Kishani de Silva
Principal + founder, 2A+D

Following her last appointment at Foster + Partners, London, UK, de Silva established 2A + D, Arts Architecture + Design Management Services, to support firms with their front end project management needs which include fees, contracts and negotiations. In addition to these core project management services, 2A+D assists firms with their strategic planning missions, providing the requisite analysis and tools to help them achieve their vision. De Silva is also the Vice President of the Association for Women in Architecture + Design.

Prior to her time in London, she worked in Los Angeles for the Jerde Partnership, Fluidity Design Consultants (of which she was a founding member), John Fisher and Associates and Wet Design.

De Silva completed an Executive Leadership certificate program from Cornell in 2013, is on the steering committee to make L.A. a Fair Trade City, is involved in research and writing, and has been published in DesignIntelligence.

Dr. Despina Stratigakos
Associate Professor at University at Buffalo's Department of Architecture

Stratigakos has been published widely on issues of diversity in architecture, including the award-winning A Women's Berlin: Building the Modern City (University of Minnesota Press, 2008). Her forthcoming book, Where Are the Women Architects?, will be released in spring 2016 by Princeton University Press. Stratigakos has served as a Director of the Society of Architectural Historians, an Advisor of the International Archive of Women in Architecture at Virginia Tech, a Trustee of the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, and Deputy Director of the Gender Institute at the University at Buffalo. She also participated on Buffalo's municipal task force for Diversity in Architecture and was a founding member of the Architecture and Design Academy, an initiative of the Buffalo Public Schools to encourage design literacy and academic excellence. She received her Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College and taught at Harvard University and the University of Michigan before joining the Department of Architecture at the University at Buffalo, where she serves as Interim Chair.
Nina Freedman
Principal + founder, Dreamland Creative Projects

Freedman is an avid conceptualist. Her work spans architectural design, art, teaching, writing, storytelling and furniture design. Compassionate and visionary, she has co-created globally recognized, award-winning architecture for 30 years. Freedman teaches at Cornell University and Pratt Institute and has been an invited critic at universities and for competitions. In 2015, Freedman founded DREAMLAND, a conscious spatial design laboratory that specializes in the impact of emotional space and how it shifts collective thinking. Prior to founding DREAMLAND, Freedman worked with numerous world-renowned architects. As the long term Director of Projects for Shigeru Ban Architects America (SBAA), she was responsible for executing the vision for all projects from concept through construction, as well as the direction and development of office policy, management, staffing and marketing. Freedman’s international experience includes work with Renzo Piano, Richard Meier and Paul Rudolph. In the Fall of 2012, Freedman co-founded ArchiteXX, an independent organization for women in architecture that seeks to transform the profession of architecture by bridging academy and practice and provides co-learning workshops and cross generational, individual and peer mentorship.