

BOARD OF
TRUSTEES

BOARD OF
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ADVISORY
BOARD

ACADEMIC
ADVISORS

A STRONG BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROVIDES THE STABILITY THAT EVERY COMPANY NEEDS IN ORDER TO LEARN, GROW AND SUCCEED.

We are a non-profit organisation registered in Ghana with full status as an equivalent U.S. 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Non-profit organisations (companies limited by guarantee) in Ghana are viewed as similar to Associations. The Board of Trustees (Executive Council) is mandated to give oversight to the Founder and Chair and holds fiduciary responsibility in the same way as directors in a limited liability company (companies limited by shares).

In the following pages, you will meet our Patrons, Trustees, Advisors and our specialist group, our Academic Advisors. Board members are appointed for three-year renewable terms and are approved by our Board of Trustees (Executive Council) at our Annual General Meeting each year. In addition, we include our AFI Corporate Governance Charter in this handy downloadable pack, which explains our corporate governance environment in Ghana, as well as its international equivalent(s). An up-to-date organogram is also included which shows our executive and day-to-day management structure, personnel and resources.

Non-profit organisations in Ghana use the terms 'trustee' and 'director' interchangeably. To clarify matters, at the AFI, we use the following terms:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)

Trustees have fiduciary duties to hold them accountable for sound governance. They represent the best interests of the stakeholders at all times. They support the Founder and Chair in his/her duties; assist with establishing policies; strategise and set goals; assist in building brand recognition; uphold ethical business practices and act as liaison and advisors in all financial matters. The Trustees meet every quarter.

Prof Lesley Lokko OBE (Founder and Chair)

Dr Patrick Ata (Mechanical Engineer)

Victor Sackey (Company Secretary/
Real Estate Developer)

Sean Hardcastle (Civil Engineer)

Lois Innes (Architect)

BOARD OF PATRONS

This comprises a small number of people who support the AFI and its mission with their expertise, good name, contacts, and by promoting the AFI and its activities wherever appropriate. The Board of Patrons has no executive or legal obligations to the AFI.

ADVISORY BOARD

This is a group from a wide range of professional backgrounds that is happy to provide their expertise to a charitable organisation. Our Advisory Board offers advice, industry-specific expertise and guidance, but holds no executive role. Board members serve for a three-year period, after which they may stand for reelection and are subject to approval by the Trustees.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS

Our Academic Advisors are a group of academics and practitioners who share the AFI's pedagogic vision and ambitions. Several of our advisors play an active teaching role in the Nomadic African Studio programme; others act as critics and reviewers. Academic Advisors are called upon to review the AFI's teaching programmes, aims and ambitions, and to provide input where required on matters pertaining to the institute's academic agenda. Academic Advisors attend the annual general meeting but may be called upon throughout the year for specific workshops, conferences and meetings related to specific academic initiatives.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)**

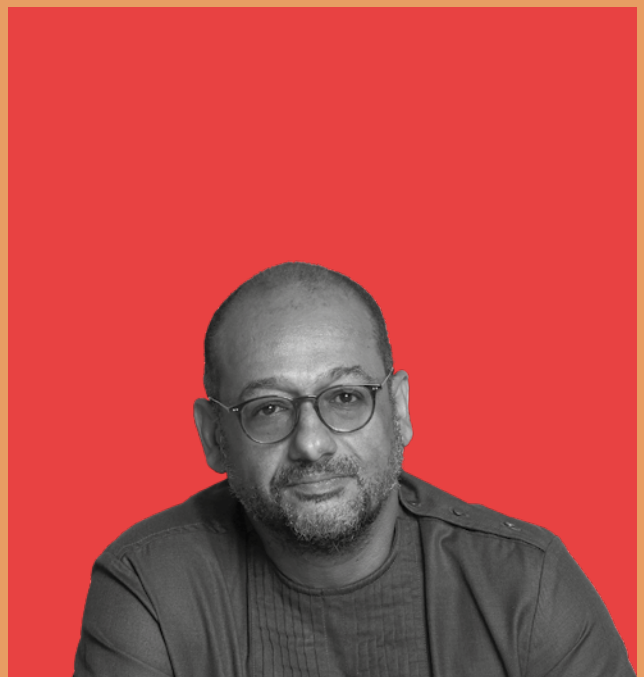
PROF LESLEY LOKKO OBE (FOUNDER AND CHAIR)

Professor Lesley Lokko OBE is the Founder and Chair of the African Futures Institute (AFI) in Accra, Ghana. She holds a BSc (Arch), MArch and PhD in Architecture from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. She was the Founder and Director of the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg (2014–2019). She is the Editor of *White Papers*, *Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2000) and the Editor-in-Chief of *FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture*. She is currently a Visiting Professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture and at University College Dublin. She was appointed Curator of the 18th International Architecture Biennale at La Biennale di Venezia in 2023. In January 2023, she was awarded an OBE 'for services to architecture and education' in King Charles' New Year's Honours List. In January 2024, she was awarded the UK's highest architecture award, the RIBA Royal Gold Medal. In April 2024, she was named one of the world's 100 most influential people in the annual TIME100 list.



DR PATRICK ATA

Dr Patrick Ata is the Managing Director of the privately held Atlantic International Holding Company, located in Accra, Ghana. He holds engineering degrees from Bristol University, King's College London and a PhD from University College London. He brings significant top managerial and directorship experience to the team, as well as critical business acumen and implementation know-how. A keen pilot and avid motorcycle rider, he lives in Accra with his wife and two young children.



VICTOR SACKEY
(COMPANY SECRETARY)

Victor Sackey holds a degree in economics from Coventry University and worked in the security service industry in the UK before relocating to Ghana in 2003. Since 2003, he has initiated a number of start-ups in Ghana across different sectors, and is now heavily involved in property development, with projects in Tema and Accra. He brings significant hands-on and practical experience of the property development sector to the team, as well as great integrity and energy in operations management.

SEAN HARDCASTLE

Sean Hardcastle is a structural engineer, with over 30 years' experience in the building industry. Over the years, he has built an impressive portfolio of projects across Ghana, and a reputation for developing sustainable, innovative and cost-effective real estate projects in line with best global practices. He is currently the Managing Partner at Amantra Ltd and holds an MBA and MSc in Engineering from Imperial College, London.



LOIS INNES

Lois Innes is an architect, researcher and writer based in London. She currently practises at Karakusevic Carson Architects, having worked previously for Adjaye Associates across several international projects. She was part of the 2019/2020 cohort of the Architecture Foundation's New Architecture Writers programme and is a regular contributor to architectural press in the UK and internationally. She has published articles for a+u, Royal Academy, Architects' Journal and Frame magazine. She completed her Master's degree at Central Saint Martins, UAL, where she was also a graduate teaching assistant and guest lecturer. Her graduate thesis was nominated for the 2020 AJ student prize and RIBA President's Medals Silver Award. Her practice navigates building and narrative, using the latter as a method for critical engagement and positive disruption. She is interested in democratising architectural language – both written and drawn – using storytelling, film and other alternative visual mediums to expand communication beyond the canon.



