

BIOGRAPHY

A consummate advocate for the preservation of turn-of-the century buildings, Robert Arthur King, FAIA, captivates students, clients, and the public alike, helping them truly “see” the artisanship in their surroundings through his camera’s telephoto lens.

In February 2014, **Robert Arthur King** was elevated to “The College of Fellows” in the **American Institute of Architects** – an honor bestowed upon fewer than one percent of all registered architects in the country – in acknowledgment of his contributions in the field of architectural education and service. This esteemed recognition underscores Robert’s passion as a consummate advocate for the preservation of historic buildings through his architectural practice, publication of photographic documentation of building features, public appearances and teaching.

Robert Arthur King, FAIA, established Robert Arthur King, Architect, in 1984, as a full-service, minority-owned architectural firm, located in Manhattan now in the Bronx, New York. Over the years, Robert has earned professional distinction as a specialist in the rehabilitation and preservation of historic buildings, ranging in size from 4,000 square feet to more than 30,000 square feet. Staff consists of architects, interior designers, professional engineers, and support personnel. The firm offers highly skilled technical support in:

- the renovation of historic apartments and town and row houses
- the renovation of multiple-dwelling properties of three or more apartment units
- the design and rehabilitation of structures requiring basic mechanical, electrical and structural engineering services
- the architecture and interior design of commercial spaces

In his practice, Robert has become renowned for his expertise in integrating modern appurtenances for the convenience of contemporary life within the restoration process of historic structures, seamlessly meshing these demands of modern life and the preservation of valuable historic details. During each phase of the design process, the highest professional standards are applied to ensure quality construction and the timely completion of projects.

The three-year restoration of a circa 1888 Brooklyn historic landmark property of more than 20,000 square feet – including a detached townhouse and two carriage house buildings – is characteristic of the types of projects undertaken by the firm. The complete renovation/alteration and preservation of the buildings required diligent research about the property and the construction of period homes in the community, the study of the requisite historic documents, and the development of detailed architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural drawings. Mr. King meticulously oversaw every phase of the restoration and conversion of the project, documenting each phase with hundreds of photographs to chronicle the construction and ongoing development.

Photographic documentation of his client-based renovation projects was an expansion of Robert's collection of historic buildings in Harlem that he had photographed since 1987. The compilation of these photographs served as viable tools for instruction for his classes as an adjunct professor at the New York School of Interior Design in the craft and details of drafting and construction drawing, building codes, and legacy of historic buildings. In 1989, Robert developed an accredited course dedicated exclusively to building code regulations for the New York School of Interior Design – one of the first such courses known to exist in the country. Through the building codes course Robert emphasizes to students that the demands of interior design exceed the elements of décor and the selection of furnishings. Mr. Kings also teaches architecture and interior design, building codes, building mechanical systems, and historic preservation.

Robert's passion for preservation has extended the classroom and his architectural practice to a wider audience. Wanting to alert concerned citizens about the need for salvaging and preserving the legacy of the country's extraordinarily talented stone carvers, Robert began traveling throughout New York and elsewhere taking hundreds of black and white photographs of exterior details on both distinctive and mundane older buildings. Two collections of these photographs were published recently in books respectively titled, *Faces in Stone* (2008), *Animals in Stone* (2009) and *Figures in Stone* (2017) by W. W. Norton, a company whose mission is to publish books that "bring to the public the knowledge of our time." Robert makes the public aware of architectural stone carving as an important aspect of US labor history.

Filmmaker Vivian Ducat has created portraiture of Robert – Stonefaced – that follows him throughout Manhattan, especially his own Harlem neighborhood, as he engages audiences in discovering the often overlooked stone carvings of anonymous artisans. Ducat's film portraiture has been selected for numerous national and international film festivals, including those that one feature emerging and established film making visionaries. At these festivals, they include 2013: Heartland Film Festival (Indianapolis, Indiana), New York Open Film Festival (Forest Hills, NY), Roxbury International Film Festival (Boston, Massachusetts), The Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (Cleveland, Ohio), Langston Hughes African American Film Festival (Seattle, Washington), Queens World Film Festival (flushing, NY), and in 2012: Harlem International Film Festival (New York, NY), Chesapeake Film Festival (Easton, Maryland), Sarasota Film Festival (Sarasota, Florida) and Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival (Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts) in thousands of patrons have been able to view the artisanship of historic buildings through Robert's telephoto camera lens.

Contemporary social issues also influence the firm's design philosophy and service delivery. In particular, Robert has a special interest in low and moderate-income housing. The firm has been challenged to provide first-rate design and quality of construction for these projects with a restricted budget. In communities undergoing revitalization, community dynamics and the lifestyles of residents are considered to determine existing problems and promote viable resolutions that contribute to the community's stability.

In 1992, Mr. King was appointed to the newly created New York State Board of Interior Designers for a one-year tenure. The Board was established by the New York State Board of Regents to set regulations and standards for the interior design profession and the implementation of licensing requirements. The Board focused its agenda on the development of policies for establishing qualification standards guiding professional certification and redefining elements of National Council of Interior Designer's Qualifications (NCIDQ) for interior design certification.

Mr. King served as a certified arbitrator and mediator for the American Arbitration Association for seven years, participating as a panel member for construction hearings over disputes between parties, including architects, contractors, developers, subcontractors, interior designers, and others in the construction industry. This participation has contributed to Mr. King's greater awareness of the broad range of potential construction problems that can occur at a job site, and thereby develop strategies that may avert issues that could adversely impact the collaboration of professionals on projects.

Robert holds a Bachelor's of Architecture degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, and a postgraduate degree in architecture from the Architectural Association Graduate School in London.

He is a registered architect in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Maine, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Florida, Colorado and Washington, D.C. As a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB), he is qualified to practice in the remaining states, United States provinces and territories, Canada and Europe upon application. Mr. King is also a certified interior designer registered in the State of New York.