



The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION NO AP 17212

Dated not dated 19 .
 Received Jan. 3 19 62
 Granted February 15, 19 62

MEMBERSHIP NO 17212

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

- A Name of applicant Robert Johnson Nash Chapter Washington-Metropolitan
- B Address of applicant 1211 Delafield Place, N.W. - Washington 11, D.C.
- C Application received with check for \$ 20.00 on Jan. 3 19 62
 held for record of reg (rec'd 1/19)
- D Application returned for correction 19 .
- E Application in due order on Jan. 19 19 62
- F Acknowledgments to applicant and chapter on Jan. 9 19 62 and
- G Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission Jan. 22nd
~~or that applicant be denied~~ received on Jan. 3 19 62
- H Record of registration received Jan. 19 19 62
- I The applicant has been examined as to his professional qualifications by
D. C. Bd. of Exam & Reg. of Architects
- J The applicant is currently registered as an architect or licensed to practice
architecture in the states of District of Columbia
- K Application sent to The Committee on Membership Jan. 23 19 62
- L The Committee on Membership reported on application on Jan. 23 19 62
- M The applicant was requested to furnish additional evidence of his profes-
sional qualifications on or before 19 , which was received.

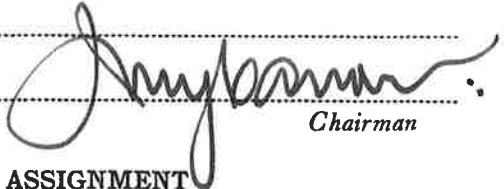
REPORT:

As a result of its findings on the evidence submitted The Committee on Membership unanimously reports that in its opinion the applicant is* qualified for membership in The American Institute of Architects.**

THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Date Jan. 23 19 62

.....



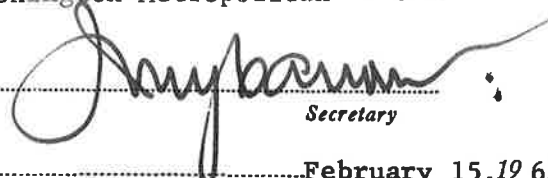
 Chairman

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

I, Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, hereby certify that, under authority vested in me by The Board of Directors, I have this day duly elected

Robert Johnson Nash
 to membership in The Institute, and hereby declare him to be a corporate member of The Institute and assign him to membership in the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter.

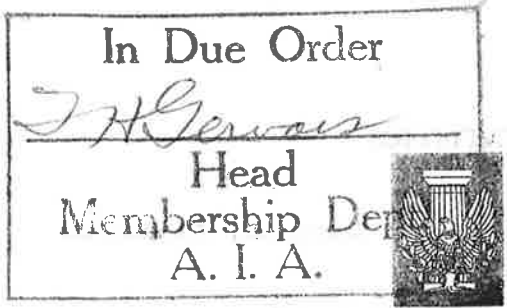
Date February 15, 19 62

.....


 Secretary

- N Applicant was admitted on February 15, 19 62.
- O Notice to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter on February 15, 19 62.
- P Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$.....
 returned to applicant on

19 .



INSTRUCTIONS

Type in all information carefully and sign with ink.
Mail both copies to the secretary of the local Chapter of The Institute, with check for \$20.00 made payable to The American Institute of Architects.

The American Institute of Architects
APPLICATION FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, do hereby apply for corporate membership in The American Institute of Architects.

- My full name is Robert Johnson Nash
- I am a Natural citizen of the United States.
- My legal residence is in the City of Washington, D. C.
County of _____ State of _____
- My address in The Institute records will be
1211 Delafield Place, N. W.
Washington 11, D. C.
Number City Zone State
- I am engaged in the profession of architecture as Practicing Architect & Designer for a firm
- I desire to be a member of the Washington Chapter.
- I declare that I will comply with the By-laws; and the Standards of Professional Practice of The American Institute of Architects, which are attached hereto; and the Rules and Regulations supplementary thereto; and that I understand the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of a member of The Institute; and that I have read and understand all the information contained in this form and its attachments.
- I am not indebted to The Institute or to any of its component organizations.
- I enclose my check for \$20.00, for admission fee and the first year's annual dues, of which \$5.00 is for a year's subscription to the *Journal of The American Institute of Architects* and the *Memo—a Newsletter*. It is my understanding that if I am not admitted to membership \$10.00 will be returned to me, and \$10.00 retained by The Institute as an examination fee.

[Handwritten signature]

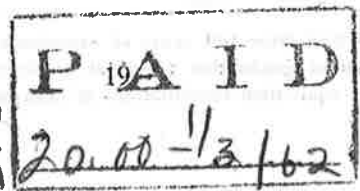
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State whether natural or a naturalized citizen

State whether residence or office address

State whether as a practicing architect, teacher, a public official, etc.

Date



Robert Johnson Nash
Applicant sign full name in ink

SEP 20 1962
JAN 5 1962

STATISTICS

10. Date of birth January 21, 1929 Place of birth Memphis, Tennessee

11. (a) I am registered or licensed to practice architecture in the following-named states:

Washington, D. C.

(b) I passed the State Board Examination in the following-named states:

Washington, D. C.

(c) I hold Certificate No. of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, for having passed their Standard Examination.

EDUCATION

12. (a) I attended high schools, private schools, colleges, universities, as follows:

Name of School, College, University	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
Howard University	Washington, D. C.	6	1952	B. Arch.

(b) I have held the following-named scholarships or other honor awards, and have traveled in the following-named countries:

Awarded Gold Medal for Excellence in Design (my Class "52")
 Traveled in England, West Coast of Africa

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING *

13. I list below, in chronological order, the periods of my training as draftsman, the names and addresses of my principal employers, and my classification as draftsman while employed by each

Employer's Name-Address	Type of Business	Classification of Position	Period of Employment by month and year
Harry Taylor, Architect		Draftsman	summers 47 & 48
McKissack & McKissack	Architects	Draftsman	summers 49 & 50
Howard H. Mackey, A.I.A.	Architect	Draftsman	March 51 to December 52
Private Practice in Nigeria	January 53 to July 54		
		U. S. Army Engr	1 Aug 54 to Aug 56
Johnson & Boutin, A.I.A.	Architects	Draftsman to Chief Designer	Oct. 56 to present

*(NOTE: Applications must conclusively show that applicant has had three full years of experience in architectural work, in offices, governmental employment, or teaching, in addition to graduation from an architectural school; or eight full years of such experience without formal education; or equivalent combinations of both of the foregoing.)

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

14. I list below, in chronological order, the periods during which and the states in which I have practiced architecture as an individual or as a member of a firm or corporation or as a public official or have taught architecture or the arts and sciences allied therewith. (State names of firms or corporations or public office and of schools or colleges.)

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Practiced	Jan. 1960	Present

15. Is architecture your principal vocation? Yes

BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

16. I list below other business in which I participate or own an interest, and the extent of such participation or interest.

PRESENT OR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS AND APPLICATIONS
IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

17. I have previously applied for membership or associateship in the Washington chapter of The American Institute of Architects. The details concerning this application are as follows:

- 18. Member of Institute from _____ to _____
- 19. Junior of Institute from _____ to _____
- 20. Associate of _____ Chapter from _____ to _____
- 21. Junior Associate of _____ Chapter from _____ to _____
- 22. Student Associate of Washington Chapter from Sept 49 to June 50
- 23. Member of State Organization in _____ from _____ to _____

REFERENCES

Five references are required, at least three of whom shall be corporate members of The Institute in good standing. Member references must be available for personal contact by the local chapter officers.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| <i>dsu</i> | <u>Donald S. Johnson</u>
<i>Member</i> | <u>1417 - 22nd St., N. W.</u>
<i>Address</i> |
| <i>osa</i> | <u>Howard H. Mackey</u>
<i>Member</i> | <u>Dept of Arch., Howard University</u>
<i>Address</i> |
| | <u>Joseph H. Crammer</u>
<i>Member</i> | <u>721 Terrace Drive, Annadale, Va.</u>
<i>Address</i> |
| <i>asly</i> | <u>Leon Brown</u>
<i>Reference</i> | <u>1640 Wisconsin Ave., N. W.</u>
<i>Address</i> |
| | <u>Leroy M. Campbell</u>
<i>Reference</i> | <u>8019 16th Street, N. W.</u>
<i>Address</i> |

JAN 9 - 1962

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Washington Metropolitan Chapter
(Chapter)

1710 M Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
(Address)

SECRETARY,

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,
1740 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Address Washington 6, D.C.

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

ROBERT JOHNSON NASH
(Name of Applicant)

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date. October 10 1961

A. Stanley McGaughan
Chapter Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? XXX or by exemption?
3. What was the scope of the examination? Four-day Written Junior Examination based on the N.C.A.R.B. Syllabus
4. What was the period of the examination? 4 days. Written examination 36 hours; Oral examination 1/2 hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No. If so, give Certificate No. _____
6. Date of first registration March 23, 1959. Registration No. 1167. Is it current? Yes

Ethel G. Sevelles
(Signature of Secretary of Board)
Executive

Date. October 11, 1961

D.C. Bd. of Exam & Reg. of Architects
(Name of Board)

JAN 18 1962

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February 15, 1962

Mr. Robert Johnson Nash, A.I.A.
1211 Delafield Place, N. W.
Washington 11, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nash:

The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects takes pleasure in informing you that it has acted favorably on your application and welcomes you to corporate membership in The Institute.

In approximately two months you will receive a certificate of membership duly executed by the officers of The Institute.

You are assigned to the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter of The A.I.A., effective February 15, 1962.

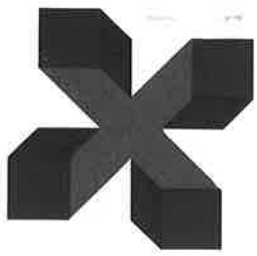
I sincerely hope that you will take an active and interested part in your Chapter activities. The Chapter is the cornerstone of The Institute's strength where the policies which advance our profession are developed. Members who are active in Chapter affairs gain the most from A.I.A. as professional men and provide the leadership which A.I.A. needs to meet the challenges and opportunities which the future holds for architecture.

I want you to know that The Secretary's Office is at your service to the fullest extent of its powers.