BOARD OF PATRONS

PROF KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

Prof Kwame Anthony Appiah is a British-born American philosopher, novelist, and scholar of African and African American studies, best known for his contributions to political philosophy, moral psychology and the philosophy of culture. Professor Appiah was the son of Joseph Appiah, a Ghanaian-born barrister, and Peggy Cripps, daughter of the British statesman Sir Stafford Cripps. He attended Bryanston School and later Clare College, Cambridge, where he earned a PhD in Philosophy in 1982. He taught philosophy, African studies, and African American studies at Yale University (1981–86), Cornell University (1986–89), Duke University (1990–91), and Harvard University (1999–2002). In 2002 he joined the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, where he stayed until moving to New York University in 2014. Professor Appiah's early writings concerned the philosophy of language. He turned his attention to political and cultural issues in *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture* (1992), a philosophical exploration of the nature of African identity in the West and in an increasingly global culture. Professor Appiah's other non-fiction books included *Experiments in Ethics* (2008), *The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen* (2010), and *The Lies That Bind: Rethinking Identity* (2018). He also wrote the novels *Avenging Angel* (1991), *Nobody Likes Letitia* (1994), and *Another Death in Venice* (1995).



AFUA HIRSCH

Afua Hirsch is an award-winning writer, broadcaster and filmmaker, known for her work on Black culture, history and identity in the African diaspora and worldwide. A former barrister before returning to journalism, Hirsch established The Guardian's first West Africa bureau, and is still a regular contributor to the newspaper, as well as other print publications, including *Vogue*, *TIME* and *The New York Times*. She is currently the Wallis Annenberg Chair of Journalism at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Hirsch is the Founder of Born in Me Productions, which creates scripted and non-scripted movies, TV shows and podcasts. She is the presenter of *African Renaissance*, a three-part BBC programme about African art; *Enslaved*, the most comprehensive documentary ever made on the history of the transatlantic slave trade; and a podcast series for Audible. In addition to her book *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging* (Vintage, 2018) – winner of the Royal Society of Literature Jerwood Prize – Hirsch is the author of *Equal to Everything* (Legal Action Group, 2019), about the UK Supreme Court, and was a judge on the 2019 Booker Prize.

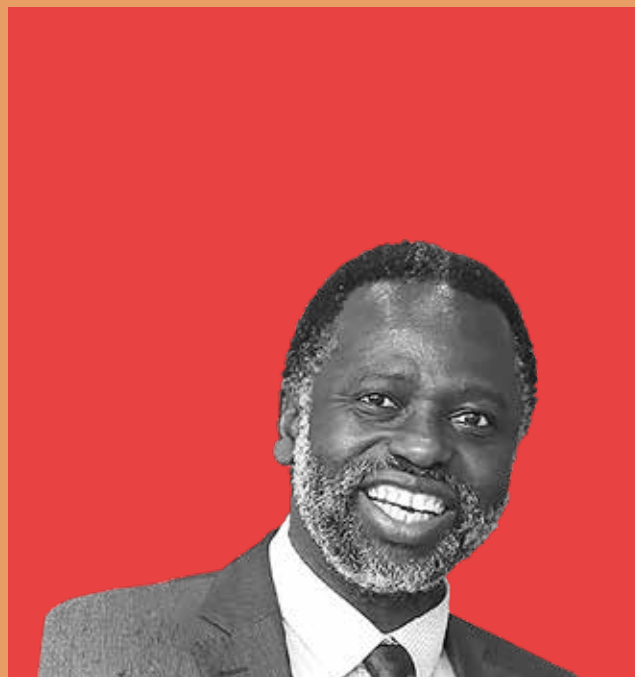
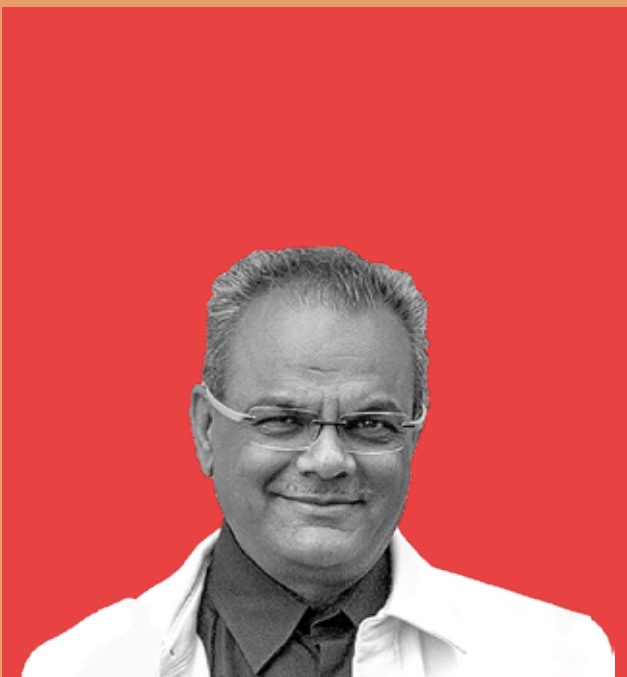


PROF HANIF KARA OBE

Prof Hanif Kara OBE contributes 40 years of industry experience in architecture and engineering. He was born and raised in Uganda, and for the past 25 years has co-led the London-based, interdisciplinary engineering practice AKT II, which today unites 350 people, with projects in 50 countries. Kara is furthermore a Professor in Practice for Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and he routinely serves as an advisor for industry organisations such as the Aga Khan Development Network, the UK's National Infrastructure Commission and is a Design Advocate for the Mayor of London. In 2022, he received the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to architecture, engineering and education. In the same year, he was bestowed the Fazlur R Khan Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, becoming the first UK engineer to be selected.

PROF TSHILIDZI MARWALA

Professor Tshilidzi Marwala is Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously he was the Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation and the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, both at the University of Johannesburg. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (magna cum laude) from Case Western Reserve University (USA) in 1995, a Master of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pretoria in 1997 and a PhD specialising in Artificial Intelligence and Engineering from the University of Cambridge in 2000. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University, University of California at Berkeley, Wolfson College of the University of Cambridge and Nanjing Tech University, as well as being a member of the programming council of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the Silesian University of Technology in Poland. He has received more than 45 awards, including the Order of Mapungubwe, and was a delegate to the 1989 London International Youth Science Fortnight (LIYSF) when he was in high school. His writings and opinions have appeared in the magazines New Scientist, The Economist and Time.



DR MARGARET NKRUMAH

Dr Margaret Nkrumah was Principal of the SOS-Hermann Gmeiner International College, Ghana (SOSHGIC) (1990–2008) and Vice President of SOS Children’s Villages International, Austria (2008–2012). She is now Chairman of the Board of SOSHGIC and Chairman of the Board of Lead for Ghana (LFG). She is also a member of the African Leadership Academy (ALA) in Johannesburg, and a member of the Committee to Teach About the UN (CTAUN), New York. Nkrumah was first a teacher and Assistant Headmistress of the Ghana International School (GIS) for over 10 years, then taught for seven years in Zimbabwe, before becoming the Founding Principal of SOSHGIC. Nkrumah’s contribution to education has been recognised by an Honorary Doctor of Laws from her alma mater, the University of Leicester, UK; an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana; and by two National Awards for services to children and education – a National Children’s Day Award (2002) and a Presidential National Award (2008), Order of the Volta (Companion) Ghana. An ardent Pan-Africanist, Nkrumah is also an advocate for vulnerable children and women’s rights across Africa.



