



AIA Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts: Cathy Guske
(804) 237-1763
cguske@aiava.org

Nancy Tait
(804) 389-1360
pr@aiava.org

Public Information
(804) 644-3041
www.aiava.org

AIA Virginia Prize Announced

RICHMOND, VA — For 50 architecture students across Virginia, one September weekend was anything but relaxing. At 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, students at the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC), and Hampton University were given a limited time challenge. By 9 a.m. Monday participating students had to turn in their designs for a new space that would bring forward the histories of the First Africans in Virginia for a historical marker of the same name near Fort Monroe. The space proposed would be for contemplation, congregation, participation, celebration and performance.

“The point was to create a space that would help us better understand today those Africans brought here almost 400 years ago,” says Jury Chair, Charles Swartz, AIA, Principal at Reader & Swartz Architects in Winchester, Virginia. “Faculty from each school did the first judging and sent the top 10 submissions to Richmond for the final round. A four judge panel selected one Prize winner, four best of school awards, two certificate of merits and six notables.”

The Honorees

2016 AIA Virginia Prize

Xi Han is the winner of the 2016 AIA Virginia Prize which includes a \$1,500 cash prize. Han is in her final year at the University of Virginia, planning to graduate in 2017.

The judges were impressed with the way she tells the story of the first Africans in Virginia. “The design did a very good job connecting to the journey, the water and the existing structures. The way that the site would change depending on the weather, time of year and time of day, would make it a destination for travelers to see multiple times.”



2016 AIA Prize winner Xi Han, University of Virginia.

Best of School

Iroda Karimova expects to graduate with a Masters in Architecture from Hampton University in 2017.

John Hatcher expects to graduate from the University of Virginia in 2018.

Divya Nautiyal expects to graduate with a Masters in Architecture from Virginia Tech in 2017.

Ian Hunter expects to graduate with a Masters in Landscape Architecture from The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center in 2017.

Certificate of Merit

M. Ryan Delaney, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

Carlin Tacey, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

Notable

Luke Dale, Virginia Tech

Dennis Daniels, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

Rachel Flanagan, Virginia Tech

Philippa Koenig, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

Qian Li, Virginia Tech

Julian Lin, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

About the AIA Virginia Prize

Students from Hampton University, Virginia Tech, The Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, and the University of Virginia are eligible for this competition. Held annually near the start of the school year, students spend the weekend designing a response to a problem created by faculty from one of Virginia's architecture schools. Each school's faculty reviews the submissions and sends up to 10 finalists to Richmond for final judging.

About AIA Virginia

AIA Virginia is a society of the American Institute of Architects and represents nearly 2,500 architects throughout Virginia. Founded by five architects in 1914, AIA Virginia has represented the professional interests of architects and allied professionals in the Commonwealth of Virginia for more than 100 years. For more information, contact AIA Virginia at [\(804\) 644-3041](tel:8046443041) or visit www.aiava.org.

###

11/21/2016