



# PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2019

THE ALBERT JR. AND TINA  
**SMALL  
CENTER**  
FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

TULANE  
SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE

FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN



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Photo: Jose Cotto

## ABOUT SMALL CENTER

The Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design is the community design center of the Tulane School of Architecture. Small Center believes that innovative solutions to the most pressing problems facing our communities lie in giving voice to the residents who live here. Partner organizations bring their project ideas to us and we bring our design expertise to bear in collaboration; supporting New Orleans residents in imagining and pursuing projects that strengthen neighborhoods and contribute to a city shaped by its residents.

## ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The Small Center Public Interest Design fellowship is an eight week summer intensive. The fellowship is an opportunity for students to put their education into practice by advancing community-based projects engaging and networking with designers and architects and working with the Small Center team to continue to challenge and evolve our field. The 2019 Fellowship would not be possible without the generous support of Morris Adjmi and Associates, William and Jane Sizeler, and Eskew Dumez + Ripple.

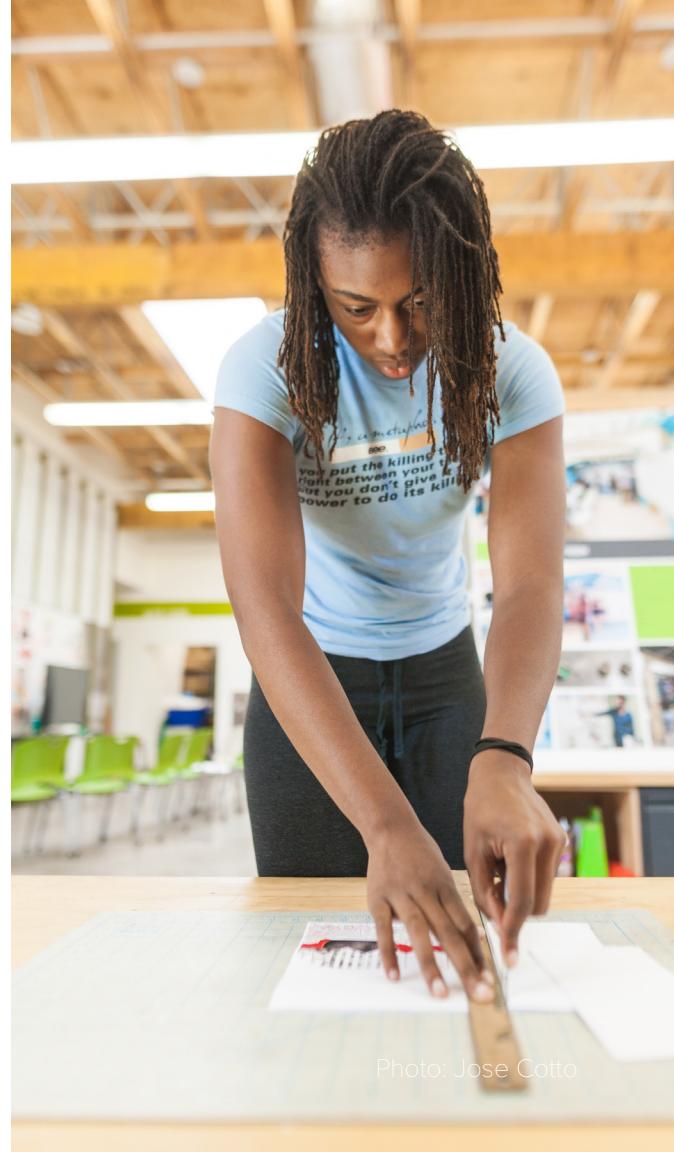


Photo: Jose Cotto



# MEET THE FELLOWS

Field Trip: Rural Studio Kitchen

# ABBY BOEDIGHEIMER

M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR

This fellowship has been a great opportunity to re-think the way I design. I learned a lot about the collaborative aspects of design and how to engage with community in a meaningful way. Never before have I worked on a project where the sense of community and genuine care was so palpable. Working on site during Farmacia gave me a deeper understanding of the community that can exist if you make an effort to genuinely engage people with design.

