



President/CEO

Nehemiah Initiative Seattle | 2020-present
A faith-based community development initiative.

Principal Architect

Mimar Studio | Seattle 2013-present
A predevelopment planning & design practice

President/CEO

DKA Architecture | Seattle 1985-2015
A community-based architectural practice

Licensed Architect

Hawaii and Washington

Professional Membership

American Institute of Architects 1979-present
Elevated to AIA College of Fellows in 2000

Education

Master of Architecture
University of California | Los Angeles 1978

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Interior Architecture
Wayne State University | Detroit 1975

Educator

Affiliate Professor - Architecture 2017-present
University of Washington | Seattle
College of Built Environments undergraduate and graduate design studio instruction.

Visiting Faculty - Architecture 2008-2010
University of Hawaii Manoa | Honolulu
Community Design Center Program
Development | Design Studio Instruction

Instructor - Seattle Central College 1982-1992
Architectural drafting, design and technology
Associate Arts degree and transfer students

BACKGROUND

Donald I King, FAIA is an architect, planner and educator with over 50 years of professional experience in the practice areas of community planning, design and project management. He has specialized expertise in urban design and planning, design and management of community-based projects; healthcare facilities, educational facilities, affordable family housing and special needs housing. His writings on planning, design and practice, as well as articles on DKA, and the Nehemiah Initiative Seattle have been published in numerous books and periodicals. He has held extensive community service positions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal Architect of Mimar Studio, Seattle – 2015-Present
Mimar Studio is a pre-development planning and design consultancy that specializes in land use code research, site capacity studies and concept design of community facilities and housing.

President/CEO of DKA Architecture, Seattle — 1985-2015
As Founder, President and CEO of DKA, Donald was responsible for the firm’s leadership and management. For over 30 years, he led the firm in the planning and design of over 400 successful community-based projects.

Principal Architect Environmental Works Community Design Center, Seattle – 1981-1985
Led teams of planners, architects and construction managers in the not-for-profit community design center provider of community planning and design services.

Designer and Architect at Community Design Centers (CDC) – 1968-78
Urban Design and Development Group CDC, Detroit
Watts Urban Workshop CDC, Los Angeles
The Urban Collaborative CDC, Detroit
Urban Innovations Group, Los Angeles

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS and COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member of the College of Built Environments Diversity Council at the University of Washington, Seattle, 2021-present

Member of the Carbon Leadership Forum at the University of Washington, Seattle 2020-present

Member of the Steering Committee for More Housing Choices, Seattle, 2020-present

Co-Founder of the Nehemiah Initiative, a Faith-Based Community Development Initiative 2018-present

Member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) 2018-present

Member of the Algonquin Group: Promoting Solutions for Narrowing the Racial Wealth Gap, Metropolitan Seattle, 2015-present

A sampling of Mimar Studio and DKA Architecture projects follow

Acer House Mixed-Use Development

Seattle 2023

Client: Great Expectations, LLC

Size: 107 Total Units

Role: Design Lead

In partnership with Schemata Workshop, Mimar Studios provided site planning and design services the development of this Central District mixed-use project.



Central Area Neighborhood Design

Guidelines - Seattle Design Review Process

Seattle 2017

Client: Central Area Neighborhood Design Guidelines Coalition

Role: Central Area History Research, Image Selections, Writing and Photography

In partnership with Schemata Workshop, Mimar Studio provided research, authorship and design consultation for these neighborhood-specific design guidelines.



**Central Area
Neighborhood Design Guidelines**

Dr. Elson Floyd Cultural Center

Pullman 2017

Client: Washington State University

Size: 16,000 SF – 3 Split Levels

Role: Multicultural Design Consultant
Space Planning to Absher/GGLO Team

The late President of the WSU wanted this center to be a unique and visible structure at the entrance to the campus to express the University's commitment to diversity and the cultures of its African American, Asian American, Latino/Latina American and Native American students. A LEED Silver certification.



Imani Village Apartments

Seattle 2013

Client: Catholic Housing Services and First Place School

Size: 14,000 SF – 16 Units – 3 Floors

Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design

This client was seeking a design that would provide a safe, comforting and dignified home for previously homeless women and their children.

The project is Built Green Four-Star.



23rd Avenue Urban Design Framework
Seattle 2013

Client: Seattle Department of Planning
Role: Land Use Code Research & Planning
The 23rd Ave Action Plan Urban Design Framework (UDF) establishes a shared design vision and implementation strategy for the three community cores along 23rd Ave at East Union Street, East Cherry Street, and South Jackson Street.



Navos Mental Health & Wellness Center
Burien 2012

Client: Navos Mental Health Solutions
Size: 45,000 SF – 3 Floors
Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design
The Navos Mental Health Center offers a full spectrum of mental health services. The new clinic is located adjacent to a 3,600 SF meeting center and 15 apartments for transitioning patients. The building is LEED Gold certified.



