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# BREAKING BARRIERS

**G**abrielle Bullock, principal and director of global diversity at architecture and design firm Perkins+Will, was sworn in as president of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA)'s international board of directors. She is the first African-American woman to preside over the organization. Bullock, who served as vice-president of IIDA's international board from 2017-2018, has made significant contributions to the architecture and design field over the last three decades, tirelessly advocating and creating opportunities for the underrepresented.

"As one of 430, or 0.2 percent, of black female licensed architects in this country, it is my passion—and, I would argue, my moral obligation—to pursue social justice and equity through my work," Bullock said. "I am honored, yet humbled, to serve as president of IIDA's international board. I look forward to using this platform to continue to be a change agent, to advance the value of interior design, and to further our industry's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and engagement."

**LEFT** Bullock is one of 430 black female licensed architects in the United States, only 0.2 percent of the total architects in the country.

Bullock's role as director of global diversity for the world's second-largest architecture and design firm, when announced in 2013, was an industry-first. It quickly set off a wave of similar roles, programs, and initiatives across the design profession designed to support and promote diversity on both a micro and macro level—both in and out of the studio. Since then, Bullock has become a sought-after speaker and educator on issues related to social equity in design, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and physical and mental ability.

Before becoming Perkins+Will's director of global diversity, Bullock was the managing director of the firm's Los Angeles office from 2005 to 2013. She was the first African-American—and first woman—to rise to the position of managing director at the firm. She has served on the IIDA board since 2016. [#IIDA](#)

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