By direction of The Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Scheick, A.I.A.
Executive Director



THE
ARCHITECT
IN A
DYNAMIC
SOCIETY

AIA
CONVENTION
BOSTON
JUNE 21-25
1970

1970 AIA
CONVENTION AND BUILDING
PRODUCTS EXHIBIT

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

NATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED BY
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

For Immediate Release

BOSTON, MASS., June 25, 1970 -- Robert F. Hastings, FAIA, of Detroit, has been elected President of The American Institute of Architects, succeeding Rex Whitaker Allen, FAIA, of San Francisco. Mr. Hastings will be inaugurated at the December meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors.

Other officers elected today by AIA members meeting in Boston at the 102nd Convention of the 24,200-member national professional society are: First Vice President (President-Elect)--Max O. Urbahn, FAIA, of New York City; Vice Presidents--Richard M. Bennett, FAIA, of Chicago, Robert J. Nash, AIA, of Washington, D.C., and George M. White, AIA, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Preston M. Bolton, FAIA, of Houston, Texas, was re-elected Secretary for a two-year term and Rex L. Becker, FAIA, St. Louis, will continue as Treasurer, also a two-year term.

(more)

Mr. Hastings, president of the Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Inc., served for the past year as First Vice President and previously as Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, and as a member of the Executive Committee. A registered architect and engineer and a past President of the Detroit Chapter, AIA, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Michigan Society of Architects in 1965.

Six members elected to the AIA's Board of Directors by their regional members are: Carl L. Bradley, AIA, Bradley and Bradley, Architects, Inc., Fort Wayne, Ind., East Central States Region; Max Flatow, FAIA, Flatow, Moore, Bryan & Fairburn, Architects-Engineers-Planners, Inc., Albuquerque, N.M., Western Mountain Region, and James J. Foley, AIA, Kellam and Foley, Architects, Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Region.

Also, Hugh McK. Jones, FAIA, Office of Hugh Jones, Architect, Guilford, Conn., New England Region; Louis R. Lundgren, AIA, Haarstick Lundgren and Associates, Inc., St. Paul, Minn., North Central States Region, and Darrel D. Rippeteau, AIA, Sargent-Webster-Crenshaw & Folley, Architects-Engineers-Planners, Watertown, N.Y., New York Region.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Complete biographies and photographs of all officers and directors are available from AIA Headquarters, Public Relations Department, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Phone: (202) 393-7050.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ROBERT J. NASH
Vice President

Robert J. Nash, a corporate member of AIA, was elected a national vice-president in 1970. He is a 1952 graduate of Howard University's School of Architecture where he was awarded a class AIA medal for excellence in design.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

January 1952 -- Began practice in Nigeria doing research in housing and industrialization. Designed and supervised the following projects:

- 15 Proto-type low cost houses built with experimental materials, layouts and construction techniques
- Staff and guest quarters for Socony Vacuum Oil Company (Contract won in design competition.)
- Headquarters office building for the Western Regional Production and Development Board
- Offices and residence for Afamaco Construction Company
- Western Region Proto-type Schools (400 units built)

January 1955 -- Joined U.S. Army Engineers as a quality control construction inspector to 9 airfields in England. Construction cost \$10,000,000 each.

October 1956 -- Joined firm of Johnson and Boutin Architects as Architect and Chief Designer

February 1959 -- Started private practice, Robert J. Nash, AIA & Associates (Architects and Planners)

Partner -- "Community Planning Associates" (Urban Renewal Planning Firm)

Partner -- Inter-Act (Community Sensitivity Architectural Planning)

Partner -- Nash & Nash (Urban Art Consultants)

CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member of Task Force for Professional Responsibility to Society
- Member AIA/Ford \$1,000,000 Scholarship Fund Committee
- Coordinator of AIA/National Urban League "Black Executive Exchange Program," (BEEP)
- Co-chairman of Human Resources Council

LOCAL AIA CHAPTER

Director at Large, 1968-1970
Member of Community Action Task Force
Member of Executive Committee

Ex-Member -- Board of Directors:

Neighborhood Commons
Capital Head Start
National Capital Area Girl Scout Council
Search Incorporated
National Technical Association
D.C. Citizens for Better Public Education

CONSULTANT ROLES

Redevelopment Land Agency for "Urban Renewal/Citizen Participation"
HEW Joint project with Hugh Zimmers, AIA, Philadelphia, Pa.
User/need Analysis of headquarters complex
Archdiocese of Baltimore--Reorientation of the inner city church
Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies
and HUD - Furniture 1971: Living Systems
Anacostia Museum feasibility study for redevelopment of far Southeast
ASC/AIA Student Forum "How to get things done in the system"

SPEECHES & LECTURES

AIA Grassroots East 1970-1971

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Keynote address "Center city open space development"
Southern University March 70 "Urban Renewal and Citizen Participation"
WTTG - AIA Million Dollar Scholarship program
WTTG - Fourteenth Street Urban Renewal Process
State Department USIA - "The Effect of Urban Renewal on the Inner City"

ARTICLES

AIA Journal October 1968 "A Black Architect Speaks Frankly"
Architectural Forum Contributor June 70 - "Minorities in the Profession"

June 1971

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
INSTALLS ITS FIRST BLACK OFFICER

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 5, 1970 — Washington, D.C., architect Robert J. Nash was installed as a national vice president of The American Institute of Architects in formal ceremonies here last night. He is the first black member to hold national office in the 113-year history of the Institute.

Before election to the national office last June, he was the first black to be elected a director of the AIA's Washington Metropolitan Chapter.

Deeply involved in rebuilding of the inner city, Nash is currently working in three firms, each offering a specialized service. As an architect, he is owner of Robert J. Nash and Associates; as an urban planner, he is a senior partner of Community Planning Associates, and finally, as a partner in a pioneering architectural consulting firm, he offers advice on architectural/community sensitivity. Typical examples of these involvements are a 250-bed nursing home and health care facility built here for inner-city residents by the nonprofit National Medical Association Foundation, planning for the rebuilding of the riot-torn 14th Street corridor, and the federal HEW complex.

Architect Nash has worked on a variety of local projects, including Peoples Congregational Church and Community Center Building, Thompson Medical

(more)

Building, Shaw Neighborhood Health Center, Clark Clinic, 2008 Medical Center, Junior Village Gymnasium and Recreation Center, high rise apartments, and Shaw urban renewal area.

The Howard University graduate began professional practice in Nigeria in 1953. Nash is the newly-named chairman of AIA's national Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, having been a member since its formation in 1968 as the Task Force on Equal Opportunities. Along with San Francisco architect Nathaniel A. Owings, FAIA, Nash will co-chair the AIA newly formed Human Resources Council which promises to be the new thrust of the Institute's effort in social responsibility.

For the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, he has served as a member of the Public Relations Committee and as member, chairman, and commissioner of its Education Committee.

His wife, Teixeira, an active Washington artist, is chairman of the D.C. Commission on the Arts.

Other national officers installed along with Nash are: president-- Robert F. Hastings, FAIA, Detroit; first vice president--Max O. Urbahn, New York City, and two vice presidents--Richard M. Bennett, FAIA, Chicago and George M. White, AIA, Cleveland. Preston M. Bolton, FAIA, Houston, began his second two-year term as Institute secretary. Rex L. Becker, FAIA, St. Louis, continues his two-year term as treasurer.

Six new members elected to the Institute's Board of Directors by members of their individual regions also were inducted last night. They are: Carl

(more)

Robert J. Nash, AIA
Page Three —

L. Bradley, AIA, Fort Wayne, Ind., East Central States Region; Max Flatow, FAIA, Albuquerque, Western Mountain Region; James J. Foley, AIA, Columbus, Ohio Region; Hugh McK. Jones, FAIA, Guilford, Conn., New England Region; Louis R. Lundgren, AIA, St. Paul, North Central States Region, and Darrel D. Rippeteau, AIA, Watertown, N.Y., New York Region.

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5-18-71

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



ROBERT J. NASH, AIA

Vice President

Robert J. Nash, AIA, Robert J. Nash, AIA and Associates, Washington, D.C. Graduate of Howard University and Director of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter since 1968, he has been active in the Chapter as a member of the Public Relations Committee and as Member, Chairman, and Commissioner of the Education Committee. Nationally, he has served on the Component Affairs Committee, is currently a member of the Ford/AIA Scholarship Fund and the Chicago Resolution #19 Raising Steering Committees, and has been a member of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society since its formation in 1968 under the title of "Equal Opportunities." Local civic activities include positions as officer, director, or consultant to Head Start, Girl Scouts, SEARCH, Inc., National Technical Association, BEEP, etc.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The American Institute of Architects must direct its clout towards the elimination of environmental decay. To this end, it must document the problems; inform its members; propose solutions that respect and involve those affected; and finally, promote the guaranteed implementation of those solutions.

####

ROBERT J. NASH, A. I. A. →

Vice President →

Graduate of Howard University, Class of 1952.

Degree--Bachelor of Architecture
(Design option with work toward construction option
and Civil Engineering Degree)

Class A.I.A. Gold Medal winner for excellence in design.

Began initial practice in Nigeria, January 1953.

My work consisted mainly of research in housing and industrialization.

Design and supervised construction of the following:

15 Proto-type low cost houses built with experimental materials,
layouts and construction techniques.

Staff and guest quarters for Socony Vacuum Oil Company (Contract
won in design competition.)

Headquarters office building for the Western Regional Production
and Development Board.

Offices and residence for Afamaco Construction Company.

Western Region Proto-type Schools (400 units built)

Departed from Nigeria July, 1954 to U.S. Army Engineers.

January 1955 through August 1956 - Quality Control Construction Inspector
to 9 airfields in England. (Construction
cost \$10,000,000 each)

October 1956--Joined firm of Johnson and Boutin Architects as Architect and
Chief Designer.

