

Adrienne S. Ott, LEED AP BD+C, M. Arch'11 Architectural Designer | ECCO Studios Co-founder

Adrienne Ott, M. Arch '11, is an architectural designer at world renowned architect Frank Gehry's firm, <u>Gehry Partners</u>, in Los Angeles, California, and the co-founder of <u>ECCO Studios</u>, a non-profit dedicated to teaching underserved youth architecture and design. While at Gehry Partners, she has assisted in the design of notable projects including Facebook's Menlo Park Campus, Abu Dhabi's Guggenheim Museum, and Colburn's Dance School and Concert Hall.

In her off-time, working at ECCO Studios as a green building instructor and executive director, Adrienne and her colleagues offer studios, workshops and seminars teaching skills in design and construction technology, green building techniques, digital fabrication, and workforce development to aspiring architects.

Adrienne graduated with a Bachelor of Integrative Arts from Penn State University before coming to The Boston Architectural College (BAC) for her Master of Architecture. While at the BAC, Adrienne's thesis advisor David Silverman, B. Arch '94, introduced her to YouthBuild, an international organization that teaches low-income young people construction skills. She went on to work with YouthBuild programs in Chicago and Waukegan, Illinois as a part- and full-time instructor, and volunteered with youth green building programs such as Blacks and Green before moving to Los Angeles, California. In the spring and summer of 2017, Adrienne, a USGBC Certified Green Professional Trainer, completed a part-time teaching position at Compton YouthBuild before graduating with a Post Grad Design of Cities degree from the Southern California Institute of Architects.

When hired at Gehry Partners, Adrienne was unable to continue teaching at Compton YouthBuild because they only offered classes during the week when she was at work. In 2018, Adrienne and her colleague, Dana McKinney, decided to start their own nonprofit, ECCO Studios, to teach underserved youth in the Los Angeles area about architecture and design. Adrienne and her colleagues are excited to see how far ECCO Studios has come, as many of their students have gone on to pursue architecture and interior design degrees while helping to diversify the design field at large.