8)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CON'T

(Continued from page 4)

order of business as President of NOMA for 2006 will be to confirm the organization's agenda and direction for 2006 with the Board. Recent events have heightened the urgency that NOMA do what it is uniquely qualified to do best in the service of disenfranchised communities. The less fortunate among us deserve understanding, respect and support during this era of reconstructing the Gulf Coast and beyond. To do this, we must work with others to advance NOMA's Agenda, including, but not be limited to elected officials, civil rights groups, social and

civic organizations, and other organizations and people in our communities. We must provide support and employ strategies that will raise the number of Registered Minority Architects. Finally, we must insure that NOMA's Board will be a fully functional management and operational focal point of this organization. In the meantime, NOMA will continue to welcome your suggestions and recommendations on ways to move the organization forward along a path of relevance and excellence within the profession and the many diverse communities that we serve. □

## REGIONAL UPDATES, CON'T

(Continued from page 7)

### NOMA South Region Update

A meeting was held on February 3rd in Boston for people interested in re-establishing a NOMA professional chapter and starting a NOMAS student chapter in the city. Michael Fergus, Andre Vega, and the current leader of the Black Architect's Forum, Jay Lee, organized the well-attended meeting. The Boston Architectural Center (BAC) has also expressed its support of the chapter. There are already plans to have a follow up meeting in the next several weeks.

The South Region has several cities that are diligently working toward establishing a chapter. The goal is to have all these cities chartered by the Los Angeles AIA Convention in June meeting. If you are interested in starting a chapter please contact [southregion@noma.net](mailto:southregion@noma.net) or [choskins@qfainc.com](mailto:choskins@qfainc.com). Other Regional news includes:

BNOMA along with The Birmingham Arts Club and the Smithfield Community celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the A.M. Brown House. The A.M. Brown house is the official headquarters of the Birmingham NOMA chapter. The celebration began February 26<sup>th</sup> and continued thru March 5<sup>th</sup>. BNOMA had an open house March 2, and honored William Gilchrist on becoming FAIA. Several local BNOMA firms exhibited their work.

TexasNOMA-Dallas in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Tejas Council recently concluded their second annual Cookie Box Creations, where they were judged as the "People's Choice Award" winner. "This is a great and fun activity for girls interested in a career in architecture or engi-

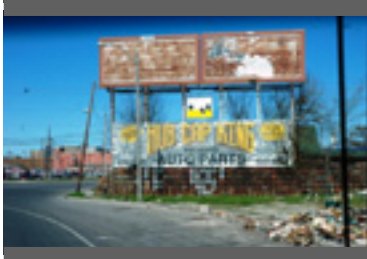
neering" as stated by Charyl McAfee-Duncan. Other members of the team were Girl Scouts: Sessalli Obasuyi, Elizabeth Seidemann and Brooke Meyer; NOMA members Valerie Evans and Shani Dixon. The finished product was on display February 12-26 at Valley View Center Mall, Dallas Texas.

Memphis hosted NOMA National Board 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter meeting. Thanks to Self Tucker Architects for their generosity. We had a wonderful turnout that included professionals, college and high school students. Memphis is continuing to move toward establishing a chapter.

Nashville has begun discussion (three meeting this year) on becoming a NOMA chapter. There are 12 individuals that include minority architects, interns and design professionals. South Region VP Creig Hoskins will be attending their next scheduled meeting to discuss with them how to run and maintain a chapter.

Orlando will be hosting the NOMA National Board meeting in April. The architects in the Orlando area have begun an all out blitz to become chartered by the time the National Board meets there in April. As a reminder Orlando will also host NOMA 2007 International Conference & Exposition at Walt Disney World Resort October 24-28, 2007. □

*Remember- always tell someone about NOMA ...*





## EDITOR'S PAGE

BY R. STEVEN LEWIS

*"Hey Ref, TIME OUT!" This game is getting way out of hand, and we need a moment to regroup, assess our situation, design a dazzling play and get back onto the field and execute. See Coach, they came out of the huddle and lined-up in an 'Information Overload' formation, which totally confused our offense. As it stands, they've been called for Illegal Procedure, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, and Too Many Men on the Field.."*

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the country was reminded yet again of the unconscionable plight of America's poor and disenfranchised citizens. Glued to our televisions during the days and weeks following the storm, we painfully observed the results of what Earl Graves, publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine, described as this administration's latest version of a long standing policy of benign neglect of the "poor, black, and voiceless". In a Black Enterprise Magazine editorial appearing in the November 2005 issue, Mr. Graves further asserts that the problems exposed by Katrina in fact exist in many cities throughout the country, where "millions of families struggling to survive are disproportionately black and underemployed, undereducated, and underserved." In fact, a huge gap in understanding of what the conditions were like "on the ground" was shown to exist between officials entrusted to lead relief efforts, and the rest of us who watched as the ever worsening situation unfolded live on T.V. Again, quoting Graves, "contempt for these particular victims was status quo long before Hurricane Katrina ever appeared on the weather chart."

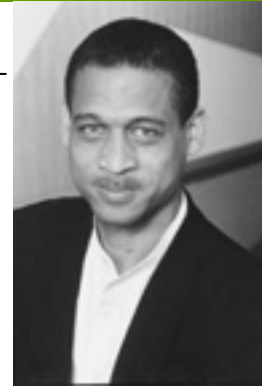
As the inadequacy of the government's response became clearer with every new report beamed in from the scene, the mainstream me-

dia was fired into action, asserting itself as America's conscience. The media displayed admirable courage by reporting the "good, the bad and the ugly" with professionalism, compassion and an appropriate dose of outrage. Meanwhile, average everyday people like you and me wasted no time getting involved and taking action to help. "We, the People" combined outrage over the images we saw with compassion for those affected, to come to the aid of our fellow citizens, and in effect, demonstrate the very best of what America stands for.