DAVID ANDERSON

David Anderson is a British-born industrial CEO with extensive global experience in packaging and construction materials markets. He has held top management positions in the UK, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa. The African Architecture Awards in 2017 were inaugurated under his leadership at Saint-Gobain, highlighting new recognition for African architects on the world stage. He brings a deep and highly experienced commercial perspective to our Board, complementing our academic and practice-led strengths.



ADVISORY BOARD

ASHLEY SHAW SCOTT ADJAYE

A native Californian with Yoruba roots, Ashley is known for promoting the representation of those “not in the room” and creating conversations that generate action towards equity. She is the co-Founder and co-CEO of The Stories of Us, an art education project that promotes equity in the United States. She holds a BA in Philosophy and Visual Art from Stanford University, an MBA from INSEAD, and an MSc from the Gender Institute at London School of Economics. Currently, Ashley sits on The Prince’s Trust International Africa Advisory Board. She lives between Accra and New York City with her family.



KOFI BIO

Kofi Bio is CEO of Adjaye Associates, Accra. He is a dual Ghanaian-British national and resides in Accra, Ghana. Bio brings extensive global industry experience, having played an instrumental role in delivering large-scale projects in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. At Adjaye Associates, he oversees the development of all Africa-based projects, with an emphasis on vernacular traditions as they meet technological advancements. In addition to his work for Adjaye Associates, Bio has served as a Visiting Lecturer at his alma mater, the Lincoln School of Architecture.



EVA KAVUMA

Eva Kavuma joined African Risk Capacity (ARC) in 2017 as the Chief Operating Officer, bringing to ARC over 15 years of executive experience in stakeholder engagement and organisational optimisation, as well as a profound understanding of Africa's diverse investment environments. Before joining ARC, Kavuma held a variety of strategic positions in the MTN Group at executive level, ranging from leading the company's International Business Development function to implementing the group's Customer Experience strategy across 22 operations in Africa and the Middle East, between 1998 and 2015. She has a Master's degree in International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.



MARIAM ISSOUFOU

Mariam Issoufou is an architect from Niger. She studied architecture at the University of Washington. In 2014, she founded Mariam Issoufou Architects (formerly atelier masōmī), an architecture and research practice that tackles public, cultural, residential, commercial and urban design projects. The firm has offices in Niamey, New York and Zurich. Issoufou believes that architects have an important role to play in creating spaces that elevate, give dignity, and provide people with a better quality of life. The firm's completed projects include the Hikma Community Complex, a library and mosque complex, which won two Global LafargeHolcim Awards for sustainable architecture. Other works include the Niamey 2000 Housing project, a response to Niger's housing crisis which was shortlisted for the 2022 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Upcoming projects include the Yantala Office building in Niger, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development in Liberia, and Bët-bi Museum in Senegal. Issoufou is a professor of Architecture Heritage and Sustainability at ETH Zurich. She previously occupied academic roles as adjunct associate professor of Urban Studies at Brown University and as the 2021 Aga Khan critic at Harvard Graduate School of Design. Issoufou is a 2019 Laureate of the Prince Claus Award. She was named as one of 15 Creative Women of Our Time by the New York Times. The firm has been on the AD100 list since 2021.



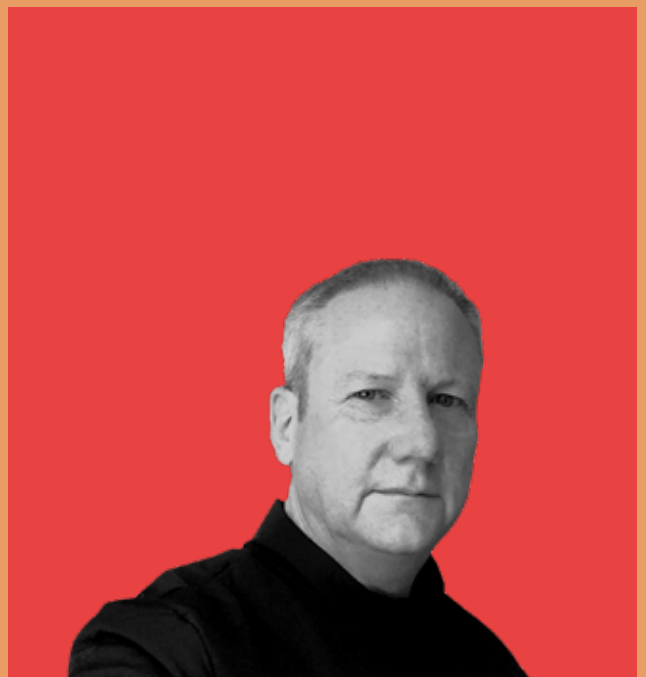
KATE OTTEN

Kate Otten Architects is an award-winning architectural practice based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Established by Kate Otten a year after graduating, the practice has developed into one of South Africa's most recognized practices with a varied and prolific body of work, including important public buildings and places of memory. Her work is known for its focus on craft, hand making and weaving together local materials, skills, politics, light, and landscape to create places that feed and nurture the human spirit and have a strong resonance of place. Kate is an active voice for transformative practice, particularly with respect to the role of women. During her term as President of the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA), her inclusive vision of 'many voices' was adopted as the theme for re-scripting the SAIA. Locally, she mentors young practitioners, examines, lectures and maintains strong links with several schools of architecture; internationally, she is an informal ambassador for South African architecture through her engagements as speaker and juror at international events in locations as varied as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and Prague. She recently exhibited her piece 'threads' at the 18th Architecture Biennale in Venice curated by Lesley Lokko OBE.



FRED SWART

Fred Swart studied Graphic Design at Pretoria Technicon, before setting up his own agency, Die Ateljee. He has worked across multiple sectors, most notably corporate and cultural. He began his association with Prof Lesley Lokko during her tenure at the Graduate School of Architecture and was responsible for the graphic design and brand identity of the Spitzer School of Architecture, CCNY, during her time as Dean. He is currently the AFI's graphic designer and brings enormous energy, vibrancy and criticality to the work of the institute as a whole.



