



NEWS

Caribbean School of Architecture Celebrates Student Excellence and Resilient Design at 37th Annual Exhibition and Awards

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Her Excellency Elida Alcedo de Arosemena (2nd left), Ambassador of the Republic of Panama to Jamaica, tours the exhibition area with Architect Andre Baugh (right), Acting Head, Caribbean School of Architecture, Architect Lisa Stiebel (left) and Architect Omari Wright (2nd right) during the school's 37th Annual Exhibition and Student Awards at UTech, Jamaica's Papine Campus on May 15, 2026.

UTech, Jamaica's Caribbean School of Architecture (CSA) celebrated the creativity, innovation, and academic achievements of its students during the CSA's 37th Annual End-of-Year Exhibition and Student Awards held on Friday, May 15, 2026, at the CSA Courtyard, Papine Campus.

Held under the theme **"Resonance,"** the exhibition explored the relationship between architecture, culture, environment, and community, emphasizing the role of emerging architects in creating designs that respond meaningfully to Caribbean realities. The exhibition featured work from undergraduate and graduate students, showcasing projects that demonstrated experimentation, critical thinking, and an understanding of architecture's social and environmental impact. Students were also awarded for their success in various categories including excellence in model-making, tropical design, urban intervention, drawing, leadership, and service.

Architect Suzette Adams-Rickards, Programme Director, Master of Architecture and Master of Ceremonies for the occasion, explained that resonance in architecture represents harmony between design and its surroundings.

"Meaningful architecture does not impose; it resonates. It listens, it responds and it aligns itself with its environment, its culture and its people," she said.

She noted that the theme was particularly significant in light of the environmental impacts of Hurricane Melissa. She emphasised that climate-responsive, context-driven design is no longer optional but essential and should entail, "creating buildings that do more than stand, but endure, adapt, respect their environment and support communities in both calm and crisis."

A Call for Caribbean-Centered Architecture





Architect David Cuthbert, President of the Jamaican Institute of Architects, and Leslie-Ann Palmer, Architectural Designer at CUT WORKS Architecture Limited, congratulate Nalecia Latchman, recipient of the 2026 CUT WORKS Model-Making Award.

Delivering the keynote address, Architect David Cuthbert, President of the Jamaican Institute of Architects and Registrar of the Architects Registration Board, encouraged students to continue developing architecture rooted in Caribbean realities.

Reflecting on his own professional experience, as Government Architect in Montserrat following volcanic eruptions, he said communities sought spaces that reflected their identity and way of life rather than iconic structures.

"People didn't long for fancy icons or glass boxes. They longed for something familiar. They longed for the accessible. They wanted spaces that resonated with the lives that they lived prior and before the ash fell," he said.

Cuthbert who is also a UTech, Jamaica alumnus, reminded the students that complex architectural problems are not solved by a quick idea, clever captions or a fancy rendering, but through detailed demonstrations, testing and iterations.

He challenged emerging architects to document and celebrate Caribbean examples of excellence.

"We need to create books, magazines, journals that the rest of the world will look and copy for the lessons of how to solve the climate crisis through practical, inexpensive, and ingenious living examples," he stated.

Delivering the vote of thanks on behalf of fellow students, Rochelle Robinson thanked faculty, staff, sponsors and families and urged her peers to continue designing with purpose and responsibility.

"Let us commit to designing with intention. Let us listen before we create and let us produce work that resonates with the Caribbean. Above all, let us commit to resilience, ensuring that our designs protect, uplift, and empower the communities we are privileged to serve," she said.

Students Awards Ceremony

During the awards presentation, second-year student, Nalecia Latchman received the CUT WORK Model-Making Award, sponsored by CUT WORKS Architecture Limited in recognition of her excellence in model-making and investigative design methods.

Adrian Russell received the Space 23.5 and Studio 215 Excellence in Tropical Design Award and a cash prize of \$100,000 for his project which demonstrated a strong response to tropical conditions and Caribbean design principles.

The inaugural Urban Development Corporation (UDC) General Manager's Award for Best Urban Intervention, along with a cash prize of \$100,000, was awarded to Romeo Garrick. The award recognizes students who demonstrate a notable level of creativity, urban sensitivity, and the potential of their design interventions to serve as catalysts for communities.

Nine students also received the Head of School Drawing Awards, sponsored by Pan Jamaica, which recognised architectural drawings that demonstrated strong communication, clarity, innovation and design expression. The recipients were Maia Chopard, Johnathan Crosse, Gifford Whyte, Rochelle Robinson, Matthew Parague, and Donalee Tracy.

O'Carrie Williams, Riley Campbell, and Antonio Bolaño were presented with the newly introduced Head of School Knights Awards for significant contributions to the CSA community beyond academic performance.



Architect Andre Baugh (left), Acting Head, Caribbean School of Architecture, presents Riley Campbell with the Head of School Knights Awards for significant contribution to the CSA community.





John Samuels (left), Chief Architect, Urban Development Corporation, presents the UDC's General Manager's Award for Best Urban Intervention to Romeo Garrick in recognition of his creativity and urban sensitivity.



Architect Andre Baugh (left), Acting Head, Caribbean School of Architecture, presents Rochelle Robinson with the Head of School Drawing Awards during the event.

Student Exhibition



Final Year BA in Architecture student, Adrian Russell (right) explains his 1 in 200 3D model design of Santa Anna, Panama to attendees at the exhibition.



Second year BA in Architecture student, Tara Harris points to her group's rendition of a 3D model of Port Royal in Kingston as she explained the objectives of the creation to attendees at the exhibition.





Maia Choppard, a first year architecture student, points to her drawings titled **"Threshold Backfire"** as she explains the motivation behind the pieces to attendees.



Kay-Lee Rhoden, Fourth-year BA in Architecture student, explains her design proposal, **"Puru Village Museum,"** to visitors.

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