It is not surprising that architects, planners, and other design professionals have stepped up and committed time, money, expertise and other needed goods and services. The American Institute of Architects has shown up, big time, committing sizable resources to numerous programs and initiatives, while accessing the political system for support of the AIA at the leadership table. Similarly, and at times in partnership with the AIA, the National Organization of Minority Architects has prioritized the Gulf Coast recovery at the top of this year's organizational agenda. After all, President James Washington, himself a resident of New Orleans, did not stop moving (physically, virtually, and in every imaginable way) from the time he made a speedy departure a day ahead of Katrina's arrival until he was stricken by a minor stroke on January 16.

Alas, mortality emerged as the great equalizer. Fortunately, James is on the road to recovery; however, as might be expected, the focus will be exactly on that - his recovery. With the support of the Board of Directors, NOMA has continued in the spirit of James's steadfast character.

*(Continued on page 10)*



*Many buildings seemingly impacted by Hurricane Katrina actually existed in a state of disrepair even before the storm.*



*An example of the devastation within the Lower Ninth Ward that continues for as long as the eye can see.*

## GSA-NOMA CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP

For the third year running, the US General Services Administration, Public Building Service, Office of the Chief Architect arrived at the annual NOMA Conference bearing gifts in the form of GSA Associates, who conducted seminars on topics of interest to NOMA members. GSA demonstrated its support for NOMA's role in generating interest among members in pursuing Design Excellence procurements by actively participating in the 2005 Birmingham Conference. As the connection between the GSA and NOMA continues to mature, constituents from each

group agree that value is being brought to both organizations.

Kicking off the seminars for GSA was Calvin Kam, 3D-4D-BIM Program Manager. Calvin is the agency's resident expert on Building Information Modeling (BIM). His presentation provided a first-hand briefing on GSA's BIM initiative. Using a number of major, ongoing GSA design and construction projects as case studies, Calvin shared an expert analysis on the

*(Continued on page 11)*




**EDITOR'S PAGE, CON'T**

*(Continued from page 9)*

ter, notwithstanding personal loss to press forward as "front line" advocates, providing sound leadership and inspiration. The Executive Board is committed to furthering James's personal efforts to secure meaningful levels of involvement and participation by minority-owned firms as members of NOMA. Frankly, there has never been a better time to come on board as a member of NOMA.

Finally, Mr. Graves urged all of us to "make a long term commitment to the Gulf Coast recovery effort" by "making it your business to see that the recovery does not exclude those most affected - African Americans in desperate need of homes, jobs, education, and opportunity." Responding to this challenge, NOMA and Southern University at New Orleans have forged a partnership to launch the SUNOMA Community Design Revitalization Center, which will offer an opportunity for architects, planners and community builders of all backgrounds and

ethnicities from around the country to mobilize under NOMA's leadership. The Center will engage residents of the Pontchartrain Park - Gentilly Woods community in a participatory process that forms the basis of rebuilding. The decision to bring forward leadership from within NOMA that consists primarily of African American architects, planners and community builders is a direct response to the expressed needs of those most impacted by Hurricane Katrina for a familiar and culturally sensitive interface to the assistance that so many want to provide.

Despite his stated outrage, Mr. Graves elected to close his editorial with words of hope. We at NOMA share Mr. Graves' vision. NOMA envisions an even greater opportunity to bring together elements of our society that have long been divided along ethnic, class, and political lines as equal partners to claim a better America - one that transcends our political leadership and unites us under those fundamental tenants of democracy to which we all aspire. 



*The changing face of the labor force is apparent when touring through the devastated Lower 9th Ward.*

**CAN YOU NAME THESE NOMA ARCHITECTS?**



*Photo provided courtesy of Ron Lipford, AREL Architects*

- |                    |                  |                   |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1—Leon Bridges     | 7—???            | 13—???            |
| 2—???              | 8—Louis Fry, Sr. | 14—Robert Kennard |
| 3—Wendell Campbell | 9—???            | 15—Harvey Gantt   |
| 4—???              | 10—???           | 16—Robert Coles   |
| 5—???              | 11—John Sulton   | 17—Robert Nash    |
| 6—Mort Marshall    | 12—Van Bruner    | 18—???            |

*If you think you know any of these distinguished gentlemen, please provide us with their identities so that we can reprint this photo in our next issue complete with all of the names. Submit your contributed information to: [info@noma.net](mailto:info@noma.net)*

## GSA-NOMA PARTNERSHIP, CON'T

(Continued from page 9)

promises and realities of 3D-based computer technologies (also referred to as Virtual Design and Construction and Building Information Modeling). Calvin explained the new business conditions envisioned and currently being cultivated by the GSA and other major public/private owners, and how different architectural firms, engineering consultants, construction managers, general contractors, and software vendors have leveraged the emerging business opportunities to improve practice management.

Filling one of the afternoon slots on day-one was Mary S. Thompson, QA/QC Program Manager, who introduced the audience to GSA's Quality Control/Quality Assurance program. Mary's work coordinating a number of major, national A/E and CM firms in the development and implementation of a uniform project evaluation tool has proven valuable not only to GSA, but to the architects and engineers whose work is being critiqued. GSA projects that are under design have the opportunity to undergo the QA/QC review process at three different phases. The first review, which is conducted at the completion of the Concept Design Phase, is followed by subsequent reviews at both the Design Development and Construction Documents phases. By examining the results of the QA/QC reviews across the range of projects, GSA is able to identify deficiencies that repeat-

edly arise, and turn that information into guidance that can be applied to future projects.

