

Race &

The etymological origin of the ampersand emerges from the traditional recitation of the alphabet in English-speaking schools in the nineteenth century. Historically, the ampersand symbol was included at the end of the alphabet as something of a twenty-seventh character, with students reciting: X, Y, Z, and per se and. As such, it is a linguistic symbol of inclusion and possibility, imagining limitless variations and re-combinations. **Race &** is a curated series of engagements hosted by RISD Architecture that posits the following heuristic: how would architecture as a discipline reimagine its regimes of practice if it prioritized and led with race? Each of the sessions – Race & Urbanism, Race & Art, Race & Modern Architecture – examines this heuristic, this vehicle for discovery, through a specific lens. In each session our guests are asked to share three projects, images, examples, practices, or precedents imagining architectural futures that prioritize race and social justice as fundamental concerns of the architect. Each session will consist of a brief presentation by our guests, followed by a conversation with RISD Architecture students, facilitated by RISD faculty members.

**Race
&
Art**

Fri Sept 4, 3:30 - 5 PM EDT

**Mitchell Squire & Jennifer
Newsom in a conversation
moderated by Jacqueline
Shaw & Spencer Evans**
Join via Zoom

**Race
&
Urbanism**

Tue Sept 8, 3:30 - 5 PM EDT

**Garnette Cadogan & Elgin
Cleckley in a conversation
moderated by Jess Myers &
Matthew Shenoda**
Join via Zoom

Suggested readings:

Walking While Black, Garnette Cadogan on the Realities of Being Black in America

I'm a Black Designer in Charlottesville. This Is What It Feels Like to Walk Through My City by
Elgin Cleckley

Mitchell Squire

Mitchell Squire is an American installation artist, sculptor, and performance artist. He was born in Natchez, Mississippi. He primarily focuses on exploring culture through acquired artifacts and the inability to express pain. Squire is currently a professor at Iowa State University and lives in Ames, Iowa. Squire's work is held in the collections of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Regarding Squire's "Gladiators" exposition, the Minneapolis Institute of Art wrote:

From afar, the large, striking lithograph seems to depict a collection of elegant translucent perfume bottles. Upon closer inspection, the black silhouettes reveal themselves as law enforcement targets—faceless black male torsos—in an arbitrary pile suggestive of a mass grave, the bodies too numerous to count.

Squire has a B.A. in architecture and M.Arch. from Iowa State University.

Jennifer Newsom

Jennifer is a registered architect, installation artist, and founder of Dream The Combine, a collaborative practice she formed with Tom Carruthers. They create site-specific installations exploring metaphor, imaginary environments, and perceptual uncertainties that aim to cast doubt on our known understanding of the world.

Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Arts and her Master of Architecture from Yale University, where she also received the Fermin Ennis Memorial Fellowship and the Anne C.K. Garland award for academic achievement. She conceived and organized the two-day symposium Black Boxes: Enigmas of Space and Race held at Yale School of Architecture.

Recently appointed an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture, she teaches undergraduate and graduate architectural design studios. She is also a past instructor at Juxtaposition Arts, a youth empowerment and apprenticeship program in North Minneapolis.

Prior to establishing her practice in Minneapolis, she worked in London and New York with Adjaye Associates, Deborah Berke Partners, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, and Cooper Robertson.

Garnette Cadogan

Garnette Cadogan is an essayist. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia, in addition to being a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. In 2017-2018 he was the Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Scholar at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. His current research explores the promise and perils of urban life, the vitality and inequality of cities, and the challenges of pluralism. He writes about culture and the arts for various publications, and, in Fall 2017, was included in a list of 29 writers from around the world who "represent the future of new writing." He is the editor-at-large of Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas (co-edited by Rebecca Solnit and IPK Fellow Joshua Jelly-Schapiro) and is at work on a book on walking.

Elgin Cleckley

Elgin Cleckley, Assoc. AIA, NOMA, is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at UVA with an appointment in the Curry School of Education and the School of Nursing. He is a designer, director, and principal of _mpathic design – a Design Thinking pedagogy, initiative, and professional practice focusing on intersections of identity, culture, history, memory, and place. After studying architecture at the University of Virginia ('93) and Princeton University ('95), he collaborated with DLR Group (Seattle), MRSA Architects (Chicago), and Baird Sampson Neuert Architects (Toronto) on award-winning civic projects. He was a Muschenheim Fellow at the University of Michigan (1998), teaching undergraduate studios at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Before joining UVA's Design Thinking program in 2016, he was the 3D Group Leader and Design Coordinator at the Ontario Science Centre (Toronto), Science Content and Design Department, and Agents of Change Initiative, since 2001. This work produced the world's first museum/design thinking architecture space (Weston Family Innovation Centre), featuring award-winning exhibitions, educational facilities, and public art with international artists David Rokeby, Michael Awad, Steve Mann, and Stacy Levy.