ALBERT WILLIAMSON-TAYLOR

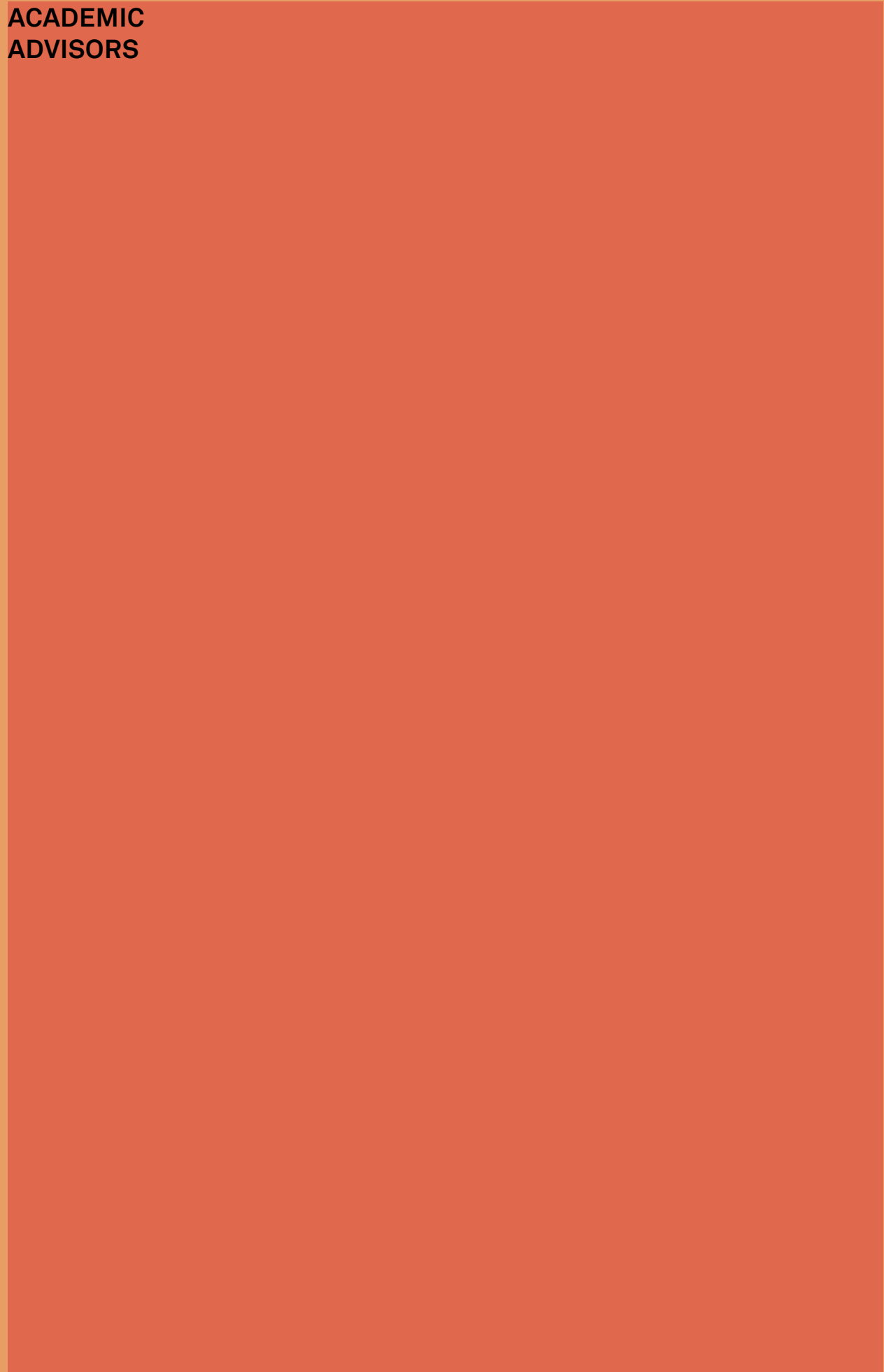
Albert Williamson-Taylor leads AKT II's design and engineering practice-wide, and has led the engineering tutoring for the AA DRL architectural Master's course since 2011. Having received his BEng and MSc in structural engineering from the University of Bradford in the early 1980s, he has been a member of London's Newham and Southwark design review panels for many years, gaining a Fellowship with the Institution of Structural Engineers, and an Honorary Fellowship with the Royal Institute of British Architects. He regularly lectures and appears as a panellist or juror for many academic and public institutions. He enjoys working with design teams to realise project visions using the best engineering techniques, and boasts a portfolio of many prominent buildings, including Zaha Hadid's Generali Tower in Milan and the Central Bank of Iraq in Baghdad; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners' LSE Centre Building; AHMM's Villagio Vista in Accra; Google's new HQs in San Francisco and London; Norman Foster's Bloomberg's European HQ in the City of London and Thomas Heatherwick's Google Building, Seed Cathedral in Shanghai and the Vessel in New York. Williamson-Taylor also drives the technical direction and shapes the development of AKT II's computational research, pushing the boundaries of structural design.

SEAN ANDERSON

Sean Anderson was the Associate Curator in the Department of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) before returning to Cornell as an Associate Professor in Architecture and Director of the BArch Programme. A Fellow of the American Academy in Rome with a PhD in African Art History, he has practiced as an architect and taught in Afghanistan, Australia, India, Italy, Morocco, Sri Lanka, and the United Arab Emirates. He has authored books on South Asian ritual sculpture, the modern architecture of colonial Eritrea, and co-edited a volume dedicated to contemporary architecture and design in Sri Lanka. In 2020, he cocurated the exhibition *On Muzharul Islam: Surfacing Intention* at the Dhaka Art Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At MoMA, he organized the exhibitions *Insecurities: Tracing Displacement and Shelter* (2016–17); *Thinking Machines: Art and Design in the Computer Age, 1959-89* (2017–18); and four iterations of the Young Architects Program at MoMA PS1. He has also been responsible for or collaborated on permanent collection galleries including the ongoing Building Citizens and 2019's Surrounds. He co-organized with Mabel O Wilson, *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*, the first exhibition ever at MoMA to highlight the work of African American and African Diasporic architects.



**ACADEMIC
ADVISORS**



DR HUDA TAYOB

Dr Huda Tayob is a South African architectural historian and architectural theorist. She is currently a Lecturer in Architectural Studies at the University of Manchester, and has previously taught at the University of Cape Town, the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg and The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. She holds a PhD from The Bartlett, for which she was awarded an RIBA Commendation Award for research, with undergraduate and Master's degrees in Architecture from the University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on minor, migrant and subaltern architectures, centred on the African continent and Global South. She is Co-Curator of the open-access curriculum Race, Space & Architecture, and Lead Curator and Project Manager of the pan-African podcast series and online exhibition, *Archive of Forgetfulness*. She was a participant in the 18th International Architecture exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2023) with a project titled *Index of Edges*, which traces watery archives, methods and stories along east African coastal edges from Cape Town to Port Said.

PATTI ANAHORY

Patti Anahory is an architect working across building, art, pedagogy and curatorial practices. Her interests centre around interrogating narratives of identity and belonging from an African island perspective confronting geopolitical, memory, race and gender constructs. Anahory co-founded *Storia na Lugar*, a storytelling and counter-narrative practice, which exhibited at the 2021 Venice Biennale Architettura and is co-curator of *her(e), otherwise*, an experimental architectural and curatorial platform that invites African and Diaspora women architects to interrogate notions of representation and belonging. The project was awarded a Graham Foundation grant in 2022. That same year, she was selected as the alternate for the Civitella Ranieri Foundation Architecture Prize. Between 2009 and 2012 Anahory served as Founding Director of CIDLOT, a multidisciplinary research centre at the University of Cabo Verde. More recently she was Visiting Professor at Columbia University (2022-23). She co-authored the book 'Panorama de Arquitetura Habitacional em Cabo Verde'.

