

EMBARGOED until 12:00 p.m. ET May 6, 2024

The Architectural League of New York announces winners of the 2024 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers and sets lecture and exhibition dates



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NEW YORK, NY, May 6, 2024 — The Architectural League is pleased to announce the winners of Dirty, the 43rd cycle of the annual Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers. The League Prize, open to architects and designers ten years or less out of a bachelor's or master's degree program, is one of North America's most prestigious awards for young practitioners.

This year's winners are:

Lola Ben-Alon of The Natural Materials Lab, Columbia University GSAPP, New York, NY

Erik Carranza of Anonima, Mexico City, Mexico

Strat Coffman, Ann Arbor, MI/Los Angeles, CA

Chase Galis, Christina Moushoul, Sonia Sobrino Ralston of Office Party, New York, NY

Rayshad Dorsey, Joseph James, Diego Zubizarreta Otero, Julian Owens, Michael Urueta of Partners of Place (PoP), Greenville, SC; Brooklyn, NY; Austin, TX; Washington, DC; Charleston, SC

Leah Wulfman, Salt Lake City, UT

The League Prize is an annual portfolio competition organized by The Architectural League under the direction of program director **Anne Rieselbach**, program manager **Zoe Fruchter**, and the Young Architects + Designers Committee. The committee, a group selected each year from past winners of the League Prize, is responsible for developing the program's theme and selecting competition jurors. The members of the 2024 committee are **Sarah Aziz, Rodrigo Escandón Cesarman**, and **Maggie Tsang**. The jury consisted of **Julie Bargmann, Ersela Kripa, Ann Lui**, and **Ben Nicholson** in addition to this year's Young Architects + Designers Committee.

The 2024 competition theme, Dirty, asked entrants to "look beyond their presentations of professionalism, respectability, and expertise:"

Dirt is matter: it is the soil, the ground, and the earth. But when dirt makes things dirty, they become unclean. To be dirty is not only a physical state of being; it is a moral position, as "dirty" subjects are understood to be vulgar, illicit, unpleasant, and improper. If cleanliness is next to godliness, dirtiness is debased. [...] We prompt designers to expose the forces that shape design practice, projects, modes of representation, and communication. It's time to dish the dirt... How do you reject sanitized ways of working with built, natural, and political environments? Show us your dirty ways and dirty things.

This year's League Prize programming and exhibition will follow a hybrid onsite and online model. The lecture series will be held online at midday on Thursdays starting June 13 on Zoom. Each lecture will feature presentations from two of the winners followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A session. Winners will create installations of their work either onsite in their respective locations or in entirely digital formats, all of which will be presented in an online exhibition on archleague.org.

Established in 1981 as the Young Architects' Forum, the award has represented an important career milestone for several generations of designers. The program exemplifies the League's long-standing commitment to identifying and nurturing the development of talented young architects and designers. To learn more about past winners, visit archleague.org/leagueprize.

League Prize
2024



Lola Ben-Alon
The Natural Materials Lab,
Columbia University GSAPP
New York, NY

The Natural Materials Lab, founded and directed by Lola Ben-Alon, investigates raw, earth, and fiber-based building materials across scales, from fabrication research and design/build projects to policy investigations and installations. The Lab, located at Columbia University GSAPP, unites experimental research with Ben-Alon's teaching practice. Integrating emergent technologies with historical techniques, the Natural Materials Lab leverages material experimentation to "imagine and invent socially equitable and ecologically sustainable futures," in the studio's own words.



Erik Carranza
Anonima
Mexico City, Mexico

Erik Carranza founded Anonima with Sindy Martínez Lortia in 2007. Based in Mexico City and Oaxaca City, the multidisciplinary studio engages in both design and research projects related to urban spatial practices, ranging across scales from street-level interventions to institutional built work to advocacy campaigns. Across this diverse portfolio, Anonima explores the ways in which architecture creates relationships between human beings and place while maintaining a "playful character" in all projects, according to the studio.



Strat Coffman
Ann Arbor, MI / Los Angeles, CA

Trained as an architect, Strat Coffman's work explores the concept of "the embodied subject as an agitator of design," in the designer's own words. Currently located in both Ann Arbor and Los Angeles, Coffman's practice incorporates installation, set pieces, guerilla performance, and wearable garments. Their provocative objects and installations engage the live body, often tactilely, in new orientations toward systems of design such as building codes and generic products, inviting, in Coffman's words, "misinterpretation, readjustment, and misuse."



Chase Galis, Christina Moushoul, Sonia Sobrino Ralston
Office Party
New York, NY

Founded in 2021, Office Party is led by Chase Galis, Christina Moushoul, and Sonia Sobrino Ralston. The research and design collective produces temporary events, installations, and exhibitions internationally that investigate "the role of parties and similar ephemeral spaces as the origin of complex social and material networks with urban, political, and environmental effects," in the firm's own words. In addition to live events, Office Party publishes written and editorial work, such as the collective's journal *Party Planner*, further exploring the concept of parties with interdisciplinary collaborators across media formats.

League Prize 2024



**Rayshad Dorsey, Joseph James, Diego Zubizarreta Otero,
Julian Owens, Michael Urueta**

Partners of Place (PoP)

Greenville, SC; Brooklyn, NY; Austin, TX; Washington, DC;
Charleston, SC

Partners of Place was established in 2023 by its five members: Rayshad Dorsey, Joseph James, Diego Zubizarreta Otero, Julian Owens, and Michael Urueta. The research, ideation, and design collective focuses on issues of social and environmental equity. Partners of Place's speculative designs imagine a more inclusive future. Throughout their projects, the collective proposes interventions into the built environment contextualized by the social sciences, using techniques of data visualization, historical mapping, and storytelling.



Leah Wulfman

Salt Lake City, UT

Traversing physical and digital realms, Leah Wulfman's practice challenges normative uses of technology. Currently located in Salt Lake City, their work adapts the systems and logic of literature, architecture, and game forms for purposes of play and performance. Wulfman's installations integrate digital tools such as AI and game engines with material counterparts of weeds, trash, plastic, and foam. According to Wulfman, their work seeks to frame mixed reality as "not simply THE NEXT BIG THING but a method of working that undercuts binary assumptions of gender and physicality, as well as technology."

League Prize 2024 digital exhibition and online lecture series

Digital Exhibition

The exhibition will feature original material created by each of the winners for archleague.org.

6/11/2024

Exhibition opens, exhibition poster is released.

Online Lecture Series

Lectures begin at 12:00 p.m. ET. Admission is free and advance registration via Zoom is required.

6/13/2024

Lola Ben-Alon of The Natural Materials Lab

Strat Coffman

Moderated by Rodrigo Escandón Cesarman

6/20/2024

Erik Carranza of Anonima

Leah Wulfman

Moderated by Maggie Tsang

6/27/2024

Chase Galis, Christina Moushoul, Sonia Sobrino Ralston of Office Party

Rayshad Dorsey, Joseph James, Diego Zubizarreta Otero, Julian Owens,

Michael Urueta of Partners of Place (PoP)

Moderated by Sarah Aziz

Support

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About The Architectural League

The Architectural League of New York supports critically transformative work in the allied fields that shape the built environment. As a vital, independent forum, the League stimulates thinking, debate, and action on today's converging crises of racism, inequity, and climate change, in service of a more livable and just world.

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