February 1959--Started private practice, Robert J. Nash, A.I.A. & Associates
(Architects and Planners)

Partner - "Community Planning Associates"
(Urban Renewal Planning Firm)

Partner - Inter-Act
(Community Sensitivity Architectural Planning)

Partner - Nash & Nash
(Urban Art Consultants)

Corporate member American Institute of Architect and National Vice-President,
1970 - 1971

Member of Task Force for Professional Responsibility to Society
Member of A.I.A./Ford \$1,000,000 Scholarship Fund Committee
Coordinator of A.I.A./National Urban League "Black Executive
Exchange Program" "BEEP"
Co-Chairman National "Human Resources Council"

Local A.I.A. Chapter: Director at Large, 1968 - 1970
Member of Community Action Task Force
Member of Executive Committee

Ex-Member -- Board of Directors:

Neighborhood Commons

Capital Head Start

National Capital Area Girl Scout Council

Search Incorporated

National Technical Association

D.C. Citizens For Better Public Education

My Participation with Neighborhood Commons was in the following capacities:

President of the Board of Directors

Member of Architectural Review Board for Park Designs

Consultant Roles: Redevelopment Land Agency for "Urban Renewal/Citizen
Participation

HEW Joint project with Hugh Zimmers A.I.A. Phila., Pa.

User/need Analysis of headquarters complex

Archdiocese of Baltimore--Reorientation of the inner city
church

Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies and H.U.D.-

Furniture 1971: Living Systems

Anacostia Museum feasibility study for redevelopment of
far Southeast.

ASC/AIA Student Forum "How to get things done in the system"

Speeches & Lectures: A.I.A. Grass Roots East 1970 -- 1971

American Society of Landscape Architects

Keynote address "Center city open space development"
Southern University March 70 "Urban Renewal and Citizen Participation"

WTTG--A.I.A. Million Dollar Scholarship program.

WTTG--Fourteenth Street Urban Renewal Process

Potomac Valley Chapter of Architects -- Keynote address
"Practice Architecture and Survive"

State Department USIA - "The Effect of Urban Renewal on the Inner City"

Articles: A.I.A. Journal October 1968 "A Black Architect Speaks Frankly"
Architectural Forum Contributor June 70 -- "Minorities in the Profession"



black executive exchange program

February 2, 1971

American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Director of Public Relations

Dear Sir:

The enclosed news release was distributed today. We thought you might like a copy.

Sincerely,

Renee DuJean,
Assistant Director

RD:ab

Encl.

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Adolph Holmes
Director of Program Operations



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, INC. 477 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022 (212) 751-6077

NEWS from National Urban League

CONTACT: William E. Perry, Jr.
Director, Public Relations
(212) 751-0302 or (212) HO 4-4011

OR:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renee DuJean
Assistant Director
Black Executive Exchange Program
(212) 751-6077, Ext. 22

NEW YORK, N.Y.: D. C. architect, Robert J. Nash, will lecture at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, as a participant in the Black Executive Exchange Program, the National Urban League announced today.

BEEP/Architecture is jointly sponsored by the National Urban League, Hampton Institute Division of Architecture, and the American Institute of Architects. It combines the traditional classroom approach at black colleges and universities with lectures by black professionals from the fields of architecture, urban planning, and property development. Each week, a different architect lectures on his technical knowhow, experience, and the necessary tools and instruments of his particular area of expertise. Students, therefore, gain first-hand information about various aspects of architecture.

Mr. Nash, whose topic is, "Urban Renewal" is owner and sole partner of Robert H. Nash, AIA and Associates, and a senior partner in Community Planning Associates, and Nash and Zimmers.

A graduate of Howard University, Robert J. Nash is the first black Vice President of the American Institute of Architects, Chairman of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, and Co-Chairman of the AIA's Human Resources Council.

X X X

Building for Equal Opportunity
55 East 52nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) PLaza 1-0302



May 14, 1971

Mr. Robert J. Nash, AIA
5113 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Nash:

We are pleased to learn that you have been nominated to serve a second term as Vice President of the Institute. The preliminary announcement will be published in MEMO #430, May, 1971.

In accordance with the "Procedures and Rules for Campaigning of Candidates for AIA Offices" (copy attached), we will prepare a special section on all candidates for the June issue of the MEMO and a handout publicity sheet. The same information will be used on both.

As specified in the Rules, the biographical material is limited to 75-100 words and the statement of philosophy of architecture is limited to 50 words. Those which exceed these limitations are to be edited from the end, deleting words beyond the prescribed number. Realizing that you know better than we which facts you want included in these, we request that you draft both the biography and statement of philosophy.

If you wish a new photograph, please send us a black and white glossy print or negative which we can reproduce and distribute. If you would like to make changes in your official biography, please note them on the enclosed copy and return to us.

In order to coordinate the official announcement of the election results on June 24, we ask that you send us the name and address of your local public relations contact--from your firm or Chapter or agency of your choice--who will be in Washington on that day. We will provide him with advance materials and phone or wire the results so that he can notify your local press while we service the national and professional media from the convention press office.

(more)

Mr. Robert J. Nash, AIA
May 14, 1971

Page Two -

As you know, candidates could file as late as May 12, so we will not be able to send the publicity sheets on all candidates to editors of AIA component magazines and newsletters until later this month. Since this may create a serious deadline problem for them, we will send you a supply of your sheet as soon as it is printed and notify the editors that they may request it from your office.

In summary, we request that you send us the following materials:

1. 75-100 word biography
2. 50 word statement of philosophy
3. name of your PR representative
4. current photograph
5. formal biography

immediately. We realize that this may be difficult due to the time involved, but it is necessary in order to adhere to the Rules and publicize the information as widely as possible.

If for any reason these procedures are not satisfactory, or if you have any questions on them, do not hesitate to let us know. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Anne Fetzer
Administrative Assistant
Public Relations

Enclosures



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Robert J. Nash, AIA
Vice President
5113 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20011

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50 wds -
shall we cut?*

ONE ARCHITECT'S PHILOSOPHY

WE LIVE IN A REVOLUTIONARY TIME. TECHNOLOGY IS MOVING SO RAPIDLY THAT MANKIND MIGHT BE OUT STRIPPED AND OUT SMARTED IN THE PROCESS. ARCHITECTURE, IN ITS CONCERN WITH CREATION OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, MUST DEAL WITH PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF ITS CLIENTS. INCREASINGLY, THIS "CLIENT" IS THE "COMMUNITY", MULTI-FACED AND MULTI-MIND.

96

IT IS THE OBLIGATION AND CHALLENGE OF THE ARCHITECT TO CONSTANTLY PROBE, QUESTION, AND CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF FEELING AND FORM. THE ARCHITECT MUST NOT BE OVERWHELMED BY THE REVOLUTION BUT MUST PARTICIPATE IN ORDER TO SHARE IN DETERMINING ITS COURSE.

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Robert J. Nash, AIA
Vice President

Robert J. Nash, A.I.A., Robert J. Nash, A.I.A. and Associates, Partner-Community Planning Associates. Graduate of Howard University and member of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter and Past Director at Large and Commissioner of Education. Nationally he is a Vice President, Co-Chairman of the Human Resources Council, Chairman of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, Member of the A.I.A./Ford Scholarship Committee, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee; ~~Mr. Nash is a~~ Member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Design and Development Corporation and its Executive Committee.

ROBERT J. NASH, AIA

Vice President

Robert J. Nash, AIA, Robert J. Nash, AIA and Associates, Partner-Community Planning Associates. Graduate of Howard University and member of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter and Past Director at Large and Commissioner of Education. Nationally he is a Vice President, Co-Chairman of the Human Resources Council, Chairman of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, Member of the AIA/Ford Scholarship Committee, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee; Member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Design and Development Corporation and its Executive Committee.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

We live in a revolutionary time. Technology is moving so rapidly that mankind might be out stripped and out smarted in the process. Architecture, in its concern with creation of Human Environment, must deal with physical, psychological, social and economic needs of its clients. Increasingly, this "Client" is the "community", Multi-faced and Multi-Mind. It is the obligation and challenge of the architect to constantly probe, question, and create an environment of feeling and form. The architect must not be overwhelmed by the revolution but must participate in order to share in determining its course.

####

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



ROBERT J. NASH, AIA

Vice President

Robert J. Nash, AIA, Robert J. Nash, AIA and Associates, Partner-Community Planning Associates. Graduate of Howard University and member of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter and Past Director at Large and Commissioner of Education. Nationally he is a Vice President, Co-Chairman of the Human Resources Council, Chairman of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, Member of the AIA/Ford Scholarship Committee, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee; Member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Design and Development Corporation and its Executive Committee.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The American Institute of Architects must direct its clout towards the elimination of environmental decay. To this end, it must document the problems; inform its members; propose solutions that respect and involve those affected; and finally, promote the guaranteed implementation of those solutions.

####

October 26, 1971

Mr. Robert J. Nash, AIA
5113 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dear Mr. Nash:

Enclosed is a copy of the biography the Public Relations Department has on file for you. If you would like to make any changes to update it, we would appreciate it if you could return it to us with the necessary corrections or additions as soon as possible so we can have it typed and reproduced in time for the December Board Meeting. Also, if you have had a recent photograph made or would like a new one for our files, please send us a copy.

If you have no changes to make, we would appreciate your letting us know so that we are sure you have received our letter and wish no changes made.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Anne Fetzner
Administrative Assistant
Public Relations Department

Enclosure

December, 1971

ROBERT J. NASH, AIA
Vice President

Robert J. Nash, a corporate member of AIA, was elected a national vice-president in 1970. He is a 1952 graduate of Howard University's School of Architecture where he was awarded a class AIA medal for excellence in design.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

January 1952-- Began practice in Nigeria doing research in housing and industrialization. Designed and supervised the following projects:

- 15 Proto-type low cost houses built with experimental materials, layouts and construction techniques
- Staff and guest quarters for Socony Vacuum Oil Company (Contract won in design competition.)
- Headquarters office building for the Western Regional Production and Development Board
- Offices and residence for Afamaco Construction Company
- Western Region Proto-type Schools (400 units built)

January 1955--Joined U.S. Army Engineers as a quality control construction inspector to 9 airfields in England. Construction cost \$10,000,000 each.

