



TORCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Empowering CommUnity

AIANY Emerging New York Architects & AIANY College of Fellows

Panel 3 – Business of Architecture: Young Firms and FAIAs in Conversation

May 19, 2021

6:00-7:30pm

Join us as the TORCH Mentorship Program convenes a distinguished panel of Fellows and emerging practitioners to discuss the business side of design. This session will take the form of a moderated conversation between FAIAs and notable young firms as they share lessons, insight, and personal stories on the challenges of starting their own practice, on why certain designers might be attracted to such a path, and on how effective entrepreneurship can be in helping you chart your professional course.

BIOS

Moderator:



F. Burak Unel, Assoc. AIA, is a New York City based designer and technologist. With experience living and working across Europe, North America and Asia Pacific, Burak earned his B.Arch. degree from Syracuse University, with a secondary focus on applied entrepreneurship. Post graduation, he took part in New York State sponsored fellowships on sustainable technologies before being invited to work abroad in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, where he built projects as part of a larger international practice, as well as a volunteer architectural designer for regional NGOs that work to empower disenfranchised communities through strategic infrastructure construction, exhibition design, and advocacy.

Upon returning to the U.S., Burak pursued his M. Arch. II degree in advanced building technologies at Cornell University, helping launch the AAP's Robotic Construction Lab and Environmental Systems Lab, and subsequently joined Ennead Architects. He supports mentorship programs at the national level, and works in collaboration with organizations like NCARB to tackle issues of diversity, equity, and representation in architecture, while contributing think-pieces to architectural publications like Metropolis magazine.

He is Co-chair of the Emerging New York Architects (ENYA) Committee at AIA New York, a member of the Civic Leadership Program (CLP) Advisory Taskforce, and a member of the TORCH Executive Committee.

Panelists:



Mary Burnham, FAIA is a founding partner of MBB Architects in her native city of New York. Her practice is centered on a belief in the transformative power of architecture and a humanistic design approach, which integrates placemaking, experiential form, daylight, and nuanced materiality to elevate both individual and collective lives. Her work encompasses educational, cultural, civic, and residential projects, all designed with a sustainable focus. Her design sensibility and mastery of color and light are influenced, in part, by her experience as a painter.

Mary has won numerous design awards from the City, State and National AIA, among many others, and her projects are widely featured in design publications.

Mary is a founder of the Lighthouse Works, a not-for-profit arts organization, and has served as a guest critic at numerous graduate architecture programs. She is a member of the Board of the Architectural League of NY and has served on the Honors Committee of the NY Chapter of AIA.

She was elevated to the College of Fellows of the AIA in 2018.



Benjamin Cadena, AIA is an architect and founder of Studio Cadena, a design and architecture practice based in Brooklyn. The studio is interested in engaging contemporary life, the city and its people – in designing new and captivating spaces, places and experiences for those who use them.

His work has been widely published in publication such as TIME, Metropolis, Surface, FRAME, Dezeen, PIN-UP and Wallpaper*, and exhibited the Center for Architecture, Espacio Odeon, Art OMI and The Storefront for Art and Architecture among others. He has received the AIANY Honors Award, two Golden Cubes by the Arts Directors Club of New York, and was the recipient of the Prix Versailles continental prize by UNESCO and

the UAI in Paris. He was recognized of one of the top 50 designers in the US by the editors of the Architects Newspaper, and 2016, he was the recipient the biennial AIA New York New Practices award.

Originally from Bogota, Colombia, Benjamin holds a BA in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and Master of Architecture from the same institution. Prior to founding his practice, he worked with Rice+Lipka Architects, Stan Allen Architect, WORKac and Atelier Bow-Wow. Benjamin is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, where he teaches design studios.



Karolina Czczek is an architect and a Principal of Only If—, a New York City-based design practice for architecture and urbanism. The firm's projects span a range of different types and scales, from commercial interiors, single- and multiple family housing, to larger-scale urban planning, research, and speculation.

