

MARIA DOKU

Architectural Designer | Educator | Researcher

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Maria Doku is an architectural designer and Master of Architecture candidate at Columbia University. She serves as an Adjunct Instructor at Dunwoody College of Technology and has contributed to the academia of Barnard College, Columbia University, and the University of Pittsburgh as a Teaching Assistant. Her professional experience includes roles as a Sustainable Architectural Designer at Kiss + Cathcart, Architects, and research on workplace design at Gensler. Skilled in Rhino 3D, BIM, and Python, she has also worked on modular housing with Module Housing of Pittsburgh. Notable achievements include the Macksey Symposium Award, a Gensler Scholarship, second place in the EPA Campus RainWorks Challenge, and recognition as a US-UK Fulbright Semi-Finalist.

Professional Experience.

- Fall 2024 Term - 6 mos
- Dunwoody College of Technology - Adjunct Instructor
At Dunwoody College of Technology, I taught ARCH 3140: Landscape, delivering lectures on landscape design principles and supervising student projects from concept to presentation. I provided individualized feedback, mentored students, and facilitated industry interactions to enhance their practical skills and career readiness in landscape architecture.
- Apr 2024 - July 2024 - 4 mos
- Module Housing - Contract - Architectural Design Consultant
As an architectural consultant at Module Housing, I developed design plans for modular housing projects, ensuring functionality, aesthetics, and regulatory compliance. I collaborated with clients and multidisciplinary teams throughout the design and construction phases to deliver efficient, sustainable housing solutions.
- Aug 2023 - Jan 2024 - 6 mos
- Barnard College - GIS Teaching Assistant
Working as a Barnard University Graduate Teaching Assistant, I assisted undergraduate students in the production of GIS and mapping research projects. I hosted weekly office hours as well as in-class support to Barnard students.
- Aug 2022 - Jan 2024 - 1 yr 6 mos
- Kiss + Cathcart, Architects - Sustainable Architectural Designer
During my time at Kiss + Cathcart, I immersed myself in a dynamic architectural practice known for design excellence, economic efficiency, and ecological sustainability. I contributed to projects and conducted design research on sustainable materials and technologies. Working with VectorWorks and digital rendering, I gained insights into cutting-edge architectural methods. This experience deepened my passion for architecture and prepared me for future career challenges in the field.
- Mar 2021 - Jan 2024 - 2 yrs 11 mos
- Archinect - Editorial Contributor
At Archinect, I completed several architectural and material-related publications.
- May 2023 - July 2023 - 2 mos
- Columbia University Natural Materials Lab - Graduate Research Assistant
At the Natural Materials Lab, I worked under prof. Lola Ben Alon on Social Media and Graphic Management related works.

Professional Experience cont.

- May 2022 - Aug 2022 - 4 mos

 - Gensler - Research Fellow
At the Gensler New York Office, I served as part of their Summer Design Research Fellowship. My particular placement was in Office Repositioning and Corporate Real Estate.
- Sept 2021 - Jun 2022 - 10 mos

 - Columbia Center for Spatial Research - Graduate Teaching Assistant
At the Columbia University Center for Spatial Research in New York, I assisted prof. Laura Kurgan with tasks involving data science and the design of digital spatial fronts. I tested and assisted Laura in the formation of the Computational Design Program. I studied and worked in QGIS, Python, and Pandas to produce digital graphics.
- Jul 2021 - Oct 2021 - 4 mos

 - Gensler - Workplace Research and Data Analyst Intern
Working at Gensler, I designed a catalog of Gen-X and Gen-Z experiences upon graduation from their respective academic institutions regarding their transition into the workplace. The source of information utilized to create this catalog was rooted in a series of interviews I conducted--each about 30 minutes long, consisting of 23 in total. The resulting information was utilized to better create workplace training methods and practices of which recent graduates may be provided with a smooth transition from school to the workplace by their employers.
- Jan 2021 - Jun 2021

 - Module Housing - Architectural Design Intern
After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, I joined Module as an architectural intern. My role immersed me in the firm's distinctive approach to factory-built housing, contrasting with traditional stick-built methods. This exposure piqued my interest in integrating sustainability practices into modular housing, a primary emphasis at Module. During the startup phase, my responsibilities included 3D modeling, contextual modeling, and researching architectural detailing tailored for collaborative efforts within the modular framework.

Education.

- Sep 2021 - May 2025

 - Columbia University in New York - Master of Architecture
- Aug 2017 - Dec 2020

 - University of Pittsburgh - Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- Jul 2021 - Oct 2021 - 4 mos

 - Carnegie Mellon University - Cross Registration
Courses include: 48-324 Structures and Statics
48-635 Environment I: Climate and Energy

Academic /Extra-Curricular Experience.

- Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

 - Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture
National Organization of Minority Architecture Students
Chapter President
- Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

 - Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture
National Organization of Minority Architecture Students
Graphic Designer
- Fall 2024

 - Arichitecture, Construction, and Engineering
Mentorship Program of America
Mentor

Publications.

- Year of 2022

 - Archinect's Guide to Job Titles: Forensic Architect
Archinect
 - Archinect's Guide to Job Titles: Building Façade/Envelope Specialist
Archinect
 - Archinect's Guide to Job Titles: Model Maker
Archinect
- Year of 2021

 - Security, Resilience, and Stewardship: Studio Ma Collaborates with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations to Create Resilient, Forward-Looking Environments for All
Collaboration with OBO + Studio Ma
Archinect

Achievements.

- Spring of 2021
- Issued May 2021
- Issued May 2021
- Fulbright US-UK Semi-Finalist**
School of Study - University College London
 - EPA Campus RainWorks Challenge Second Place Award**
United States Environmental Protection Agency
 - Gensler Micro-Scholarship**

References.

Emily Pierson-Brown,
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Christopher Drew Armstrong,
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Mrinalini Rajagopalan,
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University of Pittsburgh
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Violet Whitney,
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Christian Siener,
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Adjaye Associates

February 2nd, 2021

Fulbright Selection Committee
Dan Kramer
Director, Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Institute of International Education
Fulbright U.S. Student Program Division
One World Trade Center
36th Floor
New York,
NY 10007

Dear Sir/Madam,

REF: MARIA DOKU

I am writing this letter to confirm my support of Maria Doku in her application to study Architectural Computation Master of Science degree at University College London under the Fulbright University College London Award.

In recent months, I have been in correspondence with Maria Doku, and have learned with great interest of her plan to study at University College London. In addition to being enthusiastic about Maria’s academic achievements, I am glad to support the Fulbright mission of cultural exchange.

Maria’s drive within the field of architecture will make her a good fit for the Fulbright programme and I highly recommend her.

Yours sincerely,



Sir David Adjaye, RIBA, HonAIA, RA
Principal, Adjaye Associates