October 1956--Joined firm of Johnson and Boutin Architects as architect and chief designer

February 1959--Started private practice, Robert J. Nash, AIA & Associates (architects and planners)

Partner--Inter-Act (Community Sensitivity Architectural Planning)

Partner--Nash & Nash (Urban Art Consultants)

CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Chairman of task force for Professional Responsibility to Society
Member AIA/Ford \$1,000,000 Scholarship Fund Committee

(more)

Coordinator of AIA/National Urban League "Black Executive Exchange Program," (BEEP)
Chairman of Human Resources Council

LOCAL AIA CHAPTER

Director at Large, 1968-1970
Member of Community Action Task Force
Member of Executive Committee

Ex-Member-- Board of Directors:

Neighborhood Commons
Capital Head Start
National Capital Area Girl Scout Council
Search Incorporated
National Technical Association
D. C. Citizens for Better Public Education

CONSULTANT ROLES

Redevelopment Land Agency for Urban Renewal/Citizen Participation
HEW Joint project with High Zimmers, AIA, Philadelphia, Pa.
User/need analysis of headquarters complex
Archdiocese of Baltimore--Reorientation of the inner city church
Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies
and HUD--Furniture 1971: Living Systems
Anacostia Museum feasibility study for redevelopment of far Southeast
ASC/AIA Student Forum, How to Get Things Done in the System
Advisor to National Conservation Foundation
Best Environment for Day Care Activities--BCDI

SPEECHES AND LECTURES

AIA Grassroots East 1970-1971
Tuskegee Institute--Urban Architecture
American Society of Landscape Architects--keynote address, Center
City Open Space Development
Southern University March 1970--Urban Renewal and Citizen Participation
WTTG--AIA Million Dollar Scholarship Program
WTTG--Fourteenth Street Urban Renewal Process
State Department USIA--The Effect of Urban Renewal on the Inner City

ARTICLES

AIA Journal October 1968, A Black Architect Speaks Frankly
Architectural Forum Contribution June 1970, Minorities in the Profession

File Nash bio -
1972
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ROBERT J. NASH, A.I.A.

Graduate of Howard University, Class of 1952

Degree--Bachelor of Architecture
(Design option with work toward construction option
and Civil Engineering Degree)

Class A.I.A. Gold Medal winner for excellence in design.

Began initial practice in Nigeria, January 1953.
My work consisted mainly of research in housing and industrializa-
tion.

Design and supervised construction of the following:

15 Proto-type low cost houses built with experimental
materials, layouts and construction techniques.

Staff and guest quarters for Socony Vacuum Oil Company
(Contract won in design competition.)

Headquarters office building for the Western Regional
Production and Development Board.

Offices and residence for Afamaco Construction Company.

Western Region Proto-type Schools (400 units built)

Departed from Nigeria July, 1954 to U.S. Army Engineers.

January 1955 through August 1956 - Quality Control Construction Inspector
to 9 airfields in England. (Construction
cost \$10,000,000 each.)

October 1956 - Joined firm of Johnson and Boutin Architects as Architect
and Chief Designer.

February 1959 - Started private practice, Robert J. Nash, A.I.A. and
Associates (Architects and Planners)

Partner - Inter-Act
(Community Sensitivity Architectural Planning)

Partner - Nash & Nash
(Urban Art Consultants)

Ex-Partner - Community Planning Associates
(Urban Renewal Planning Firm)

Corporate member American Institute of Architect and National Vice President,
1970 - 1971 - 1972 Member of the Board of Directors and Executive
Committee

Commissioner - Community Service Commission
Member of A.I.A./Ford \$1,000,000 Scholarship Fund Committee
Coordinator of A.I.A./ National Urban League " Black Executive
Exchange Program" "BEEP"
Chairman National " Human Resources Council"

Local A.I.A. Chapter: Director at Large, 1968 - 1970
Member of Community Action Task Force

Ex-Member Board of Directors of the following:
Neighborhood Commons
Capital Head Start
National Capital Area Girl Scout Council
Cearch Incorporated
National Technical Association
D. C. Citizens For Better Public Education

My Participation with Neighborhood Commons was in the following capacities:

President of the Board of Directors

Member of Architectural Review Board for Park Designs

Consultant Roles: Redevelopment Land Agency for "Urban Renewal/Citizen
Participation"
HEW Joint project with Hugh Zimmer A.I.A., Phila., Pa.
User/need Analysis of headquarters complex
Archdiocese of Baltimore - Reorientation of the Inner
City church
Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies and H.U.D. -
Furniture 1971: Living Systems
Anacostia Museum feasibility study for redevelopment of
far Southeast
ASC/AIA Student Forum "How to get things done in the system"
National Endowment on the Arts and Humanities Division
of Architecture and Planning
The Conservation Foundation
National Parks for the Future
National Park Service - Anacostia Projects
Sesquicentennial Committee of Frederick Law Olmsted

SPEECHES AND LECTURES

A.I.A. Grass Roots East 1970 - 1971 (Day conferences)

American Society of Landscape Architects Keynote address "Center city open space development"

Southern University March '70 "Urban Renewal and Citizen Participation (2 day workshop)

WTTG - A.I.A. Million Dollar Scholarship program

WTTG- Fourteenth Street Urban Renewal Process

Potomac Valley Chapter of Architects - Keynote address "Practice Architecture and Survive"

State Department USIA - "The Effect of Urban Renewal on the Inner City"

Hampton Institute - "What's wrong with Urban Renewal" (2 day workshop)

Minnesota State Society of Architects - "Responsibilities of the Profession"

University of Wisconsin - "The Health of the Metropolis"

University of California - "How to get things done in the system" (3 day workshop)

Cleveland Convention - National Society of Interior Designers "A New Era of Design"

American University - "The Million Dollar Misunderstanding"

Pennsylvania Society of Architects "Dilema - Decision- Direction"

New England Region of Architects - "Human Resources Council"

Tuskegee Institute - "Urban Crisis and The System"

Articles: A.I.A. Journal October 1968 "A Black Architect Speaks Frankly"
Architectural Forum Contributor June '70 - "Minorities in the Profession"

A.I.A. Journal October 1971 "A Second Year's Accounting"

NINE HONOR AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED IN HOUSTON

Two theaters, a day camp, a corporate headquarters, a convention/exhibit center, and a pair of rehabilitated ice-houses are among the nine projects selected to receive AIA's 1972 Honor Awards.

The winners are: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (Edwardarrabee Barnes, FAIA); Koerber House, Lago Maggiore, Switzerland (Marcel Breuer and Herbert Beckhard); Alley Theatre, Houston (Ulrich Franzen, AIA, and Associates); Mummers Theater, Oklahoma City (John M. Johansen, FAIA).

Also, McCormick Place-on-the-Lake, Chicago (C. F. Murphy Associates); New York State Bar Center, Albany (James Stewart Polshek & Associates); YM-YWHA Day Camp, Mt. Olive, N.J. (Claude Lamton & Associates); Weyerhaeuser Headquarters, Tacoma, Wash. (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill); Ice Houses I & II, San Francisco (Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons, Inc.).

The awards will be presented on Sunday, May 7, in Houston. Photographs of all nine winners will be featured in the May AIA Journal.

NASH WILL RECEIVE FIRST WHITNEY M. YOUNG AWARD CITED FOR HIS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Robert J. Nash (right), AIA vice president, has been selected as the first recipient of the Institute's Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation.

The award, named in honor of the late Whitney Young, former director of the National Urban League, is being presented to Nash for his significant contribution in initiating and directing the Institute's programs in the area of social concern. He will receive the award at the Houston convention.

He was a member of AIA's Task Force on Equal Opportunity and, later, chairman of the Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society. He also served as co-chairman of the Human Resources Council, which was created by the Board to implement programs of the task force.

HRC's three main target areas are support of Community Design Centers, greater educational opportunities for minority youths wishing to enter architecture, and elimination of constraints to building housing for the poor.

Nash is also coordinator for the Urban League's BEEP (Black Executives Exchange Program).



CEC ENDORSES MASTERSPEC

Endorsement of the Masterspec automated specification system by the Consulting Engineers Council of the U.S. has brought the program another step toward broad professionwide support.

Production Systems for Architects and Engineers Inc., requested CEC President William A. Sowers and the CEC staff to review the present status of Masterspec as a positive factor in an architect's or engineer's practice in the area of specifications.

Although the CEC endorsement was qualified to the extent that Divisions 15 and 16 are not presently available, CEC endorsed Masterspec for use by the design professions in the interest of promoting maximum use of the existing system. In addition, CEC has offered to designate representatives to assist PSAE in completing work on the two engineering divisions.

About the CEC endorsement, John H. Schruben, FAIA, of the PSAE staff commented, "It is most encouraging that we are now receiving this kind of support from the other professional societies. When PSAE was established by AIA, the original concept was to have this venture supported by and operated for all the design professions."

The CEC endorsement follows earlier endorsements by the Construction Specifications Institute, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the New Jersey Housing Finance Agency.

For information about Masterspec, write PSAE, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS NEWS

WHITNEY YOUNG CITATION HONORS

BLACK WASHINGTON ARCHITECT

Hold for Release Saturday, April 29

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 29, 1972 — Robert J. Nash, a Washington, D.C., architect, has been awarded the first Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation from The American Institute of Architects.

The citation, established in 1971, is being presented to Nash for his significant contribution in initiating and directing the Institute's programs in the area of social concern. He will be presented the citation in May during the 1972 convention of the 24,000-member organization in Houston.

Nash is currently serving his second term as national vice president of the AIA, the first black architect to be elected to national office by the organization.

The citation he will receive is named in honor of the late Whitney Young, former director of the National Urban League, who at the 1968 AIA Convention challenged the profession to concern itself significantly with social justice and minority group problems.

Nash was named to the AIA Task Force on Equal Opportunity which was established following Young's address to the convention. Later he became the chairman of the Institute's Task Force on Professional Responsibility to

(more)

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WHITNEY YOUNG CITATION

April 29, 1972

Page Two

Society and first co-chairman, with Nathaniel Owings, FAIA, of the Human Resources Council.

HRC was set up by the AIA Board of Directors to implement the task force programs. Its three main target areas are support of Community Design Centers, education of greater numbers of black architects, and elimination of constraints to building housing for the poor.

Nash graduated in 1952 from Howard University, where he was awarded the Henry Adams Class AIA Gold Medal for excellence in design.

After graduation he went to Nigeria to begin his architectural career. There he developed prototype schools, of which 400 were constructed, and designs for low-cost houses, both of which used indigenous materials and experimental construction techniques.

After two years in Nigeria and another two years with the Army Corps of Engineers, he returned to Washington, D.C. where, in 1959 he opened his own office. He became involved in inner-city problems and determined to make the voice of local residents heard by the system that governed them. Following riots in the capital in 1968, his belief was reaffirmed that a professional/layman partnership with the community had to exist.

