

Artists House & Studio – North Coast Trinidad

Jenifer Smith BSc.(Hons) Dip.Arch.(UCL) RIBA D.UCL TTIA

Jenifer will be presenting this project for an Artist's House and Studio, which was designed by her firm Jenifer Smith Architects Ltd.

The building will form the basis of a case study – taking into account issues of sustainability and energy collection, conservation and efficiency incorporated into an award winning design. The case study will demonstrate how these factors played an integral part in the design from inception, rather than being added on at the end of the design process.

Factors include site layout, form and massing, structure, building orientation, and relationship to the land, as well as choice and use of materials. The site is not connected to either mains water or electricity so the design also incorporates energy and water collection, storage and distribution as well as strategies to reduce solar heat gain and to minimise energy consumption.

The project had a tight budget and was constructed using conventional methods. However various ways were found to increase the energy efficiency of the building envelope without adding cost to the overall construction.

The project won an inaugural Caribbean Building Award in 2006 and is also featured in Phaidon's Atlas of 21st Century Architecture.

BIO



Jenifer Smith obtained her Degree and Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Design and Architecture from the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College, London University. Her postgraduate studies were completed in 1984 and full professional status acquired in 1987.

Jenifer worked on the design of the extension to the concourse for the Sydney Opera House with Hall, Bowe & Webber in Sydney, Australia before joining Armstrong Associates in London, England in 1986. She became an associate in 1988 and an equity partner in 1990.

The practice worked on commercial, residential and cultural projects, including shops, offices, galleries, private houses and master planning. The firm's work was widely published and won numerous awards for design excellence.

The practice achieved international recognition by winning the open and anonymous competition for a Japanese cultural center 'La Maison de la Culture du Japon' in Paris, France. This building of 100,000 sq. ft. located on the Seine, was to be a showcase for Japanese culture. Jenifer Smith established the office in Paris in 1992 and remained there for 5 years, overseeing the project from conception through to final completion. President Chirac inaugurated the building in 1997 to critical acclaim, winning a prestigious Architectural Award from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1998.

After returning to London, Jenifer worked for Foster & Partners on the Great Court of the British Museum, a building that has been recognized as a public and critical success. In 1999 she formed Industry Architecture & Design Ltd. This firm advised on all aspects of

development, marketing and management of projects as well as the process of design and implementation. Completed schemes included restaurant and leisure facilities in central London as well as high quality residential developments.

In 2001, Jenifer Smith returned to set up practice in Trinidad after more than 15 years of international experience. Work to date includes commercial, educational, recreational, industrial and residential projects. In 2007 Jenifer Smith Architects won 2 of the Abel Bestcrete Caribbean Building Awards. One of these projects has also been selected for Phaidon's Atlas of 21st Century Architecture. Currently the practice is involved in the design and supervision of residential, commercial, industrial and educational facilities including most recently the scheme design for the UWI St. Augustine - South Campus.

Jenifer has taught and reviewed projects at both post and undergraduate level at the Bartlett School of Architecture in London England and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, Cambridge Mass. She has taught at the Creative Arts Centre at UWI and participated in the recent UWI symposium on Art Design & Architecture in our Space. She is currently the Vice-President of the Trinidad & Tobago Institute of Architecture.