



JUNE 23–24, 2021

RAIC INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN SYMPOSIUM

The RAIC International Indigenous Architecture and Design Symposium is hosted by the RAIC Indigenous Task Force. The Symposium focuses on Indigenous representation, narratives, and collaborations.

The two streams for the 2021 Symposium are:

- ▶ **Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice**
- ▶ **Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities**

DAILY SCHEDULES

(All times in Eastern Standard)

DAY 1 - JUNE 23, 2021

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Welcome and Introductions
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Session 1A
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Break
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Session 1B
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Session 1C
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	Session 1D
4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks

DAY 2 - JUNE 24, 2021

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Welcome and Introductions
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Session 2A
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Break
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Session 2B
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Session 2C
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	Session 2D
4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks



SESSIONS – DAY 1 - JUNE 23, 2021

1A **INDIGENOUS PLACEKEEPING PEDAGOGY 7-4-4-7: RE-IMAGINING ARCHITECTURE**

Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

Recent research shows that the “post-Millennial generation is already the most racially and ethnically diverse generation” in history (Frye + Parker, 2020). While our North American populations are becoming increasingly diverse, the profession is headed in the opposite direction— the profession of architecture becomes “more male and more white as experience levels increase” (Budds, 2020). There is a disconnect between those who are designing our built environment and the user group.

Moreover, we are unaware of the full effects of the disconnect. As a recent scholar of Indigenous architecture stated, “an important consequence of colonization has been the imposition of culturally inappropriate architectures—based on dominant settler cultural values—on Indigenous communities across the world. The full impact of culturally inappropriate buildings and spaces on Indigenous cultures is still being developed as a field of scholarship, though the lack of fit between Indigenous cultures and many of the buildings within which they live or work is clear.” (Grant et al., 2018). It is time to shift the paradigm to be more inclusive, diverse, just, and equitable.

This session will focus on creating a set of tools that will assist in re-imagining architectural education. The session will summarize four theories that, together, form the building blocks of an innovative 21st Century pedagogy: seven (7) elements of Cultural Sustainability Theory, four (4) modes of Indigenous Knowledge, four (4) components of an Indigenous Research Paradigm, and seven (7) parts of Indigenous architecture.

PRESENTER: Wanda Dalla Costa, Masters of Architecture, AIA, OAA, AAA, SAA, LEED A.P.

1B **INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY HUBS - THEIR DESIGN AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

The Indigenous population across Canada has been migrating from on reserve locations to urban centres for many years now partly in the hopes of attaining education, employment, and a decent standard of living for their families. In response, a number of urban Indigenous service providers have been created to assist this population in many areas such as education, health, training, employment, affordable housing, the arts, social activities associated with friendship centres, and others. The majority of these Indigenous service providers are located in makeshift structures, and a very few have managed to fund and construct purpose-built facilities.

Notably, in the last few years, there has been a keen interest in the Indigenous service providers located within certain cities to create Indigenous Hubs. These purpose-built facilities would allow the groups to share amenities such as waiting areas, boardrooms, community kitchens, gymnasiums, classrooms, etc. They would also offer the groups the opportunity to realize reduced operating expenses such as those associated with reception, security, lawyer fees, accounting services, janitorial services, etc. There is a strong belief held that, by combining similar agencies under one roof, net operating costs can be reduced. More importantly, the user experience can be greatly improved through synergies and the Hubs can become galvanizing assets for the populations that they serve.

Two Row Architect has had the privilege of working on a select number of Indigenous and mainstream hubs. The session will provide the opportunity for the firm to present these projects as case studies. Topics of the presentation will include the vision statements that were prepared for each project, the design strategies that were employed, and the organizational structures established to ensure the long-term economic viability of the Hubs.

PRESENTER: Brian Porter, B. Arch., OAA, MRAIC, Ncarb, Principal, Two Row Architect



1C NOKOM'S HOUSE: CREATING SPACE FOR RESEARCH IN GOOD RELATION

Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

Alongside Indigenization efforts, many post-secondary institutions have designated spaces, such as student resource centres, that offer support to Indigenous students and faculty. However, there remain few spaces designed for and dedicated to Indigenous scholarship and research endeavours. Nokom's House, a proposed purpose-built Indigenous research space, will be one of the first of its kind within a Canadian post-secondary institution.

