

Contact:
Olivia Miles
573-318-6468
omiles@aiabalt.com

2021 AIA Baltimore & BAF Spring Lecture Series: Manifestation

Baltimore, MD – The Baltimore Architecture Foundation and AIA Baltimore are pleased to announce the 2021 Spring Lecture Series. To mark AIA Baltimore’s 150th anniversary, the AIA Baltimore and Baltimore Architecture Foundation 2021 Lecture Series will explore how the built environment simultaneously reflects and influences culture, in Baltimore and beyond through the theme “Manifestation.”

“The AIA Baltimore Spring Lecture Series is always one of the true highlights of the year, providing inspiring and provocative content for the greater community. This year’s series is sure to continue this long tradition of relevant excellence.” says Scott McGovern, AIA Baltimore 2021 President.

Each lecture will expose how cultural values shape design. The three lectures are focused around themes with specific local resonance in Baltimore, a city in which the arts and culture are key to community identity, history, and future vitality. Visiting and local speakers will examine the built environment and its relationship with the arts, community initiatives, sustainability goals, preservation, racial justice, equity and more, as we reflect on how these topics have been shaped by design practice throughout AIA Baltimore’s 150 year history.

“The aim for the lecture series this year is to examine the cultural values that are manifested in our built environment. We’ve put together a multiform program of events and speakers, to consider this topic through many lenses. We hope you can join us for the lectures and that you find the presentations informative and broadening”, says Kelly Danz, Committee Chair for the AIA Baltimore Lecture Series.

All programs are free, open to the public, and held virtually.

For tickets visit: aiabaltimore.org/events

About The Upcoming Spring Lecture Series

March 10 – 6:00 PM | Lecture One: Architecture, Identity, & Place

Speakers: Stephen Luoni, Assoc. AIA, [University of Arkansas Community Design Center](#)
Becky Slogeris, [MICA Social Design](#)

The lecture will explore the overall theme and how architecture and the built environment are directly influenced by cultural values. It will examine this through the lens of community-based design initiatives nationally, and planning specific to Baltimore.

Stephen Luoni, Associate AIA, Director of University of Arkansas Community Design Center will address public-interest design and its role in producing public goods, the very definition of what it means to be a profession. Placemaking platforms in housing and food will be discussed through urban design projects underway.

Becky Slogeris, Associate Director at the Center for Social Design at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) will present *Made You Look: Design as if People Mattered*.

MICA's Center for Social Design is dedicated to demonstrating and promoting the value of design in advancing equity and social justice, and to inspiring and preparing the next generation of creative changemakers. In July 2018, a team of students and staff at the Center launched *Made You Look*, an ongoing initiative to create a safer Baltimore for pedestrians and bicyclists. In collaboration with community stakeholders and the support of Maryland Department of Transportation, *Made You Look* aims to make Baltimore a safer place for pedestrians and bicyclists by increasing visibility on two levels: (1) raising the visibility of individuals walking or biking in the city and (2) making local safety concerns visible to policymakers.

March 31- 6:00 PM | Lecture two: Art + Architecture

Speakers: Benjamin Gilmartin, AIA, [Diller Scofidio + Renfro](#)
Cara Ober, [BMoreArt](#)

Lecturers will speak on the intersection of the arts and architecture. Speakers will explore how architecture and the built environment are directly influenced by cultural values. It will examine this through the lens of community-based design initiatives nationally, and planning specific to Baltimore.

Benjamin Gilmartin, AIA of [Diller Scofidio + Renfro](#), will discuss how the studio's significant cultural projects were acts of conservation, adaptation, and radical rethinking for contemporary use. With the transformation of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts campus and the recent MoMA expansion, DS+R sought to preserve the original DNA of two of New York's most iconic modernist projects, while opening up and democratizing these traditional citadels of "high art." The recently completed US Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado Springs remediates an industrial brownfield area at the edge of the city center, to both revitalize the downtown core and build one of the most universally accessible museums in the nation.

Cara Ober, Founding Editor and Publisher of [BmoreArt](#) will address artist and museum culture and the way they intersect and collide, assessing how this impacts art communities and establishes hierarchies of value.

April 21 – 6:00 PM | Lecture Three: Architecture & Social Justice

Speakers: Dayton Schroeter, AIA, [SmithGroup](#), Design Principal

Maisie Hughes, ASLA, APA, **The Urban Studio**, Co-Founder + Treasurer, Urban Planner |
Landscape Architect | Certified Arborist

Lecturers will speak about designing for social justice in urban and landscape projects. Social justice issues and a history of redlining in the planning of Baltimore will be examined and solutions for improving the equity of the built environment.

Dayton Schroeter, AIA with SmithGroup will address how architecture has the power to uncover buried stories and hidden history. The African American experience is a story of disruption and lost history compounded by the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, imperialism and capitalist globalization. As such African American history has been tragically distorted, removed and/or hidden from contemporary discussions about race and Black life in America. Architecture can be a redeeming force in reconciling this loss, reconnecting African Americans with their history and telling a more complete story of American history.

Masie Hughes of the Urban Studio will discuss a project piloted with co-founder Kendra Hyson: a 10-week environmental education program that taught high school students how to develop design solutions to some of the DC-area's most pressing stormwater issues. The students were tasked with addressing stormwater and water quality issues in the students' neighborhoods, which are located in some of the most polluted watersheds in the city according to DOEE. These brilliant students developed a comprehensive landscape plan that included much-needed community amenities and green infrastructure strategies to capture and clean the stormwater on their perspective sites. The program not only inspired us to launch the Urban Studio, it inspired us to put values at the center of our work. This presentation will discuss how values centered work can inform and transform how we practice.

In addition, [a series of lunchtime lectures](#) will feature Baltimore-area artists, designers, and others considering this topic through their local practice.

[See Our Full Lecture Series Schedule](#)

About AIA Baltimore - The American Institute of Architects, Baltimore Chapter

The American Institute of Architects is a visionary organization providing advocacy, leadership, and knowledge resources for architects to design a better world. Founded in 1871, AIA Baltimore serves as the voice of the architecture profession in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Our chapter consists of 1300 architects, emerging professionals, and allied industry members united to demonstrate the value of architecture and design to communities across our region.

aiabaltimore.org

About the Baltimore Architecture Foundation (BAF)

Launched in 1987, BAF encourages people to explore Baltimore architecture: to be mindful of the area's history, and recognize Baltimore's architectural heritage, and appreciate its design innovations.

Through its tours, lectures, educational programs for adults and kids, exhibitions, research, and publications, the BAF demonstrates how ideas are manifested in the built environment and urban design of the city.

baltimorearchitecture.org

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