

# café <sup>CAPITAL</sup>

## WORKSHOP

TOWARDS EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE - 2022

# SERVICE ENGAGEMENT

# AGENDA

**WHERE** Toronto Metropolitan University, Department of Architectural Science  
ZOOM Meeting Link <https://ryerson.zoom.us/j/97281469856?pwd=Z2ZBbmZYbWhlbHFqY3ZMS2JPWjY2Zz09>  
password: 683498

**WHEN** Friday, May 27, 2022 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm EST

**1:00** WELCOME, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS

- Vedanta Balbahadur, McGill University
- Vincent Hui, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Kai Wood Mah, Laurentian University
- Nene Brode, University of Toronto, Daniels
- Diogo Burnay, Dalhousie University

**1:10 ASSESS**

CRITICAL PRESENTATIONS

*Pecha Kucha style (10 minutes each)*

- Ra'anaa Brown, "Decolonizing, Dismantling and Demystifying Design: The Introduction of a Black Feminist Lens" @raanaa\_yaminah
- Chris Baziw, "Volunteerism, Homelessness, Architecture Practice/Education" @mcewenarchitecture
- Clara James, Black Students in Design and Building Black Success through Design: Making Change from the Bottom Up @uoftdaniels

break

**1:50 BRIDGE**

*Working Sessions on Critical Topics - Break Out Rooms:*

**Place-based engagement** - What and how do we ethically work with and learn from communities, partners, collaborators, and institutions?

**1 - Montreal**

Facilitator: Ra'anaa Brown, with Vedanta Balbahadur

**2 - Northern Ontario**

Facilitator: Chris Basiw, with Vincent Hui

**3 - Southern Ontario**

Facilitator: Clara James, with Nene Brode

**2:20 CONVERSE**

*Reporting from each 'BRIDGE' ROOM, followed by open conversation and questions. Moderated by the Service & Engagement team.*

**3:00 DELIVER**

*Closing remarks, thank yous, and reminders of further conversations.*

**Vedanta Balbahadur** is founding principal of Studio Vedanta Balbahadur, a transdisciplinary practice involved in architecture, planning, photography, exhibition design, and graphic design. He is a licensed architect and a studio coordinator and instructor at the McGill University Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture. In addition to design studios, he has for the past decade conducted courses, seminars, and city tours about art, culture, and the built environment for architects and non-architects in the belief that the next generation of clients can have a more positive impact on their communities by being better informed; these have included groups from the Netherlands, Brazil, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, South Korea, and India. His course Physical Environment, Sustainability, and Contemporary Culture at the McGill University School of Continuing Studies is specifically tailored for students from diverse majors and introduces them to key concepts in architecture, art, design, and the urban environment. He sees the role of engaging laypeople in discussions about design as an essential part of professional practice because cities will be better when clients and builders appreciate the value of good design and the role that architects play in attaining it.

**Ra'anaa Brown** was born and raised on the traditional unceded lands of the Anishinabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Ojibway/Chippewa peoples, in Brampton, Ontario. She received her Bachelors of Architectural Studies and Masters of Architecture at Laurentian University's McEwen School of Architecture. Her thesis, entitled *The Architectural Segregation of Chicago: Black Identity in the South Side*, laid the foundations for her passion for the intersection of art and activism, coined artivism. She further explores this with ardour in her capacity as Chair of Black Lives Matter Sudbury and Installation Coordinator for Up Here: Urban Arts Festival. Ra'anaa has participated in and curated numerous activist initiatives and has contributed her talents to the development of many Afrocentric artistic installations. She has taken on many leadership roles, as an artist, activist and academic creating space for people of colour and continually promoting anti-racist practices and social justice. A cultural curator and visual activist, Ra'anaa is currently pursuing her PhD research on the emergence of Black arts and activism in N'Swakamok, at Concordia University in Tio'tia:ke, on the unceded Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory.

**Chris Basiw** is an OAA intern architect with Centreline Architecture, a MSoA graduate in the MArch program at Laurentian University and a sessional first-year design studio instructor at the MSoA. Garnered with the Social Engagement Award for his SSHRC-funded thesis, entitled *The Potential of Architecture to Address Homelessness in Northern Ontario*, he continues his thesis work in the north, working on innovative, affordable housing projects in professional practice and studying the need for affordable housing in Sudbury. In addition, he engages with local volunteer organizations and develops programs for architecture students in Sudbury to be involved in the local community.

