
Design and Practice Exchange: Navigating the (Post) Pandemic Terrain

Panel: **(Post) Pandemic Lessons Learned: Design Practice**

19 November 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the design field dramatically, forcing us to adapt in unprecedented ways. This panel discussion will focus on lessons learned during the past 20 months, exploring how we can work to design a more equitable, resilient, and socially and environmentally sustainable built environment.

Venue: Center for Architecture
536 LaGuardia Place
10:05 am – 11:00 am EST

Panelists:

- **Ann Beha, FAIA**, Principal, Ann Beha Architects (Boston)
- **Natasha Espada, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C**, Principal, Studio Eneé (Boston)
- **Arthi Krishnamoorthy, AIA, LEED AP**, Partner, Deborah Berke Partners (New York)
- **Maha Sabra, AIA, OEA, LEED AP BD+C**, Associate Principal, Perkins & Will (New York)

Moderator:

- **Nicole Hollant-Denis, AIA, NOMA**, Principal, Aaris Design Studios (New York)

CES 1.0 LU/HSW | Learning Objectives:

- Identify different ways firms are developing wellness strategies across various design sectors
- Explore how design can promote a more sustainable environment
- Analyze how firms are addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and providing resilient design solutions
- Understand innovative design approaches to achieve a safer and healthier work environment

EVENT RUN OF SHOW

- 10:05 am – 10:07 am Opening Remarks & Introduction
AIANY WIA and BSA WIA Co-Chairs (2 min)
- 10:07 am – 10:09 am Arthi Krishnamoorthy(2 min)
- 10:09 am – 10:11 am Ann Beha (2 min)
- 10:11 am – 10:13 am Maha Sabra (2 min)

- 10:13 am – 10:15 am Natasha Espada (2 min)
- 10:15 am – 10:50 am Moderated Panel Discussion (35 minutes)
- 10:50 am – 11:00 am Audience Q&A (10 minutes)
- 11:00 am Closing Remarks
AIANY WIA and BSA WIA Co-Chairs

PANELIST BIOS



Ann Beha, FAIA
Principal, Ann Beha Architects
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Ann Beha's leadership is marked by her historical, cultural, and educational contributions. Her firm's projects advance the dialogue between tradition and innovation for cities, campuses, and cultural institutions. Based in Boston, the work of Ann Beha Architects for the US Department of State, the Smithsonian, and small and large educational and civic institutions has reset expectations for existing buildings and introduced bold and integrated contemporary design in legacy settings.

Widely recognized nationally and internationally, Beha's awards include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New England Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, the Women in Design Award of Excellence and the Honor Award from the Boston Society of Architects, and the Award of Honor from the US Department of State, Overseas Building Operations.

Beha is a graduate of Wellesley College and received a Master of Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, serves on Harvard's Campus Design Advisory Council, and was Distinguished Visiting Professor of Architecture at the City College of New York.



Natasha Espada, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C
Principal, STUDIO ENÉE
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Natasha Espada is the founding Principal of Boston's STUDIO ENÉE a diverse award-winning MBE/WBE design firm creating innovative solutions at every scale. Espada has over 25 years of experience designing institutional, commercial, cultural, and civic projects. In 2020, she served as the first Latinx President of the Boston Society of Architects, promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice in the profession by creating an EDI Knowledge

Community and through the series “Race and Architecture.” Espada is a member of the BSA’s Women’s Principal’s group, has presented at the AIA Women’s Leadership Summit, and was the curator of the WID exhibition *Urban Interventions: Women Designing in Boston*. She has also spoken on equity and practice at the AIA Grassroots Conference and AIA CT Equity Summit. She served as a juror for the 2021 AIA Iowa Impact Awards. In addition to practice, Espada has been a lecturer at Harvard GSD, MIT, Wentworth, MassArt, Roger Williams, and the BAC and was an adjunct professor at Northeastern University. She serves on the Board of the Town of Needham’s United Against Racism and is a member of its Planning Board. In 2020, she was named one of the 50 most influential people of color in Greater Boston. In 2021, as the commencement speaker at Wentworth Institute of Technology, she was the recipient of an honorary degree.