Nokom's House is a land-based research lab that brings together three community-engaged Indigenous scholars at the University of Guelph: Dr. Kim Anderson (Métis), Dr. Sheri Longboat (Haudenosaunee), and Dr. Brittany Luby (Anishinaabe). The sustainably designed "granny's cabin," to be built on the University of Guelph campus, will provide a hub for these researchers, their students, and community partners to explore decolonial learning, planning, and community development in close relationship to land, water, plants, and animals. A communal table and kitchen will rest at the heart of the space, accommodating Indigenous "kitchen-table" methodologies, land-based activities, and ceremony.

From the perspective of the end-users of the space –(the researchers), this session presentation reflects on the collaborative process of working with architects and community stakeholders to create a land-based Indigenous research space within a predominantly Euro-centric post-secondary institution and the importance of purpose-designed spaces that engage Indigenous perspectives at all stages of realization. The session presentation will offer lessons-learned for other institutions, designers, and educators committed to making space for Indigenous-led research.

PRESENTERS: Amina Lalor, MArch, BAS Honours, Research Coordinator, University of Guelph, and Sheri Longboat, BES, MA, BEd, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Guelph

1D POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

Four five-minute poster presentations will be shared, followed by a live question and answer period. Two of the presentations will be given in French.

Kinu: lieu inclusif et rassembleur sur le campus universitaire *(Presented in French)*

Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

Audrey Labrador-Martel, Maitrise en architecture (M. Arch), Stagiaire en architecture, Groupe A / Annexe U, Partenariat de recherche Habiter le Nord Québécois

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit; art, architecture and Traditional Knowledge

Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

Kirt Ejesiak, MPA, CAS, Creative Director and CEO of Uqsiq Communications, Founder and President of Panaq Design

Une empreinte alimentaire: un réseau d'apprentissage, de transformation et de partage des aliments à Kangisualujuaq, Nunavik *(Presented in French)*

Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

Noémie Lavigne, Maîtrise en architecture, Graduada en architecture, Université Laurentienne
Nancy Etok, Vice-principal of Ulluriaq School in Kangisualujuaq

The Iqaluit Daycare: Harvesting the sea

Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

Kirt Ejesiak, MPA, CAS, Creative Director and CEO of Uqsiq Communications, Founder and President of Panaq Design



SESSIONS – DAY 2 - JUNE 24, 2021

2A SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS INITIATED ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA THROUGH THE ARCHITECTURAL CURRICULUM

Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

Recently an increasing number of Indigenous communities have decided to take charge of their built environment. They are now insisting that their built environments speak of and reflect their cultures. The communities have realized that they can and must demand this. However, this means that they have to learn how to participate in the creative process that leads to the development of their built environments. They are not expected to suddenly develop design professional skills (although this will come), but rather are expected to understand what role they can play in the design process. They must become aware of how to work with their architectural partners and, especially, how important and significant their input is in the design process.

Introducing Indigenous-initiated projects as part of architectural design studios have proven quite successful for both the communities and the soon-to-become architects.

A recently completed design studio will be presented; the Kanien'keha: ka Onkwawén: na Raotiohkwa Linguistic, Cultural and Theater Center project in the community of Kahnawà: ke. third-year students learn how to reach out to communities and meet with them to discover the specificities of the culture in order to achieve the level of understanding and sensitivity that are the prelude to co-creation and participative design. Students go through the four essential steps that prepare and guide them through the design process; identifying the traditional owners, gathering information, building relationships, and visioning. At the same time, community members accompany the students through these steps.

The co-creation exercise is an ideal forum to initiate real dialogue. It is truth and reconciliation not just in words but in action, trying to make a difference by learning to work together.

