

**EMBARGOED UNTIL February 17, 2021
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The Architectural League of New York announces winners of the 2021 Emerging Voices awards and sets dates for online programs

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The Architectural League of New York is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Emerging Voices competition. Each year the League selects eight emerging practices through a juried, invited portfolio competition. The award spotlights individuals and firms based in the United States, Canada, and Mexico with distinct design voices and the potential to influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape design, and urbanism. The jury reviews significant bodies of realized work and considers accomplishments within the design and academic communities as well as the public realm. The work of each Emerging Voice represents the best of its kind, and addresses larger issues within architecture, landscape, and the built environment.

Being named an Emerging Voice by The Architectural League is one of the most coveted awards in North American architecture. Since 1982, the program has identified more than 300 awardees that have gone on to develop influential careers. A list of all past winners can be found at archleague.org/emerging-voices.

The selection process involved a two-stage review of work from approximately 50 entrants. The jury, which brought together design professionals from across North America (including several past Emerging Voices winners), comprised Daniel Barber, Philadelphia; Milton S.F. Curry, Los Angeles; Mimi Hoang, New York; Paul Lewis, New York; Rozana Montiel, Mexico City; Ronald Rael, Berkeley; Lola Sheppard, Toronto; and Rosalyne Shieh, New York.

Paul Lewis, jury member and president of The Architectural League, describes the winners' work: *"Cognizant of the limitations of seductive images that are often foregrounded in portfolios, the jury carefully weighed all elements of the submissions, identifying eight individuals and firms engaged in a robust architecture imbued with inventive approaches to social, racial, and economic equity, material invention, and ecological benefits."*

Emerging Voices is organized by League program director Anne Rieselbach and program manager Catarina Flaksman.

Past Emerging Voices have included: Steven Holl (1982), Thom Mayne & Michael Rotondi (1983), Merrill Elam & Mack Scogin (1988), Coleman Coker & Samuel Mockbee (1990), Toshiko Mori (1992), Deborah Berke (1993), Enrique Norten (1994), Michael Maltzan (1998), Marion Weiss & Michael Manfredi (1997), James Corner (2001), Mario Gooden & Ray Huff (2001), Jeanne Gang (2006), Teddy Cruz (2006), Eric Höweler & Meijin Yoon (2007), Amale Andraos & Dan Wood (2008), Tatiana Bilbao (2010), Kate Orff (2012), Jing Liu & Florian Idenburg (2013), David Benjamin (2014), Beth Whitaker (2015), Chris Leong & Dominic Leong (2017), Fernanda Canales (2018), Bryan C. Lee, Jr. & Sue Mobley (2019).

Firm profiles can be found on the League's website. Editorial features offering additional insight into each winner's work will be published in the coming months.

Learn more at archleague.org/ev21.

Emerging Voices 2021



Pascale Sablan

Beyond the Built Environment

New York, NY

Pascale Sablan is a New York-based architect and activist who works “to advance architecture for the betterment of society,” bringing visibility to issues concerning women and BIPOC designers. She is the founder and executive director of Beyond the Built Environment, an organization with the goal of addressing “the inequitable disparities in architecture by providing a holistic platform aimed to support numerous stages of the architecture pipeline.” As part of this work, Sablan has curated the traveling exhibition *SAY IT LOUD*, which features work from underrepresented designers. She is currently an associate at Adjaye Associates.



Adib Cúre, Carie Penabad

CÚRE & PENABAD

Miami, FL

CÚRE & PENABAD was founded in 2001 by Adib Cúre and Carie Penabad in Miami, Florida. Their work brings together the experience and culture of three countries: Colombia, where Cúre was born; Cuba, where Penabad has strong family ties; and the United States, where both have studied and practiced over the years. The firm emphasizes the importance of designing architecture and the city as an investigation “where inquiry and realization, poetry and practicality, history and invention are inextricably linked.” Recent projects include Escuelita Buganvilia in Guatemala; Oak Plaza in Miami; and MAG Corporate Headquarters in Guatemala.



Chelina Odbert

Kounkuey Design Initiative

Los Angeles and Coachella, CA / Nairobi / Stockholm

Kounkuey Design Initiative was founded in 2006 by a group of Harvard Graduate School of Design students as a community development and design nonprofit. Cofounder and executive director Chelina Odbert leads a multidisciplinary team with offices in Los Angeles, Eastern Coachella Valley, Nairobi, and Stockholm. The firm structure includes four service areas: Design + Build, Plan + Program, Advocate + Educate, and Research + Test. Recent projects include Nuestro Lugar park in North Shore, CA; Kibera Public Space Project in Nairobi; and Play Streets in Los Angeles, CA.



Lori A. Brown

Syracuse, NY

Lori A. Brown is an architect, educator, and scholar. She is president of ArchiteXX, which she cofounded in 2012; principal of lab practices, a research and design firm founded in 2005; and a professor at Syracuse University. Her interdisciplinary practice draws on geography, art, law, and women's and gender studies “to bring the work of architecture more substantially into social, political, and institutional arenas,” with the goal of “transforming spatial structures to promote equity and inclusivity.” In tandem with this effort, Brown strives to create more exposure and engagement for women in the discipline by exploring issues of social justice, gender, privilege, and patronage. She has published *Contested Spaces: Abortion Clinics, Women Shelters, and Hospitals* (Routledge, 2016) and is currently working on a proposal for Alabama’s Women’s Wellness Center in Huntsville, AL.

