

CHICAGO
ARCHITECTURE
BIENNIAL

...AND OTHER
SUCH STORIES

Chicago Architecture Biennial Announces Early Highlight Contributors Comprising 51 Contributors from 19 Countries, Including Architects, Artists, Collectives, and Researchers

New and commissioned projects from Forensic Architecture and Invisible Institute, Wolff Architects, MASS Design Group and Theaster Gates, among others to highlight issues ranging from public housing to social justice to the appropriation and preservation of the natural environment

CHICAGO (March 14, 2019) – The Chicago Architecture Biennial announced today the first group of contributors to the 2019 edition and its publication. Titled **...and other such stories**, the biennial will form an expansive and multi-faceted exploration of the field of architecture and the built environment globally. The first 51 contributors — spanning the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia — form an initial, representative group, and include an early selection of ambitious commissioned projects. These projects will address key questions about the implications of architecture as it relates to land, memory, rights, and civic participation, and are particularly inspired by the history and conditions of the City of Chicago.

“Our initial list of contributors comprises practices and projects that resonate deeply with our four curatorial focus areas” noted **Artistic Director Yesomi Umolu** “We are especially proud to commission a series of new projects that address some of the most pressing issues of our time while advancing new forms of thinking and practice across the field of architecture and beyond.”

Many from the initial list — approximately half of the projected contributor list — will produce newly commissioned projects in conversation with the Biennial’s curatorial team, which comprises **Artistic Director Yesomi Umolu**, a contemporary art curator, and co-curators **Sepake Angiama**, a curator whose work centers on education, and **Paulo Tavares**, a Brazil-based architect and academic. Early highlight commissions include:

- Reflections on landscapes of belonging and sovereignty that challenge existing, narrow definitions of land as property and commodity from **Wolff Architects** (Capetown, South Africa), **Territorial Agency—John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog** (London, UK) and **Theaster Gates** (Chicago, IL). Projects that think through alternative designs and relationships between nature, society, and the built environment by **Carolina Caycedo** (Los Angeles, CA) and **Joar Nango** (Sápmi/Northern Norway);
- Explorations of sites of memory — and the politics of remembering and/or forgetting in contested spaces — by contributors **CAMP** (Mumbai, India), **Center for Spatial Research** (New York, NY), **MASS Design Group** (Boston, MA/Poughkeepsie, NY/Kigali, Rwanda), **Tanya Lukin Linklater** and

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Tiffany Shaw-Collinge (Ontario, Canada and Alberta, Canada), and **Wendelien van Oldenborgh** (Rotterdam, Netherlands);

- Interpretations of space — urban, territorial, environmental — as a site of advocacy and civic participation with works by **DAAR (Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti)** (Beit Sahour, Palestine), **FICA—Fundo Imobiliário Comunitário para Aluguel** (São Paulo, Brazil), **Forensic Architecture and Invisible Institute** (London, UK and Chicago, IL), **Maria Gaspar** (Chicago, IL), **Ola Hassanain** (Khartoum, Sudan), and **RMA Architects** (Mumbai, India and Boston, MA);
- Contributors who will explore methodologies for intervening in public space — both within and beyond the field of architecture, including **Adrian Blackwell** (Toronto, Canada), **ConstructLab** (Berlin, Germany) and **Keleketla! Library** (Johannesburg, South Africa).

Over the coming months, the Biennial will announce the full list of contributors and key programming for this year's edition of the Biennial.

An eponymous catalogue will also be published in conjunction with the Biennial, extending the edition's core questions through essays by **Dr. Denise Ferreira da Silva** (Associate Professor and Director of The Social Justice Institute at the University of British Columbia), **Eduardo O. Kohn** (Associate Professor of Anthropology at McGill University), **Lesley Lokko** (Director and Professor, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg) and **Pelin Tan** (Sociologist and Art Historian), alongside interviews and visual dossiers. This will be co-published with Columbia University Press as part of their *Columbia Books on Architecture and the City* series.

"This talented group of contributors represent a strong cross section of architects, artists, collectives and researchers who add to the cultural fabric of their communities around the world, and right here in Chicago," noted **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel**. "With contributions from 19 countries and counting, the third Chicago Architecture Biennial will again reinforce Chicago's reputation as the vanguard of architectural, art, and design innovation on the national and international stage."

"The participants who will explore the significant issues raised by our curators will both challenge and entertain the Biennial's audiences: architecture professionals, Chicagoans, including those in our school program, and visitors to our city," stated Biennial **Board Chairman Jack Guthman**.

"We are thrilled to be partner with such a diverse and insightful group of contributors to tell important stories about who we are, and who we may become," noted Biennial **Executive Director Todd Palmer**. "We are looking forward to announcing the full list of contributors to the main exhibition — as well as participants in the broader, citywide program — in the coming months, and to exploring these projects and perspectives further with our visitors."

The Chicago Architecture Biennial is the largest architecture and design exhibition in North America. The Biennial, which is free and open to the public, will open the central exhibition in the Chicago Cultural Center on September 19, 2019 and run through January 5, 2020. Press and professional previews will take place September 17–18, 2019. The opening of the 2019 edition will again align with EXPO CHICAGO, the International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art. Founding sponsor BP will renew its support in 2019 as a lead sponsor alongside the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, providing a strong foundation for the event's return.