PROF AZIZA CHAOUNI

Prof Aziza Chaouni is Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Toronto, John H Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design and the Founding Principal of Aziza Chaouni Projects with offices in Fez, Morocco and Toronto, Canada. Chaouni's practice, research and teaching focus on innovative approaches to rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of African heritage buildings and urban landscapes. Chaouni has rehabilitated several heritage buildings, including the Qarawiyine library, the oldest library in Africa. She is also responsible for the conservation management plans for the Sidi Harazem Thermal Bath Complex and for the CICES (with Mourtada Guèye), both supported by the *Keeping it Modern* grant of the Getty Foundation. Chaouni is the lead architect of the rehabilitation of the Maison du Peuple in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and of Old Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund.



CHRISTIAN BENIMANA

Christian Benimana is a recognised global thought leader with extensive knowledge of the architectural industry in Rwanda and East Africa. In 2023, he curated an exhibition at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. He was recognized as a 2017 Quartz Africa Innovator and has been named among 10 architects and designers who are championing Afrofuturism. Benimana's 2017 TED Global conference talk about the next generation of African architects has garnered over one million views to date. He has taught at the University of Rwanda's Architecture School of the College of Science and Technology and authored articles and book chapters, including 'An African Theory of Architecture' in the *Architectural Guide to Sub-Saharan Africa*, 'Re-Thinking the Future of African Cities' in *The African Perspective Magazine*, and 'Creating Design Leaders: The African Design Centre' in the *Public Interest Design Education Guidebook*. Benimana holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Tongji University's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He was a Global Health Corps Design Fellow in 2010 and more recently served as the Secretary General of the East Africa Institute of Architects.



PROF IAIN LOW

Prof Iain Low is an architect and Professor Emeritus at the University of Cape Town. He has taught and lectured widely, participating in local and international fora. His research focus is in 'space and transformation', in a series of articles and book chapters contributing toward the 'rewriting of architectural type'. As a critical narrative project, it transcends functionalism and identity politics to focus on social justice and spatial equity in post-apartheid South Africa. Low's built projects include an oeuvre of urban/rural schools, built over a decade of research and implementation in Lesotho during the 1980s. He was a Fulbright Scholar; a Pew Philadelphia Fellow in the Arts; a Pew Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and recipient of the Writers and Critics Award from the South African Institute of Architects. Currently, he is Academic Advisor to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) on creative research, and promoter for the competition for a 'Great Hall' at Sol Plaatje University. He is Editor of *Digest of SA Architecture* and is designing and curating the exhibition for Rivonia Triallist Denis Goldberg's House of Hope, a museum in Hout Bay, Cape Town.



PROF TOMÀ BERLANDA

Tomà Berlanda is Professor of Architectural Technology at the Politecnico di Torino, Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town and co-founder of astudio.space architecture & urbanism. He holds a Diploma in Architecture from the Accademia di Architettura in Mendrisio and a PhD in Architecture from the Politecnico di Torino. His teaching and research focus on notions of environment, construction, ground, and land across geographies of the South. With his collaborative practices he has produced internationally recognised design work in Eastern and Southern Africa. He is the author of *Architectural Topographies* (2014), *Interpreting Kigali: Architectural Inquiries and Prospects for a Developing African City* (together with K. H. Smith, 2018), and editor of *Architecture of Commonality. Grounds for Hope* (2024).



SUMAYYA VALLY

Renowned as an Honorary Professor of Practice, Sumayya Vally stands at the forefront of architectural innovation and cultural redefinition. As the founder and Principal of Counterspace, a design, research, and pedagogical entity, Vally's work seeks to articulate the identities and landscapes of African and Islamic contexts, both rooted and diasporic. Recognized as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and listed in the TIME100 Next, she has been named as a force poised to redefine architectural practice and canon. Her pioneering spirit has garnered international acclaim, earning her accolades such as the title of Emerging Architect of the Year at the esteemed 2023 Dezeen Awards, and recognition as one of Financial Times Readers' Women of the Year 2023. Vally's design prowess is exemplified by her commission as the youngest architect ever to design the Serpentine Pavilion in London, which opened to critical acclaim. In addition to her architectural achievements, Vally's role as the Artistic Director of the inaugural Islamic Arts Biennale in Jeddah marked a pivotal moment in reimagining of the definition of Islamic art. Her innovative approach, rooted in decolonial principles and grounded in the lived experiences of the Islamic world, has earned widespread acclaim and praise for its bold reinterpretation of traditional paradigms. Beyond her design practice, Vally's commitment to education and knowledge dissemination is evident and her contributions have been recognized with several honours, including an Honorary Professorship from UCL and a gold medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

KOFI ESSEL-APPIAH

Kofi Essel-Appiah studied architecture at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. His professional work reflects a mix of experiences from his diverse background, travels and international exposure. He has delivered a wide-ranging portfolio of projects via PREDIOS, his professional practice. Some of his key achievements have included: being the Lead Local Consultant of the Japanese Embassy in Ghana, and the Golden Tulip Hotel, Kumasi; and being Project Consultant for the World Bank project for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. He was also the consultant's Design Team Leader and Project Development Manager for the record-breaking Covid-19 Ghana Infectious Disease Centre at Ga East Hospital in Ghana. Essel-Appiah chaired the Board of the Commonwealth Association of Architecture (CAA) for the revalidation of the Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Master of Architecture programmes of the Department of Architecture, College of Art and Built Environment (CABE) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. He has developed international collaborations and partnerships with the European award-winning firm, Pitagoras and sits on the Board of Architects Registration Council and the Ghana Green Building Council.

AKOSUA MENSAH

Akosua Serwaa Obeng Mensah studied architecture at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, and graduated in 2005. After university, she relocated to the UK, where she worked with Bovis Lend Lease on the construction of the Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton. On her return to Accra, she worked with RhayCAD and moved to Environ4, before joining OOA in 2009. Born and raised in Ghana and educated in the international school system, Mensah has a connection to and understanding of both Ghanaian and foreign cultures, which makes her able to easily cooperate with local and international partners on OOA's various projects. She has worked on iconic projects such as the refurbishment and improvement of the Labadi Beach Hotel, the World Bank Group offices, Google and Oracle offices, all in Accra. She became a Partner at OOA in 2016. She has a passion for sustainable architecture and makes presentations on behalf of OOA, in workshops and conferences inside and outside Ghana. She was a Rapporteur at the ECREE conference in Dakar, that finalised the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) contribution to the Paris Agreement on climate change. She also writes essays and articles on sustainable architecture and on OOA's various projects.



DR MPHO MATSIPA

Dr Mpho Matsipa is an educator, researcher and curator. She received her PhD in Architecture from UC Berkeley. She has taught at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, Columbia University and the Cooper Union and GSD, Harvard University. She has curated several exhibitions and discursive platforms, including the South Africa Pavilion at the 11th International Architecture Exhibition, and an installation at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, as well as at the Architecture Museum in Munich, and Studio-X Johannesburg. She founded the *African Mobilities* podcast series with support from the Goethe Institut, KSB and the Andrew Mellon Foundation. She has written reviews on public art, culture, and space. Her research aims to creatively and critically reimagine the links between the spatialities of resource extraction, geopolitics and design through new vocabularies and Black counter-cartographies in the face of resource extraction and ecological precarity. Matsipa was a Loeb Fellow (2022) at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and a Chancellors Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She is currently an Associate Curator for the Lubumbashi Biennale in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2024).