Denny Terrace Modernizations
Seattle 2011

Client: Seattle Housing Authority
Size: 121,212 SF – 218 Units – 11 Floors
Role: Space Planning, Exterior Design
Denny Terrace acted as a highly visible, high-rise apartment building perched directly over Interstate 5 overlooking downtown Seattle. With such a prominent position, great care went into the façade design transformation as part of its modernization.



University of Washington Tower
Seattle 2010

Client: University of Washington
Size: 510,000 SF – 22 Floors
Role: Principal-in-Charge, Space Planning
This project encompassed the transformation of a former insurance company's corporate headquarters to University of Washington office space. DKA worked closely with the UW's Office of Planning and Budgeting to develop space allocation strategies, space planning and interior architecture for departments relocated from 16 scattered locations.



**Asian Counseling & Referral Service
Community Service Center**

Seattle 2008

Client: Asian Counseling & Referral Service

Size: 82,300 SF – 4 Floors

Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design

This client sought a design inspired by a sense of Asian-Pacific Island culture in a contemporary northwest architecture. The interior includes five different daylight strategies from roof to basement. The building achieved a LEED Certified rating.



Urban League Village at the Colman School

Seattle 2008

Client: Seattle Urban League

Size: 60,000 SF – 3 Floors

Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design

This project involved the repurposing of the 100-year-old Colman School for the Northwest African American Museum's galleries, genealogy center, offices and support spaces on the ground floor and 36 units of affordable housing on the upper two floors.



Casey Family Program Seattle Division

Seattle 2000

Client: Casey Family Programs

Size: 15,000 SF – 2 Floors

Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design

The client was seeking an architect to produce the construction documents from their in-house design of a mansard topped building in the back corner of the lot, surrounded by parking. We were able to convince them that a "gift to the street" emphasis was more welcoming and more community-friendly design.



Sea Mar Community Care Center

Seattle 1994

Client: Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Size: 55,000 SF – 100 Beds – 3 Floors

Role: Principal-in-Charge of Design

The client requested a culturally-responsive design for its Latino/Latina population. Pre-Columbian architecture of Mesoamerica served as design precedent. With the adjacent childcare facility, it was the first care facility in the state to be designed with an integrated, inter-generational focus.



Awards

- 2022 – Community Champion Award HDC Seattle/King Co
- 2022 – Carla Okigwe Award HDC Seattle/King County
- 2018 – Richard Upjohn Fellow - AIA National Board
- 2016 – Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow - AIA
- 2015 – AIA Seattle Medal of Honor
- 2014 – Richard Upjohn Fellow - AIA National Board
- 2009 – Puget Sound Business Journal - One of Washington's 100 Fastest Growing Companies
- 2009 – Navos Mental Health Solutions Housing Award
- 2008 – Northwest Construction Magazine - Recognizing Excellence General Building Under \$25 Million: Urban League Village at Colman School
- 2008 – Masonry Institute of Washington Excellence in Masonry Design Merit Award Restoration: Urban League Village at Colman School
- 2007 – U.S. Small Business Administration Minority Business Owner of the Year for Region X
- 2007 – American Association of Museums, Media and Technology Committee Muse Award: Northwest African American Museum
- 2006 – Gold Award in Building/Technology Systems - American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC): Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2005 – Puget Sound Business Journal - One of Washington's 100 Fastest-Growing Private Companies
- 2005 – One of Three Best-Managed Local Projects Between \$10-50 Million - The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA): Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2005 – Sustainable Local Development of the Year - National Association of Industrial & Office Properties: Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2005 – Construction Award for a Remodel/Tenant Improvement over \$5 Million - The Associated General Contractors of Washington: Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2005 – Willie O'Neil Award for Environmental Excellence The Associated General Contractors of Washington: Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2005 – Excellence in Design - Environmental Design & Construction Magazine: Seattle Police Support Facility
- 2002 – Masonry Excellence Awards, Merit Award: Casey Family Program, Seattle Division Office
- 2001 – AIA Seattle Honor Awards for the King Street Station Platform and Canopies, in Seattle
- 2001 – "Canstruction" Structural Ingenuity Award
- 2000 – City of Seattle Mayor's Small Business Award

Speaking Engagements and Presentations

- 2023 – AIA Seattle Design Week
"Housing Now" Panelist /Presenter
- 2023 – Statewide Affordable Homeownership Forum
"innovative Partnerships" Panelist/Presenter
- 2022 – Othello/UW Commons
"Louder Than Words" Presenter
- 2021 – NOMA National Conference - Detroit
"Building Beloved Community - Nehemiah Initiative and the Nehemiah Studio"
- 2021 – Built Green Conference "Acer House" Presenter
- 2021 – Housing Development Consortium
"Barriers to Black Homeownership"
- 2020 – Enterprise Community Partners Faith-Based Development Initiative Annual Forum Panelist
- 2020 – CBE Chronicles Nehemiah Studios Presenter
- 2020 – Seattle for Everyone: Single-Family Zoning Webinar Panelist/Presenter
- 2020 – Seattle Parks & Recreation Lecture Series
Guest Speaker
- 2020 – Seattle Design Festival Talk with MAKERS
"Density in the Era of the Pandemic" Presenter
- 2020 – CBE Chronicles Nehemiah Initiative Presenter
- 2018 – AIA Seattle "Contested Spaces" City for All Thought Leadership Panelist/Presenter
- 2012 – Metropolitan Seattle Chamber of Commerce Regional Leadership Conference Co-Chair, Presenter and Panelist
- 2011 – Aging in America National Conference
San Francisco, CA – Presenter
- 2009 – Metropolitan Seattle Chamber of Commerce Regional Leadership Conference Presenter
- 1998 - Seattle Mayor Paul Schell's Affordable Housing Conference Presenter and Panelist

