

# Jojo Duah: Recipient of the AIABaltimore Travel Scholarship

*By Jojo Duah*

Like most developing nations that were under the control of European countries, Ghana is faced with the issue of “architectural identity.” When African nations began to gain their independence between the 1950s through the 1980’s, they were introduced to “International Style” architecture by their colonizers in hopes of leading the newly-independent colonies towards the future of design. These design ideas are accepted, but are later rejected because they are not a representation of the people they were designed for. The future of design in Ghana needs to integrate native materials and should be contextually-based.

While in Ghana, I will investigate the progress of “Inno-native” design and education. Coined by Ghanaian Architect Joe Osae-Addo, it is defined as a condition where innovative solutions are developed to solve current design issues by the use of native technology and ideas. My research involves meetings, observation and collaboration with architects, educators, students, and the locals in order to gain a better understanding of the issues faced. While my scope is primarily focused in Ghana, I believe this same issue is faced by many other developing countries all over the world.

Jojo Duah is currently a graduating senior in the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University and a Designer at RM Sovich Architecture. He was born in Kumasi, Ghana, in 1991 but moved to the United States in 1996.



*In 2009, under the leadership of President Lee Driskill, AIA, and with the assistance of Suzanne Frasier, AIA, our chapter established the AIABaltimore Architecture Research and Travel Scholarship for Morgan State University upper-level undergraduate students in architecture. Since then, nearly twenty students have competed for this annual \$3000 scholarship. Jojo Duah is the fifth recipient. Congratulations, Jojo!*