Elgin is the recent winner of several notable honors: the Armstead Robinson Faculty Award, the 2020 ACSA Diversity Achievement Award, and the Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Fellowship in Urban Landscape Studies, which supports the development of his forthcoming 2021 book with Island Press, _mpathic design. This publication will detail his empathic design thinking methodologies. Recent writings include Next City, Medium, MANIFEST: A Journal of the Americas, the Journal for Interprofessional Education and Practice, AMPS (Architecture, Media, Politics, and Society), and Bridging the Gap: Emergent Ideas on Architectural Pedagogy and Practice Design (Routledge / Manchester School of Architecture). _mpathic design has been widely presented at national and international conferences in architecture, design, educational, and health arenas, with a presentation at the World Congress of Architects in 2021.

Spencer Evans

Spencer Evans is a figurative draftsman, painter and sculptor who aims to tell detailed stories by using the imagery of specific moments. The intent of his work is to study and highlight the relationship between the inner and outer self in context with the environment that created it. He often uses a combination of representation, abstraction and various mark-making techniques to depict his visual interpretation of the feeling of tension that occurs during the transfer of internal emotion into outward behavior/expression.

Evans was born in Houston, TX and earned his BFA in Drawing and Painting from the University of Missouri and his MFA from the University of Texas at Arlington. He has taught drawing and painting and lectured in the US and on the continent of Africa. His ongoing research is rooted in finding cultural connections between the Black American community and the thousands of tribes inhabiting African nations. This research has resulted in projects conducted in Nigeria and Sudan, which led to a mural project at Sudan University of Fine and Applied Arts. Evans' work has most recently been shown at the Dallas Museum of Art and the Houston Museum of African American Culture.

Jacqueline Shaw

Jacqueline Shaw is a designer and Assistant Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate design studios. She has a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and a BFA in Interior Design from California State University, Long Beach. Her research mines the overlaps between form and history to tell non-aggrandizing spatial stories focused on small spatial peculiarities. Prior to founding her own practice, she has ten years of professional experience with various practices based in New York and Detroit.

Jess Myers

Jessica Myers is a podcaster, writer and editor focusing on urban planning and architecture. In 2017 she received a master's degree in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also holds a BA in Architecture, with minors in Urban Studies and French, from Princeton University. Outside of her work as the architectural strategist for LaPlaca Cohen, Myers is the series editor of *Taking Freedom*, a social justice book series that will be published by a coalition of the Service Employees International Union, MIT's Community Innovators Lab and Sage Publications. In the past, Myers worked in diverse roles—archivist, translator, analyst—in both New York and Paris, and within cultural practices that include Bernard Tschumi Architects. Her personal interests and research engage multimedia platforms as a means to explore culture and the urban condition. Her podcast *Here There Be Dragons* takes an in-depth look at the intersection of identity politics and security policy in public space through the eyes of New Yorkers and Parisians.

Matthew Shenoda

Matthew Shenoda is a writer, professor and university administrator whose poems and essays have appeared in a variety of newspapers, journals, radio programs and anthologies. He has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize and his work has been supported by the California Arts Council and the Lannan Foundation, among others.

Shenoda's debut collection of poems, *Somewhere Else* (Coffee House Press), was named one of the 2005 debut books of the year by *Poets & Writers Magazine* and won a 2006 American Book Award. His poetry is also collected in *Seasons of Lotus*, *Seasons of Bone* (BOA Editions Ltd.) and *Tahrir Suite: Poems* (TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press), which won the 2015 Arab American Book Award. He is the editor of *Duppy Conqueror: New & Selected Poems* by Kwame Dawes and (with Dawes) the 2017 anthology *Bearden's Odyssey: Poets Respond to the Art of Romare Bearden* (TriQuarterly Books/Northwestern University Press).

Shenoda teaches in the fields of ethnic studies and creative writing and has held faculty and administrative positions at various institutions. Before coming to RISD in 2018 he was the assistant provost for equity and diversity at CalArts and dean of academic diversity, equity and inclusion at Columbia College Chicago. Additionally, Shenoda teaches in the low-residency MFA Writing Program at Pacific University and is a founding editor of the *African Poetry Book Fund*.