The citation winner is the AIA coordinator for the Urban League's Black Executive Exchange Program, in which black professionals visit and lecture at predominately black architectural schools.

Nash is also an active member of the boards of Capital Head Start and of the National Capital Area Girl Scout Council.

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Remarks of Robert J. Nash, AIA
May 9, 1972
AIA Convention, Houston, Texas

THIS AWARD FILLS MY HEART WITH HONOR AND HUMILITY. IT IS, INDEED, PROGRESS FOR THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS TO CREATE THIS CITATION IN THE NAME OF SUCH AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN, WHITNEY YOUNG, JR., A MAN DEDICATED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL....THE DISINHERITED, THE DISENFRANCHISED, THE POOR....THE BLACK, AS WELL AS THE AFFLUENT. FOR ME, A BLACK MAN, TO BE SO HONORED FOR ANOTHER BLACK MAN IS BOTH A CHALLENGE AND RE^WQUARD OF THE HIGHEST MAGNITUDE.

IN 1968 I WENT TO PORTLAND, OREGON DETERMINED TO ADDRESS THE CONVENTION ON THE NEEDS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. I WAS SURPRISED AND RELIEVED TO HEAR WHITNEY YOUNG STATE THE CASE SO SIMPLY AND ELOQUENTLY. HE GOT RIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER AND HIS WORDS WERE HARD-HITTING....SINCERE AND FACTUAL.

AT THAT TIME IN 1968 OUR ORGANIZATION WAS SURELY ONE OF SILENCE AND IRRELEVANCE. HOWEVER, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER PRESIDENT, GEORGE KASSENBAUM, THE GAU^NTLET WAS PICKED UP AND THE AIA TOOK ITS FIRST SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. A SPECIAL TASK FORCE HAS EVOLVED INTO A COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, NOW REPRESENTING ONE OF THE INSTITUTE'S MAJOR THRUSTS. IT HAS PROMOTED A \$1,000,000. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM JOINTLY WITH THE FORD FOUNDATION FOR MINORITY STUDENTS, AND THERE IS NOW A HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL TO SUPPORT MANY OF THE MINORITY ACTION PROGRAMS.

THESE PROGRAMS AND THE NEW PHILOSOPHY OF THE INSTITUTE IS IMPRESSIVE AND REPRESENTS GREAT PROGRESS. HOWEVER, AS YOUR MOST ACTIVE " GADFLY " IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, I FEEL WE HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE IN TERMS OF A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. A SPECIAL CONCERN IS WHETHER THE GROWTH STRATEGY FOR THE NATION PROPOSED BY OUR NATIONAL POLICY TASK FORCE IS A GENUINE COMMITMENT OF HELP TO THE DOWNTRODDEN OR WILL THEY REMAIN POOR, WHILE THE DESIGNER, BUILDER AND INVESTOR GET RICHER? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DO WE ADDRESS OURSELVES TO

THE NEED AND OBLIGATION OF IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF OUR POOR AMERICAN BROTHER? WILL IT AGAIN BE A DUPLICATE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING HANDOUT THAT FALLS APART WITHIN TWO YEARS OR WILL THE POOR HAVE A SHARE IN THE PLANNING AND INVESTMENT OF THEIR IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT? UNTIL THIS COUNTRY IS WILLING TO SHARE ITS WEALTH WITH ALL OF ITS CITIZENS, WE WILL HAVE THE SLUM/CRIME SYNDROME^{FF} THAT IS NOW SO PREVALENT. WE, AS SO-CALLED TECHNICALLY-EQUIPPED PLANNERS OF THAT ENVIRONMENT, CAN NOT CONTINUE TO PROFESS INNOCENCE IN THIS POWERFUL AND POLITICAL ARENA.

WE MUST PRESS ON NOT FOR JUST SURVIVAL-FACILITIES, BUT FOR ADEQUATE, PLEASANT AND MEANINGFUL ENVIRONMENTS. IF WE ARE A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WE MUST ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE NATION IN SO FAR AS WE ARE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED. WE MUST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS AND RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND THE DEPLORABLE^Q CONDITIONS OF THE RESERVATION....THE POVERTY-STRICKEN CITIZEN OF THE APPALACHIA, THE ITINERANT FARMER, IN ADDITION TO THE PHYSICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY HELPLESS BLACK CITY DWELLER.

WE MUST DEVELOP THE MECHANICS FOR RESEARCH AND SOLUTION.

WHITNEY YOUNG, JR. WOULD BE IMPRESSED WITH THE A.I.A. IN 1972, BUT I FEEL SURE THAT HE WOULD AGAIN CHALLENGE US TO PRESS ON^{MORE} COURAGEOUSLY AND MEANINGFULLY.

AIA 1972 CONVENTION - PRESENTATION OF WHITNEY YOUNG, JR. AWARD



5 1/2 inches



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Grady Poulard, Robert Nash (stand.)
William Slayton & Robert Hastings
Human Resources Council meeting
Feb. 1971

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~~Robert Nash~~
Vernon Jordan, Dir. Nat'l Urban League
Robert Nash - Const. - VP
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PHOTO IMAGERY
2629 CONN. AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

L. Vernon Jordan, Dir. National
Urban League; Robert Nash, VP,
Ferebee

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1973 Robert Nash testimony

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They

By Carolyn L
Washington Post Staff

"Belief in yourself is worth more than \$1000 in your pocket," according to Robert Nash and his wife, Texeira.

These two practitioners, parents of young children, bring their philosophy from their own experiences as volunteers in various area projects.

"While underprivileged people must have first-class clothes and all the things we shouldn't coddle them," Tex Nash said. "The important need is respect."

Robert and Tex Nash are team members of what Nash terms "a fathered family." They have three children: Robert, Carolyn, 8, and Steve.

Though he has a private architecture practice, Nash finds time to be a man of the education committee of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

He also arranges points of architectural interest for high schools and heads the In-Service Buildings Committee.

By Steve Szabo, Staff Photographer

ROBERT and TEXEIRA NASH

... a husband-and-wife team involved in service to the people of D.C.

They Bought Stock in Themselves

By Carolyn Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writer

"Belief in yourself is better than \$1000 in your pocket," according to young Washington architect Robert Nash and his artist wife, Teixeira.

These two practical visionaries, parents of three young children, built their philosophy from the bricks and mortar of their own experiences as volunteers in various area projects.

"While underprivileged people must have food and clothes and all the basics, we shouldn't coddle them," Tex Nash said. "Their most important need is for self-respect."

Robert and Tex Nash are team members of what Mrs. Nash terms "a father-centered family." They have three children: Robyn, 11, Carolyn, 8, and Steven, 6.

Though he has a busy private architecture practice, Nash finds time to be chairman of the education committee of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

He also arranges tours of points of architectural interest for high school students and heads the Improved Buildings Committee of

To the Robert Nashes, Art And Heart Pay Dividends

D.C. Citizens for Public Education.

Mrs. Nash works for Widening Horizons and THIS, and is a volunteer art teacher in a number of D.C. schools.

"IT'S TRUE, we're very busy," Mrs. Nash admitted. "But while our involvement in volunteer work is extremely rewarding for us—it also has a subtle affect on the children."

"It lets them see that you give — you don't always take," Nash explained. "It shows them, with actions, not words, that there's something to offer that's greater than money."

"My father and mother taught me two important things," Tex Nash said. "First, that you have an intelligence and you are obligated to use that intelligence. And second, that you should believe in yourself."

It was belief in herself that helped Mrs. Nash to

carry on, working at three different jobs, to earn her way through Howard University.

"My parents died when I was a teen-ager. I had no money," she said simply.

"What they gave you was better than money," Nash added quietly.

ROBERT NASH was an architecture student while Tex was studying art at Howard. Common interests drew them together. The friendship blossomed into marriage when he graduated in 1953.

Nash, who was born in Memphis, Tenn., said he chose architecture as a career because "it stood halfway between two subjects I loved—art, and mechanical drawing."

While he specializes in the design of schools and churches, Nash declared that "when you're young you don't turn down anything."

He admits he finds the

designing of a church most satisfying of all.

"It is a special kind of building—a space to worship in, with a minimum of utilitarian requirements.

"When you design a church, you have to satisfy an ethereal quality. The search for that quality stimulates the designing process," he said.

Nash, who designed Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Wheaton, St. Stephen's Catholic Church at 25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, and the First Baptist Church in North Brentwood, believes that the day of the traditional church is gone.

"I know a lot of people don't feel they are in a church unless it is an old-style building. But I believe modern architecture really works best with the way we communicate today," he said.

He hastened to add that some modernists go so far that they turn churches into austere, cold auditoriums.

"To design a church you have to go a step beyond the design of an auditorium. You must capture a spiritual

See NASH, F14, Col. 1

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Photographer





LIFE WITH FATHER—Architect Robert Nash with his “father-centered” family—artist wife Texeira and their three children, Carolyn, 8, standing next to Nash;

By Steve Szabo, Staff Photographer

Steven, 6, and Robyn, 11, seated. The oil painting in the background is by Mrs. Nash.

NASH—From F13

Helping Is Their Heritage

quality to be successful,” the architect explained.

TEX NASH'S paintings, on the other hand, reveal a concern more with social problems than with matters spiritual.

Over the white brick fireplace in the tastefully modernized old house at Delafield Place nw., is a painting in oils called “Three Female Figures.”

Mrs. Nash explained that the figures — in yellow, white, and black—represent the three races.

Each is set against a color that symbolizes a popular generalization about people of that race.

“The black woman,” she said, “stands in front of the color red — for sensuality. The yellow, in front of green—the symbol of oriental fertility. The blue background for the white figure represents purity and virginity.”

A transparent drapery of plastic wrapping paper that encases the white figure has its symbolic meaning, too:

“A white woman is supposed to be covered up—unlike the sensual black or the

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Heritage

quality to be successful," the architect explained.

TEX NASH'S paintings, on the other hand, reveal a concern more with social problems than with matters spiritual.

Over the white brick fireplace in the tastefully modernized old house at Delafield Place nw., is a painting in oils called "Three Female Figures."

Mrs. Nash explained that the figures — in yellow, white, and black—represent the three races.

Each is set against a color that symbolizes a popular generalization about people of that race.

