

# Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture Washington, DC

## TEAM PROFILE

March 12, 2009



**Freelon Adjaye Bond** represents a union of architectural firms that have come together for a common purpose – the design and delivery of the last and most significant museum on the National Mall.

Freelon Bond was initially formed to pursue the Planning and Pre-design phase of work for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Having secured that commission and subsequently delivered the Pre-design document, Adjaye Associates was added to the team, bringing internationally acclaimed design expertise and a global perspective to this unique design challenge. SmithGroup completes the architectural component of the **Freelon Adjaye Bond** team, offering extensive experience on Smithsonian Institution museum projects and the Washington, DC base of operation for the **Freelon Adjaye Bond** (FAB) studio.

Since its formation in 2000, Adjaye Associates has completed a number of arts and cultural buildings in the UK including Rivington Place in East London, the Stephen Lawrence Centre in Deptford, the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham and the Idea Stores in Chrisp Street and Whitechapel. In the US, Adjaye Associates' new building for the Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver opened to the public in October 2007 and is on track to gain LEED Gold certification. Adjaye Associates is currently designing two branch libraries for the DC Public Library System among other notable commissions in the US.

The Freelon Group, founded in 1990, has earned recognition for its design of museums with African and African American themes. Of note are the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore and the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco – both winners of multiple AIA

design awards. Freelon is currently at work on the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture in Charlotte, NC (opening spring 2009) and the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, NC (under construction).

Davis Brody Bond, one of the nation's leading design firms, has received more than 100 major design awards including the American Institute of Architects' Firm Award, the highest honor given to an architectural practice, and the 2000 Presidential Award for Design Excellence. The planning and design of museums make up a significant part of the firm's work. Currently, DBB is involved in the planning, design and execution of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center – serving as executive architect for the entire Memorial site and as designer of the Memorial Museum. Other cultural projects in the firm's portfolio include the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Studio Museum of Harlem and the restoration and expansion of The New York Public Library.

SmithGroup is an 800-person, international A/E firm with offices in Washington, DC. The firm's Cultural Studio is dedicated to museum and civic work and has provided similar services for facilities of equivalent scope to NMAAHC including The National Museum of the American Indian as well as many other projects for the Smithsonian Institution. SmithGroup has considerable experience collaborating with multiple firms on significant projects including the National Museum of the American Indian, the Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center, Science City at Union Station, and the International Spy Museum.



Census Bureau, Bowie, MD  
Davis Brody Bond and  
SmithGroup



Idea Store Chrisp Street, UK - Adjaye Associates

## The FAB Studio

brings the combined strengths and talents of outstanding designers in the field of museum design together and directs this dynamic energy toward the creation of a truly world class museum. Through the proven model of collaboration in a studio environment, Phil Freelon as Design Guarantor will oversee the conceptual design and development of the NMAAHC as David Adjaye and Peter Cook lead the exploration of form and function, respectively. The FAB Studio will also include professionals from the SmithGroup along with other consultants who are renowned experts in their respective fields.



**David Adjaye, Lead Designer**, is now recognized as one of the leading architects of his generation in the UK and beyond. His ingenious use of materials, bespoke design and ability to sculpt and showcase light have engendered high regard from both the architectural community and the wider public.

Major arts centers and important public buildings across London, Oslo and Denver have demonstrated David's considered approach to understanding the needs of the constituency served by each building and a respect for integration with their existing locale.

David was the first Louis Kahn visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and was the Kenzo Tange Professor in Architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. He received his MA in architecture in 1993 and was awarded the RIBA First Prize Bronze Medal that same year. Following this, he trained at David Chipperfield Architects and then Eduardo Souto de Moura Architects in Oporto.

In May 2005, Thames & Hudson published David's first book, *David Adjaye Houses: Recycling, Reconfiguring, Rebuilding* which was distributed world wide. In January 2006, the Whitechapel Gallery in London hosted the studio's first exhibition '*David Adjaye: Making Public Buildings*', which was accompanied by a book of the same name. The exhibition then toured to the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, SCAD Savannah and the Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver.

