OTJ

INTRODUCING:

THE OTJ LICENSURE SCHOLARSHIP FOR BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHITECTS & INTERIOR DESIGNERS

About OTJ Architects

OTJ Architects is a premier architecture and design practice that partners with leading organizations at key moments of transition in their development. With offices nationwide, OTJ delivers enduring human centric solutions that promote diversity, wellness, and sustainability across the commercial real estate, corporate, government, science and technology, multi-family, arts, culture, and education, as well as nonprofit sectors.

Signature recent projects include workplaces for Adobe, BMW, PBS, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and Yelp; the renovations of the iconic Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, New York's Webster Hall, and the Cincinnati Music Hall; laboratories for Dyno Therapeutics and Agios Pharmaceuticals; as well as the Visitation commercial mixed-use development in historic Frederick, MD. For more information, please visit otj.com.

OTJ ARCHITECTS

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WASHINGTON DC
BOSTON
CHICAGO
DALLAS
MIAMI
NEW YORK
SAN DIEGO
SAN FRANCISCO

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access

OTJ believes that the future of our industry must be defined by measurable, time-bound action towards greater diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. The confluence of diverse backgrounds in the workplace sparks creativity, drives innovation, and empowers us all to rise above assumptions and stereotypes.

Achieving licensure in the fields of architecture or interior design represents the culmination of an educational journey unique to our profession. Licensure is also a vital avenue in the development of the next generation of design talent.

Black/African American professionals, however, face unique challenges on this path. Statistics are sobering.

Statistical Data from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB):

> » In 2022, Black/African Americans accounted for 6.1% of the candidates taking the ARE exam.

> » In 2022, Black/African Americans accounted for 3% of the candidates passing the ARE exam.

> » In 2022, Black/African Americans make up 1.8% of the NCARB licensed certificate holders.

Statistical Data from the National Council of Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ):

> » In 2020, Black/African Americans comprised 0.97% of the NCIDQ licensed certificate holders.

It is also recorded that Black/African American candidates spend more on test taking and study materials on average.

Scholarship Overview

To help the most underrepresented racial group in our field, we are pleased to introduce the OTJ Licensure Scholarship for Black/African American Architects and Interior Designers. This scholarship provides funds and supporting materials for the pursuit of licensure by Blacks/African Americans in the architecture and interior design industry.

Two (2) scholarships are available each calendar year to offset the exam fees for the three (3) sections of the NCIDQ exam or the six (6) divisions of the NCARB (ARE) examination.   Please note that the scholarships do not include application fees or other ancillary expenses.

One (1) architectural recipient of the scholarship will be awarded:

- » The annual cost for the six (6) ARE divisions within one given year
- » Access to the online study guide Amber Book
- » PPI exam prep materials for the ARE examination

One (1) interior design recipient of the scholarship will receive:

- » The one-time cost for three (3) sections of the NCIDQ examination
- » Access to the online study guide Q-Practice
- » PPI exam prep materials for the NCIDQ examination

Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must be Black/African American citizens of the United States and either an architecture or interior design school graduate. The college or university is not required to be NAAB or CIDA accredited institution. Applicants must hold an active National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) record to take the Architect Registration Exam (ARE) or an active National Certified Interior Design Qualification record holder to take the (NCIDQ) examination.

Application Process and Evaluation Criteria

Applicants should submit a 250-word essay that describes the personal relevance of becoming a Registered Architect or Certified Interior Designer. Award recipients will be selected based on the clarity of ideas expressed as well as their demonstrated commitment to our industry and their own professional growth within it (through activities, volunteerism, membership in professional organizations, etc.).

Essay must be clearly accompanied by applicant's contact information, including telephone number as well as email and mailing addresses.

Deadlines

Candidates for Architect:

» Application opens 09.01.2023

» Submission deadline is 12.01.2023

» Recipients will be announced on 01.01.2024

Candidates for Certified Interior Designer:

» Application opens 08.01.2023

» Submission deadline is 12.01.2023

» Recipients will be announced on 01.01.2024

Contact

For questions and applications, please email **scholarship@otj.com**