Rounding out GSA's offerings was a presentation on the Design Excellence in Federal Lease Construction program. Architect and program coordinator Gianne (pronounced Jan) Conard, along with regional colleague, Laura Strobach and members of an actual developer-architect team conducted the presentation. GSA's Design Excellence Program, which was originally designed for federally owned projects, now extends to lease-construction projects for federal agency tenants. It provides another opportunity for design firms to be involved in high quality projects across the country. Projects range from single courtroom courthouses to major regional headquarters buildings. For these projects, a development team is selected to provide full design, construction, and building management services. These facilities provide a world-class workplace and represent the design quality for which the federal government has become known through the Design Excellence Program. These buildings are often LEED-Certified or LEED-Silver. Workshop participants joined a team from GSA and a development team from a recent Design Excellence in Lease Construction project to discuss, through case studies, the selection process, solicitations for offers, contracting, design, and project delivery. □



GSA-Architect R. Steven Lewis, AIA/NOMA, pictured below on the left, congratulates newly installed GSA Peer Professionals, from left to right Curtis Moody, FAIA/NOMA, Cheryl McAfee-Mitchell, FAIA/NOMA, and Phil Freelon, FAIA/NOMA.

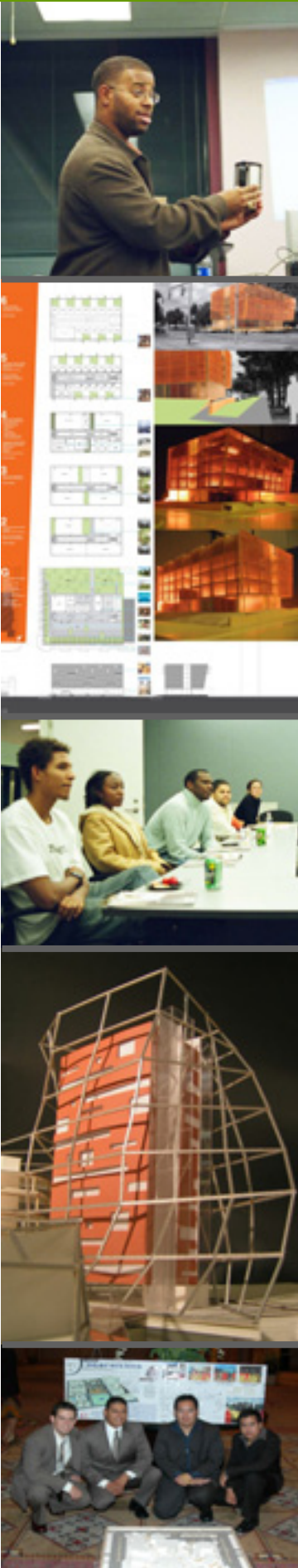


## 2005 NOMA STUDENT DESIGN

BY NIKOLAS HILL

In the hometown of one of its favorite sons, NOMA facilitated the 2005 Student Design Competition. Held at the National Conference in Birmingham, AL, the project was for an entrepreneurial center in the name of A.G. Gaston. Gaston at one time amassed an empire containing an insurance company, bank, radio station, and cemeteries, among other things, some of which remain operational to this day. While not only being one of Birmingham's successful businessmen, Gaston was also a staunch supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, offering counsel, support, and resources to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and some of the great leaders of the time: Martin Luther King, Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, and Ralph Abernathy. In later years, Gaston would become an icon to Black economic leaders, receiving the title of "Entrepreneur of the Century" by the Earl Graves-helmed Black Enterprise magazine.

The mixed-use project consisted of three main components. One was office space for ten start-up companies, including shared facilities that each business would need, like conference rooms, a library, a kitchenette, etc. Another component was a business center that would cater to the general Birmingham community, providing auditorium space for presentations, workshop space for seminars, as well as computer labs and interview rooms. The final component was an urban location for Tuskegee University's School of Architecture. This would provide studio space, a jury room, a printing lab and model shop, as well as housing for students and professors. The project would be a great addition to the revitalization of downtown Birmingham, offering energy that could be sustained at all times of the day and night. In addition, it would galvanize the whole community, providing the start-up companies with a viable pool of employees, the students with 10 examples of businesses in operation, and the community with professional resources to accomplish tasks and receive continuing education.




*(Continued from page 11)*

The 2005 Student Awards Competition received ten submissions, from schools as diverse as the Illinois Institute of Technology and Cornell University, to Mississippi State University, and the University of Nevada–Las Vegas. For many of the schools, it was their first time entering the competition. Ernest Bellamy, the President of IIT’s NOMAS chapter, was “very pleased with our teams finished product.” Dealing with the pressure of following up on their award winning entry from 2004, Bellamy continued, “Our group worked very hard, just like all the others, to come up with an IIT–quality, award–winning design. Seeing all the other exhibits displayed and getting a chance to present in front of my peers was a great opportunity.”

The site for the project was at the intersection of 16th Street and 6th Avenue. This intersection has a lot of history and meaning to it, as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, West (Kelly Ingram) Park, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute all border the intersection. The specific plot for the project was the fourth plot on the intersection, presently a surface parking lot, providing the students with an opportunity to take all the history and context of the site and execute a uniquely forward–thinking building created with the essence of the people of Birmingham.

The judges for the competition were Charles Smith, President of Smith & Smith Associates, Inc. based in Chicago, IL; Carla Jackson, a professor at Tuskegee University’s School of Architecture; Marzette Fisher, Principal with Giattina Fisher Aycocock Architects, Inc., based in Birmingham; and Berry Glenn III, Vice President of Operations at A.G. Gaston Construction Company. Professor Jackson saw first–hand the effort that the students put into their submissions, and after seeing all the submissions, observed that (PERTAINING TO THE QUALITY AND PRECISION OF PRESENTATION). The varied backgrounds of the judges also aided in the competition, as the fields of professional practice, academia, and construction were able to synthesize into a cohesive approach to looking at each entry, while also bringing into play some of the idiosyncrasies of each field. As one of the employees of an official A.G. Gaston company, Glenn was able to bring some of the most important context of all to the judging. Glenn also brought into question some of the constructability issues of the entries, showing them how to go about consider-

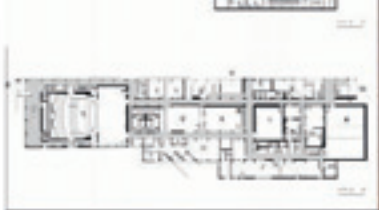
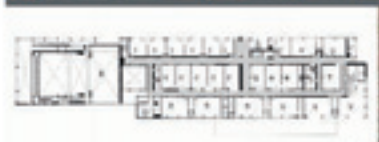
ing some of the budget issues of a building program, advice that turned out to be “priceless”. About his participation in the judging, Glenn said that he was “.....”