Arthi Krishnamoorthy, AIA, LEED AP

Partner, Deborah Berke Partners

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Arthi Krishnamoorthy is a partner at the New York-based firm Deborah Berke Partners, where her approach to design and practice is empathetic and humane. Krishnamoorthy strives to create spaces that connect people to their environment, to one other, and to the moment, designing spaces that impress upon individuals and better their communities. Krishnamoorthy has led some of the firm’s largest and most complicated projects. Her work is often for mission-driven clients and she understands buildings to be a result of the cooperative efforts of many. Her interest in sustainability is holistic—social, environmental, and resilient. Conscious that buildings last well beyond their initial purpose, she advocates for enduring designs that can adapt over time.

Krishnamoorthy received her B.S. in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and an M.Arch. from the University of Pennsylvania. She grew up in Singapore and lives in New York.



Maha Sabra, AIA, OEA, LEED AP BD+C

Associate Principal (Health), Perkins & Will

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As a Senior Project Manager at Perkins & Will, Maha Sabra plays a central role leading the New York studio’s healthcare teams on a variety of complex projects. Sabra has 20 years of design and project delivery/management experience in all phases of new construction, renovation, and restoration. Her areas of focus include all aspects of the project process, seeking opportunities for improvement, offering solutions, and acting proactively to influence a project team’s quest for design excellence. Her ability to cultivate relationships and manage all aspects of project design and delivery has ensured successful

results for clients time and again.

Sabra oversees the many financial and technical aspects of the design, approval, and delivery process. Her success lies in her ability to mentor and motivate others, and to foster collaborative relationships with clients, project partners, and peers. Her portfolio includes prominent academic medical centers, clinical projects for high-profile healthcare systems, and commercial development properties in the U.S. and overseas. Sabra is a licensed architect with a Masters in Architecture from the Université De Balamand-Académie Libanaise Des Beaux-Arts in Lebanon.

MODERATOR BIO:



Nicole Hollant-Denis, AIA, NOMA

Principal, Aaris Design Architects
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Award-winning architect and designer Nicole Hollant-Denis has a reputation for creating distinctive living and environmental spaces. The founder and president of Aaris Design Architects in New York City, Hollant-Denis's 25+ year career in architecture has included developing the historic African Burial Ground Memorial, designing Harlem's first indoor plant-wall of fresh greenery for Columbia University, renovating Met Life's Fifth Avenue offices, and building a permanent hurricane- and earthquake-safe house community in Haiti.

Considered one of America's most notable African American women architects, Hollant-Denis holds a Master in Design Studies (MDes) from Harvard University and a Bachelor Degree of Architecture from Cornell University. She has built structures and smashed glass ceilings to create influential projects of diverse architectural types throughout the New York metro area and beyond. One of her most high-profile projects is the Port Authority Beautification project, which features six miles of hardscape and landscaping décor along the Air Train route of the Van Wyke Expressway leading to JFK Airport. In 2004, the Aaris team won the commission for the historical African Burial Ground Memorial in Lower Manhattan. The memorial's unique design concepts which originated in Hollant-Denis's Cornell University thesis, explore Afrocentric forms in architecture using organic elements like earth, air, and water.

More recently, Aaris Design Architects is working as Associate Architect in the Columbia Business School's \$500 million contract for Columbia University's Manhattanville, a 17-acre campus expansion. Aaris joins a team led by design architect Diller Scofidio + Renfro and executive architect FXCollaborative. Since her days as a young activist, Hollant-Denis has spent the last two decades supporting community-focused projects, including Harlem's La Marqueta Plaza and Shiloh Church of Christ. Hollant-Denis lives with her husband and two daughters in New York.