



After architecture school: Joshua Galloway

By Sarah Cox

Joshua Galloway spent his initial post-graduation energy seeking a Frederick P. Rose Architectural Fellowship, designed to promote architecture and community design in low-income neighborhoods. But when that did not pan out immediately (Galloway was later awarded the fellowship), Galloway, who graduated from the University of Virginia's School of Architecture with a master's degree in 2004, was not deterred. In effect, he created his own fellowship by partnering with Richmond, Virginia's Better Housing Coalition (BHC) to build 80 affordable energy-efficient homes.

The BHC usually helps create affordable housing by buying properties, hiring architects, and then managing the final product. But with Galloway as their first staff architect, they are creating 10 to 15 prototype homes for the 80-home subdivision that will sit 8 miles south of downtown Richmond, Virginia.

With a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design, Galloway can't be kept designing inside all day. Recently, he and a team of volunteers held a community work day to clean up the park surrounding 15 homes that the BHC built in the Carver Neighborhood of Richmond. For the next landscape project, the coalition will install a garden in Winchester Greens, a neighborhood that was just selected as a Blue Ribbon Community by the National Public Health Association because it promotes a healthy lifestyle through sidewalks, parks, a community center, and street trees.



Infill housing in Richmond's Carver neighborhood, by BHC with Walter Parks Architects.

To create a wider impact on home construction, Galloway does consulting work on existing projects and holds training sessions for builders and contractors. These sessions teach techniques for more resource and energy efficient-building and are co-hosted by the BHC and Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), a national nonprofit which provides grants, loans, and equity investments to Community Development Corporations for neighborhood redevelopment.

Galloway may not have high-profile clients or his name on a shingle, but knowing he's making an immediate impact on the living conditions in many people's lives is satisfying to him. "I figured I could go and work for a firm or I could go and work for the government, but if I go and work for affordable housing, I'd be using my skills for a worthy cause."