Only If is a winner of the NYC HPD organized Big Ideas for Small Lots competition to develop affordable housing on the narrow lots in New York City. In 2020, the firm was named as one of the 50 best emerging architecture firms in the world by Domus, has been recognized as Architect Magazine's Next Progressives in 2019, and a winner of the 2018 AIANY New Practices New York.

Karolina is currently a critic at the Yale University School of Architecture, Visiting Critic at the Syracuse University School of Architecture, and a Lecturer at the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department at the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design. She is a Fulbright Scholar who holds two master's degrees in architecture and urban design from Yale University and the Cracow University of Technology. She previously worked at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam and Hong Kong. Karolina is a registered architect in the Netherlands and Poland.



Deborah Gans, FAIA is the principal of Gans and Company, and a full professor of architecture at Pratt Institute. Her architectural practice is a Design Excellence Firm of the City of New York, with work that has been exhibited at the Guggenheim and the Venice Biennale. She is a member of the board of directors of Places Journal for the future of architecture, landscape, and urbanism.

Many of Gans and Company's projects in industrial design and architecture explore forms of social engagement, ranging in scale from a school desk for the New York School Construction Authority to alternative housing and settlements for Kosovo and New Orleans. The firm's collaborations include work with James Dart Architects on

housing for New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward; a project that began with a HUD grant.

A recipient of the American Institute of Architects 2014 New York State Educator Award, Gans' publications include the Le Corbusier Guide, which has been translated into four languages, as well as many essays on Le Corbusier and writings on urbanism and ecology such as Extreme Sites: Greening the Brownfield and The Organic Approach. Deborah received her BA from Harvard, and her M.Arch from Princeton University.

She was elevated to the College of Fellows of the AIA in 2014.



Stephen Yablon, FAIA has focused his New York City-based practice, Stephen Yablon Architecture, on contemporary architecture that creates place, identity, and change.

His work has had a national impact on the design of essential community facilities, especially for healthcare clinics that provide a calm and stigma-free experience for the underserved. By using a high level of design to elevate these buildings and spaces, his projects have resulted in increased use, improving the health of patients and their communities. He is highly involved in advancing the understanding of the relationship between the physical environment and health through giving lectures, participating on panels, and writing articles on the topic.

Stephen's work has been widely recognized including numerous awards, publications, and exhibits, and has often served on design award juries, including for the 2017 AIA National Healthcare Design Awards. Shortly after founding SYA, Stephen was recognized as an important emerging architect by Interior Design magazine and the New York City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In 2012, he received Washington University's Sam Fox School of Art and Design Alumni Award of Distinction. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Stephen received a Bachelor of Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master of Architecture from Columbia University School of Architecture.

He was elevated to the College of Fellows of the AIA in 2020.



Bryan Young, AIA founded his New York City design studio, Young Projects LLC, in 2010. His work spans buildings, interiors, material prototyping, furniture, and objects of curiosity driven by an interest in pattern, texture, and spatial complexity. These disparate elements are connected through an experimental approach to material properties and material deployment.

Young Projects' work has been widely published and has received numerous awards including Architectural Record's Design Vanguard Award in 2020, The Architectural League of New York's Emerging Voices award in 2020, a Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award from Architect Magazine for Glitch House in 2018, an AN Award for the

MALI Museum proposal in 2017, a "New Practices New York" award from AIANY in 2016, and The Architectural League of New York's League Prize in 2013.

Bryan received his Master of Architecture with distinction from Harvard University in 2003, where he was awarded the AIA Henry Adams Medal and the Thesis Prize for his spatial diagrams on Donkey Kong and Pac-Man. He received his Bachelor of Arts from UC Berkeley in 1997. Since 2009, he has taught graduate-level architecture design studios and seminars at several universities including MIT, Columbia, Parsons, Syracuse and Cooper. Prior to establishing his studio, Young was a senior associate at Allied Works Architecture and previously worked for ARO, SOM and Peter Pfau.