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2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial Highlight Contributors:

Exhibition Contributors

Adrian Blackwell

Born in Toronto, Canada
Lives in Toronto, Canada

Akinbode Akinbiyi

Born in Oxford, England – UK
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Alejandra Celedon & Nicolas Stutzin

Celedon born in Edmonton, Canada; Stutzin born in Santiago, Chile
Both live in Santiago, Chile

Architects for Social Housing (ASH)

Founded in London, England – UK

Avijit Mukul Kishore & Rohan Shivkumar

Kishore born in Lucknow, India; Shivkumar born in Hyderabad, India
Both live in Mumbai, India

Black Quantum Futurism

Founded in Philadelphia, USA

Borderless Studio

Founded in Chicago, USA

CAMP

Founded in Mumbai, India

Carolina Caycedo

Born in London, England – UK
Lives in Los Angeles, USA

Center for Spatial Research

Founded in New York, USA

Clemens von Wedemeyer

Born in Göttingen, Germany
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Cohabitation Strategies & Urban Front

Founded in New York, USA

ConstructLab

Founded in Berlin, Germany

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DAAR (Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti)

Founded in Beit Sahour, Palestine

Detroit Planning Department

Founded in Detroit, USA

Do Ho Suh

Born in South Korea

Lives in London, England – UK

FICA–Fundo Imobiliário Comunitário para Aluguel

Founded in São Paulo, Brazil

Forensic Architecture & Invisible Institute

Founded in London, England – UK and Chicago, USA

Jimmy Robert

Born in Guadeloupe – France

Lives in Berlin, Germany

Joar Nango

Born in Áltá/AltaÁltá, Sápmi/Northern Norway

Lives in Romssa /Tromsø, Norway

Keleketla! Library

Founded in Johannesburg, South Africa

Maria Gaspar

Born in Chicago, USA

Lives in Chicago, USA

MASS Design Group

Founded in Boston and Poughkeepsie, USA; Kigali, Rwanda

Ola Hassanain

Born in Khartoum, Sudan

Lives in Khartoum, Sudan and Utrecht, Netherlands

RMA Architects

Founded in Mumbai, India; Boston, USA

Sammy Baloji & Filip de Boeck

Baloji born in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo; de Boeck born in Antwerp, Belgium

Both live in Brussels, Belgium and Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Settler Colonial City Project

Founded in Ann Arbor, USA

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Somatic Collaborative (Felipe Correa & Devin Dobrowolski)

Founded in New York, USA

studioBASAR

Founded in Bucharest, Romania

Sweet Water Foundation

Founded in Chicago, USA

Tania Bruguera & Association of Arte Útil

Bruguera born Havana, Cuba

Bruguera lives in New York, USA

Association of Arte Útil founded in Havana, Cuba

Tanya Lukin Linklater & Tiffany Shaw-Collinge

Linklater born in Alaska, USA; Shaw-Collinge born in Alberta, Canada

Linklater lives in Ontario, Canada; Shaw-Collinge lives in Alberta, Canada

Territorial Agency—John Palmesino & Ann-Sofi Rönnskog

Founded in London, England – UK

The Funambulist

Founded in Paris, France

Theaster Gates

Born in Chicago, USA

Lives in Chicago, USA

Usina - CTAH

Founded in São Paulo, Brazil

Vincent Meessen

Born in Baltimore, USA

Lives in Brussels, Belgium

Wendelien van Oldenborgh

Born in Rotterdam, Netherlands

Lives in Berlin, Germany

Wolff Architects

Founded in Cape Town, South Africa

Catalogue Contributors

Aviwe Mandyanda (BlackStudio)

Born in Mdantsane, a township in East London, South Africa

Lives in Johannesburg, South Africa

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Carmen Silva

Born in Santo Estêvão, Bahia, Brazil
Lives in São Paulo, Brazil

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Born in High Prairie, Canada
Lives in Vancouver, Canada

Columbia Books on Architecture and the City

Founded in New York, USA

Dr. Denise Ferreira da Silva

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Lives in Vancouver, Canada

ELLA

Founded in Los Angeles, USA

Emmanuel Pratt

Born in Virginia, USA
Lives in Chicago, USA

Eduardo O. Kohn

Born in Boston, USA
Lives in Montreal, Canada

Inam Kula

Born in Gugulethu, a township in Cape Town, South Africa
Lives in Cape Town, South Africa

Lesley Lokko

Born in Dundee, Scotland – UK
Lives in Johannesburg, South Africa

Pelin Tan

Born in Hilden, Germany
Lives in Mardin, Turkey

Vincent Tao

Born in Scarborough, Canada
Lives in Vancouver, Canada

About Chicago Architecture Biennial

The Chicago Architecture Biennial provides a platform for groundbreaking architectural projects and spatial experiments that demonstrate how creativity and innovation can radically transform our lived experience. Through its constellation of exhibitions, full-scale installations, and programming, the Biennial invites the public to engage with and think about architecture in new and unexpected ways, and to take part in a global discussion on the future of the field.

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The Biennial is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating an international forum on architecture and urbanism. The inaugural 2015 Chicago Architecture Biennial — presented in partnership with the City of Chicago and the Graham Foundation, and through the support of BP — was the manifestation of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's vision for a major international architectural event and an outcome of the comprehensive cultural plan developed by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events under the leadership of Michelle T. Boone.

The 2015 and 2017 editions of the biennial, curated by Joseph Grima and Sarah Herda (2015) and Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee (2017), collectively engaged over 250 leaders in architecture and art from more than 60 cities spanning 38 nations. For more information, visit chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org.

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