PRESENTERS: Alain Fournier, FRAIC, OAQ, OAA, ALBNL, AANB, AIBC, NWTAA, Kawennanóron Lisa Phillips, Executive Director, Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotiohkwa Language and Cultural Center

2B LINES IN THE LAND

Collaborations: Indigenous / Non-Indigenous Co-Design and Building with First Nations, Metis and Inuit Communities

Since 2018 David Fortin has been working with an ally scholar, Adrian Blackwell at the University of Waterloo, to interrogate the way that our collective relationship with the Land has been profoundly impacted by the colonial "idea" of property. They have recently completed an edited volume of Scapegoat Journal focused on this study where we brought together a multidisciplinary group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous thinkers, artists, academics, and practitioners to talk about the idea of property and how it impacts our communities, our work, our relations with the Land and each other. This session would share with participants a critical perspective on the role that "property" plays in the ongoing process of violent colonial land appropriation and how it shapes and confines the possibilities for contemporary Indigenous architecture in obvious and unsettling ways.

PRESENTERS: David Fortin, PhD, OAA, SAA, Architect AAA, MAA, MRAIC, Adrian Blackwell, BES, BArch, MUD



2C FUNDING SOVEREIGNTY: LESSONS FROM THE IHII ACCELERATOR FUNDING PILOT PROJECT

Making Room for New Indigenous Voices on the Leading Edge of Architecture Practice

This presentation will review the successes and lessons from a new approach to funding, represented by a funding pilot project. IHII (Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative) is a five-year \$36 million federal program funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Infrastructure Canada, delivered in partnership with the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). We will explore issues of funding sovereignty, Indigenous agency, and a proactive vs. reactive method of funding capital projects by and for Indigenous peoples.

A majority of Indigenous architecture is federally funded, therefore policy decisions, application protocols, and selection criteria used to fund on-reserve and Indigenous projects are crucial to Indigenous peoples' sovereignty and our ability to impact our own built environments. Wanda Dalla Costa and Eladia Smoke are two "Mentors" from a pool of Indigenous architects who were asked to support the implementation of projects funded under IHII Accelerator. In this unprecedented approach to funding Indigenous housing in Canada, ISC reached out to Indigenous individuals and entities from across the country to invite innovative ideas for housing initiatives. Particularly noteworthy, the call was open-ended and included project types that may otherwise not fall into historically established funding categories.

In an Indigenous-led approach, 24 projects were selected from 342 respondents by a committee of Indigenous housing experts, and funding administered by an Indigenous-led entity, CANDO. Indigenous architects were involved from inception in a mentorship role to help advocate for and support innovators, to move projects toward implementation. Entrusting Indigenous peoples to determine funding priorities and protocols from policy inception to project implementation is a necessary foundation to establish a built environment that supports Indigenous sovereignty, responds to the TRC Calls to Action, and begins to address the priorities of UNDRIP. Funding reform is the first step to confront systemic racism and decolonize the process of undertaking capital projects by and for Indigenous peoples. This is our experience with one of the first funding structures ever to attempt this shift.

PRESENTERS: **Eladia Smoke**, OAA, OAQ, MAA, M.Arch., B.Env.Des., LEED®A.P., **Wanda Dalla Costa**, Masters of Architecture, AIA, OAA, AAA, SAA, LEED A.P.

TR Task Force Event:

2D BRINGING THE 'UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TO THE RAIC

Following an initial presentation on April 29, 2021, the RAIC Truth and Reconciliation Task Force will host an additional live session to share about the Task Force's proposal requesting the RAIC membership adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ('The Declaration') at the 2021 Annual General Meeting on June 30, 2021. The adoption of The Declaration as a resolution by RAIC membership will serve as an important step for the RAIC on its path of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 43 and 44.

The session will be hosted by Task Force co-chairs **Dr. Patrick Stewart**, MRAIC, Architect, AIBC and **Alfred Waugh**, MRAIC, Architect, AIBC—and will include a presentation on The Declaration, followed by a Q&A opportunity.



PRESENTERS



Adrian Blackwell, BES, BArch, MUD
Associate Professor, University of Waterloo, School of Architecture

Spanning photography, video, sculpture, urban theory, and design, Adrian Blackwell's practice focuses on the political economy of space and has been exhibited at the Shenzhen, Chengdu Chicago and Toronto Biennials. He has taught architecture and urbanism at Universities including: Chongqing (China), Michigan, Harvard, and Toronto, and is an Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo.



