

GIVE ME MORE

Design Against Misrepresentation

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I need more.

I crave it.

I seek it...

I did not realize what I was missing until I set off on an expedition to find an architecture that looks like me. But, after searching, I began to feel a nagging emptiness. I continued searching. The absence of black women architects prompted this emptiness to fissure into a canyon.

This search began in the architecture library, where a theory assignment forced me to browse the multitude of architectural journals and magazines the university has to offer. Dozens of journals. Hundreds of copies. This is where I found my architectural cavern. The void. My antimatter. This so-called variety of journals—endless rows of journals—left me struggling to cope with the status quo.

Then, I discovered it: A journal presenting itself as a mirror which would cast the reflection I needed—craved—to see. It claimed to present the “overlooked and underrealized,” which black women clearly are among their peers in the field of architecture.

But, alas, this journal did not provide an authentic reflection of me. Its “variety,” while interesting at times, was shallow.

So.

When I lament that I cannot see me in architecture:

Don't say my complaints are unfounded

Since in the facts, my statistics are surrounded

Don't tell me women and people of color are everywhere

They are not.

“Design against is of the mind that architecture encompasses everything. By this statement, it becomes clear that when people and context are excluded from the conversations and details of design, we essentially create an incomplete architecture.”

Specifically, black women are not.

I yell it loudly.

THEY ARE NOT.

It makes my heart pound and ache.

If journals are one important lens through which we, as a society, and architecture, perceive the world around us, then I need to see people who look like me represented in these journals in order to feel like I am a part of the design; a part of the discourse.

I am tired.

I have become weary as a result of going through my academic journey alone, unable to share this brilliant experience with people who understand.

Understand ME.

Look like ME.

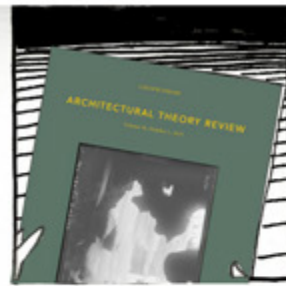
Do I need to become the recruiter and find the mirror of myself, for myself?

Architecture needs more.

I need more.

I beg of you, please, just a little more.

GIVE ME MORE.



FOCUS ON
"OVERLOOKED
AND
UNDERREALIZED"



- IN:
- EDUCATION
 - ARCHITECTURE
 - DESIGN
 - CONTRIBUTION
 - ENVIRONMENT
 - CONSTRUCTION
 - SCIENCE
 - POLICY
 - THEORY
 - MEDICINE
 - CRITIQUE
 - ART
 - ETC.