DR THANDI LOEWENSON

Dr Thandi Loewenson is an architectural designer/researcher who mobilises design, fiction and performance to stoke embers of emancipatory political thought and fires of collective action, and to feel for the contours of other, possible worlds. Loewenson holds a PhD in Architectural Design from The Bartlett, UCL, through which she developed a form of architectural practice – weird and tender – to excavate and contest the extractive agendas driving the urban development of Lusaka. Using fiction as a design tool and tactic, Loewenson engages in projects which provoke questioning of the status-quo, whilst working with communities, policy makers, unions, artists and architects towards acting on those provocations. Loewenson is a co-founder of the architectural collective BREAK//LINE – an ‘act of creative solidarity’ which ‘resists definition with intent’ – formed at The Bartlett in 2018 to oppose the trespass of capital, the indifference towards inequality and the myriad frontiers of oppression present in architectural education and practice today. Loewenson is also a contributor to EQUINET, the Regional Network on Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa, a co-founder of the Fiction, Feeling, Frame research collective at the Royal College of Art, and a co-curator, with Dr Huda Tayob and Prof Suzi Hall, of the open-access curriculum project *Race, Space & Architecture*. In 2023, Loewenson was the inaugural Black Digital South Artist in Residence at the Centre for Race, Gender and Class at the University of Johannesburg.



RAHESH RAM

Rahesh Ram is the Associate Head for Student Success at the School of Design and Programme Lead for Master's in Architecture at the University of Greenwich. He has been teaching for 17 years at both Bachelor's and Master's levels. At the university, he leads a Master's unit, Unit 12, which places speculation at the centre of the pedagogic practice. It is particularly interested in fiction and identity as a tool to speculate. He recently published a conference paper, 'Architecture/Fiction and Thought Experiments', which looked at what makes the essence of fiction a tool to enable architectural speculation on topics such as race, gender and climate crisis. He also instigated an exhibition called *House of Many Cultures*, which showcased students of different ethnic backgrounds that investigated their own cultures through the conduit of architectural practice. He previously ran NAAU Ltd, a collaborative practice that worked with architects, artists and filmmakers.



PROF LUCA MOLINARI

Luca Molinari is an architect, critic, curator, and full professor of Theory and Architectural Design at the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”. He is editorial director of Platform Architecture and Design and was editorial manager for Skira (Architecture e Design) between 1995 and 2019, collaborating on Architecture and special projects with Marsilio. He was scientific director of the M9 Museum in Mestre (2020-23). Luca Molinari Studio, founded 2014, supplies curatorship, consulting, and project management services. Curatorial projects include *Il Palazzo Ducale di Urbino* (Urbino, 2023), *Est. Storie italiane di viaggi, città architetture* (Venezia, 2021), *The Master of the Garden of the Net* (Suzhou, 2019), *Museum of the City* (Istanbul, 2016/2019), *Museum of Public Transport* (Doha, 2016), *Environments and counter environments. Italy: The New Domestic Landscape* (MOMA 1972). He curated scientific direction of architecture at the *Triennale* (Milan, 2001/2004), and *AILATI for the Italian pavilion at the XII Architecture International Exhibition* (Venezia, 2010). An independent contributor to Italian and foreign newspapers, recent publications include: *Stanze. Abitare il desiderio* (Nottetempo, 2024), *La meraviglia è di tutti* (Einaudi, 2023) *Dismissione. La teoria e il progetto nell'architettura italiana* (Skira, 2019), *Le case che siamo* (Nottetempo, 2016 e 2020). His last podcast was for Rai Radio 3 (La Meraviglia, Nove Stanze).

PROF ANA BETANCOUR

Prof Ana Betancour is an architect and Head of Institute and Professor of Architecture at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design. She was previously Professor of Architecture and Rector at UMA School of Architecture, Umeå University; Professor in Urban Design at Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg; Associate Professor at KTH School of Architecture, Stockholm, and The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL; and Head of Exhibitions at the Museum of Architecture (now ArkDes), Stockholm. She studied architecture at The Bartlett, ETSAB School of Architecture in Barcelona, and KTH. She is a Co-Founding Member of A + URL/ Architecture + Urban Research Laboratory, P.H.A.B. Architects and Urban + Architecture Agency. Betancour has lectured, published and exhibited widely on the subject of identity, socially engaged practices and architecture. She has been a member of many international juries and committees including the Swedish National Research School and Architecture Academy; the Mies van der Rohe Young Talent Award; and the editorial boards of AJAR and *FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture*. She is currently on the Board of Directors of Stockholm University of the Arts; Advisory Group to the Delegation for Sustainable Cities Sweden; the Architectural Research European Network; the Architecture Critic Award Sweden; and the Golden Trezzini Award.

SAMIR PANDYA

Samir Pandya is an architect, Reader and Assistant Head of the School of Architecture + Cities, University of Westminster (London), where he was Course Leader for the pioneering design-led MA Architecture, Cultural Identity and Globalisation for over a decade. He has held various visiting and external academic posts in the UK, as well as in Cyprus, India, Italy, and South Africa. His committee memberships have included the Society of Black Architects (Executive Committee), RIBA Education Committee (Member) and Architects for Change (Chair). He is Co-Editor of *National Identities: Critical Inquiry into Nationhood, Politics & Culture* (Taylor & Francis), and Editorial Board Member of *FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture* and of *Veranda*, the peer-reviewed journal of Sushant School of Art & Architecture (Delhi). He is also on the Academic Advisory Board for the African Futures Institute. His new book, *After Belonging: Architecture, Nation, Difference* (Routledge) will be available from December 2024.



LÉOPOLD LAMBERT

Léopold Lambert is a trained architect living in Paris. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Funambulist*, a print and online magazine dedicated to an internationalist reading of the politics of space and bodies. He is the author of four books interpreting architecture as the discipline that organises bodies in space; in particular within settler colonial contexts such as Palestine, Kanaky, and Algeria. These books are: *Weaponized Architecture: The Impossibility of Innocence* (dpr-barcelona, 2012), *Topie Impitoyable: The Corporeal Politics of the Cloth, the Wall, and the Street* (punctum, 2015), *The Politics of Bulldozer: The Palestinian Ruin as an Israeli Project* (in French, B2, 2016) and *States of Emergency: A Spatial History of the French Colonial Continuum* (in French, PMN, 2021).



