

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA ANNOUNCES 10 NEWLY COMMISSIONED PROJECTS FOR RECONSTRUCTIONS, THE FOURTH INSTALLMENT OF THE ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE SERIES

### *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*

February 27–May 31, 2021

MoMA, Floor 3

**NEW YORK, February 11, 2020 [Updated on February 9, 2021]**—The Museum of Modern Art announces the fourth installment of the Issues in Contemporary Architecture series, *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*, an investigation into the intersections of architecture, Blackness and anti-Black racism in the American context. On view from February 27 through May 31, 2021, the exhibition and accompanying publication will examine contemporary architecture in the context of how systemic racism has fostered violent histories of discrimination and injustice in the United States. Such conditions have structured and continue to inform the built environment of American cities through public policies, municipal planning, and architecture, with specific repercussions for African American and African diaspora communities. Eleven projects will explore how people have mobilized Black cultural spaces, forms, and practices as sites of imagination, liberation, resistance, and refusal. *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America* is organized by Sean Anderson, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, and Mabel O. Wilson, Nancy and George E. Rupp Professor, Columbia University, with Arièle Dionne-Krosnick, former Curatorial Assistant, and Anna Burckhardt, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art.

Issues in Contemporary Architecture is an ongoing series of architecture and design exhibitions at MoMA that focus on timely topics in contemporary architecture, with an emphasis on the urban dimension, in order to increase public dialogue around major issues in the field. *Reconstructions* will feature 10 newly commissioned works by the selected architects, designers, and artists: Emanuel Admassu, Germane Barnes, Sekou Cooke, J. Yolande Daniels, Felecia Davis, Mario Gooden, Walter Hood, Olalekan Jeyifous, V. Mitch McEwen, and Amanda Williams. Individual projects will respond to narratives and conditions found in Atlanta, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New Orleans, Oakland, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Syracuse. In addition, the exhibition will also present David Hartt's new film, *On Exactitude in Science (Watts)*, which seeks to reconstitute the dimensions of Black life and spaces in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. An advisory committee composed of scholars, writers, historians, policy makers, thinkers, and architects supported the curatorial team in establishing the conceptual framework and the selection process for the participants and sites.

The publication, or “field guide,” will include scholarly essays by the curators, members of the advisory committee, and invited scholars, as well as new photographs by artist David Hartt that were commissioned for the exhibition. Designed by Brooklyn-based Morcos Key, the publication will also feature texts and visual materials—photographs, reproduced drawings, digital renderings, images of models—by each of the 10 exhibition participants.

#### SPONSORSHIP:



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# MoMA

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**MoMA Audio is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.**

**MoMA ONLINE COURSES:**

MoMA's 10th Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Coursera, *Reimagining Blackness and Architecture*, will launch on February 27 in conjunction with the exhibition *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America*. In this course learners will hear from Black makers and scholars on how they are changing the world around them by confronting anti-Black racism in the built environment. The course features 9 original films that focus on newly-commissioned projects by Black architects, artists, and designers working across the United States who reimagine spaces from the kitchen and front porch to subways and spaceships.

In addition to these projects, learners will explore African American and African Diasporic cultural production in a variety of forms including works of art in MoMA's collection. Through interviews and short readings, learners will hear different perspectives on the ways that Black spaces have endured and thrived, about the erasure of Black contributions to the fields of architecture and design, and how architecture can equitably represent the needs of communities. The course is structured around the themes of imagination, knowledge, refusal, care and liberation. Through discussion forums, learners will develop an awareness of race-based inequalities in their own environment, exchange ideas and creative projects with a global community of learners, and be inspired to become participants and agents of change.

Access the course at [coursera.org/learn/blackness-architecture](https://coursera.org/learn/blackness-architecture) and learn more about MoMA's online courses at [moma.org/coursera](https://moma.org/coursera)



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