"The black woman," she said, "stands in front of the color red — for sensuality. The yellow, in front of green—the symbol of oriental fertility. The blue background for the white figure represents purity and virginity."

A transparent drapery of plastic wrapping paper that encases the white figure has its symbolic meaning, too:

"A white woman is supposed to be covered up—unlike the sensual black or the fertile yellow. But, you can still see through the covering," Mrs. Nash said.

Though her art and philosophy are both direct and critical, Tex Nash is neither bitter nor reproachful about being a Negro.

"I'm proud," she said. "In fact, one reason why I do so much volunteer work is to show white people how easy it is to mix with us."

"Do you know there are lots of people who have never even been inside a Negro home?" she asked.

"Most Negroes are seeking neither intermarriage nor sameness," Robert Nash interpolated. "We just want equal opportunity and mutual respect."

"There's no use saying we're alike because we're not," Tex Nash went on. "White people don't understand the way the Negro thinks, or why he thinks that way. Because our experiences are different—and you see this among Jewish people who have suffered from prejudices, too — our attitudes are shaped from different material."

IT WAS only when, as a teen-ager, Mrs. Nash had left her home town of Quincy, Mass., that she felt the full impact of her color.

"I hated Washington at first because of the segregation," she said.

Though they are not militant civil rights workers, the Nashes took part in the march on Washington in August, 1963.

"I never felt as much a Negro as I did that day," Tex Nash said, wonderingly.

In the wake of his successful career, Robert Nash has been able to offer his family a high standard of living.

"I guess we might have moved from this neighborhood," he said, "but we decided to stay here because we like the city life."

It's Happening in Real Estate

Robert Nash Moves Into AIA Hierarchy



By Charles Del Vecchio—
The Washington Post

ROBERT J. NASH
... on AIA ladder.

to suit the needs of individuals and families who will be occupying them.

"Instead of 50 per cent in two-bedroom apartments, which do not fit family formations, the need is for one-bedrooms and efficiencies and more larger units for big families," he said. "And we want setbacks and high-risers—a viable variety of housing and business."

Another Nash project is the nursing home being built by the nonprofit National Medical Association Foundation. This 250-bed facility for blacks in the inner city will hopefully be a prototype for the nation. "We tried to avoid institutional isolation and get away from usual deficiencies of nursing homes," explained Nash.

As a result, individuals will have small private rooms with openings into little living areas that can be shared with nearby people. The design includes making the bedrooms convenient, supplying privacy when wanted but giving the opportunity for visiting with fellow residents.

And the partitioning is flexible to make future changes easy.

Meanwhile, Nash is a senior partner in Community Planning Associates and involved in a joint venture, Nash and Zimmers, for consulting services. His local activities include Girl Scouts, Head Start, SEARCH Inc. National Technical Association and the AIA here.

Busy as he has been with meetings, travel, and architecting for a living, don't bet that Nash will not become the first black president of national AIA. Already he has made it as the first black director at large and

See HAPPEN, E9, Col. 1

Sounds like a big order but the slim six-footer has been a man to get things done ever since he was the AIA gold medal winner of his class in architecture at Howard University in 1952. After marrying a classmate who shared his interest in design and art, Nash took her to Nigeria, where he began to practice in 1953.

"I just decided that it would be better to get actual experience doing things on my own rather than serving a conventional apprenticeship, so to speak. As a result, I learned about wood, termites, sawmills and I did industrial buildings and schools. We used a wood called opepe, which is similar to oak but stronger and more versatile. It was great experience. Our oldest daughter (the Nashes have three children) was born in Nigeria."

In 1954, Nash heard Uncle Sam calling from across the water and he came home to serve in the Army, doing duty with the Corp of Engineers and winding up work-

ing on Air Force construction in England.

Then, with military duty behind him, he joined Johnson and Boutin Architects late in 1956 and worked on a variety of projects, including the chapel of the Good Counsel High School in Wheaton and St. Stephen's Church on Pennsylvania Avenue.

In 1959 he formed his own architectural firm. His broad range of building credits include garages, church buildings, apartments, medical offices, a cocktail lounge, a swimming pool and enclosure, warehouses, a few private residence and a gym for Junior Village.

But Nash now is much dedicated to his work for the rejuvenation of 14th Street. He is preparing plans for some new buildings that he hopes will become part of a new neighborhood where building costs can be kept in line while living units are built

B. Willmann

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Inside Features

Features on inside pages of this two-part section include:

- A discussion on the use of windows in residences, E-3.
- Realty and building notes, E-5.
- Samuel Fishlyn's answers to questions from homeowners, E-15.
- Bernard Meltzer's dialogue on realty topics, E-21.
- Photos of small house development with large lots around a pond in Potomac area, E-27.

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It's Happening Here in Real Estate



This nursing home and health care facility, designed by Robert J. Nash AIA, is being built on the southeast corner of 1st and K Sts. NW by contractor Winston A. Burnett for the National Medical Association Foundation.

HAPPEN, From E1

he vice president. This Nash is articulate but he's a doer, not just a talker.

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First Black Elected a VP of Architects Institute

The American Institute of Architects, which is holding its convention in Boston, elected a black man Thursday as one of its three new vice presidents.

Robert J. Nash, 41, of Washington, head of his own architectural and planning firm, is the first black ever

elected to national AIA office. Robert F. Hastings of Detroit was elected president to succeed Rex W. Allen of San Francisco. Max O. Urbhan of New York was named first vice president.

In addition to Nash, vice presidents elected were Rich-

ard M. Bennett of Chicago and George M. White of Cleveland. Preston M. Bolton and Rex L. Becker of St. Louis were elected to two-year terms as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Nash is expected to take over as president of the AIA's

task force on social responsibility.

In other AIA news, the Institute presented a check for \$25,000 and a plaque to the state of Israel to honor its work in planning new towns, notably the Beersheva settlement in the southern Israeli desert, the Negev.

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
D. 217,494 SAT. 169,405

JUN 26 1970

By Miller



ELECTED — Robert J. Nash, who heads his own architectural and planning firm in the District, is the first black architect to be elected as a vice president of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Nash is presently the chief planner for the 14th corridor and a planner for Martin Luther King Memorial Campuses in Atlanta, Ga.

Boston Evening Globe Thursday, June 25, 1970

For first time, black man elected AIA official

For the first time in its 102-year history, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elected a black man to national office today.

Robert J. Nash, 41-year-old head of an architectural and planning firm in Washington, was named one of three new vice presidents of AIA.

Robert F. Hastings of Detroit was elected president to succeed Rex W. Allen of San Francisco. Max O. Urbhan of New York was named first vice president.

Other vice presidents named with Nash were Richard M. Bennett of Chicago and George M. White of Cleveland. Preston M. Bolton of Houston and Rex L. Becker of St. Louis were reelected to two-year terms as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Nash, a member of the institute since 1962, is also the first black officer of its Metropolitan Washington chapter.

He is expected to take over as president of the AIA's task force on social responsibility.

The institute's citation for excellence in community architecture went to Nantucket in recognition of its master plan for restoration of a major part of the town waterfront.

The Gold Medal Award, highest honor bestowed by the 24,000-member organization, goes to R. Buckminster Fuller of New York, one of the world's most celebrated architects.

Among seven non-architects receiving honorary membership in the AIA were Samuel Chamberlain of Marblehead, for his contributions to literature, photography and art, and Walter Muir Whitehill of Boston, for his contributions to education and research.

This was the final session of the four-day convention, attended by 3500 delegates at the Sheraton Boston.

JUN 26 1970

By Jane Holtz Kay

Black vice president first for architects

By Jane Holtz Kay
Globe Correspondent

On a dull gray day, on a platform of men in dull gray suits during a droningly dull convention windup, Robert J. Nash just had to sit there to symbolize what he stood for.

Green suit, green and blue striped tie, green shades, bearded among the beardless, his first claim to visibility was his position as the first black architect ever elected vice president of the American Institute of Architects.

Delegates to this week's AIA convention voted Nash one of three vice presidents yesterday. The post enables him to sit on the 25-man board of directors which sets policy for the professional organization.

Last year, a livelier convention rejected the bid of another black man to the prestigious position. This year, Nash says, "we really battled. We tried to get to every guy walking."

Nash, a tall man who calls himself a "semi-radical" and "abrasive," stood outside the convention, greeted the passing congratulators and described the campaign, the meaning of his election, and his role.

"A black face is a controversial face," he describes his pre-convention work buttonholing delegates. "My pitch is that obviously I can bring the body the grass roots issues that they need to deal

with." Social progress "needs to come from the policymaking level," he argued.

At 41, Nash is probably a decade younger than the average board member. He also runs a very different practice than the prototype board members.

His nine-man office services the ghetto in his home in Washington, D.C., during a 16-hour-a-day, seven-day working week. He is also one of the architects for the Martin Luther King Memorial.

Taking time off from his community practice to run for the AIA office demanded a lot of "soul-searching," Nash says. Despite the overall convention's seeming unwillingness to take controversial stands on issues or to address social problems in a visible way, he is optimistic about its new slate of officers. "There is every indication of more than a willingness. There is a new kind of camaraderie that goes beyond the norm," Nash said.

He considers his election typical of a new trend, politely calling his politicking "an uphill battle... a very complicated campaign because I have on occasion had to be extremely abrasive, because I had to speak my piece. People are beginning to understand that they have to relate to these issues," he says.

The issues he refers to are those of the poor in the inner city.

Nash sets precedent

as AIA vice president

Washington architect Robert J. Nash was installed as a national vice president of the American Institute of Architects in formal ceremonies here this week. He is the first black member to hold national office in the 113-year history of the Institute.

Before election to the national office last June, he was the first black person to be elected a director of the AIA's Washington Metropolitan Chapter.

Deeply involved in rebuilding of the inner city, Nash is currently working in three firms, each offering a specialized service. As an architect, he is owner of Robert J. Nash and Associates; as an urban planner, he is a senior partner

of Community Planning Associates, and finally, as a partner is a pioneering architectural consulting firm, he offers advice on architectural and community sensitivity.

Typical examples of these involvements are a 250-bed nursing home and health care facility built here for inner-city residents by the nonprofit National Medical Association Foundation, planning for the rebuilding of the riot-torn 14th St. corridor, and the federal HEW complex.