Looking ahead to 2006, the competition will be held at the San Francisco conference, looking to take the energy produced from Birmingham and provide an atmosphere of great creativity and design. If recent years are any indication, the students that participate will hit the ground running and continue to wow each other, as well as countless professionals with their enthusiastic presentations and bold compositions. 

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Tenure-Track Positions

### THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Architecture  
School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture  
College of Arts and Architecture

The Department of Architecture at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications and nominations for two tenure-track positions at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, with appointments beginning in the fall semester of 2006. The program offers both undergraduate and graduate studies. The University is a major educational and research institution in the U.S. offering students and faculty a rich and diverse academic environment. The department recently moved into the \$27 million Stuckeman Family Building, on track for a Gold LEED certification, housing the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and is one of seven academic units within the College of Arts and Architecture.

The five-year Bachelor of Architecture Program is accredited by NAAB. Twenty full-time faculty members, representing a broad spectrum of ideas and approaches to architecture, teach within the program. The department attracts outstanding undergraduate students—accepting only one of eight applicants. The program's greatest strength lies in its emphasis on architectural design and the development of critical, analytical and artistic skills. An endowed computer center and superior model shop with digital fabrication capability, a semester-long required study program in Rome, Italy, and the Hamer Center for Community Design Assistance further support and enhance the studio environment. The Master of Architecture Program is a growing asset of the department with three focus areas: digital design, community and urban design, and architectural theory.

The tenure-track positions available involve teaching beginning and middle-level undergraduate design studio. These studios emphasize site context and comprehensive building design. In addition, successful applicants will be expected to offer a seminar or elective in their area of expertise each semester. Priorities will be given to applicants with demonstrated proficiency in one or more of the following areas:

- computers and digital fabrication as it relates to architectural design and construction
- architectural drawing and representation
- architectural technology including materials and construction
- architectural practice and building systems

Applicants must hold an accredited professional degree in architecture and a graduate degree in architecture or a related field with experience in teaching and practice. Architectural registration and/or a PhD are preferred. Applicants should submit: 1) cover letter that states their current position, terminal degree, and area(s) of expertise; 2) statement of teaching philosophy and methods; 3) curriculum vitae; 4) names/addresses of three references; and 5) selected samples of their work not to exceed ten pages. All materials should be forwarded to:

Darla V. Lindberg, Associate Professor of Architecture  
Chair, Architecture Search Committee  
The Pennsylvania State University  
421 Stuckeman Family Building  
University Park, PA 16802

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled. Short-listed candidates will be requested to submit a comprehensive portfolio of their work.

AA/EOE; Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Visit the Department website at [www.arch.psu.edu](http://www.arch.psu.edu) and the College website at [www.artsandarchitecture.psu.edu](http://www.artsandarchitecture.psu.edu)

## 2005 DESIGN AWARDS

“AS INTEREST IN  
COMPETING  
CONTINUES TO  
GROW AMONG  
MEMBERS, WE SEE  
A COMMENSURATE  
INCREASE IN THE  
QUALITY OF WORK  
BEING SUBMITTED”

If you are an architect who happens to be classified by race as a “minority”, then you may be aware of and sensitive to the lack of exposure that we, or our work receives from the mainstream architectural press. Well, in the spirit of the adage, “don’t get mad, get even,” NOMA continues to promote the design excellence of its members in a number of ways.

Over the last several years, NOMA has concentrated efforts on making the annual Professional Design Awards Competition a high profile venue to promote the talent of its members. As interest in competing continues to grow among members, we see a commensurate increase in the quality of work being submitted. The 2004 conference held in New York City drew the attention of William Menking, Editor of the architectural periodical, the New York Newspaper, who wrote favorably about the entire confer-

ence, giving specific praise to the quality of the Design Awards Banquet.

The 2005 conference in Birmingham generated another group of interesting entries to the competition. The Design Awards Jury assembled a day ahead of the conference at the offices of Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects. The jury, chaired by R. Steven Lewis, AIA/NOMA – architect with the U.S. General Services Administration’s Design Excellence Program, included the following distinguished members: Chris Giattina, AIA – principal, Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects; Wiley Gaston, AIA – principal with Birmingham-based KPS Group Architects; and William Gilchrist, AIA/NOMA, Director Birmingham City Planning. The jury selected a single project in the “Honor Award” category, as the top prize winner. Three other projects received “Citation Awards.”

# 1

## HONOR AWARD: THE DETROIT SCHOOL OF ARTS

**Architect:** *Hamilton Anderson Architects—Rainy Hamilton, Jr., Principal;*

*1435 Randolph, Suite 200  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
T: 313.964.0270  
E: [info@hamilton-anderson.com](mailto:info@hamilton-anderson.com)*

The jury saw this project as the clear winner, demonstrating sophistication and maturity in the building’s response to its urban context and expression of the program respectively. The jury appreciated the gesture made by the architect toward the definitive urban surroundings, by “projecting” expansive views into certain important areas of the building interior, such as the cafeteria and studio spaces.

The Project is a new 1,200 student public high school located in the heart of Detroit’s Cultural Center. Its recent opening in February, 2005 marked the completion of the third and final phase of the Orchestra Place Master Plan, which includes historic Orchestra Hall and the newly completed Max M. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts. The six-story, 300,000 square foot, \$61M facility is a flagship project for the School District’s \$1.5 billion bond program that has elevated the quality of the district’s educational facilities.



