



Sekou Cooke
sekou cooke STUDIO

Sekou Cooke is an architect, urban designer, researcher, and curator. Born in Jamaica and based in Charlotte, North Carolina, he is the Director of the Master of Urban Design program at UNC Charlotte, the 2021/2022 Nasir Jones HipHop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University, and a founding member of the Black Reconstruction Collective.

Founded in 2008, sekou cooke STUDIO has completed design commissions for masterplans, multi-unit residential developments, residential and commercial buildings, interior renovations, speculative developments, and tenant improvements across the United States and internationally. Key recent projects include the forthcoming Syracuse Hip-Hop Headquarters, designs for Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety's Standard Plan ADU Program, and Grids + Griots, an architectural intervention commissioned for the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Cooke's research practice centers on the emergent field of Hip-Hop Architecture, a theoretical movement reflecting the core tenets of hip-hop culture with the power to create meaningful impact on the built environment and give voice to the marginalized and underrepresented within design practice.

This work has been explored through his writings, exhibitions, lectures, and symposia. It is the subject of his monograph *Hip-Hop Architecture*, published in April 2021, and the 2018 exhibition, *Close to the Edge: The Birth of Hip-Hop Architecture*, first mounted in 2018 at the AIA Center for Architecture in New York. This exhibition has travelled to several venues across the US. His work was also featured in the landmark exhibition, *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*, at the Museum of Modern Art.

The studio has received widespread recognition for its design work including a 2022 Emerging Voices award from The Architectural League of New York. Other design awards include an honorable mention in the Faculty Design category of the 2020 ACSA awards for *Close to the Edge*, receiving a commendation for the Government of

Jamaica (GOJ) Houses of Parliament international design competition, placing as a finalist for the Reimagine Place AIA Central New York design competition, and having an exhibited entry for the Elevating Erie national design competition.

The work of the studio has been profiled and featured in publications worldwide, including the New York Times, The Atlantic, Cornell Journal of Architecture, MAS Context, PIN-UP Magazine, Technology | Architecture + Design Journal, Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy, ArchDaily, Architectural Record, Architecture Magazine, Dezeen, Wallpaper, the Art Newspaper, Interior Design, and Architectural Digest, among others.

Sekou holds a B. Arch from Cornell University, an M. Arch from Harvard University, and is licensed to practice architecture in New York and North Carolina.