**Clara James** is the founder of Black Students in Design (BSD). As a recent graduate of the Daniels Undergraduate Architecture program, she was compelled to create a space for Black students to feel safe, welcome, and inspired to continue their post-secondary education in architecture and design. It has been two years since she founded the club and, in that time, they have hosted social and educational events specifically for Black students at the Daniels Faculty. She led the Building Black Success Through Design (BBSD) program; a mentorship and design program created by Black Daniels students for Black high school students. Through the framework of a design competition, BBSD guided Black students interested in architecture and design through a series of workshops with mentors to create their submission. The initiative aims to increase diversity in the design disciplines.

**Vincent Hui** is associate professor of architecture at Toronto Metropolitan University, teaching design, multimedia, and digital fabrication. He is also Associate Chair of Experiential Learning and Co-operative Education for the Department of Architectural Science. He holds an MBA from York University, a BES and M.Arch from the University of Waterloo.

**Kai Wood Mah** is a design historian, OAQ licensed architect and associate professor at the McEwen School of Architecture at Laurentian University. A co-founder of the design research practice Afield <<https://www.afield.ca/>> his architectural practice is multidisciplinary and grounded in site-specific investigations, employing archives, fieldwork, social science methodologies, and research-creation. His writings have appeared in Visual Studies, Public, African Identities, Children, Youth and Environments, Space and Culture, and Interventions among other peer-reviewed journals as well as collected volumes. He is a member of the founding faculty at Laurentian University's School of Architecture.

**Ozayr Saloojee** is associate professor at the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, Carleton University. Born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, Professor Saloojee previously taught at the University of Minnesota's College of Design, where, in addition to his teaching in the School of Architecture, he was appointed the University of Minnesota's 2014-2016 Imagine Chair in the Arts, Design and Humanities and served as affiliate faculty in Landscape Architecture and in the Religious Studies Program. Before moving to the USA in 2005, he studied, taught and practiced architecture in Ottawa, receiving his B.Arch and Post-professional M.Arch II (Theory and Culture) from Carleton University. He completed his doctoral research at the Bartlett School of Architecture (University College London).

**Nene Brode** is the Manager of External Relations and Outreach in the Dean's Office at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design. With graduate studies in Communications and Culture at Ryerson University (now Toronto Metropolitan University), Nene also worked there as an administrator with the Department of Architectural Science, the Office of the Provost Research and Innovation and Graduate Studies at the Dean's Office in the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science. In 2016, she founded the V4Lab, a summer youth STEAM program after establishing the architectural science day camp. From working on the development of the Digital Media Experience Lab, to creating the V4Lab youth camp program showcasing work at the Ontario Science Centre, Nene has been a connector and collaborator fostering community engagement. Her outreach efforts earned her the Julia Hanigsberg Make Your Mark Staff Award for Community Engagement.

**Diogo Burnay** is Associate Professor and Director of the School of Architecture at Dalhousie University. He is co-founder of CVDB arquitectos based in Lisbon and has worked, taught and lectured also in Hong Kong, Macau and Europe. He graduated in Architecture from the Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade de Lisboa and holds a Master's from the Bartlett, University College London. His design and research focus on architecture and the public realm, investigating the active role of architecture in a broader social, cultural, economic, and political landscape. His work explores and emphasizes the public relevance of architecture to construct the present, the future, and the past in communities.

**TOPICAL QUESTIONS on SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT:** *What and how do we ethically work with and learn from communities, community partners, collaborators, and institutions? How do we model ethical and design justice in these partnerships for architectural teaching, for student experience, and community benefits? What are the issues, peoples, histories, methods and practices we should be centering, platforming and advocating for? How do we ensure that outreach and engagement go both ways - between schools and communities? How do we support ground up initiatives? What might be an ethos of regenerative repair?*

# TOWARDS EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE

**TEACHING & LEARNING**

**MAY 10, 2022**  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM EST  
OPEN WORKSHOP - ZOOM

**RESEARCH & PRACTICE**

**MAY 20, 2022**  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST  
OPEN WORKSHOP - ZOOM

**SERVICE & ENGAGE**

**MAY 27, 2022**  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST  
OPEN WORKSHOP - ZOOM

12 SCHOOLS — 3 WORKSHOPS — 1 FORUM

A pan-Canadian series of events to  
**Assess Bridge Converse & Deliver**  
on **Equity in architecture**

**café CAPITAL**

**SEPT. 29 - Oct. 1, 2022**  
OPEN FORUM - ONLINE  
& IN PERSON  
Azrieli School of Architecture  
Carleton University, Ottawa

CCUSA Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture  
CCEUA Conseil Canadien des Écoles Universitaires d'Architecture

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