VISION

At the onset of the project, the School District challenged the architecture firm to explore Detroit’s storied legacy of industry and innovation as inspiration for creating a building that embodies the authentic energy and character of this truly unique city. The intimate urban site also presented the design team with opportunities for sustainability, which ultimately led to the school’s LEED certification. The vision is focused on creating new facilities and programs





*The jury was impressed by what they characterized as a modernist, contextual expression of the school's programmatic elements.*

*Despite the school's appearance in this photo as an "object" building, the project sits squarely in an urban context.*

that attract students, establishing schools as resource centers within neighborhood communities, and providing progressive learning environments for Detroit's youth.

#### DESIGN

The School is a new national prototype built upon the shared strengths of education and business, art and technology, school and community. The design team worked closely with the client and its partners to identify the best resources from this dynamic range of environments with the ultimate goal of creating the optimal place for learning – a place where business professionals, educators, and students come together to share knowledge and produce high quality work. The School strives to emulate this emerging paradigm in education by connecting physical resources through sensitive open space design, innovative communications technology, and an expressive, contemporary architecture. This

bold, fresh, potent project with all of its optimism is helping to renew the spirit of its school district as it becomes an important center of the community.

#### PROGRAM

Art Studios – Student and Professional Galleries – Orchestra Rehearsal Room – Band Rehearsal Room – Vocal Rehearsal Rooms – Instrumental Practice Rooms – Music Library – Dance Studios – Multi-Purpose Room – 800 Seat Theater – 200 Seat Recital Hall – 125 Seat Black Box Theater – Scenery Workshop – Television Production Center – FM Radio Station – Radio Broadcast / Production Studios – Radio Edit Suites Digital Media Labs – Digital Media Editing Suite – Media Center – Dining Hall – General Classrooms – Special Resource Classrooms – Speech & Drama Classrooms – Science Labs – Language Labs – Professional Resource Library – Student Content Archive – Interconnect Room – Network Technology Core.

## 2

## CITATION AWARD

**Project:**

*COYNE School of Industrial Arts,  
Detroit, Michigan*

**Architect:**

*Booth Hansen Architects—Lawrence  
Booth, FAIA., Principal; Aurelien  
Tsemo, Project Architect;*

*333 South Des Plaines Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60661  
phone: 312.869.5000*

The jury appreciated how the architect embraced the industrial context as an asset, and expressed the honesty of the materials in a simple, yet elegant composition. A leader in industrial education in Chicago for over 100 years, Coyne American Institute's consistent growth and the demand for technology-based jobs dictated their need for larger, advanced facilities. Two-square blocks easily accessed by public

transportation west of Chicago's loop were identified, programmatic needs were outlined, and an aggressive implementation plan was scheduled.

A 76,000 square foot, two-story space was created using a direct, U-shaped plan that maximizes the site and provides for classrooms and laboratories utilizing current, industry-standard tools and equipment. Room for student gathering creates a sense of community throughout the school, and parking directly across the street from the facility allows even greater campus accessibility. The building is a simple combination of pre-cast concrete and steel that celebrates Coyne's industrial history and future. Uncomplicated and durable, the building affords a cost effective, quickly assembled campus with improved communal features for educators and students.



## 3

## CITATION AWARD

**Project:**

*UIC Athletic Facility,  
Chicago, Illinois*

**Architect:** *Moody Nolan Architects—Curtis J. Moody, FAIA/  
NOMA, Principal;*

*COLUMBUS Headquarters  
300 Spruce St., Suite 300  
Columbus, OH 43215  
phone: 614.461.4664  
toll free: 877.530.4984*

The jury was impressed by the dialog created between the new construction, existing portions of the building that were to remain, and with the site. The design challenge was to locate the required 17,000 square feet of new recreation space as sensitively as possible to the existing public outdoor spaces, while establishing a new entry and control point one floor up at the more public level. This new entry, however, needed to remain connected to the existing lower level entry points. After extensive study it was determined that the most viable solution was to build two new floors above the existing swimming pool, which is situated under the outdoor campus quad and immediately in front of the bulk of the existing recreation center. Attaching the building in this way created a large "L-shaped" structure out of what was previously a rectangular box. Using the existing foundation walls of the pool to locate new structure and walls, the architect was able

to achieve the correct square footage and location for a new entry, control desk, multipurpose rooms and a lounge on the new entry level. The entry and control desk are located to the front northeast corner to allow for visual prominence on the exterior, while simultaneously establishing a strong connection to the existing entry points below. A diagonal glass wall at the entry continues back and attaches to the existing structure. This wall directs the flow of traffic back towards the stairs, which access the newly renovated locker rooms.





A dramatic glass and steel façade reveals a centralized, vaulted atrium and captures dramatic views of the city's skyline to the east. Five piers rise to support a flying roof outside the glass façade, and monumental steel letters reading C-O-Y-N-E rest atop the piers to advertise the school's new location.



# 4 CITATION AWARD

## Project:

*Craveth Hall Historic Preservation,  
Chicago, Illinois*

**Architect:** *Moody Nolan Architects—Curtis J. Moody, FAIA/  
NOMA, Principal;*

*COLUMBUS Headquarters  
300 Spruce St., Suite 300  
Columbus, OH 43215  
phone: 614.461.4664  
toll free: 877.530.4984*



The jury recognized the sensitive restraint exercised by the architect in achieving the restoration of this historic landmark structure. Origin-

nally designed as a library in 1930 by Henry Hibbs, FAIA, efforts were made to restore the open spaces of the original reading rooms and to highlight murals by Harlem Renaissance artist, Aaron Douglas that were the product of a collaboration between him and Mr. Hibbs. The existing wood bookcases and paneling, which had been painted over for many years, were restored to their original finish. New construction was designed to include the original detailing so that the new spaces would blend in as seamlessly as possible. 



