

## DAVID RIFKIND

### BIOGRAPHY

David Rifkind is Professor of Architecture at the University of Florida, where he served as Director of the School of Architecture from 2021 to 2024. Previously he spent 14 years at Florida International University in Miami, where his administrative roles included two years as Associate Dean in the College of Communication, Architecture + the Arts and two years as Interim Director of the Department of Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design. His efforts as an academic leader include increasing enrollment at both universities (with particular success improving demographic diversity), growing external funding for faculty research, and expanding partnerships with non-profit and governmental bodies.

David holds a professional degree in architecture and two graduate degrees in architectural history. He studies urbanism and architecture in Ethiopia from the late nineteenth century to the present. His current book project, *Modern Ethiopia: Architecture, Urbanism, and the Building of a Nation*, incorporates field research in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti with archival research in Ethiopia, Europe and the United States. His work in Ethiopia has been supported by a grant from the Graham Foundation and a residency at the American Academy in Rome as the inaugural Wolfsonian-FIU Affiliated Fellow. David is also leading a group of eight scholars co-writing a book, *Architecture of the African Diaspora in/of the United States*, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant on which he is the principal investigator.

David's doctoral dissertation, *Quadrante and the Politicization of Architectural Discourse in Fascist Italy*, examined the complex interrelationships of modern architecture and state politics in Fascist Italy. The dissertation won the 2011 James Ackerman Prize for Architectural History from the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio in Vicenza, and was subsequently published as *The Battle for Modernism* in 2012 by the CISA Palladio and Marsilio Editori. David has also won best article awards for essays published in the two flagship journals in architectural education and history, the *Journal of Architectural Education* ("Misprision of Precedent: Design as Creative Misreading") and the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* ("Gondar. Architecture and Urbanism for Italy's Fascist Empire"). He curated the 2012 exhibition, *Metropole/Colony: Africa and Italy*, in the Wolfsonian-FIU Teaching Gallery at the Frost Art Museum, and in 2016 developed an exhibition with Professor Dawit Benti (EiABC), *Contemporary Architecture in Ethiopia*, which opened in Addis Ababa, Miami, and Gainesville. In 2014, Ashgate published *A Critical History of Contemporary Architecture*, which David co-edited with Elie G. Haddad; the book was reissued in a second printing and in a Chinese translation.

A practicing designer, David worked to make environmental stewardship and community development the central focus of architectural practice in South Florida. In 2012 he completed a house in South Miami which served as a model of sustainable construction and environmental stewardship. He is currently working on two net-zero energy projects.