

# For immediate release

## Topophyla and Gabriel Castro-Andrade selected as winners of Sign and Line

### About Sign and Line

An initiative launched by The Architectural League of New York and Construction Workers United of the Workers Justice Project, Sign and Line aims to create safer worker protections on construction sites.

Learn more about the Sign and Line initiative, *The Red Line* proposal, and download a printable PDF of *The Red Line* [here](#).

### Media Assets

To access visual material, please visit the press room, linked [here](#).

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New York, NY (Mar 3, 2026)—The Architectural League of New York and Construction Worker’s United of the Workers Justice Project announce that the team of **Topophyla** and **Gabriel Castro-Andrade** have been selected to develop [Sign and Line](#), an initiative that called on designers to propose systems to enhance workers’ safety on construction sites. Topophyla, a California-based landscape design firm co-founded by **Eric Arneson** and **Nahal Sohbaty**, and Gabriel Castro-Andrade, a Massachusetts-based designer, educator, and former cement laborer, have been working collaboratively to design and create a set of resources to protect jobsite safety and orderliness.

Sign and Line responds to the proliferation and intensification of federal immigration enforcement actions that have been affecting jobsites across the country. By more clearly articulating both the regulations governing jobsite access (Sign) and the boundaries between public and private spaces (Line), the initiative set out to use design to create maximally compliant, safe, and orderly workplaces.

As the team at Worker’s Justice Project said:

*Sign and Line transformed design into a tool for protecting construction workers’ rights and safety. We explored how to define who belongs on a jobsite and signal that employers stand with their workers amid immigration enforcement. The proposals we received met this challenge with care, creativity, and intentionality, leaving us deeply inspired. For us, what matters most isn’t just the ideas, but the shared commitment they embody, to make solidarity and safety clear, marking every jobsite as a place where workers are informed, protected, and never alone.*

Topophyla and Castro-Andrade's winning proposal, *The Red Line*, is a site access strategy that uses a kit of parts to establish clear boundaries, scalable protocols, and specific points of contact to manage entry into active jobsites. Inspired by global traditions of cloth as a signifier of protection, solidarity, and unity, the system specifies commonly available materials to establish a continuous perimeter line marked with red fabric, designated contact zones, standardized signage, and a single point of authority. A limited number of sample kits will be available upon request from the League.

As Jacob R. Moore, executive director of The Architectural League, said:

*As the places where workers negotiate and give form to architectural drawings, construction sites are essential to the profession, yet they are often marginalized in architectural discourse. The Sign and Line initiative acknowledges the vital role construction workers play not only in our shared professions, but also in the communities where we live and work. With this winning proposal from Topophyla and Gabriel Castro-Andrade, we aim to address this cultural marginalization, using our professional and institutional resources to make modest—but we hope meaningful—improvements to the safety of these places amid ongoing threats.*

Launched as a Request for Proposals in September 2025, Sign and Line fielded proposals from design teams from across the U.S. The jury included Armary Perez and Eduardo Castañeda of Construction Workers United, Jacob R. Moore of The Architectural League of New York, Michael Bierut of Pentagram, Andy Klemmer of Paratus Group, Elsa Ponce of Studio Elsa Ponce, and Lloyd Westerman of Westerman Construction.

On Tuesday, March 24, at 4:00 p.m. ET, Eric Arneson and Nahal Sohbaty of Topophyla and Gabriel Castro-Andrade will present *The Red Line*, their winning design from the Sign and Line RFP, at the [Sign and Line, On Site](#) virtual event.

### **About Topophyla**

Topophyla is an analysis-driven, process-oriented landscape architecture practice serving Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area, co-founded by Eric Arneson and Nahal Sohbaty. Topophyla approaches each project through a holistic, site-specific lens, using careful analysis to shape landscapes that are ecologically responsive, contextually grounded, and experientially rich. Eric Arneson is a California-licensed landscape architect who incorporates advanced documentation tools, including aerial mapping and drone-based workflow, in the design and construction coordination process. Nahal Sohbaty is a landscape designer whose work engages design as a tool for social and environmental advocacy.

### **About Gabriel Castro-Andrade**

Gabriel Castro-Andrade is a designer and researcher examining how construction labor, safety systems, and material boundaries shape architectural form and civic life. His graduate research on detailing—tracking choreography, injury, and craft knowledge—as a shared language between designers and builders contributed to his recent work on construction fences as political infrastructure that mediates safety, privatization, and the public realm. Currently an exhibition designer at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Castro-Andrade previously worked at Wilmotte & Associés in Paris, TEN Arquitectos in Mexico City, and as a cement mason in Newark, New Jersey.

### **About The Architectural League of New York**

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.

### **About Construction Workers United**

Construction Workers United (CWU) organizes and advocates for day laborers and low-wage immigrant workers in New York City's construction industry. CWU is preparing the next generation of builders in NYC by delivering effective, culturally-competent health and safety training under Local Law 196, raising the wage floor for day laborers through negotiations with employers, operating a hiring hall for day laborers, preventing wage theft, and connecting the dots between workforce development and worker protections.

### **About the Worker's Justice Project**

Founded in 2010, the Worker's Justice Project (WJP) is a New York City worker center that educates, organizes, and fights for better work conditions and social justice in the workplace. With a base of more than 12,000 members, WJP organizes low-wage, immigrant workers who are fighting to raise workplace standards in the construction, house cleaning, and app-based delivery industries.

### **Support**

Sign and Line is made possible by the members and supporters of The Architectural League of New York. Additional support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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