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William Smith Named 2022 Rotch Scholar

The [Rotch Travelling Scholarship](#) jury has announced Oregon-based designer William Smith as the winner of the 2022 Rotch Travelling Scholarship in recognition of his project, *The Forum – the veranda*.

The Rotch Travelling Scholarship, administered by the Boston Society for Architecture (BSA), is an annual two-stage design competition.

“This year’s Rotch Scholar finalists offered sensitive and inventive architectural responses to a set of challenges surrounding access to and the identity of public space,” said Megan Panzano, Assoc. AIA, Rotch Trustee and Secretary. “William’s proposal was most striking to the jury for its use of everyday elements to tie together the complex choreography of building assembly and the assembly of community in the creation of a commons at the center of a triple-decker residential block in Dorchester. We look forward to following the advancement of his architectural work through the support of the Rotch scholarship.”

Both of this year’s preliminary and final briefs challenged applicants with interrelated design projects that honor the legacy of Bell Hooks, the well-known author, activist, professor, and scholar who was an advocate for Black feminism..

“Since my time in school I have held a series of travel-based research interests that I haven't had the means to pursue, and saw the Rotch Scholarship as my chance,” said William. “While it is an intense experience submitting for its two-phase competition, the opportunity for not only financial support, but the freedom to self-direct travel and research as well makes it something worth trying for at least once, or even twice.”

William holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon and a Master of Architecture with distinction from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. In his ongoing work, William experiments with the ways Architecture can take on expanded agencies with environmental and cultural issues in physical form.



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The 2022 runner-up is Ian Miley for his project *Turning the Tables*. Ian holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree with High Honors from the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design where he was awarded the Departmental Citation. Previously, he was the 2020-21 Irving Innovation Fellow at the GSD. He is currently a Design Critic and Research Associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

The 2022 Rotch Travelling Scholarship competition final jury included:

Deborah Garcia, Marion Mahony Emerging Practitioner Fellow, MIT; J Jih AIA, visiting lecturer, MIT and principal, J.Roc Design (brief author); Grace La, professor of Architecture, chair of the Practice Platform and principal, LA DALLMAN; Michelle Laboy, assistant professor of Architecture, Northeastern University and principal, FiELDworkshop Architecture; Megan Panzano, Senior Director of Early Design Education and Lecturer in Architecture, Harvard University GSD, and secretary of the Rotch Travelling Scholarship Board.

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About the Boston Society for Architecture

The Boston Society for Architecture is a partnership between the Boston Society of Architects (BSA/AIA) and the BSA Foundation (Foundation). As a member-led association, the BSA is one of the oldest and largest chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in the United States. Comprised of world-renowned architects, designers, engineers, builders, and other industry professionals, the BSA benefits from a committed membership who are some of the leading thinkers and innovators in professional practice today. The BSA operates as a convener, educator, and action leader to ensure that the power of design is fully employed in creating solutions to the equity and climate crises of our time. For more information, visit architects.org.

About Rotch Travelling Scholarship

Founded in 1883 in honor of Benjamin Smith Rotch, the Rotch Travelling Scholarship is the oldest of its kind in the United States, and its influence has been felt throughout the entire architecture profession. The annual two-stage design competition results in one person, deemed the Rotch Scholar, traveling the world for at least six months studying architecture. For more information, visit rotch.org.