



Yanitza Brongers-Marrero, AIA, NOMA, advances the standards of architectural practice by championing equity, diversity, and inclusion through transformative housing, community leadership, and a new urban agenda.

TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING (Exhibits 1–8)

Brongers-Marrero transforms lives by championing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the design of housing. She addresses multi-generational housing in distressed neighborhoods such as those that are environmentally challenged or displaced by civic unrest. She has also addressed the needs of foster care youth, HBCU students, the arts community, the unhoused, and those without ready access to nature.

A key to her success is that she engages users as design participants to gain their insights, particularly from those who are under-represented and strapped with systemic inequity. Integral to this exchange is her programmatic inclusion of community amenities: parks and recreation, health care and daycare, and commercial, cultural, educational, and religious resources. Brongers-Marrero's housing transforms lives through community revitalization.

Brongers-Marrero addresses community ambitions with disciplined building forms. While working within a modern idiom, Brongers-Marrero enlists existing structures, conventional typologies, time-tested streetscapes, and sustainable strategies.

In eight of the exhibits included here, Brongers-Marrero has transformed the lives of over 1,000 residents with vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive urban neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (Exhibit 9)

Brongers-Marrero's transformative housing runs parallel to her championing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the community.

At the national level, Brongers-Marrero serves on the AIA Strategic Council and the AIA National Housing and Community Development Knowledge Committee. At the local level, Brongers-Marrero served as AIA Chapter President, led the sponsoring of diversity scholarships, the implementation of an Equity Diversity and Inclusion Policy, the formation of the Women of Architecture Support Group and ARCHway mentoring program, the coordination of an affordable housing design competition, and the curation of a diversity lecture series. Within her housing studios - nationwide, using a virtual platform and in person meetings, Yanitza develops leaders by mentoring and sharing knowledge through a monthly housing forum.

Finally, Brongers-Marrero has argued for equity, diversity, and inclusion in over 30 presentations, publications, and design juries. She is an important voice and an example in a profession in which “fewer than two in five are women, and fewer than one in five identifies as a racial or ethnic minority” (NCARB 2020 report).

NEW URBAN AGENDA (Exhibit 10)

Brongers-Marrero understands that community equity is not possible without equitable urban design. To advance this effort, she chaired and moderated the symposium “The City for Tomorrow” during which over 100 community members, public officials, developers, artists, and design professionals explored community development issues as defined by the United Nations New Urban Agenda with a special focus on climate, density, transportation, housing, education, and healthcare. A resounding success, the event inspired the AIA Film Challenge and the AIA Blueprint for Better – a national resource for a zero-carbon, resilient, healthy, just, and equitable built environment.