Community Service

- 2018 – Completed 5 years on AIA National Leadership
- 2012 – AIA National Steering Committee for the 15th Edition of the Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice
- 2008 – National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) Vice-President, West Region
- 2004 – AIA Seattle Board of Directors
- 2003 – City of Seattle Department of Construction and Land Use Director Search Committee
- 2003 – AIA National Scholarship Committee Chair
- 2002 – The Elevated Transportation Company (Seattle Monorail Project) Board of Directors
- 2001 – City of Seattle Mayor's Small Business Task Force
- 1998 – Republic of Ghana Trade Mission Delegate
- 1996 – Seattle Planning Commission Vice Chair
Chair of Comprehensive Plan Committee

Articles, Opinion Editorials and Publications

Shelterforce - January 2023

by Nadia Mian, Rutgers University
"Black Congregations Are Developing Housing on Church Land"

Societies - January 2021

"Pushing Back on Displacement: Community-Based Redevelopment through Historically Black Churches"
Citation: Born, B.; Berney, R.; Baker, O.; Jones, M.R.; King, D.; Marcus, D.

Carbon Leadership Forum Newsletter - July 2020

"Decarbonization and Social Equity"

Crosscut Guest Editorial - December 2019

"The Central District has lost over a dozen of its Black churches in the Past Ten Years"

Seattle Medium - 9 December 2019

"Faith Based Organizations Look to Develop Affordable Housing"

The Stranger Guest Editorial - May 2015

"Can the Central District Become a Model for More Inclusive Development in Seattle?"

NOMA Magazine - Summer 2013

"A Changing World - Donald King Tackles Dearth of Black Architects"

Puget Sound Business Journal - February 2010

"Built to Last - Donald King and DKA Architecture"

AIA Forum - February 2010

"Back in Class – Repurposing School Buildings"

Daily Journal of Commerce - April 2009

"SHA Set to Start Stimulus Projects"

Daily Journal of Commerce - May 2009

"Arctic Club, 2 Museums Win Preservation Awards"

Daily Journal of Commerce - September 2009

"Sustainable Building Supplements Learning at Seattle Schools"

Puget Sound Business Journal - November 2009

"Benefits of Sustainability Must Spread to All"

AIA Forum - November 2009

"The Green Path Toward Social Equity Environmental Stewardship and Social Responsibility: We Can Do It All"

Daily Journal of Commerce - March 2008

"A New Beginning for the Colman School"

Daily Journal of Commerce - September 2008

"A New Voice for Seattle's Minority Architects"

New York Times - February 2008

"Seattle Takes Steps to Recognize Minorities' Role"

Seattle P-I - December 2007

"Riley Group Continues Mission of Pioneering Black Developer"

Structural Inequality - Black Architects in the United States - 2007

Donald King was one of the six architects profiled in this publication by Dr. Victoria Kaplan, as a follow up of her dissertation, "Against All Odds: An Ethnographic Case Study of One African American Architect". Donald King was the subject of Dr. Kaplan's doctoral dissertation.

Daily Journal of Commerce, November 2007

"ACRS Headquarters Takes Shape"

Daily Journal of Commerce, October 2007

"A&E Perspectives – DKA Architects"

Puget Sound Business Journal, September 2007

"Seattle Architect Donald King"

Daily Journal of Commerce, September 2007

"Donald King Wins Top SBA Award"

Puget Sound Business Journal, June 2007

"Builders Tear into Colman School's Challenges"

Project of the Week - Bellingham Pediatric Dentistry

Daily Journal of Commerce, June 2007"

AIA Architect This Week, May 2007

"Face of the AIA - Donald King, FAIA"

Daily Journal of Commerce Portland, April 2007

"Culinary School Moves Out of 40s to Modern Dining"

Daily Journal of Commerce, April 2007

"DKA Goes Global with Russian Work"

Daily Journal of Commerce, April 2007

"UW Hires DKA to Plan Tower Space"

Daily Journal of Commerce Portland, December 2006

"Live & Learn - DKA Leads Seattle Schools BEX Program"

Daily Journal of Commerce, October 2006

"ACRS Starts Work on New \$19.1M Headquarters"

Seattle Times, March 2006

"A Home for Black History"

Daily Journal of Commerce, February 2006

"DKA Project in Chicago Exhibit"

Seattle Chamber of Commerce News, February 2006

"DKA's Colman School Project"

Daily Journal of Commerce, January 2006

ACEC National Award Winners