I also learned a lot through our discussions in the Racism and Real Estate project. I was shocked about the extent to which racist real estate policies have shaped not only our built environment, but also the quality of life for many Americans. I hope to use what I learned to shape our built environment in a positive way that helps undo, not reinforce, what has been done in the past.



A photograph of Chewys Parra-Paulino, a young man with dark hair and a beard, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a black t-shirt and is leaning forward with his arms crossed on a light-colored wooden table. In the background, there are several pairs of safety glasses hanging on a green wall.

# CHEWYS PARRA-PAULINO

**M.ARCH 1 | 2ND YEAR**

I would recommend the public interest design fellowship to any student who has an interest in using design and design thinking as a strong tool to help communities. It is a rich experience full of learning and hands-on work that will make you a sensible, better designer and human being. To be a builder, along with the sensibility of understanding one's community is very important. I want to continue a career path in public interest design because the ability to help people in need of design services who wouldn't otherwise have access is an important value of mine. I'm looking forward to practicing and learning from different locations around the globe, working in studios that apply a community design-build approach. I would like to go back to Puerto Rico with new eyes and help communities in the way I have done as a fellow.

There were several moments this summer I will remember forever. Some of these include being able to lift heavy 4x4 steel tubes frames as a team and successfully position them to achieve our design goals, attending the Association for Community Design Conference 2019 in Greenwood, MS; and sitting at a conference table and having discussions of the realities of racism in real estate.

# GRiffin DALY

M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR

The degree of agency and power that comes with physically engaging in design-build practice is almost indescribable. To labor over an idea, a sketch, a concept, and then to see it materialize inspires a renewed faith in architecture's ability to change the world. As we worked to build the Farmacia, I was refreshingly reminded of how immediate, how urgent, and how impactful design can be.

The fellowship also pushed me to refine and deepen my conception of how best architecture can be utilized as a tool for a progressive vision of social justice. At times, working in the abstract realm of academic studio projects, it can be frustrating trying to seek out strategies for activist architecture. I often wonder if there are formal, or aesthetic, or stylistic choices that can make a project anti-racist, anti-poverty, or liberatory. But what I learned in the fellowship is that what matters most is who architects, as critical agents, ally with.

Architects, at the end of the day, are builders. Building a socially just world means devoting ourselves to hard work, alongside and in solidarity with so many others who are doing the same. We must weave ourselves into matrices of activists fighting for collective liberation. And to get it done, we've got to get our hands a little dirty—and maybe break a nail or two—along the way.





# HANNAH BANNISTER

**M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR**

Working alongside community leaders to co-design and build a space challenged me this summer. I realized, as we were sketching out ideas, that the outcome of these sketches would be physically part of a community and that we would actually have to put the structure together. The concrete reality of the design-build pushed me to think through co-design methods, connection details, and processes of construction that I previously had not considered. Working alongside community partners solidified the project and made me consider the impact of the architecture we were creating. I hope that Farmacia grows alongside the community as people begin to gather, garden, and learn together there.

I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work with, converse with, and learn from some amazing people this summer. Firstly, I must thank the other fellows and the Small Center staff. We encouraged each other to think bigger and delve deeper with everything that we did. Secondly, I must thank the wide range of partners throughout the fellowship, who helped us learn more about this city and its underlying social and political structures. The connections I made this summer helped me realize that there are multiple paths in the field of architecture and design that can expand upon my passion for social justice.

# MADDISON WELLS

**M.ARCH 1 | 2ND YEAR**

I believe that architects not only have a responsibility to design and create space, but that we must also start a conversation about what space should and needs to be. Design is a very collaborative process and I could not have chosen a better group of fellows to collaborate with. Together we explored the challenges of fabrication, navigated through the complex history of race and place, and ultimately created a beautiful space for a local community. The projects we completed have only increased my dedication to using architecture as a social and political tool. Architecture, along with its policies, has the power to implement long lasting positive or negative effects on anyone who interacts with space.

