

NOMA2020

# Spatial Shifts Reclaiming Our Cities

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October 14 - 18, 2020

The 48th Annual  
NOMA Conference + Expo  
Oakland Marriott City Center  
1001 Broadway,

the NATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION  
of MINORITY  
ARCHITECTS



Hosted by The San Francisco Chapter of the  
National Organization of Minority Architects  
CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

June Grant, President SFNOMA  
Rod Henmi, NOMA, FAIA  
NOMA2020@SFNOMA.NET



It all started with a **line, form**  
imparted by the mind / A product  
of prodigal particles poked and  
prodded by / Cardinal rule -  
**Form following use**, purpose de-  
termined by vermin / Whose sole  
purpose is earning / Now earth  
gets to turning, as it's known to do  
/ As time passed, wealth amassed  
in the hands of a chosen few  
Who hold it, hoard it, sacrifice  
basic humanity for it / Abhorrent,  
sad story / But there has to be  
more than this same disparaging  
narrative / Ask what's impor-  
tant and claim what's yours it's  
imperative / Actively forcing a  
change? They label you "heretic"  
/ Smash on these notions and  
brave the world of experiment /  
Cracked up in portions, unpaved  
- the road it be perilous / The  
trappings of fortune and fame  
eroding your character / No time  
for arrogance - this is your inheri-  
tance / **Crack that code, argue**  
**for the variance** / Some become  
garrulous - profess until emeritus /  
Others just crumble 'cause they  
had weak undercarriages / When  
the shift came? They quit, like end  
of shift came / This gon' require  
some heavy lifting...**It's by design**

It all started with a **line, form**  
imparted by the mind / A dia-  
mond mine, unpolished, uncut, /  
Under-acknowledged, waiting to  
become unstuck / Held in place  
by the bayonet, bullet and the  
gun butt / Statutorily sanctioned  
but unjust / But you know, life  
grows where the sun touch / Look  
around - you are amongst such  
An unbroken chain of survivors  
and strivers claiming what once  
was / With new problems to pon-  
der and dollars to squander /  
Mantras to holler, and monsters  
to slaughter / It's a lot on this  
plate that won't dissipate / But  
it's not gon' get ate unless you  
participate / See, this a place  
neglected, disrespected, / But in-  
spect what's left in the depths this  
wreckage / And you'll find some-  
thing precious behind oppression  
/ And hopefully see progression  
in your projections / Like watching  
space manifest from your sketches  
/ It's seductive, it's catchy, it's  
infectious / The plan is to elevate  
this section / But first, let the holy  
hand bless it...**It's by design.**

By Design. / Lyrics: Tajai  
Music: UnJust / Photo: Bryan Malik  
Photography / Graphic Design:  
Blink!LAB Architecture