Wanda Dalla Costa, Masters of Architecture, AIA, OAA, AAA, SAA, LEED A.P.
Institute Professor (ASU); Principal (Tawaw Architecture Collective)

Arizona State University Wanda Dalla Costa, AIA, OAA, AAA, member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, is the director and founder of the Indigenous Design Collaborative, a community-driven design and construction program. Indigenous Design Collaborative brings together tribal community members, industry and a multidisciplinary team of students, and faculty to co-design and co-develop solutions for tribal communities. Her practice, Tawaw Architecture Collective, is based in Phoenix, Arizona.



David Fortin, PhD, OAA, SAA, Architect AAA, MAA, MRAIC
Associate Professor and Director, Laurentian University

David Fortin is a practicing architect with research interests in Métis design topics, Indigenous design agency, and speculative thinking in design. Since 2005, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in architectural design, history and theory in the UK, USA, and Canada. He is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



Alain Fournier, FRAIC, OAQ, OAA, ALBNL, AANB, AIBC, NWTAA
Architect, Managing Partner, EVOQ Architecture

Alain Fournier has worked for over thirty five years with the Inuit and First Nations. He works in the Canadian Arctic's Inuit Nunangat territory (Nunavik, Nunavut and Nunatsiavut). He also works with the Cree of Eeyou Istchee, the Mi'gmaq, the Maliseet, the Innu, the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawks). As a result of this long-term commitment, Alain Fournier has become a partner respected by the Inuit and First Nations and an active player in the dialogue between Nations. He regularly gives lectures to his architectural peers in Canada and abroad on the subject of designing architectural projects with the Inuit and First Nations. He has facilitated roundtables for the Indigenous Heritage Circle as well as the Treaty 8 Tribal Association in BC.



Amina Lalor, MArch, BAS Honours
Research Coordinator, University of Guelph

Amina Lalor holds a Bachelor of Architectural Studies and Master of Architecture from the University of Waterloo and is currently the research coordinator for the Nokom's House research lab at the University of Guelph. From the perspective of a mixed settler, refugee, and Indigenous (Métis) designer, Amina's ongoing research explores the meaning of practicing architecture "in a good way" on Indigenous lands within a violently imposed settler-colonial context.



Sheri Longboat, BES, MA, BEd, PhD
Associate Professor, University of Guelph

Dr. Sheri Longboat has over 20 years of practical experience working with and within First Nations communities in lands and resources, GIS implementation, and education and training. Her community-engaged collaborative research interfaces between Indigenous and Western institutions (e.g., knowledge systems, policy and governance) to address issues of water security, food sovereignty, and sustainability planning in First Nations communities.





Kawennanóron Lisa Phillips

Executive Director, Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center

Kawennanóron Lisa Phillips is Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), born and raised in Kahnawà:ke. Kawennanóron is the Executive Director of Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center (KORLCC) in the Mohawk community of Kahnawà:ke. She has been an employee of KORLCC for twenty-one years, in various positions, four times as Interim Executive Director, and in the position of Executive Director since October 2019. Kawennanóron is a graduate of the Kanien'kéha Ratiwennahnírats Adult Immersion Program and is presently studying for a Certificate in Public Administration and Governance at McGill University.



Brian Porter, B. Arch., OAA, MRAIC, Ncarb

Principal, Two Row Architect

Brian Porter hails from Six Nations of the Grand River. He has been a business leader for many years, designing and overseeing the construction of projects for Indigenous communities across Canada and the United States. He has demonstrated success in designing culturally appropriate facilities and has worked tirelessly to maximize the participation of the Indigenous workforce on his projects.



Eladia Smoke, OAA, OAQ, MAA, M.Arch., B.Env.Des., LEED®A.P.

Principal Architect, Smoke Architecture Inc., Laurentian University, RAIC ITF

KaaSheGaaBaaWeak Eladia Smoke is Anishinaabekwe from Obishikokaang Lac Seul First Nation, with family roots in Alderville First Nation, Winnipeg, and Toronto. Eladia has worked in architecture since 2002, founded Smoke Architecture as principal architect in 2014, teaches as a Master Lecturer at Laurentian's McEwen School of Architecture, and serves as a founding member of the RAIC's Indigenous Task Force. Eladia represented Canada at the 2018 Venice Biennale Unceded exhibition as part of an international team of Indigenous designers and architects. Current professional work includes community-based and institutional projects working alongside Indigenous stakeholders, collaborating with First Nation communities, and listening closely to our Elders.