After this summer, public interest and community engagement will continue to be the driving force of my architectural design and practice. Every day I learned more about how design can be used to achieve equity while also acquiring new skills. The schematic process of each project was what I was most familiar with and comfortable doing; however, being in the field and constructing a project has given me a newfound respect for details and building fabrication. The fellowship has also expanded my thoughts on how to analyze, digest, and graphically redistribute information.





# TAYLOR SCOTT

M.ARCH | 5TH YEAR

The Public Interest Design Fellowship provided me with the opportunity to learn more about the City of New Orleans and greater Mississippi Delta region at a variety of scales. As a designer, uncovering the nuanced interrelations of people, place, and culture at a neighborhood scale was key to a successful project. As a design team, we learned the value of investigation, collaboration, and communication as we worked alongside our community partners.

At a regional scale, our group field trip through the Mississippi Delta allowed for team bonding and cultural enrichment. I now have a greater understanding of how geography can play a significant role in shaping the history, culture, and built environment of a region. Throughout our journey we met with passionate social-impact designers and community leaders striving to connect people and place. As architects we must remember that not only are we designers, but also advocates for the communities that we serve. My main takeaway as a PID fellow: always remember to design with empathy and inclusiveness.



Field Trip: Lyons Park, Rural Studio



# THE FARMACIA

## URBAN AGRICULTURE

Photo: Jose Cotto

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

The FARMacia Wellness Hub is a signature initiative of NewCorp, Inc.'s 7th Ward Revitalization Project (7WRP) that will focus on the intersection between urban agriculture and medicine for community wellness. The Small Center Public Interest Design Fellows collaborated with NewCorp to design and build a structure at the FARMacia for classes, meetings, and communal gathering.

The space is defined by steel frames in the silhouette of a typical shotgun house, referencing the neighborhood's history and heritage. Sited on a lot that was once the home of Dr. Thelma Coffey Boutte, a trailblazer who was New Orleans' first Black female physician, the Farmacia has a sense of history and rootedness.

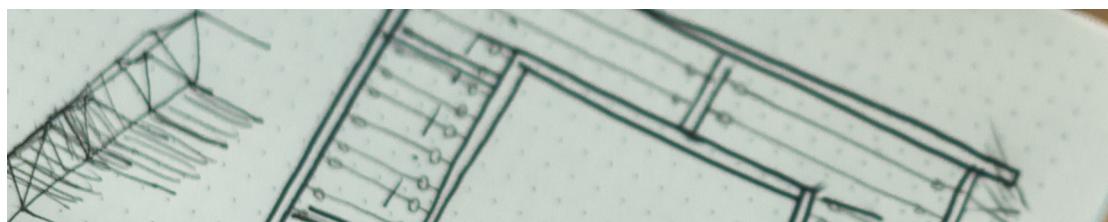
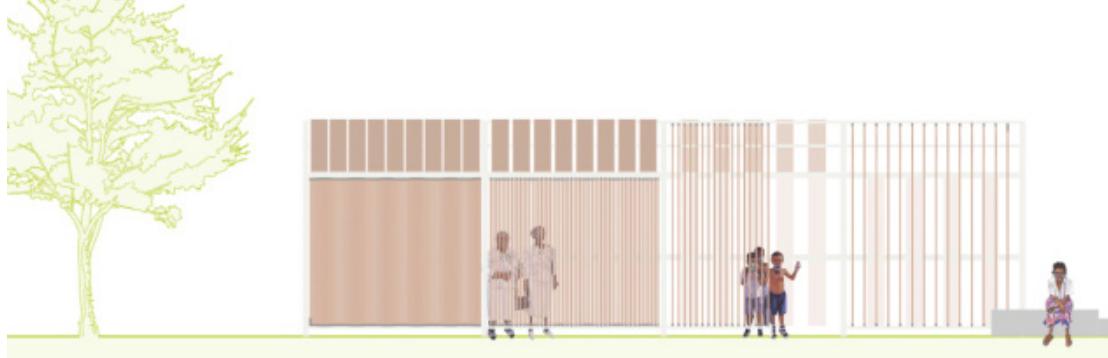
The design for the structure further evokes the experience of a shotgun home in its transition from front to back. The entry faces the street. Like a porch, it is a more public, open space to step in, meet neighbors, and chat with friends. The rear of the structure is denser, more shaded, and further removed. It offers a space to settle in, get comfortable, and rest or gather for storytelling or classes around health and wellness.