## THE A.R.E. DEMYSTIFIED IN DC

BY KATHY DIXON


It's the most dreaded and anticipated test of any aspiring architect's life. With its nine subject matter sections and \$1,000 plus price tag, the exam represents a final high hurdle that must be cleared before a person may become a licensed professional. The ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION EXAM, commonly known as "the A.R.E.", is considered by some to be a measure of one's relative capability within a "crab barrel" of peers, and by others as the most daunting, life-long nemesis created by man (and woman).

Friday, November 18, on the Howard University campus, fourteen architectural interns from near and far began a 3-day seminar focused on de-mystifying and preparing to take the A.R.E. The Washington, D.C. Chapter of NOMA hosted the seminar as a "pilot" regional event.

Facilitated by Michael Boardway, AIA, of MBA Educational Horizons, the course consisted of nine sessions, reflecting the actual

structure of the computer administered exam. MBA Educational Horizons offers their seminars to groups all across the U.S., and markets tapes and other study materials to would be test-takers.

DC NOMA members Michelle Chin and Kathy Dixon secured the meeting room space and coordinated the event for the chapter. The Interns came from all around the D.C. metro area, Chicago, and as far away as Los Angeles to participate. Friday evening and all day Saturday were focused on the multiple choice divisions of the test, while Sunday was devoted to the graphic portions of the exam. The attendees spent much of the final day taking a mock exam. Participants Ameera Oneil and Meshella Johnson described the sessions as "informative" and "worthwhile".

Tapes & materials by MBA Educational Horizons may be purchased at <http://www.mba-architectural.com>. 

# 2006 NOMA CONFERENCE, SAN FRANCISCO

## SPONSORS



*Companies interested in Conference Sponsorship should contact NOMA at: [info@noma.net](mailto:info@noma.net)*

**Celebrate:** Achievements Design Diversity



## SAVE THE DATE

October 12-15, 2006. The Argent Hotel, San Francisco, CA.

### NOMA Conference

Hosted by the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, SFNOMA. For more information please contact us at [info@sfnoma.org](mailto:info@sfnoma.org) or visit [www.sfnoma.org/nc2006](http://www.sfnoma.org/nc2006).



# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (NMAAHC) UPDATE

BY KATHY DIXON AND R. STEVEN LEWIS

Fifteen years into the process, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) has passed a significant point in its development – the long awaited selection of a building site. The Smithsonian Board of Regents was scheduled to select one of four locations to be the future home of the facility on January 30, 2006. The 100-year old Architecture & Engineering firm of Page Southerland Page was given the task of analyzing each site for a number of factors including its capacity and history. A town hall meeting was held the evening of November 16th at the National Museum of Natural History in order to seek public opinion regarding the four site choices. William A Brown, Exec Vice President, presented the findings of Page Southerland Page in a PowerPoint presentation that evening. A panel including the Founding Director of the NMAAHC, Lonnie G. Bunch, the Smithsonian Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, Sheila P. Burke, and Mr. Brown took questions from the audience to address the concerns of the public.

Two months later, after much input from the public, the Smithsonian Board of Regents selected the Monument site along Constitution Avenue as the location for the new Museum. As the last available building site on the National Mall, this location provides the high profile visibility that many African-Americans were hoping for the facility. Currently the site is utilized as a sports area, festival location, and occasional staging area for various Mall events. Potential design & construction challenges for the site will include low land elevations prone to flooding, context of surrounding government buildings, and vehicular access.

The Monument site appeared to be the second most favored location for the NMAAHC. This location was strongly recommended by people who felt that the museum's rightful place was "on the Mall" immediately adjacent to the majority of the other Smithsonian museums. A Presidential Commission, authorized by George W. Bush, had recommended this site as their preferred location. Being situated "on the Mall" will most likely generate more visitors and visibility for the NMAAHC. Similarly, being very close to the Washington Monument will also increase visitor traffic. Because this site was already identified as a potential building site in the McMillan Plan of 1901, it is easy to visualize a new facility at this intersection.

It should be noted that the realization of the Smithsonian National

Museum of African American History and Culture at this particular point in our history is the product of a tireless crusade by John Lewis, Congressman from Georgia, whose advocacy finally paid off when president George W. Bush cast the deciding vote to move the project off of dead center, where it had languished in Congress for over 15 years. A presentation about the museum was given by a panel consisting of Lonnie Bunch, John Hope Franklin, John W. Franklin and Congressman Lewis during last fall's Congressional Black Caucus. NOMA was in attendance, represented by R. Steven Lewis, who approached the panel with an offer on behalf of NOMA to assemble an advisory committee made up of appropriate planning and design professionals from within its membership to bring added value to the process in the form of a culturally sensitive design paradigm.

NOMA shares the view of all interested African-Americans that with this museum, comes a tremendous responsibility to capture, synthesize and expresses through the site and building design the definitive elements of centuries of Black history and culture. To that end, NOMA supports the selection of talented and experienced African-American professionals to lead the planning and design processes, beginning with the Smithsonian Project Executive position, and extending to the lead designer or firm chosen to literally make history with the design of a legacy building and site for the Smithsonian Institution. Clearly, this is simply a stated



*NMAAHC Director Lonnie Bunch (far right) with John Hope Franklin, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, and John W. Franklin of the Smithsonian Institution, immediately following a session on the museum at the 2005 Congressional Black Caucus*


# NOMA COMES HOME TO NEW ORLEANS

BY R. STEVEN LEWIS

In February 2006, NOMA, in partnership with Southern University of New Orleans launched a Community Design and Revitalization Center in the Gentilly Woods – Pontchartrain Park community that abuts the SUNO campus. Known as the SUNOMA CDRC, the Center will assist residents and stakeholders attempting to put their lives back together with an array of necessary services ranging from case management and psychological/emotional counseling, to technical design assistance and community empowerment. With similar centers opening around the region, the SUNOMA Center will draw from a national network of expert planning and design professionals of all backgrounds and ethnicities, operating under the leadership of some of NOMA's finest African American leaders. Working in concert with resources attached to SUNO, NOMA has behind it the full support of its membership, which is committed to bring both capacity and capability to bear on the situation in New Orleans. Additionally, the Center enjoys the support of the local leaders, including City Councilwoman, Cynthia Hedge-Morell, and King Wells, president of the Pontilly Neighborhood Association. They are intrigued by the added attribute of cultural sensitivity that NOMA will extend to a very disillusioned constituency that is rightfully skeptical and suspicious of promises of help coming from unfamiliar sources, if not those that are all too familiar for reasons of past failures to act responsibly.

