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chicago



Toni Morrison
Beloved Author On
Hip Hop, Sexuality &
Black Identity

inside

	<p>8 EXECUTIVE DESK ANGELA WASHINGTON EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO VICE PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA-PACIFIC</p>		<p>15 BUSINESS PROFILE JOHN GAY: SHAPING MUSIC</p>		<p>15 BUSINESS PROFILE KEVIN McFALL: LEADING ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT</p>
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15 BUSINESS PROFILE
JOHN GAY:
SHAPING
MUSIC

john gay

Architect, JAQ Corp

the jazz architect

Can jazz form shape? John Gay seems to think so. The Chicago architect's indoctrination to jazz started at an early age, listening to Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie's jazz radio show in Chicago. Eventually his love affair with the music revealed itself in his design work.

It all started while he was listening to Miles Davis and working on a house, as an architect student at the University of Michigan. He noticed that the patterns of the windows he was developing were right on beat to what he was listening to. So, the budding architect immediately took a jazz history class and started writing about how to infuse jazz into architecture.

"Art and engineering is actually architecture," he explains. "There's a connection between music and architecture."

As an architect, he was taught that it was important to combine architecture and engi-

neering. Gay took his education seriously and took the African American art form known as jazz as a way to influence architecture and actually allow his designs to be derived from the rhythm, tambour and texture of the piece of music.

Before working on any project, Gay asks his clients to provide him with their favorite piece of music. "The purpose of the music is to really understand them," he said.

Gay, who's been in the architecture industry since 1988, has designed projects inspired by Cassandra Wilson, James Brown, Charlie Parker, Yolanda Adams and Stevie Wonder. His well-known design projects include a garden at Chicago's Midway Airport and the former Chicago coffee bar, Jazz 'n Java. —*tanisha blakely* 

For more information about JAQ Corp, go to www.jaqcorp.com.

