

Nicole Vlado Torres, AIA, NOMA

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A registered architect and affordable housing advocate with close to 20 years of experience as a project manager and firm leader. Detail- and systems-oriented thinker versed in the delivery of complex projects from feasibility through construction, including zoning analysis and ULURP. Experienced working with non-profit, public, and private sector clients, technical consultants, and city agency partners on the design of over 3,500 affordable housing units for families, seniors, and unhoused residents of NYC with a 17-person staff.

SELECT WORK EXPERIENCE

Design Trust for Public Space | New York, NY

Policy and Planning Fellow, March 2024-present

Developing a guide for non-profit organizations and NYCHA residents to navigate the process of creating community-led open space renovations and activations using the principles of Connected Communities.

Shakespeare Gordon Vlado Architects PLLC | Brooklyn, NY

Owner and Principal, 2017-2023

Founder and managing principal of Shakespeare Gordon Vlado Architects, a full-service architecture firm with a commitment to improving NYC through the design of built works including renovation, adaptive reuse, and new construction projects. Selected for the NYC DDC's Design Excellence program and winner of HPD's Highbridge RFP. Repeat clients include the DASNY, West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Catholic Charities, and SMJ Development. Certified WBE in NYS and NYC with notable projects including:

- **Fischer Senior Apartments:** design of 105-unit, 82,000 square foot, affordable housing building for seniors on a challenged site, construction commenced in 2022. Winner of HPD Highbridge RFP.
- **East Village Housing:** design of new construction at two condemned city-owned tenement sites in the East Village for affordable ownership by original tenants, to be completed in 2024.
- **Independence House:** interior and exterior renovation of 120-unit, 96,000 square foot, occupied multifamily building on Upper West Side with aging-in-place design features, completed in 2024.

Nicole Vlado Architecture PLLC | Brooklyn, NY

Owner, 2016-2017

Sole proprietor of a residential full-service architectural firm committed to affordable design solutions.

Redtop Architects LLC | New York, NY

Associate, 2006-2007, 2010-2016

Project manager committed to creative and cost-conscious architectural solutions. Responsible for the firm's most complex educational, institutional, and affordable housing projects including design, client and project management, and supervision of staff on multiple projects for the NYC SCA, New York University, Columbia University, and West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, including:

- **Borinquen Court:** renovation of 145-unit occupied senior building in Mott Haven, including brownfield remediation, and interior and exterior upgrades, completed in 2014.
- **Tres Puentes:** design of 174 units and 174,000 square feet of affordable senior housing, FQHC, and pharmacy connected to Borinquen Court. Completed 2017 with a total construction cost of \$74,000,000. Required rezoning, including multiple waivers; a case study for ZQA zoning for AIRS.
- **Columbia University Law Clinic:** conversion of existing upper floor mechanical rooms to create a state-of-the-art law clinic for students providing pro-bono services, completed in 2015.

VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

AIA New York Housing Committee, **co-chair, 2023-present**

Advocate for housing policy, best practices, and design excellence, through monthly meetings and housing-related events, including the 2023 symposium on office-to-residential conversions: Housing Opportunity.

nycoba|NOMA Professional Development Committee, **co-chair, 2023-present**

Provide career development resources for minority architects including the creation of the This is How We Built This quarterly panel series and On-Site program for AXP construction administration experience.

ARCScholars, **Professional Mentor, 2022-present**

Mentor NYCHA residents, ages 14-24, through semester-long architectural studies of NYCHA developments to support the participants in their development as designers, scholars, and empowered and engaged residents.

AIA National, **Housing Award Juror, 2024**

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, **Guest Instructor, 2019-2021**

EDUCATION

NYC Housing Preservation and Development

Building Capacity Program, 2019

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Cambridge, MA

Master of Architecture, 2006

Award: Rosemary D. Grimshaw Prize for thesis research, 2005

Publication: "(Re)collection: Surface, Bodies, and the Dispersed Home." Thresholds 32, 2006: 57-61.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Science in Art and Design, 2002

FELLOWSHIPS

Urban Design Forum, **Global Exchange Fellow, 2024**

AIA New York **Civic Leadership Program Fellow, 2023**

92Y Belfer Center for Innovation and Social Impact **Women inPower Fellow, 2022**

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Juan Barahona, Principal, SMJ Development

juan@smjdevelopment.com | 646-644-0449

Stephanie Green, Chief Strategy Officer, West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing

stephaniefaygreen@gmail.com | 917-385-7835

Elana Ehrenberg, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Design Trust for Public Space

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