Pontchartrain Park is a suburban-style neighborhood, with 200 acres of greenspace for parks, playgrounds, lagoons and the Joe Bartholomew Golf Course. Two major streets run through the neighborhood from Chef Menteur Highway, Press and Congress Drives. All other streets are curvilinear and prevent passage out of the neighborhood, creating a degree of privacy and pedestrian

## NATIONAL MUSEUM, CON'T

desire on the part of the most significant advocacy group to represent the interests of African-American architects and designers to realize a particular outcome. Inasmuch as the client is a governmental agency (quasi?), there are no means available to them to insure such an outcome. Therefore, the responsibility for securing African-Americans to function in these key roles falls squarely on the membership of NOMA, as well as other qualified professionals-of-color who happen not to be members, to make yourselves known and visible. This is our opportunity to rise to the occasion and shine like never before. Hopefully, we will be reporting on the positive results of the search for talent in the next issue of our quarterly magazine. Stay tuned. 

safety.

Pontchartrain is enclosed by railroad tracks to the west, Leon C. Simon to the north, the Inner Navigation Harbor Canal on the east and a small mostly dry bayou, remnants of an older time, to the south. It is one of the first areas in New Orleans designed to provide home ownership to middle and upper income African Americans and one of the last Gentilly neighborhoods to be developed.

Today, the community still retains a certain charm rooted in family and community life. Pontilly Neighborhood Association, Pontchartrain Park Home Improvement Association and other neighborhood organizations, some of who work with city administrators and churches, operate to maintain the visual appeal of the neighborhood, protect property values, and keep the neighborhood safe.

The first steps toward establishing the SUNOMA Center included meetings with Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Councilwoman for the district in which the Center will operate; King Wells, president of the Pontilly Neighborhood Association, the local neighborhood organization that has already undertaken a series of community meetings / charrettes led by New Orleans-based architects, planners, and NOMA member Hewitt-Washington Associates; and Gloria Moultrie, Director of Community Relations for Southern University at New Orleans.



These initial formative steps were followed by an outreach to various

sources for funding of the Center. A proposal was generated by R. Steven Lewis, AIA-NOMA, and Maurice Cox, NOMA, to solicit funding support from foundations that drew from a model provided by Architecture for Humanity – another in a series of likely partners with NOMA in this venture. Currently, an initiative is un-

*From right to left, Sheila Danzey, Paul Lambert and Lonnie Hewitt attending a meeting with Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell*

*(Continued on page 26)*

## COOKIE BOX CREATIONS



“THIS IS A GREAT AND FUN ACTIVITY FOR GIRLS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE OR ENGINEERING”

Girl Scouts of Tejas Council recently concluded their second annual *Cookie Box Creations*. The competition challenges girls teamed with area women architects, engineers and designers, in a design contest to turn empty Girl Scout cookie boxes into freestanding structures reflecting this year’s Cookie Sale theme “Be Brilliant.”

The event, highlighted the start of Girl Scout Cookie Booth Sales, and the structures were displayed at Valley View Center mall, February 12–26 in Dallas Texas. The Cookie Box Creations structure competition held a press event where a celebrity judge’s panel selected winners of the “Judges Trophy” and the “Peoples Choice Award”.

This year the Dallas Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, teamed with Girl Scouts Sessalli Obasuyi, Elizabeth Seidemann and Brooke Meyer, and NOMA members Valerie Evans and Shani Dixon, created a structure called “Be Brilliant with Juliette Low”. Their creation was Juliette Low, the founder of Girl Scouting, portrayed as a brilliant scientist. The

structure depicts Dr. Juliette Low teaching her Cookie Chemistry class at Girl Scout High School. They used an equation to represent “Being Brilliant.” Their structure won the “People’s Choice Award.”

“This is a great and fun activity for girls interested in a career in architecture or engineering” as stated by Charyl McAfee–Duncan, AIA, who is a member of the Girl Scout Cookie Box Creation Committee and NOMA.



## ANGELS TO THE RESCUE



Author **Aurora Robinson** is a professor of architecture at Drury University Hammon School of Architecture, in Springfield, Missouri

Angels do walk amongst us, and as Assistant Professor of Architecture at Drury University Hammons School of Architecture, Springfield, Missouri, I had my first hurricane experience in Negril, Jamaica WI, August 2005, and the trip proved to be more than I had ever planned. As an educator, I am constantly searching for unique activities to engage students, to increase their sense of environmental awareness, identification and recognition of community issues, and develop sensitivity for the diverse nature of the world around them, this trip to Jamaica provided a perfect opportunity to focus in on all three task. As all hurricanes are not identical the one I experienced was a mere ninety miles off the coast of Jamaica and to most islanders felt like a heavy wind, yet a few weeks later Hurricane Ivan, ravaged community after com-

munity across Jamaica and the other Caribbean countries. In its wake left broke and destroyed peoples places of habitation a business. Jamaica became the focus of interest for a number of reasons. First of all many of the homes for the working/service communities did not physically respond to the outdoor splendor of its surrounding tropical paradise in terms of site orientation and design aesthetics. Secondly, homes in the surrounding communities lacked to type of structural integrity to continually withstand hurricane force winds and rain. Thirdly, the surrounding residential communities appeared to be severely under developed in terms of present day housing construction standards. With these three simple yet very culturally conscious reasons the attraction to develop an international community program, which



# ANGELS TO THE RESCUE CON'T

focused on housing for rural, urban and coastal insertions made sense, the reality of natural disaster due to hurricane became the greater responsive link.