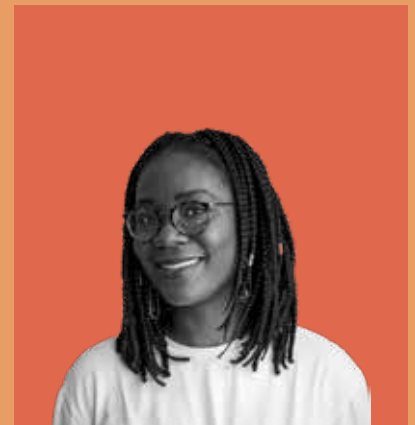
NZINGA BIEGUENG-MBOUP

Nzinga Biegueng Mboup is a Dakar-based, Senegalese architect. In 2019, she co-founded *Worofila*, an architectural practice specializing in bioclimatic design and construction, using earth and biomaterials sourced locally. The aim of *Worofila* is to promote architecture that is durable and in harmony with the climate. In addition to her architectural practice, Nzinga was a researcher for the African Futures Institute and will serve as a guest critic for their upcoming Nomadic African Studio program. She has co-authored two research projects, *Dakarmorphose*, an ongoing project, started in 2017, on the evolution of Lebu villages and the urban and cultural heritage of the city of Dakar. The second research project, *Habiter Dakar*, started in 2019, focuses on the evolution and problems of housing in Dakar. In 2023, Nzinga was a mentor for the Building Beyond program sponsored by the Prince Claus Fund and the Creative Industries NL. She also produced a film on earth architecture in Senegal, titled *Bunt BAN* that exhibited at the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale. In July 2023, she was appointed as a curator for the % Dakar program to lead research projects centred on the architectural traditions of Senegal, for 3 years. Over the course of her life, Nzinga has learned eight languages but can now only speak three and three-quarters of them.



NANA BIAMAH-OFOSU

Nana Biamah-Ofosu is an architect and director of YAA Projects, an architecture, design and research practice dedicated to exploring counter-histories, material and diasporic culture, through making, speaking and writing architecture. Recent projects include Althea McNish: Colour is Mine, which was included in The Guardian's 'Best Designs and Designers of 2023', the ArchiAfrika Pavilion and Tropical Modernism: Architecture and Power in West Africa at the 18th Venice Biennale which was selected as part of ArchDaily's 'Top 2023 Pavilions and Installations Interrogating Architecture of the Global South.' As part of the Curator's research team at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale, Nana contributed to the articulation of the main exhibition and Pinpoint, an archive of African and African Diaspora practitioners focused on decarbonisation and decolonisation. Nana has lectured in U.K and internationally, including at the inaugural Venice Biennale College Architettura, Kingston University and currently at the Architectural Association where she leads a diploma unit. She has been researching African compound housing as a building, spatial and material typology which can inform the development of future housing and urbanisms with a book due for publication later this year. Her writing practice explores the social, political, and cultural impact of design and architecture and engages with leading practitioners in contemporary practice, defining a critical, expansive, and open discourse on the built environment.



CLAUDE BORNA

Claude Borna currently serves as the Managing Director and Chief Innovation Officer at Sèmè City Development Agency. With a diverse background encompassing key roles at Deloitte, Amazon, and Sony Pictures across Europe and North America, Claude transitioned from the corporate world in 2016 to lead Sèmè City, a flagship project under the Presidency of Benin. This pioneering initiative focuses on human capital development through an innovation hub that integrates higher education institutions, vocational training centers, research facilities, incubators and open innovation spaces. At Sèmè City, Claude and her team champion an “Innovation Made in Africa” model, empowering young Africans to tackle the continent’s challenges and create value-driven solutions. The African American Institute presented Claude with the Distinguished Alumna Award in 2020. She holds a bachelor’s degree from McGill University in Montreal and an MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles.

RUTH-ANNE RICHARDSON

Ruth-Anne is a senior researcher at the African Futures Institute. She holds a BSc. Arch and MArch from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). She is a practicing architect and academic tutor, having worked with architecture and planning students of KNUST (Kumasi) and Central University students (Miotso). She has written for *A + U* (2022) and *Metropolis* (2022) publications. In March 2023, she was awarded the Ghana Presidential Honour for Distinguished Service for her role as architect in the design and construction of Ghana’s first Infectious Diseases Center (the GIDC) at Kwabenya in Accra. She is an Azrieli Visiting Critic for Carleton University’s Winter 2024 Graduate Option Studio.

PROF MABEL O WILSON

Cultural historian, architectural designer, and curator, Prof Mabel O Wilson teaches architecture and Black studies at Columbia University, where she recently served as the Director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies and co-directs with Mario Gooden the Global Africa Lab. With her practice Studio&, she was a member of the design team that recently completed the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia. Wilson is the author of *Begin with the Past: Building the National Museum of African American History and Culture* (2016), *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums* (2012), and co-edited the volume *Race and Modern Architecture: From the Enlightenment to Today* (2020). She is a founding member of Who Builds Your Architecture? (WBAYA?) – an advocacy project to educate the architectural profession about the problems of globalisation and labour. For the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, she was co-curator of the exhibition *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America* (2021). Her installation *(a)way station: The Architectural Spaces of Urban Migration* was recently on exhibit at SFMoMA. In 2023 she collaborated on the installation *unknown, unknown* as a Curator’s Special Project at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. She is the Fall 2023 Liebig Fellow at the American Academy of Berlin. She is also a skilled pie maker, which she enjoys sharing with friends and family.



ANNA ABENGOWE

Anna Abengowe holds a Bachelor's in Art History from Boston University and a Master's in Architecture from Princeton University. She is currently Deputy Director of the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg. After extensive experience working in corporate architecture (The Rockwell Group, AECOM and Woods Bagot) in the United States, Abengowe was motivated to shift to education and pedagogy in Africa when introduced to the GSA in 2017.



RAHEL SHAWL

Rahel Shawl graduated in 1991 from the Addis Ababa School of Architecture. In 1994, she founded Abba Architects, and in 2004, Raas Architects. Shawl's career is fruitfully rooted in the cultural and professional context of contemporary Ethiopia. Thanks to local new builds and international collaborations with foreign firms, Raas Architects works on architectural design as well as building supervision. Shawl is the recipient of a 2007 Aga Khan Award for her involvement in the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa.



DR SAMIA HENNI

Born and raised in Algiers, Dr Samia Henni is a historian, educator, and exhibition maker of the built, destroyed, and imagined environments. Her research and teaching address questions of colonisation, wars, extraction, deserts, forced displacement, and gender. Currently, she is a Professor at McGill University's Peter Guohua Fu School of Architecture in Montreal. Henni is the author of *Colonial Toxicity: Rehearsing French Radioactive Architecture in the Sahara* (If I Can't Dance, Framer Framed, edition fink, 2024), which investigates France's nuclear weapons program conducted between 1960 and 1966 in the Algerian desert. She is also the author of the multi-award-winning *Architecture of Counterrevolution: The French Army in Northern Algeria* (EN, gta Verlag, 2017, 2022; FR, Edition B42, 2019). The book received numerous prestigious awards, including the 2020 Spiro Kostof Book Award by the Society of Architectural Historians, the 2018 Silver Book Award by the Festival International du Livre d'Art et du Film (FILAF), and the 2018 Best Book Award in Theory of Art by the FILAF.



