

BEZOS SCHOLARS HELP RE-IMAGINE CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE

Serve as Jurors in Architecture for Humanity's Design Challenge

June 5, 2009, Seattle, WA — From June 5 to July 3, four alumni of the [Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute](#) will be among [60 jurors](#) who will select the winner of Architecture for Humanity's [2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom](#).

This international challenge has paired architects and designers with students and educators to create smart, safe and sustainable learning spaces for today's—and tomorrow's—students and educators. The 2009 competition has drawn tens of thousands of participants, including hundreds of schools from more than 35 countries.

As jury members, Bezos Scholars Program alumni **Rebecca Bass** (2007) of Buffalo, NY; **Jazmin Graves** (2008) of Yonkers, NY; **Jonathan Migliori** (2006) of Providence, RI; and **Hannah Rolston** (2006) of Missoula, MT, joined a remarkable jury of top architects, designers, educational specialists, planners, professors and writers to select the most visionary classroom designs.

"For the past year we've worked to engage architects and designers to partner with schools around the world," explains Cameron Sinclair, co-founder of Architecture for Humanity. "Hundreds of teams from dozens of countries connected with students and teachers to collectively design the classroom of the future. In the process, we learned that the real school experts were those who had to sit in class every day. They know what works and what doesn't."

Sinclair adds, "While we are excited to have big names in education and architecture involved, it is vital to have the true experts have a say in the classrooms for the next generation. It is a true honor to have a number of Bezos Scholars participate and help decide the future of education. We look forward to their strong and independent voices to teach us oldies a thing or two."

What's the great need? According to the World Bank, putting all children in school—worldwide—by 2015 will constitute, collectively, the biggest building project the world has ever undertaken. To meet this goal, some *10 million new classrooms* must be built in more than 100 countries, with millions more existing classrooms in need of repair and refurbishment. Facility design is always the last consideration of education reform, but poor and unhealthy environments greatly impact learning.

"As we enter the fifth year of our Bezos Scholars Program @ the Aspen Institute, we take great pride in our accomplished alumni," says Jackie Bezos, who with her husband Mike, founded the Bezos Family Foundation. "It's extremely gratifying to follow them as they embrace their college years with such dedication, purpose and an urgency to make a difference in our world. This Architecture for Humanity Classroom Challenge seems tailor-made for our inspired and articulate young scholars."

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ABOUT ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMANITY

[Architecture for Humanity](http://www.architectureforhumanity.org) is a nonprofit that seeks architectural solutions to global crises and acts as a conduit between the design community and the world's humanitarian needs. It celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2009.

www.architectureforhumanity.org

ABOUT THE BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION

[The Bezos Family Foundation](http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org) is a private, independent foundation established by Jackie and Mike Bezos, who along with their children and spouses, serve as directors. The Foundation works to strengthen educational opportunities for everyone and cultivate learning as a life-long process that begins in early childhood. *The Bezos Family Foundation is a proud sponsor of Architecture for Humanity's 2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom.*

www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org

ABOUT THE BEZOS SCHOLARS PROGRAM @ THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

[The Bezos Scholars Program @ The Aspen Institute](http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/scholars) was founded in 2005 to nurture the leaders of tomorrow. It is a collaboration between the Bezos Family Foundation and the Aspen Institute. In 2009, the Bezos Family Foundation partnered with the World Science Festival to create the [Bezos Scholars Program @ the World Science Festival](http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/wsf), a science scholarship for high school juniors and science educators in New York City public schools: 5 Students, 5 Educators, 5 Boroughs.

www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/scholars and www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/wsf

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