



Brito of RKTB joins NY board of Citizens Housing & Planning Council

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Alex Brito

Manhattan, NY As the architecture, planning and design firm RKTB Architects expands its housing expertise across the northeastern United States, one of their lead architects, Alex Brito, AIA, of RKTB is digging his heels into the communities he knows best, in and around New York.

Brito's leadership is so focused that the board of directors of the nonprofit Citizens Housing & Planning Council (CHPC) invited him to join the board this year, an invitation conveyed to Brito by executive director Howard Slatkin following a recommendation from another longtime CHPC board member. A blue-ribbon research and education organization focused on housing and planning policy in the city, CHPC benefits from Brito's growing up in West Harlem and his hands-on involvement and expertise in large, high-profile housing projects and policies in dozens of communities, from his own neighborhood to the Bronx to Crown Heights, Brooklyn and to Astoria, Queens.

"Since 1937, CHPC has been bringing together leaders in architecture, housing, finance, planning, and law to help us address New York City's most pressing housing and neighborhood needs," said Slatkin, who is also on the faculty at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. "Alex Brito will bring his insights to bear on our research and policy work, and continue RKTB's longstanding contributions among the distinguished professionals comprising our board."

Named to the board of directors in January 2025, Brito has been spreading a national message of rising to meet the current U.S. need for six million units of housing, a projected shortfall now causing record homelessness and barriers to affordability and homeownership. He sees his work with CHPC as expanding his impact as a leading architect.

"For nearly 90 years CHPC's mission has been to develop and advance practical public policies to support the housing stock of the city by better understanding New York's most pressing housing and neighborhood needs," said Brito whose firm RKTB won a prestigious housing leadership award last year from the American Institute of Architects - New York Chapter (AIANY). "While the group was 'created to fight slums,' as the newspapers said back then, CHPC became a valuable resource for tackling all of the city's housing and urban development issues."

"CHPC's research and education work has helped to shape housing policy in NYC's neighborhoods," said Brito. A team of expert research staff are led by a diverse board of 90 practitioners in the fields of urban planning, architecture, zoning and land use law, housing finance and development, and community development. Brito notes that his appointment continues a long tradition of RKTB partners serving on the CHPC board, beginning with firm co-founder the late Bernard Rothzeid, FAIA, and subsequently design principal Carmi Bee, FAIA, who recommended Brito.