



John Gay

Founding Principal and Creative Lead | JAQ Corp int, P.C.

John M. Gay, NCARB, AIA, AMAC is the founding principal & creative lead for JAQ Corp int P.C., a national, technical/boutique design studio that fuses art with engineering, utilizing music to understand our clients and inform our design process. The philosophical rules deliver a rhythmic aesthetic, utilizing the form, syncopation, and improvisation found in jazz. Our quest is to allow multi-genres to shape space by analyzing the rhythm, structure, and tambour of music selected by the client to inspire their architectural design.

John is an Alum of the Universities of Illinois & Michigan and completed his MARCH at the Technical University of Vienna. Mr. Gay is an active member of AIA, AMAC, and is NCARB certified. John has creative relationships with Wynton Marsalis, Terri Lyne Carrington, Regina Carter, Stefon Harris, Tia Fuller, Cory Henry & others. He was voted onto the Illinois Environmental Council Education Board in 2020 & ULI's Chicago Decarbonization Task Force in 2023, respectively for his unique way of infusing Sustainable Systems and features into new and historic projects. Despite being licensed and working in six states, Mr. Gay practices and lives in Bronzeville, Chicago, Illinois.

In the past John has taught at Archeworks, University of Illinois, and Columbia College Chicago. Currently he gives back by hiring a summer intern annually & by serving on IEC's Board & the ULI-Decarbonization Chi Taskforce. Additionally, as a designer, John is developing a furniture line, that is inspired by the JAQ philosophy. Finally, John has found a way to triangulate Architecture, Jazz & Philanthropy through cycling. His work creates a syncopatic intersection between the environment, music & architecture, creating Architectonic compositions that positively effect the human environment while reducing the carbon footprint. This platform allows him to reach students of color, showing how much fun we all can have by solving problems technically/artistically.

