



Yale School of Architecture

Creating the **“Doreen I. Adengo Memorial Fund”**
Keeping Doreen’s Lasting Legacy by Honoring Her at the Yale School of Architecture



January 3, 2023

Introduction: A Brief Overview

Doreen I. Adengo (1976 – 2022), M. Arch '05 (Yale) created a legacy in Uganda through her commitment to affordable and sustainable housing through her firm, Adengo Architecture, LLC, which she founded in Kampala, 2015. Her practice was grounded in research and multidisciplinary collaboration, born out of a strong passion for African urbanism and the belief that Africa has the ability to generate its own architectural discourse. Doreen's work, both scholarly and practically, was focused on communicating the value of professional design in African cities. In a context where non-designers often build their own homes and other structures, she believed that it's critical to make the case for architects and urban planners to improve people's everyday lives, helping cities develop sustainably.

Doreen Adengo was born in Uganda in 1976 and moved to the US when she was 18. She studied architecture at Catholic University of America and completed a master's degree in architecture at Yale University. In addition to being a licensed architect in both the USA and Uganda, Doreen worked for architecture design firms in London, Washington DC, and New York before returning to her home country, Uganda in 2015 to start her own architecture practice.

She taught at Parsons, The New School for Design and Pratt Institute in New York and at Uganda Martyrs University and University of Johannesburg's Graduate School of Architecture. She was a researcher and conservation architect in cultural heritage at *"The Modern Masterpiece Uganda National Museum Conservation"* management plan funded by the Getty Foundation.

In recent years Doreen led workshops exploring the relationship between architecture and photography in Africa. She served on the *"African Mobilities"* exhibition at the Architecture Museum in Munich, Germany and presented the *"Cultural, Continuity and Change"* History of Museum's in Rome, Italy, with Alexander Purves and Stephen Harby.

In addition, she served on the *"Design Build"* expeditions with Travis Price and Kathleen Lane *"Spirit of Place"* project in Peru, a design build collaboration which involved an expedition to Iquitos city, a Peru port city and gateway to the Amazon jungle and tribal villages of northern Amazon, South America by designing and constructing a raft, afloat a remote landscape of the Amazon River in Peru. An environmental and cultural heritage project reshaping the built environment and recreating the archaeology, anthropology and the arts.

As a fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians, Doreen traced the odyssey to highlight *"Temples and Crafts of Southern India"* a journey focused on the world's most significant medieval Hindu temples and the traditional crafts and construction methods associated with the cultural heritage in South India.

She led the African Modernism Kampala workshop along with German architect Manuel Herz, Kenyan photographer James Muriuki and Ugandan designer Timothy Latim at the Goethe-Zentrum Kampala. The workshop on African Modernism – “*Architecture of Independence*” detailed 80 buildings in Ghana, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, and Zambia and presented a collection of photographs capturing the predominant modernist buildings and influence on architecture in the Ugandan capital city of Kampala and the relationship between architecture and photography. Doreen co-curated the exhibition with Manuel Herz.

Adengo was nominated by Nairobi Architecture Studio Cave Bureau co-founders Kabage Karanja and Stella Mutege as one of fourteen architects and designers you should know for her ability to “*enrich her contemporary projects with historical depth.*”

Doreen passed away on July 22, 2022 after a long battle with cancer.

Doreen was awarded the Gruzen Samton Architects, *Design Excellence Award* for the San Juan *Field Office Master Plan* and *Federal Garage Project*, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

She received the Society for Architectural Historians fellowship award; the recipient of the *South India Travel Fellowship*, Yale School of Architecture, *International Women’s Scholarship Award* and the recipient of *P.E.O International Peace Scholarship*, the Catholic University of America, *Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society Award*, and the Catholic University of America, *Deans Scholar List*.

Doreen was deeply knowledgeable about the urban history and mobility of African cities and was featured on the British Broadcasting Corporation’s (BBC) *First Person of Unique Individuals* in 2014 about Uganda’s capital city of Kampala urban city planning, how it directly affects people's lives, and more recently as part of the Canadian Centre for Architecture’s (CCA) *Centring Africa Research Program*, analysing postcolonial perspectives in African architecture since independence. Her research often explored the colonial and postcolonial complexities of African architecture, urbanism and practice, exploring the layers of history to inform and build a contemporary African design language.

Her last major public speaking engagement was the J. Carter Brown lecture on “*Post-Colonial Kampala*” at Brown University, sponsored by the Pritzker Foundation’s J. Carter Brown Memorial Lecture Fund in April 2022.

Adengo is warmly remembered by her classmates, students and peers as being a passionate academic and researcher, having a strong design sensibility and for bringing awareness to the African built environment. She lectured and wrote widely on architecture and design on the African continent and will be remembered as being a role model for women of colour in architecture. She will also be remembered for her patience and hardworking spirit, her generosity with her time and wise counsel, and for having a glowing personality with an infectious and unforgettable laugh.

The Doreen I. Adengo Memorial Scholarship in Architecture at Yale:

In keeping Doreen Adengo's lasting legacy and honoring her commitment and contributions to architecture, design and society, we ask you to consider establishing her legacy at the Yale School of Architecture (YSoA) through a scholarship fund in her memory which would offer non US citizen students from the African continent a scholarship to pursue a master's degree at the YSoA.

The objective of the scholarship would also be to encourage opportunities for students with similar academic interests as Doreen's to pursue research on the topics of African Modernism, Sustainable Affordable Housing, local Urbanism in cities and the global Architectural debate.

Who are the beneficiaries:

The first intent of the scholarship would be to encourage opportunities for students with similar academic interests as Doreen's to pursue research on the topics of African Modernism, Sustainable Affordable Housing, local Urbanism in cities and the global Architectural debate.

The second intent of the scholarship would also be to establish a fund in Doreen's honor to purchase a reciprocal book collection related to topics important to furthering research topics listed above to be housed at the YSoA library—the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library—and also at the Uganda Martyrs University Library, to honor Doreen in her home country University where she taught at the Faculty of the Built Environment, Uganda as well.

The Memorial Funding Statement of Purpose:

The expendable income from the fund shall be used to provide financial aid to students within the Yale School of Architecture. It is our preference that this fund support students from Africa. The university may direct the expendable income in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, tuition, room, board, and other education expenses as well as to provide support to enhance the education experience of students participating in Yale School of Architecture programs during term time or for summer study, travel, or internships.

The selected student would receive financial aid scholarship from Yale based on their demonstrated need. A student with demonstrated need is matched with one named scholarship. While the fund will initially produce approximately \$5,000 in scholarship funding, the selected student is likely to be receiving much more as our average financial aid package is \$33,000. Each student receives only one named scholarship as part of the process and in recent years, it has been awarded in their first year at YSoA and they carry that name throughout their time at Yale.

The Memorial Funding Budget:

For the establishment of this gift, the target goal is to raise \$100,000 endowment threshold to meet the necessary threshold to become an endowed scholarship at the Yale School of Architecture. Once established these funds shall produce funding of \$5000 with opportunity for the fund to grow over time. The Doreen I. Adengo Memorial Scholarship, once established, shall continue in perpetuity.

To make a gift donation, visit: www.architecture.yale.edu/give

Contact at the Yale School of Architecture:

Ms. Jill Westgard

Senior Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, Yale School of Architecture

Yale School of Architecture

Yale University

180 York Street

New Haven, CT 06511

U.S.A

T: +1. 203.432.5846

E: jill.westgard@yale.edu