David has co-presented two television series of *Dream-spaces* for the BBC, a six-part series on contemporary architecture, and hosted two BBC radio programs; the first featured an interview with Oscar Niemeyer and the second with Charles Correa. In June 2005 he presented the TV program "Building Africa: Architecture of a Continent". He is now pursuing a personal project documenting each of Africa's capital cities to culminate in book and exhibition in 2009.



In the context of the NMAAHC Design, David Adjaye, Phil Freelon, Hal Davis and Peter Cook will each have distinct roles as follows:

**David Adjaye**, RIBA will focus on the formal development and refinement of the building design. In our integrated design approach, David will coordinate directly with the consultants including landscape, sustainability, structural and mechanical engineering. David will take the lead in bringing the vision to formal reality.



**Philip Freelon**, FAIA LEED AP, as Design Guarantor, will insure that the design of the museum is of the highest quality and reflects the values and priorities of SI and the NMAAHC. He will organize and direct design reviews at critical points in the process and work hands-on with David Adjaye as the design unfolds. Phil will provide clear direction and/or resolution as required.



**Harold Davis, Jr.**, FAIA will participate in all phases of the design work. Through his role as Managing Principal of the SmithGroup, he will be responsible for providing the resources necessary for delivering the design documents.



**Peter Cook**, AIA, will work to assure that the design is in adherence with the program and vision. He will guide the functional realization of the program.



Nobel Peace Centre, Oslo

The Nobel Peace Center presents the history of the Peace Prize and explains the work of its laureates. The Center unites an existing building with new structures and enabled visitors to interact with new technologies, enhancing their experience.

[www.adjaye.com](http://www.adjaye.com)



Rivington Place, London

A key addition to the London art scene and 2008 RIBA London Award winner, Rivington Place is dedicated to work by practitioners from culturally diverse backgrounds. It is a center for the presentation and dissemination of those ideas and practices in the contemporary visual arts which have to date been marginalized by the more mainstream cultural institutions.

[www.adjaye.com](http://www.adjaye.com)



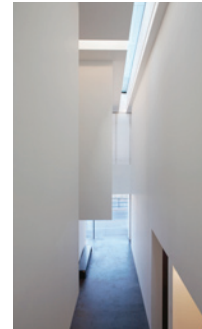




Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver, CO

The new facility is on track to gain LEED Gold certification and will be the USA's first LEED certified contemporary art museum. With exhibition, education and lecture spaces, library, bookshop, café and a rooftop garden for outdoor art, the Museum presents new work from around the world.

[www.adjaye.com](http://www.adjaye.com)



Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture  
Baltimore, MD

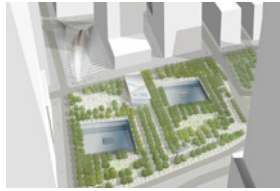
A major addition to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and museum district, the museum incorporates extensive exhibit areas, interactive learning centers, offices, a 200-seat auditorium, library/ resources center, gift shop and café.

[www.freelon.com](http://www.freelon.com)





National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, New York, NY



The Museum incorporates in-situ artifacts of the original buildings including box beam column bases of both towers, along with the slurry wall that survived the attacks. The Museum will be the repository for the unidentified human remains from this tragedy.

[www.davisbrody.com](http://www.davisbrody.com)



Normandy American Cemetery Interpretive Center Normandy, France



The Normandy Visitor Center (NVC) is comprised of galleries totaling 14,000 sf, 190-seat auditorium, offices, and orientation theater. A key part of the NVC design is the interpretation of the setting and story. The building offers views to the Cemetery, the landscape, the sky and ocean.

[www.smithgroup.com](http://www.smithgroup.com)



Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) San Francisco, CA



Located in the Yerba Buena district of the city on the corner of Third & Mission Streets, MoAD invites visitors to engage their heritage through exhibits that focus on the origin, movement, adaptation and transformation of humankind.

[www.freelon.com](http://www.freelon.com)



Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard, Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington, DC



Landscape Design: Kathryn Gustafson

The landscape design balances a formal relationship between courtyard, building and roof, with a dynamic east-west composition of long, thin rectangular planters and a scrim of water which is allowed to traverse the entire length of the courtyard, underlining the dynamic sense of motion in the composition.

[www.ggnltd.com](http://www.ggnltd.com)  
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