

Johnny Vincent

CREATOR ARCHITECT

MY JOURNEY

My identity is creole.

My home is the creation process.

Creare: to create, to create oneself.



ROOTS

«Whenever human dignity and freedom are at stake, it involves us, whether we be "black, white or yellow."»

---Frantz Fanon, philosopher, writer, sociologist, psychologist, thinker, psychiatrist and co-founder of the Third World current of thought.

My ancestors' lives were woven into the fabric of Martinique (called Madinina by my compatriots in the French West Indies). They were not Gauls as I was taught in elementary school, but Senegalese and Indian. My grandmother on my father's side was from Pondicherry in southeast India. I remember her as a woman with a soft and enchanting voice, always wearing swinging vine-like white braids that were at once comforting and captivating. My grandfather was descended from freed Senegalese slaves. He was an upright man, proud and black as ebony, who would deftly lead his horse across the small creek of his commune of Lamentin in Martinique (which, in my eyes as a child, was a giant river).

My mother was a proud and fiery chabine: she is my anchor, always inspiring me to go further. My father is the embodiment of peace and quiet strength.

I am very proud of my origins and my mixed-race skin, being half Indian, half black. I lived in the city of Schoelcher, Martinique, then Bobigny (the "nine three"), before moving to Paris (France) and Montreal (Canada). These are just a few of the legs on a journey that has been peppered in equal measure with joys and setbacks as I strive to continue to expand my horizons in the race that is life.

FOREVER CREATING

«Film has a social function [as does architecture]... we're not going to lock people into problems ... we have to speak to their minds, their hearts, their bodies, the fiber of their being. Make them laugh, smile, sigh and cry. All at once.» (translated freely)

---Euzhan Palcy, director, screenwriter, producer who locates her work in the "global collective consciousness".

Inventing is a calling that I embraced from a very young age.

I was born to create. To create other worlds. To incorporate other dimensions into what we in this lowly world call "architecture and urban planning." To surpass what was surpassed and came before. To deconstruct in order to be able to re/create something better.

My realm is the crucible of ideas, the crossroads, the doubts that give birth to new ways of thinking and hence to change. And to wonder.

My goal is metamorphosis.

THE SOURCES OF MY CREATIVE WORK

«Act in your place, think with the world.»

---Édouard Glissant, poet, writer, philosopher and founder of the concepts of «Antillanité», «Whole-World» and «Relation», among others.

My sources of inspiration lie in nature, history, art, spirituality in a broad sense and the universe, but also my deepest intuition.

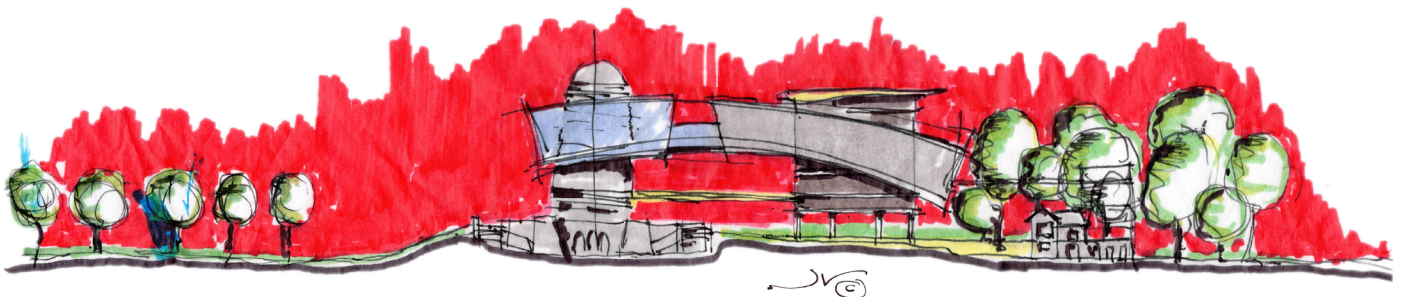
Biomimicry is an endless wellspring of inspiration. Watch an anthill and learn. Look beneath a water lily leaf and find guidance.

The Post-Anthropocene offers us a New World to explore, including new ways of relating between species. Abolish ideas set in stone and you can rebuild with multiple collective consciousnesses from an eco-responsible perspective, ushering in sustainability within a socially harmonious context.

De/construction is a pathway to dreaming and living new realities in unimagined imaginaries. Deconstructing is a means to rebuild something better.

For me, **Jazz** evokes, for me fluidity, breaks, pain, death, thinking, joy, life, elevation and spirituality.

In my view, the sheet is not blank—it never will be. It will always be colourful or adorned with fine or bold black ink. Already, my hand is impatient to lay down the basis of the creations that are bubbling up within me.



EDUCATION

École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette - Paris - France 1990 - 1995 Master of Architecture

Lycée Général et Technologique Jacquard - Paris - France 1988 - 1990 Baccalaureate in Architecture Assistantship.

Lycée Claude Nicolas Ledoux - Pavillons-sous-Bois - France 1985 - 1988 Vocational teaching certificate in civil engineering.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Ordre des architectes du Québec.