Architect Nash has worked on a variety of local projects, including Peoples Congregational Church and Community Center Buildings, Thompson Medical Building, Shaw Neighborhood Health

Center, Clark Clinic, 2008 Medical Center, Junior Village Gymnasium and Recreation Center, high rise apartments, and Shaw urban renewal area.

The Howard University graduate began professional practice in Nigeria in 1953. Nash is the newly-named chairman of AIA's national Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society, having been a member since its formation in 1968 as the Task Force on Equal Opportunities.

Along with San Francisco architect Nathaniel A. Owings, FAIA, Nash will co-chair the AIA newly formed Human Resources Council which promises to be the new
(Continued on Page 2)

Nash

thrust of the Institute's effort in social responsibility.

For the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, he has served as a member of the Public Relations Committee and as member, chairman, and commissioner of its Education Committee.

His wife, Teixeira, an active Washington artist, is chairman of the D.C. Commission on the Arts.

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79th YEAR NO. 34

WASHINGTON, D.C. DECEMBER 12, 1970

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Washington Afro-American



Sunday
Star
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Arch. Bob
Nash, Robert J.

THE SU
Washington, D.

Vital Cords of Black Life—Lo

By JACQUELINE TRECOTT
Star Staff Writer

Texeria Nash had just dashed in from a long, disappointing day at the school budget hearings.

"I was scheduled to testify this morning but I never got a chance," Tex protested. The chairman of the D.C. Commission on the Arts, Tex is furious about the proposed cuts in the art allowances.

Mrs. Anita Allen, president of the Board of Education, has said art allowances would be cut in half if the \$155 million school budget is not approved.

"Something is wrong with the attitude toward art in the schools. I have taught art here, always as a volunteer and always after school. The powers that be think art is not worthy to be taught in school. The emphasis is on reading and math," she raged.

Would Work

"In a school system that is 95 percent black, why shouldn't you take the arts which the black has been so successful in and apply those techniques to the instruction of reading and math. I'm convinced it would work," remarked architect Bob Nash, as he sat down next to his wife.

The Nashes are capable of stirring up a tempest. They

have promoted blacks in the arts since their undergraduate days at Howard. The couple are planning to combine their talents into an "urban art" since for them responsibility to the community is a first commandment.

"The worst problem today is visual pollution. Just look around," Bob Nash says quietly.

"We would like to do street scenes, a multi-media thing. Our idea is to have the streets blocked off and let the people create what they want. All the art will flow. A building should not be allowed to stand, unless it fits into the whole environment," Tex responded.

Not Backdrops

Bob added, "buildings cannot be just backdrops. We want to start an unlimited attack on urban cancer and the present cityscape. Let's rub some merthiolate on the ills." (Merthiolate is an antiseptic for cuts and contaminated wounds.)

The Nashes personal backdrop and atmosphere spells art. Their home at 1601 Buchanan St. NW is calmly cramed with warm, outspoken colors.

"Arts are the core of existence of black people. The black artist is not acknowledged. And when blacks are deprived of art, that is slavery at its lowest denomination," Bob, a native of Memphis, Tenn., reasons.

"Our art is sensuous and en-

compasses injustice, love, joy and pain," explained Tex.

It's the vital cords of black life—love and pain—that Bob Nash is attempting to reflect in the Martin Luther King Memorials in Atlanta and Memphis.

King Memorial

"In Memphis, the municipal government has ruled the Lorraine Motel, where Martin was assassinated, in a light industrial zone. We want, most of all, to preserve the balcony and the courtyard but it's hard to build a fitting memorial in that kind of zone," the community consultant brooded.

The King Center in Atlanta revolves around a library on Morehouse College campus and a spiritual center next to Ebenezer Baptist Church which King co-pastored with his father.

"It will be more than a memorial. Robert Madison and Max Bonn, the two other architects, and I feel Martin would have liked something simple.

"The architecture must relate to the struggle he worked so hard for. It will be more than a memorial, it will be a series of experiences," Bob emphasized.

Bob Nash believes that style is a solution to a problem and feels his work cannot be classified into a style—it's flexible and functional.

"It is not necessary to have a style, that's a Western idea. We have to project into the future and forget style and let it be what it was," says the architect, who designed the new addition to the Museum of African Art on Capitol Hill.

"There's a definite advantage in that museum because of its display. For African art there has to be texture and warmth in the backdrop. In other museums a sculpture or painting is put in a pure environment, out of character with what it is all about," Nash comments, as he answers a call from Steven, 11.

Nash sinks his six foot frame into a white cane back chair and looks at his wife's painting above the crackling fireplace.

Tex, who works in her studio at 1760 Columbla Rd. and home, also looks at "Morning, Noon and Night" mounted on the black wall.

Blacks, Browns

"All my paintings are done on black and brown and have to be displayed with warm backgrounds," she pointed out.

"Blacks draw a sharp image because they have sharp experience," Tex stated. "Every art is political but when black arts comment, it's called propaganda."

The sharp image of the 14th St. corridor is a project Bob Nash is working on. He is community overseer for the rebuilding of the burnt area and he volunteers, "We blacks never built the inner city... It happened.

"Our plan, speaking to simultaneous needs, is to educate the people to what they can do. It's the People's Plan because we have to solve the basics first and get economic control," he rapped.

"Bob is working on the groundwork, so when a building goes up, it's a community building," interjected Tex. Looking across at her husband, she added, "People on the outside think there has to be a deadline for renewal."

The Nashes, bursting with enthusiasm for each others projects, participate in a dynamic dialogue. When Tex pauses, Bob completes her thoughts.

Hurting Artists

"This country is hurting its black artists and it needs them," Tex starts. "But we developed our arts in slavery so we can certainly develop them now," he finishes.

They met at Howard Univer-

sity when Bob was studying architecture and Tex was a pre-medical and philosophy student. After Bob's graduation in 1952, the couple went to Nigeria and stayed there through 1954.

Robyn, one of their children, was born in Nigeria and is anxious to visit the independent country. The Nashes would like to return also but "we just haven't had the chance to do it and have piled up responsibilities here."

After a military stint,



—Star Photographer Joseph Silverman

Architect Robert Nash and his wife Texeria, the chairman of the D.C. Commission on the Arts.

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Nash, Robert J.

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Nash, Robert J.

Black Life—Love, Pain

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sity when Bob was studying architecture and Tex was a pre-medical and philosophy student. After Bob's graduation in 1952, the couple went to Nigeria and stayed there through 1954.

Robyn, one of their three children, was born in Nigeria and is anxious to visit the now independent country. The elder Nashes would like to return also but "we just haven't done it and have piled up responsibilities here."

After a military stint, Nash

joined Johnson and Boutin Architects in 1956. He formed his own firm in 1959 and worked up the hierarchy of the American Institute of Architects to become one of its three vice presidents.

City Living

Tex moves around the "childproof, traffic resistant" house explaining the Nashes love for city living and art in her deep, sultry voice.

Born in Quincy, Mass., she came to Howard to study pre-med. "My parents died when I was a teen and I worked my way through school," the tall painter and poet stated.

She eventually gave up the idea of a medical career because "it didn't like me. And twelve years after I married I got my degrees in philosophy and painting," she said as she pointed out the powder room, papered with a black collage.

The Nashes and their children, Robyn, 16, Carolyn, 13, and Steven, 11, testify that work for the community and in the community is the only way. They are fulfilling their mother's credo that blackness is saturated with art.

She defines, "Black art is a way of life for black people from cooking chitterlings to dancing on the corner to James Brown."



Furniture for Real People

By Heidi Sinick

A jury of six distinguished architects and designers yesterday announced 67 winners in the "Unique Furniture Design Competition."

The "Unique Furniture Design Competition" is a vague title for a challenging experiment to offer low-income families well designed, durable, functional furniture at moderate prices.

The competition—followed by a preference conference and honor exhibit—was conceived to remain true to those it was designed to help—consumers. It is cosponsored by the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The 67 entries that will become part of the Smithsonian Institution's collection were chosen from nearly 200 designs submitted by architects, interior designers, students, industrial designers, design groups and individuals across the country.

Made of wood, plastics and metals, the winning entries include a total living system designed by a soldier and his wife who live in Alexandria, Va., and an adjustable piece developed by an architecture teacher from the District.

The selected two-dimensional drawings and prototypes will go on public display March 25 at the National Collection of Fine Arts after they are shown at a Consumer Preference Conference March 23-24.

The conference will bring design to the people who may have to live with it. It is here the selected entries

will get the real test of approval. Between 15 and 25 representatives of various ethnic groups selected from widespread urban, suburban and rural areas will have a chance to review and discuss the honor exhibit entries before the public sees them.

As the consumers assess the proposed designs, they'll also be learning about different types of furniture, materials and manufacturing possibilities. They'll get some insight into new ways of solving their space and budget problems and learn how to express their needs to manufacturers and federal housing officials.

The public will also get a chance to express their reactions when the exhibit opens for several weeks at the National Collection. Competition officials are discussing the possibility of issuing consumer questionnaires to exhibit viewers.

Moreover, the exhibit will be the prototype for a design center similar to ones in Scandinavia and Italy. In communication between consumers, designers and manufacturers that does not exist here. The design centers would also give American consumers the opportunity to see the most current products and designs instead of keeping them in show rooms accessible only to architects, designers and manufacturers.

"We want to get a dialogue going," explained Erma B. Striner, project director and jury member.

"There's been such a tremendous expression of interest that we don't want to cut it off now that the honor exhibit has been selected.



By Gerald Martineau—The Washington Post

Officials in the "Unique Furniture Design Competition" are Terry Spielman (seated at left), project research assistant; and jurors Erma B. Striner, project director; Ralph Warburton, HUD special assistant for urban design; F. Eugene Smith (standing, at left), C. James Hewlett and Kim Yamasaki. Not present was juror Robert J. Nash.

Every day we get information requests from universities, redevelopment agencies, community and self-help groups."

Because of this, the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies will continue to accept design ideas relevant to furnishing low-income housing units.

"When we talked to consumers last year, they said they wanted stability, solidity and durability. The entries we got address themselves to these considerations but are also new, good design with different proportions and dimensions."

In recent years, the emphasis in good furniture design has been on human proportions. Often this was not the primary consideration with traditional furniture.

"For example," Mrs. Striner said, "now a chair is not overstuffed and massive, but low and solid."

