

2020 Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year

Marlon Blackwell, University of Arkansas



Marlon Blackwell is a Distinguished Professor and the E. Fay Jones Chair in Architecture in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), he received the 2020 AIA Gold Medal – the Institute’s highest honor – recognizing architects with enduring impacts on theory and practice. In 2018 he was inducted into the National Academy of Design.

Prof. Blackwell has been an educator and architect for nearly 30 years, having earned his Master of Architecture II from Syracuse University in Florence, Italy, and his Bachelor of Architecture from Auburn University. His distinct voice has produced countless iconic, award-winning designs, and he has impacted decades of architecture students, both as a member of the faculty and as an administrator.

Prof. Blackwell served for six years as head of the Department of Architecture, and he led development of the Integrated Design Studio, the capstone experience in the professional curriculum. He co-founded the annual University of Arkansas Mexico Summer Urban Studio, which takes place at the Casa Luis Barragan in Mexico City, and he has co-taught design studios with several notable architects. Prof. Blackwell has himself served as visiting professor at Cornell University, the University of Florida, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Texas at Austin, among others. In addition, he was the 2018-2019 William A. Bernoudy Architect in Residence at the American Academy in Rome.

An important educator and critic, Prof. Blackwell also serves on design award juries and as a visiting critic around the U.S. His monograph, *An Architecture of the Ozarks: The Works of Marlon Blackwell*, was published in 2005 by the Princeton Architectural Press, and his new monograph, *Radical Practice*, will be released in 2021.

Based on his educational and professional successes, Prof. Blackwell has received numerous awards and honors. He was selected by *The International Design Magazine* in 2006 as one of the ID Forty: Undersung Heroes and as an “Emerging Voice” in 1998 by the Architectural League of New York. He was named among the 2015 “30 Most Admired Educators” by *DesignIntelligence*, and in 2017 he received the E. Fay Jones Gold Medal from the Arkansas chapter of the AIA. In 2014 he was the U.S. Artists Ford Fellow, and he received the 2012 American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Prize.

In addition, Prof. Blackwell is co-principal of Marlon Blackwell Architects (MBA), which received the 2016 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture, was ranked No. 1 in Design in the 2016 Architect 50 – a national survey of architecture firms – and was recognized as the 2011 Firm of the Year by *Residential Architect*. MBA has garnered more than 140 national and international awards, including 15 National AIA Awards in eight different categories. [Read more about Prof. Blackwell.](#)