

2017-01-18 / Top News

Joyce Owens is named AIA Florida president



Owens

American Institute of Architects has appointed award-winning architect Joyce Owens, AIA, RIBA, as president of AIA Florida. Based in Tallahassee, AIA Florida is a chapter of the American Institute of Architects and ranks as one of the nation's largest state components. Ms. Owens is the third woman in the history of the organization to be selected for the leadership position.

"My priority is to raise awareness of architecture with an emphasis on good design," Ms. Owens said. "My theme for the year is communicating the value architects and architecture bring to our communities."

Upon returning to Florida from London, where she worked for 15 years in the architectural practice she co-founded, Ms. Owens discovered a discrepancy in the level of respect for the profession here versus abroad. As AIA Florida president, she hopes to change that perception, working with AIA Florida members to advocate the value of architecture and the profession to the public. She believes architects must communicate the value simply, without use of professional jargon.

Ms. Owens graduated from Notre Dame University with a degree in architecture before winning a Rotary Foundation scholarship to study in London. As co-founding partner at the London-based Azman Owens Architects, she worked for clients such as London Mayor Boris Johnson, British fashion designer Alexander McQueen, fashion guru Isabella Blow and Swiss luxury retailer TAGHeuer. Azman Owens was named one of the 13 Top Emerging Architectural Practices in the U.K. in the April 2000 edition of Architectural Review. Ms. Owens' work has been published in books, magazines and news sources. She has won awards from the U.K.'s Royal Institute of British Architects, the American Institute of Architects and other international design competitions.

Ms. Owens returned to the U.S. in 2004, and in 2007 opened Architecture Joyce Owens LLC. She has been recognized for her volunteer work with AIA Florida Southwest, public architecture and design exhibitions

and other award-winning projects.

Ms. Owens has served as an architectural columnist for the USA Today 10 Best and The News-Press, and regularly speaks at conferences and symposiums, including those sponsored by the Sarasota Architecture Foundation.

Ms. Owens served as AIA Florida vice president of communications since 2014, and as president-elect in 2016. She previously served as president of AIA Florida Southwest and as a member and officer of Florida Foundation for Architecture's Board of Trustees. |