The cladding for the structure further emphasizes its typological reference and the themes of intergenerationality and rootedness. Upon the steel frames, rope and wood panels rhythmically fill the gaps. Towards the back, they become denser, offering more shade and privacy. The choice of natural materials gives a warm, inviting, earthy feel. Further, the rope invites future growth of vines, allowing the structure to evolve and grow over time.

The fellows cut, welded, primed, and painted the steel frames; installed them on site, digging footings and pouring concrete foundations; and installed the intricate rope and wood cladding pattern. We hope that use of the structure grows in the future as neighbors begin to garden and gather together.

# DESIGN PROCESS





## PRECEDENTS: REDEFINING EXTERIOR SPACES

The fellows explored other Small Center projects around the city of New Orleans to get a better sense of scale and material options. After visiting several steel structures similar in scale to the Farmacia project, they decided to scale back the height from what they had previously planned. They also discovered an interesting rope detail that they later adapted to the Farmacia project.



# FABRICATION

## FROM DESIGN TO BUILD





A photograph of a group of people standing in a concrete underpass. In the background, there is a large mural of a brain on the ceiling. The mural features various colors like yellow, orange, and red, and shows the internal structure of the brain with different colored regions.

# SEEKING EQUITY IN DESIGN

IN ALABAMA, COASTAL LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI

Field Trip: Sub Rosa, Rural Studio

# IN SEARCH OF EQUITY FOCUSED DESIGN INTERVENTIONS

During the last week of June the fellows had the opportunity to travel together, beginning at the Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The monument was somber, and one of the fellows remarked that it was the only time that they had seen slavery memorialized for the human tragedy that it was. Only a few blocks from the monument was the Legacy Museum. Housed in a former slave warehouse, the exhibits clearly shows the progression of codified racism from slavery through mass incarceration today.

Afterwards, the fellows traveled to Greensboro, Alabama, to tour Rural Studio projects, learning about how students are using project management, communication, and design skills to meet needs within the context of rural Alabama. The trip culminated with the Association for Community Design Conference in Mississippi where fellows heard from a wide-array of professionals engaged in community-based design.

After returning from the trip, the fellows had a new lens with which to look at the second project of the fellowship: *Racism and Injustice in Real Estate*.



THIS COLUMN STANDS  
IN HONOR OF THE  
COUNTLESS THOUSANDS  
OF MEN, WOMEN, AND  
CHILDREN WHO ARE  
UNDOCUMENTED VICTIMS  
OF RACIAL TERROR AND  
LYNCHING. WHILE WE  
HAVE COLLECTED THE  
NAMES, DATES, AND  
STORIES FOR MORE THAN  
4,000 RACIAL TERROR  
LYNCHINGS INSCRIBED  
IN THIS MEMORIAL,  
THE TRUE NUMBER OF  
VICTIMS IS DRAMATICALLY  
HIGHER. MANY LYNCHINGS  
WERE UNREPORTED AND  
NEVER DOCUMENTED.  
ALTHOUGH THEIR NAMES  
AND STORIES MAY NEVER  
BE KNOWN, WE REMEMBER  
AND MOURN ALL WHOSE  
LIVES WERE LOST DURING  
THIS TRAGIC ERA OF  
RACIAL TERROR.

# RACISM AND INJUSTICE IN REAL ESTATE

EXPRESSIONS  
OF  
RACISM:

CULTURE

• belief in white supremacy

All black people live in the ghetto  
black people aren't smart  
black & brown ppl care less about well-being  
black ppl are less intelligent  
black ppl are good at sports  
black ppl don't work hard  
up my butt steps

involves one group having the power to carry out systemic discrimination through the institutional policies and practices of the society and by shaping the cultural beliefs and values that support those policies.