As in all first ideas, the process had to begin with a series of discussions and as I brought the topic up with family, close friends and trusted colleagues the naming of a program began to evolve. Within four months of my initial return from Jamaica and two months after the devastation by hurricane Ivan, REEp – Rebuilding Experiential Exchange program was formed, with the intent to address issues of rebuilding communities destroyed by natural disaster due to hurricane. Once the affirmation was made real and the program was officially launched November 2004 and all the unseen needs to make this new program work began to appear, such as financing, social and emotional support.

I am an ardent believer that one must always discuss ideas with the universe and so I began to speak to all sorts of people. The discussion moved to the Consulate Generals of Jamaica, Community action groups in Jamaica like Kiwanis club, book clubs and kept expanding. One specific angel walking amongst us is Errol Wallace of LOJ Property Management Ltd, a businessman located in Kingston, Jamaica with 'vision beyond borders'. Mr. Wallace offered REEp an opportunity to meet the community from providing introduction to the Mayor of Spanish town, the Original Bamboo Factory [obf@cwjamaica.com](mailto:obf@cwjamaica.com), and other relevant building industry individuals such as Architect– Ann [Hodgesann.island@cwjamaica.com](mailto:Hodgesann.island@cwjamaica.com), and Engineer – Peter Jarvis [jarvis@infochan.com](mailto:jarvis@infochan.com). Another angel is Stewardess Cindy Keen with US Airways. Ms Keen was so supportive that when the time came for me to take students on a fact finding trip, community outreach mission, she provided REEp personal buddy passes. These acts of kindness allowed academic exploration to progress. Grass roots networking is a won-

derful tool and as I consistently instill in the students the idea that development of good communication skills are the essential tools for making connections this very program fosters opportunities for students to explore, expand to engrain skills essential to the development of professional character.

It has been one full year now and REEp is faced with its greatest task, Hurricane Katrina. The group is small, yet very much prepared to face the social, community issues made real by this natural disaster. Participation in panel discussion, local conferences, and Red Cross disaster training has been the present task. Immediate plans are to partner with HUD grant awarded institutions such as Tuskegee and Florida AMU to assist displaced families in the rebuilding efforts.

Writing this story as a brief account of the humble beginnings of REEp allows me to acknowledge that none of us can function on this earth without the involvement of others. Thank you to all that have offered a helping hand, a single dollar and most of all their valuable time. REEp – Rebuilding Experiential Exchange program greatly appreciates your support. ☐

January 12, 2006



## JULIAN ABELE INSPIRES DC NOMA

BY LARRY JONES

DC NOMA members and NOMAS students gathered with their guests on the morning of Saturday, November 12th to tour the Belgian Ambassador's residence located in Washington, DC just beyond Georgetown University. The residence was designed by noted African-American architect Julian Abele in 1931. Our gracious host the Belgian Ambassador and his wife, opened up their residence for our group while giving us a history of the home. On the tour were, noted Abele historian, Dreck Wilson as well as one of Abele's own descendents and former DC NOMA President Peter Cook along with his son. Architect Jeffrey Luker of Quinn Evans Architects also was on the tour and gave the group an update on the plans and challenges involved in modernizing and updating the

residence. A taste of Belgian cuisine was provided during the tour by the Embassy as the group paused to discuss the history and significance of this project by Abele.

In December the chapter gathered for yet another tour of an Abele designed building: the Argentine Embassy & Residence.

Photos of the Belgian tour are available at:

<http://www.dcnoma.org/marly.htm>



## NOMA COMES HOME, CON'T

*(Continued from page 23)*

derway to raise seed money donations from a number of NOMA member firms. These funds will allow the Center to begin operating with staff on the ground.

Two property owners have stepped forward and offered their rental properties (single family residences) to house the SUNOMA Center. Working in conjunction with local architect Cliff James, whose CDC will be an active partner, NOMA is assessing the costs associated with renovating one of these properties to serve as the initial home for the Center. The costs associated with renovating the home will be included in the grant funding request. Locating the Center in a residential setting will provide a familiar setting for residents to visit for assistance. Furthermore, in this climate of escalating housing costs, the Center will provide housing for a

number of SUNOMA staff.

As a home for Center is being prepared, additional partnerships are being formed with such groups as the University of Virginia School of Architecture. The University of Virginia, School of Architecture began the process of building the capacity of their students to operate effectively in post-disaster situations by creating a funded New Orleans Graduate Design Semester in the spring of 2006. Integral to this experience was a four-day service learning field trip where twenty-two graduate architecture students met with New Orleans civic leaders, participated in the gutting and clearing of homes in the Pontchartrain Park-Gentilly Woods area and engaged neighborhood residents in an initial dialogue on how the community might rebuild. The SUNOMA Center will provide a supportive structure for students, faculty and design professionals

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## NOMA COMES HOME, CON'T

to work directly with residents and stakeholders to establish a level of trust and a holistic understanding of the multitude of factors that will be involved in rebuilding their community.

As word of the SUNOMA Center spreads, so does the interest and enthusiasm of NOMA members and others to contribute to its success. Stay tuned for an update in the next issue of NOMA's quarterly magazine. 

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## MoAD – Museum of the African Diaspora

The Museum of the African Diaspora, designed by Philip C. Freelon, FAIA, NOMA, - principal of the Freelon Group - occupies 20,000 sq. ft. on portions of three floors of the St. Regis Museum Tower Hotel / Condominium. Located at the corner of Third and Mission Streets in San Francisco, MoAD is in the heart of the Yerba Buena cultural district and is a close neighbor to Mario Botta's SF Museum of Modern Art.

