



KHAN MUHAMMAD

AWARDED AIA PASADENA & FOOTHILL CHAPTER DRISKEL SCHOLARSHIP AGAIN!

Contributed by: Lance Bird, FAIA
Fundraising Committee Chair

AIA Pasadena & Foothill

Ken Long, AIA, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, has announced that Khan Muhammad, a fourth-year Bachelor of Architecture student at Woodbury University has been awarded the much-coveted scholarship. Does Khan Muhammad's name sound familiar? He was also the 2020 recipient of the Jean Roth Driskel Scholarship. In the words of Khan:

"No one is an island. No building is created by one person. My dedication to serving my community at large is because I know that we cannot do this alone. I wholeheartedly believe that to change the world we must become the change we wish to see."

Khan is indeed an exceptional student. He was selected from the ten university students nominated this year from Cal Poly Pomona, SCI-Arc, UCLA, USC, and Woodbury. His strong design skills are evident in his portfolio. He continues in the IPAL program (Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure) integrating work and school. This year Khan is interning at ZGF. His practice mentor is long-time AIA Pasadena & Foothill member, Steven Lewis, FAIA, current president of the Architect's Foundation, and former national president of NOMA, National Organization of Minority Architects. IPAL's challenging path allows a student to become licensed upon graduation. The advantages of IPAL are many by working concurrent with school. For instance, Khan described the Professional Practice class at Woodbury as unable to compete with the priority students give studio. Students show little interest, preferring the excitement of design studios. However, by working at ZGF he is learning first-hand what Practice Management means, finds the subject relevant and exciting, helping him with his class in school. He takes his first Architectural license exam in January, and 'yes', it's on Practice Management. IPAL is a demanding program - school, working, taking licensing exams, and perhaps competing for scholarships. To survive, time management skills are essential.

What about COVID? His ZGF internship is virtual and it works. Khan had a head start with virtual school, as his four years in high school were virtual. And as part of that education, he learned time management. At ZGF he frequently asks questions, annotating and drawing on the computer to communicate. "But of course, there are times when I want to be in the same room with my mentors." Khan added, "My constant project at ZGF is the "Freedom Riders' Training Institute" a refurbishment project in Alabama. The curriculum aims to empower community members, law enforcement, students, and civil servants alike on how to protest legally and peacefully."



Annalee Elementary School

Khan Muhammad Design Studio 7, 2020

Partner Credit: Nicholas Haddad

Professor Credit: Matthew Gillis



Khan is the Student Board Member and Representative of SoCal NOMA (with more than 20% of National NOMA's student membership) and an alumnus of the ACE mentoring program for high school students. He founded the NOMAS student chapter at Woodbury. Schools embrace NOMAS, using the organization as a recruiting tool for minority students. As more students of color pursue architecture, NOMAS provides much-needed advice, networking, and comfort through cultural empowerment and National Pipeline initiatives.

Khan's insights are numerous. He sees a paradigm shift in architecture and school. A degree in architecture with its broad, diverse training, prepares graduates for many different fields, evidenced by the surprising number of graduates that soon join contractors, developers, construction managers and others, applying their architectural training in non-traditional careers for architects. Khan believes schools could help students understand their strengths in the first year, by encouraging an academic path of specialization, completing their degree in that specialty. By specializing in school, they graduate with greater marketable skills. Medicine and Law do it.

Since 2001, the Scholarship Committee has been led by Ken Long, AIA. Annually, three community colleges and five universities with professional architectural degrees each nominate two exceptional students for the Driskel scholarship. The Fundraising Committee chaired by Lance Bird, FAIA, has gained impressive financial support from AIAPF chapter members, colleagues, and other industry friends. The endowment has grown by six times in two years, increasing the two scholarships from \$1,500 to \$7,500. In 2022, we plan to double the number of scholarships and add Glendale Community College to the schools we support. The California Community Foundation administers and invests the Fund. As part of this award, Khan may also receive a scholarship from AIA National.