Emerging Voices 2021



Ryan Bollom, DK Osseo-Asare

Low Design Office

Austin, TX / Tema, Ghana

Ryan Bollom and DK Osseo-Asare cofounded Low Design Office in Austin, Texas, and Tema, Ghana, in 2006. Their work is guided by the principle that transformative innovation “most often originates when the creator must overcome limited means and resources to provide meaning in their work.” Working in the US and Africa, the firm strives to deliver high-impact design through “low-resource, low-tech, low-carbon strategies,” with the goal of achieving an integrative systems approach to building in a process that bridges design and construction—what they call “low design,” realizing more with less. Recent projects include Dakota Mountain Residence in Dripping Springs, TX; Agbogbloshie Makerspace Platform in Accra, Ghana; and Guadalupe River House in New Braunfels, TX.



Craig Borum, Jen Maigret

PLY+

Ann Arbor, MI

Founded in 1999 as PLY and reimagined under the new partnership of Craig Borum and Jen Maigret in 2016, Ann Arbor-based PLY+ situates its work, geographically and culturally, in the Great Lakes Basin. The firm responds to the urban patterns shaped by the natural features of this immense watershed, as well as to the area’s industrial tradition, which the partners describe as “a gritty ethos of making.” PLY+ emphasizes the integral role of design research in its work, “simultaneously broadening and deepening our understanding of possibilities and opportunities across programmatic, technical, and material considerations.” Projects include St. Mary Chapel in Livonia, MI; Michigan Animal Rescue League in Pontiac, MI; and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Detroit, MI.



Sara Zewde

Studio Zewde

New York, NY

Sara Zewde is the founding principal of Studio Zewde, a landscape architecture, urban design, and public art practice based in New York City. Underlying her multidisciplinary design team’s work is the belief that narratives of people and place can serve as a guide towards shaping landscapes and materials into unique environments that resonate with those they serve. To this end, the firm endeavors to investigate each site’s cultural and ecological context to create meaningful, carefully detailed, enduring places. Recent projects include Graffiti Pier in Philadelphia, PA; Midtown Activation in Seattle’s Africatown, WA; and Mander Recreation Center Campus in Philadelphia, PA.



José Pablo Ambrosi, Loreta Castro-Reguera

Taller Capital

Mexico City, Mexico

Mexico City-based architecture and urban design studio Taller Capital was founded in 2010 by José Pablo Ambrosi and Loreta Castro-Reguera. Their work “focuses on designing the city through densification and infrastructural public spaces.” With a particular attention to water, the studio has applied extensive research to the development of urban design projects that address water management in Mexico City and beyond. Recent projects include El Represo Colosio Dam and Public Park in Nogales; La Quemada apartment building in Mexico City; and the 2015 Eco Pavilion in Mexico City.

Emerging Voices 2021 lecture series

Lectures will be held online at 6:00 p.m. EST.

Emerging Voices programs are free and open to all. Advance registration is required. All registered participants will be sent a link to participate through Zoom.

For more information, visit archleague.org/ev21

Join the conversation
#EV21
@archleague

The lecture series provides an opportunity for architects and designers awarded the Emerging Voices distinction to present exceptional and challenging work to their peers and the greater design community—the kind of recognition and intergenerational engagement that has been a part of The Architectural League's mission since its founding in 1881.

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José Pablo Ambrosi, Loreta Castro-Reguera
Taller Capital
Mexico City

Pascale Sablan
Beyond the Built Environment
New York City

Moderated by Mimi Hoang
Partner, nARCHITECTS; Adjunct
Associate Professor, Columbia GSAPP

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Adib Cúre, Carie Penabad
CÚRE & PENABAD
Miami

Craig Borum, Jen Maigret
PLY+
Ann Arbor

Moderated by Lola Sheppard
Partner, Lateral Office; Professor, University of
Waterloo School of Architecture

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Chelina Odbert
Kounkuey Design Initiative
Los Angeles / Coachella / Nairobi / Stockholm

Ryan Bollom, DK Osseo-Asare
Low Design Office
Austin / Tema, Ghana

Moderated by Paul Lewis
Partner, LTL Architects; Professor and Associate
Dean, Princeton University School of Architecture

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Lori A. Brown
Syracuse

Sara Zewde
Studio Zewde
New York City

Moderated by Rosalyne Shieh
Partner, SCHAUM/SHIEH; Marion Mahony Fellow MIT

Support

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About The Architectural League

The Architectural League of New York nurtures excellence in architecture, design, and urbanism, and stimulates thinking, debate, and action on the critical design and building issues of our time. As a vital, independent forum for architecture and its allied disciplines, the League helps create a more beautiful, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable future.
For more information, visit archleague.org.