

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21085) - DIALOGUES AND DESIGN EDUCATION: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN STUDIO TO RECONCILIATE A RACIAL PAST

Asha Kutty Asha Kutty¹

1 - University of North Carolina Greensboro

Background and objectives

This panel presentation will focus on an interdisciplinary design studio collaboration between faculty and students of both Interior Architecture and African American Diaspora studies . The two departments collaborated to design a memorial space of Guilford County's (USA) lynching monument. This studio forms a part of Guilford County's effort to retrieve its lynching monument from the National Museum for Peace and Justice in Montgomery Alabama

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

In 2018, the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), opened the National Memorial for Peace and Justice to the public. Part of the journey through the memorial includes a public square with 800 steel monuments, one for each county in the United States where lynching took place. Each monument bears an engraving of the names of the lynching victims who perished in that particular county. As part of an initiative by the EJI to make counties acknowledge their racial pasts, counties have been offered an opportunity to reclaim a replica of their monument. In order to fulfill this opportunity, counties need to propose a design idea to explain how they will honor and showcase their monument within a particular location.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The purpose of the interdisciplinary studio was to develop collaboration between the Department of Interior Architecture and the Department of African American Diaspora Studies, with the aim of designing a space for Guilford County to reclaim its lynching monument from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and to honor and showcase its victims.

Through collaboration the studio aimed at creating a somber, meaningful space that would make local residents learn from their pasts and move forward in new directions. The studio is part of a new momentum in the United States to bring the discourse of Race in America into design education.

Palavras-chave : Race, African American, Interior architecture design studio, Design education