DR CAROLINE WANJIKU KIHATO

Dr Caroline Wanjiku Kihato is a Visiting Fellow at ODID and a Research Associate at the African Centre for Migration in Society at Wits University. She is also the founder and director of Frame45, a social enterprise that uses storytelling and organisational ecosystem strategy to bridge the gap between research and social justice. Her career has involved both teaching and conducting research in the academy and the non-profit sector in Southern and Eastern Africa. In 2011, she received a MacArthur Grant on Migration and Development and spent a year as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown University, Washington DC. In 2018 and 2019, she was Director of the Urban Policy Program at Women in the Informal Economy: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO). She worked for six years as a Policy Analyst at the Centre for Policy Studies. She has published widely on academic and popular platforms. She is the author of *Migrant Women of Johannesburg: Life in an in-between City* (Palgrave Macmillan & Wits University Press) and co-editor of *Urban Diversity: Space, Culture and Inclusive Pluralism in Cities Worldwide* (Johns Hopkins). Her collaborative installation, *You Will Find Your People Here*, was featured at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia.

NGILLAN FAAL

Ngillan Faal is an architect and urbanist, whose work engages African genealogies of practice and urbanity; speculation, improbability, and realisation, explored through the work of Unit 7 at the Graduate School of Architecture (GSA) in Johannesburg. She recently set up a small research studio, Faal & Kompin, concerned with what she calls 'Elusive Architectures' – African ways of making and being that are fragmented, partially erased, and therefore consistently speculative and hopeful. Faal is also the Programme Convenor for Making at the GSA, a Visiting Research Fellow at WITS University, and has a long trajectory in formal architectural practice in Johannesburg and London. Outside of architecture, she has worked within the global policymaking sphere on climate, equity, and urbanisation with groupings such as UN Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme. Faal has an MSc in Urbanisation and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science and completed her professional architectural qualifications in the UK at the Universities of Sheffield, East London, and the Bartlett, UCL.

TOSIN OSHINOWO

Tosin Oshinowo is an architect, creative entrepreneur, author, and public speaker from Nigeria. She received her undergraduate degree in architecture from Kingston College London and her Master's degree in urban design from The Bartlett School of Architecture. In 2012, she established her own architectural design consultancy firm, Oshinowo Studio, after working on multiple projects in numerous architectural firms in Europe and Africa, and is also the creator and CEO of Ile ila (House of Lines), a lifestyle furniture brand that was established in 2017. To spread her beliefs and ideologies regarding architecture and design, Oshinowo annually convenes at Sho-o-tell, a platform which conducts series of sessions for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Lagos, where practising architects interact with professionals to enhance their learning. She is a registered architect with the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria and a Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) (ARCON) member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) (ARCON). She was curator for the Sharjah Architecture Triennale in 2023.



STELLA MUTEGI

Stella Mutegi is a director and founder of Cave_bureau, starting the practice in 2014 alongside Kabage Karanja. She heads the technical department at Cave, where she orchestrates the seamless coordination of our ideas into built form. She partakes in the Cave_bureau expeditions and surveys into caves within the Great Rift Valley, navigating a return to the limitless curiosity of our early ancestors. A Kenyan qualified architect since 2009, Mutegi has worked at Symbion Kenya, Dimensions Architects, and Interior Designers in Kenya. Mutegi studied at University of Newcastle in Australia where she completed her architectural education, before returning back home to Kenya. She then qualified as an Architect under the Board of Registration of Architects & Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS) and is a member of the Architectural Association of Kenya.



MELISSA KACOUTIÉ

Melissa Kacoutié graduated from Ecole D'Architecture Speciale de Paris. She worked in several architectural agencies from Abidjan and in 2016, she decided to set up her architecture firm. She always liked to draw when she was very young; she subsequently oriented herself towards studies that allowed her to combine her passion with her job.

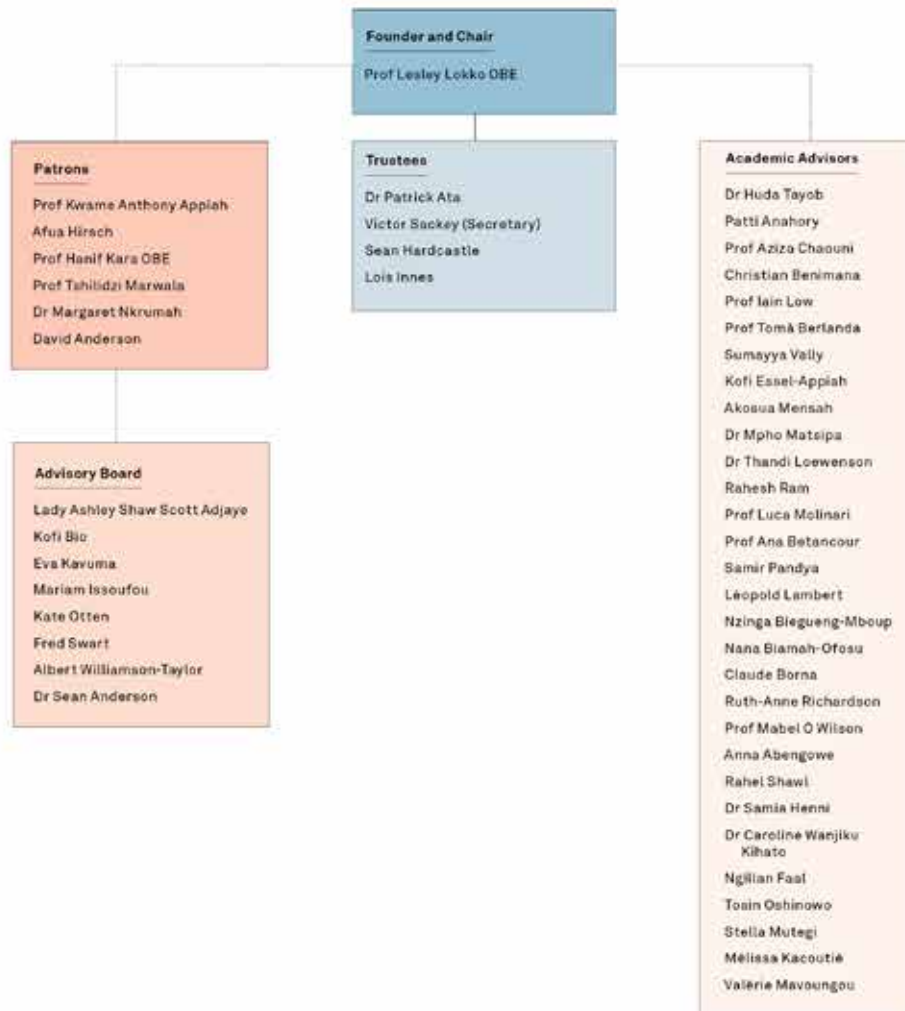


VALÉRIE MAVOUNGOU RODRIGUEZ

Atelier Tropical is an architecture practice founded in 2016 by Valérie Mavoungou Rodriguez. A self-described 'Pan-African architect', Mavoungou Rodriguez draws from her Congolese heritage, studies abroad, and experiences living in multiple African countries, to lead her dynamic practice, working across Africa. Atelier Tropical finds its purpose in designing climate-sensitive projects, 'resilient to their tropical climates', that celebrate modernity while still embracing local building methods and African aesthetics.



BOARDS STRUCTURE



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