INSTITUTIONAL

• criminalization of black and brown men  
• pay inequality  
• job availability & security  
• housing discrimination  
• lending practices  
• unequal infrastructure

PERSONAL

• individual acts

- acts of violence (harm)
- stereotyping of a race
- invasion of personal space
- racial slurs
- cultural exploitation
- racial microaggressions
- language, derogatory names

WHITE SUPREMACY CULTURE,

DO WE KNOW WHAT  
MANIFESTATIONS OF  
WHITE  
SUPREMACY

COLORISM

RACIAL GRIEF

PATRIARCHAL

MACHISM

"AMERICAN DREAM"

Internalized

INSTRUMENTS OF CONTROL

HABITS  
MEDIA, TEXTURES, POLICIES

"I AM THE ONLY ONE."

FEAR-PAIN  
BEHAVIOR

The system benefits white people  
so it's easier to maintain

The system benefits white people  
so it's easier to maintain

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Racism and Injustice in Real Estate Postcard project encourages critical examination of the forces that shape our built environment. The project aims to expand knowledge about the history of discrimination in housing through visuals and text that highlight examples of policies, actions, and events.

To begin, fellows dove deep into the history of racism and real estate in New Orleans and toured neighborhoods with historic redlining maps in hand, exploring the legacies of discriminatory lending practices. The group engaged in discussions around whiteness and white supremacy culture and how racism manifests in numerous ways. The fellows also met with community partners across multiple sectors to learn how an understanding of historic and contemporary discrimination informs their work. This along with policy research informed the development of an educational series of postcards.

Students researched and designed postcards on the following topics:

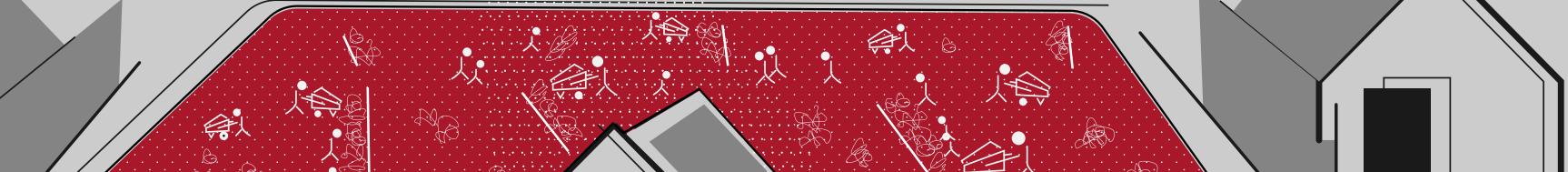
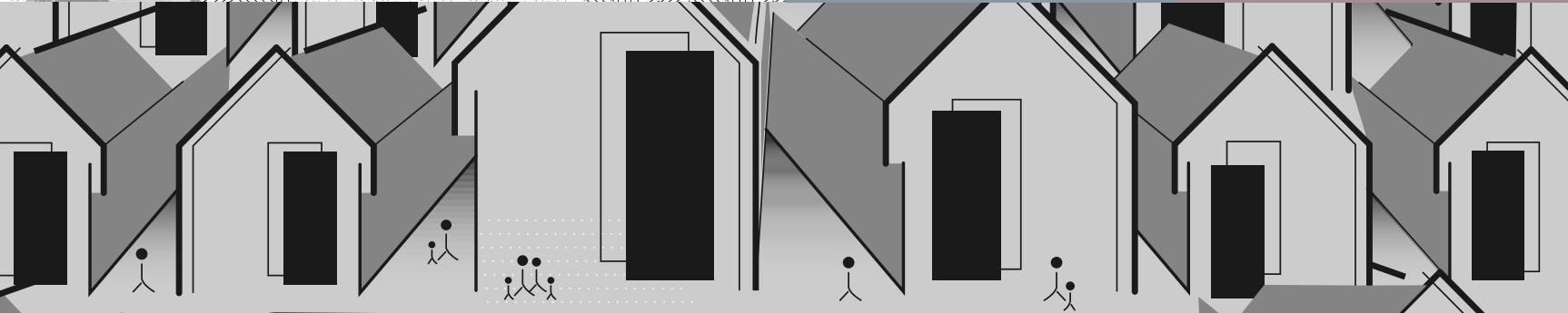
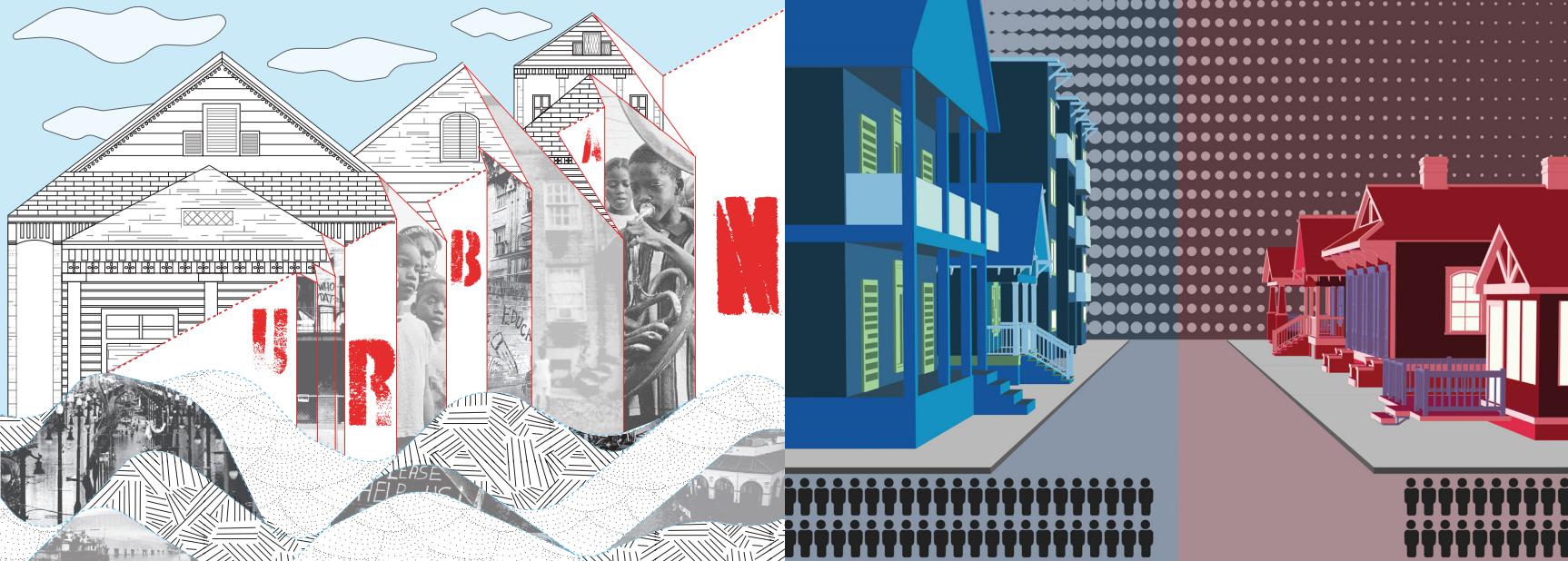
- **Jim Crow**
- **13th Amendment**
- **Gentrification**
- **Area Description Surveys**
- **The Chicago Freedom Movement**
- **Seizure of Property**
- **Social Disparity in The New Deal**
- **Racial Covenants**
- **Exclusionary Zoning**



# DESIGN PROCESS







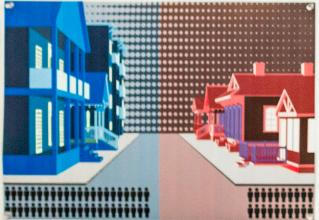
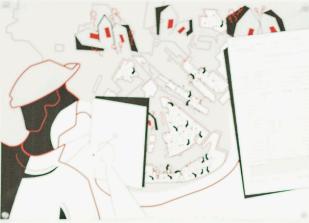
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**Nothing is done in a vacuum.**

**All architecture is inherently political. All architecture makes a statement and an impact. It is our duty as architects to think about how our actions segregate, eradicate, and perpetuate.”**

- Hannah Bannister, 2019 Public Interest Design Fellow





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