Her one disappointment was that the entrants generally neglected design alternatives for children's living needs.

The jury based its selections on the use of materials, structural stability, estimated production costs, and design proportioned correctly for the human figure and the limited living space available in present mass-housing situations.

All the selected entries were modern designs and strongly indicated a new orientation toward furniture. This consisted of these general categories: modular related groups that almost resemble the conventional

matched sets but with a much greater flexibility; some disposable furniture; multi-purpose pieces, and some systems approaches.

The design competition and consumer preference conference are part of a research study funded by HUD under its pioneer Operation Breakthrough program to find new systems of mass housing.

The Department plans a publication on the exhibit covering the designs and consumer discussions and other aspects of the study, according to Ralph Warburton, HUD's special assistant for urban design and a member of the jury panel.

Other jurors were C. James Hewlett, chairman of the board, National Society of Interior Designers; Rob-

ert J. Nash, vice president of the American Institute of Architects; F. Eugene Smith, a national vice president and member of the executive committee of the Industrial Designers Institute and 1967 Design in Steel award winner.

The project co-sponsors now hope the competition will have even more far-reaching impact.

"When you do something for one income group, there's always a spin-off that may benefit other groups," Mrs. Striner said. "Right now the need is greatest among families in mass low-income housing, but there are others such as students and elderly people who also have a need for this type of furniture."

Architect Robert Johnson Nash, 70; Designed Churches, Public Buildings

By BART BARNES
Washington Post Staff Writer

12-9-99

Robert Johnson Nash, 70, a Washington architect who designed churches, schools and public facilities throughout the metropolitan area, died of cancer Dec. 5 at his home in Fort Washington.

Mr. Nash was a former vice chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission. During the 1970s, he served with various community organizations on urban renewal efforts in Washington.

He was a founder and former president of the National Organization of Minority Architects and the first black president of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the first black national vice president of the AIA.

He designed more than 100 churches and other religious facilities, including St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Peoples Congregational Church and Second New St. Paul Baptist Church, all in Washington, and First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Working on churches, he once said, was the most professionally satisfying architecture he did. "It is a special kind of building—a space to worship in with a minimum of utilitarian requirements. . . . To design a church you have to go a step beyond the design of an auditorium. You must capture a spiritual quality to be successful. . . . You have to satisfy an ethereal quality. The search for that quality stimulates the designing process."

Other facilities designed by Mr. Nash included the U Street Metro

station in Washington, the ambulatory-care research facility at the National Institutes of Health, an addition to the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, and several projects at Howard University, including the undergraduate library, North Gate Plaza and WHMM-TV.

He also did design work on the regional rapid-transit system in Baltimore and designed the exhibit space, the auditorium, the offices and the brick-paved gardens at the Museum of African Art on A Street NE in Washington.

Mr. Nash was born in Memphis and came to Washington to attend Howard University, where he graduated in 1952. At Howard, he won the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects for his class.

He chose architecture as a career, he said, because "it stood halfway between the two subjects I loved—art and mechanical drawing."

While at Howard, Mr. Nash and several classmates formed a Maryland-based business that produced and tested building materials. One of the partners was a young geologist from Nigeria whose father invited the men to set up business operations in Nigeria.

After graduating from Howard, Mr. Nash traveled to Nigeria aboard a cargo ship. There, he became a partner in an African American design and construction firm. "I just decided that it would be better to get actual experience doing things on my own rather than serving a conventional apprenticeship," he told The Wash-

ington Post in 1970. "As a result, I learned about wood, termites, sawmills, and I did industrial buildings and schools."

In Nigeria, Mr. Nash established a brickmaking factory and trained four Nigerians as draftsmen. He helped develop new techniques and materials for construction, and he designed a one-room schoolhouse, 300 of which were later built in Nigeria.

Returning to the United States in 1954, he joined the Army Corps of Engineers, later serving in England. On leaving military service, he joined the Washington architectural firm of Johnson and Boutin. In 1960, he opened his own architectural office in Washington, and he practiced architecture until shortly before his death.

In 1979, Mr. Nash was named by then-Mayor Marion Barry to the National Capital Planning Commission, which reviews District, Maryland and Virginia government activities for their effects on federal interests. He served for 13 years on the panel.

He was a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and was the first recipient of the AIA's Whitney M. Young Award.

His marriage to Teixeira Nash ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Ann Nash of Fort Washington; three children from his first marriage, Robyn Bande Nash of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Carolyn Bettina Nash Burgess of Oxon Hill and Steven Andrew Nash of Fort Washington; a stepdaughter, Terry Ann Savory Scott of Fort Washington; a sister; and four granddaughters.

Bryna Ball David Conference Consultant

Bryna Ball David, 77, a Washington resident and former regional representative and conference consultant for the Institute for the Future, a think tank based in Menlo Park, Calif., died of cancer Dec. 3 at the Manor Care Health Services in Chevy Chase.

Mrs. David, a native of Albany, N.Y., worked considerably before coming to Washington in the late 1960s. As a young woman, she attended the University of California at Los Angeles and served on the staffs of MGM International Film Corp. and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Or-

ganization. She was a staff member and director of the National Manpower Council at Columbia University, which published studies on government and labor.

She was a member of the faculty at the New School for Social Research in New York and was active with the Institute for the Future for about five years until the mid-1970s.

Her husband, Dr. Henry David, died in 1983.

Survivors include a brother.

Katherine Elizabeth McCoy Day-Care Provider

Katherine Elizabeth McCoy, 92, a day-care provider at her home in

Dec. 3 at the Integrated Health Services care center in Alexandria.

Mrs. McCoy was a native of Big Stone Gap, Va., who worked as a young woman as a cook in Kentucky.

Her husband, Richard McCoy, died in 1958.

Survivors include four children, 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

CORRECTION

An obituary Dec. 7 about Arvid E. Roach II reported incorrectly the university from which he grad-

Practice

Claude Engle discusses the problems minorities face in

the profession and profiles four minority architects.

PA

PROGRESSIVE
ARCHITECTURE

06:91

Minorities in Practice

In the barrios and poor urban neighborhoods of our cities, architecture can seem as remote a career option as seismology or ornithology. High school counselors often encourage students to shoot for vocational school instead of college. For those students who make it to college, their sense of mission often impels them to a career in law, medicine, or a social science, not architecture.

This scenario, minority architects believe, helps account for their poor representation in the profession. Today, only 6.5 percent of the AIA's members belong to minorities, which results in few role models for minority students and in architecture's remaining a remote career possibility in minority communities. To reverse this vicious circle, education is key.

The plight of minority architects came to the fore after the 1968 AIA Convention in Portland, Oregon, where civil rights activist Whitney Young gave the keynote address, "Man and His Social Conscience." Following Young's address, the AIA formed the Task Force on Equal Opportunity and joint ventured with the Ford Foundation to create the promising Minority/Disadvantaged Scholarship Program. In 1968 there was only one accredited, predominantly black architecture school, so the AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) worked together to accredit six more.

In 1970 Robert Nash was the first African-American architect to be elected to an AIA

national office, and in 1974 architect Robert Traynham Coles was made Deputy Vice President of Minority Affairs. But his position and the committee were discontinued in 1976, part of the dissolution of the whole egalitarian movement that came with the recession in the mid-to late-1970s. Coles succinctly traces the subversion of the progress: In 1973 President Nixon "put a moratorium on low- and moderate-income housing, one of the mainstays of black firms." President Reagan in the early 1980s "dismantled the remaining housing programs and drastically reduced federal funding for mass transit." And minority enrollment in universities was hit especially hard when the Reagan administration reduced federal aid to students. A further setback was the Supreme Court's decision in the 1989 City of Richmond vs. J.A. Croson case to strike down as unconstitutional the city's set-aside program, forcing local and state governments to restudy their affirmative action procedures.

Marshall Purnell, an African-American architect and a former president of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), explains that most corporate heads are not willing to entrust an entire budget to a black architect. "They'll let you build a building, paint it, draft the construction drawings, but you can't design it," he says. Architect Max Bond has put it this way: "One of the ways that any group expresses its power is through control of cultural activities." Majority architects have advantages that are so

commonplace even they don't see them.

In March, 1990, the AIA College of Fellows' (COF) Task Force on African-American Entrance into the Profession released a report detailing the alarmingly low numbers of minorities in the profession. Just a few of the major stumbling blocks the task force listed were: racism, depressed social communities, lack of role models, high cost of education, isolation from resources, a decrease in minority set-asides, poor representation in the AIA/COF, absence of publicity of accomplishments in the field, tokenism in joint ventures, and the high attrition rate among black students. Another African-American Task Force, under the auspices of the ACSA, was formed as a result of a two-year study of African-American students and faculty in South-eastern architecture schools. Their report, completed in July, 1990, opens with: "What we found was dismal and discouraging." The task force is focusing on three major issues: Increasing the number of African-American faculty and visiting speakers, attracting and retaining African-American students and, "very importantly, providing broad exposure of existing successful programs or projects designed to attract minorities into the profession."

One of the most successful programs is The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), which was founded during the 1971 AIA convention in Detroit. It actually began as the National Organization of Black Architects,

but a few years later it changed to NOMA. Its membership is predominantly African-American, although it is certainly not reserved for African-American architects. NOMA has about 500 members nationwide, holds national conferences each October, and publishes a monthly newsletter, *NOMA News*.

Another important group was the AIA's Minority Affairs Task Group. In 1985 it was upgraded to a "full-fledged" AIA committee and renamed the Minority Resource Committee, heralding a renewed commitment to the cause of minority architects. Jean Barber, the MRC's staff director, says the MRC is good at the national level in collecting and disseminating information and overseeing policies, but it is not yet as strong as it needs to be at the grassroots level. "We're working at building a network of liaisons in all regions and over 400 AIA chapters. That is where we can make membership in the AIA more meaningful for our minority members." The MRC publishes a tri-annual newsletter, the *MRC Report*, which serves as a clearinghouse for the ACSA and COF task forces, NOMA, and other minority architect interest groups.

With the minority population growth rate far exceeding that of the today's majority, a comment by architect William Rose, Jr., becomes even more pertinent: "As architecture is the most people-oriented of the fine arts, as well as being a profession, it cannot afford to be without the contribution of a major component of society and expect to retain vitality and validity."