
Alumni profile:

Terrence O'Neal

Terrence O'Neal '81 still reflects back on his fifth year studio thesis project — a 100-unit housing project for the elderly — and credits it with giving him an edge over the competition when first establishing himself as a professional.

"The class approached its designs as a real project, with concerns for all the technical aspects of architecture. Prospective employers were always impressed with the depth of the project because most architecture school projects only concentrate on design. Kent prepared me very well for what I do now," O'Neal explained.

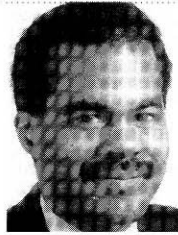
And what he "does now" is serve as principal for Terrence O'Neal Architect in New York City, a firm specializing in renovations of schools, community centers, retail establishments, residences and offices. After receiving his Bachelor of Architecture from Kent, the Cleveland native relocated to New York where he began his career with the IBM Corporation, Ulrich Franzen & Associates, and The Eggers Group, P.C.

O'Neal established his full service firm in 1993 and credits its success to the large percentage of repeat clients: "We're large enough to design projects costing several million dollars, yet small enough to have a key person assigned to each project."

That success was further recognized when the New York Times mentioned him in an extensive article on prominent black architects within the city. The 1994 feature story cited O'Neal's rehabilitation of two schools in Newark (N.J.) and his design of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Community Center.

In addition to overseeing his firm, O'Neal gives back to his profession with his involvement on the New York AIA Board of Directors and the Architectural League of New York. He serves as an adjunct professor of architecture at the New York Institute of Technology and is often called upon to serve as a juror for national and New York City-wide design competitions.

Married to fellow architect, Heather Philip-O'Neal, he unwinds by playing golf, trying to fine-tune his musical mastery of the trumpet, and attending operas.



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