



NAAŁKH DEASIS

Intern Architect | [NorthWind Architects](#)

Naalkh's Tlingit name is Kéet Yanáayi. He is Dakl'aweidí from Kéet Hít out of Angoon, where his family originates from. His father is T'akdeintaan from Hoonah, his grandfather is L'uknax.ádi from Yakutat, and his outer shell is Deisheetaan from Angoon. He has been part of the NorthWind Architects team for over six years. He is currently pursuing his Master of Architecture degree through the University of Kansas, working full time at NorthWind when he is home between terms, and part-time remotely while in school.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

[Haines Tlingit Park Pavilion, Haines, Alaska](#)

The Haines Tlingit Park Pavilion was a project funded via the Alaska State Parks with a federal U.S. National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, awarded to the Haines Borough. Designed to look like a Tlingit Long House, with removable sides, the Pavilion is at the southern end of Tlingit Park, facing the water, according to custom. NorthWind Architects led the design with Naalkh providing historical research into traditional clan house design. He was also able to advise on design that would fit the activities of modern Tlingit people provided his cultural lifestyle.

[Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Transitional Housing, Juneau Alaska](#)

Tlingit & Haida's Reentry & Recovery department was awarded \$748,584 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to develop and support non-congregate sheltering programs which will provide sober, supportive housing, workforce development, cultural programming, and other support services for returning citizens. NorthWind aided in designing the transitional housing project to include traditional elements that would provide tribal members in Reentry to feel familiar and foster a positive connection to their culture. Naalkh helped in advocating to the community that the project is beneficial and safe for the area that it is located. He also provided cultural information and suggestions to aid in the design.

[X'aaká Hít \(Point House\) Restoration, Sitka, Alaska](#)

The X'aaká Hít is a reconstruction of a clan house built by the Kiks.adí people of Sitka. The house is a combination of the Craftsman style home and elements of precontact clan houses. Naalkh used his cultural experience to create a meld of modern and traditional layout designs to fit within the form as well as the site. The first floor is open like a traditional clan house to use for gathering and ceremonies with built in casework for at.oow. The upper two floors function as housing for the clan members. The design is focused on the idea that it can be used as traditionally as possible by X'aaká Hít.

[UAS Auke Lake Shoreline Improvement Pavilion Juneau, Alaska](#)

Part of an Auke Lake shoreline improvement project, this pavilion is a contemporary interpretation of Tlingit form line in a sculptural form. Exterior skin of Corten steel with a cedar interior. The pavilion design was purposefully expressing the building as aesthetic movement. NorthWind reworked the project after its initial design phase to include the local Tlingit elders since the project was going to be placed on Auke Lake in Áak'w Kwáan. Naalkh led the design taking the abstract style of formline, to create a space that is inclusive.

Naalkh is adamant about projects that involve the Tlingit culture and Indigenous culture more broadly hoping that his work will help the culture grow and improve the lives of native families everywhere. He is planning to work on design focused projects that help materialize Indigenous culture in diverse ways in the community and is interested in pursuing sustainable tribal housing that aligns with tribal lifestyles. This includes helping to reduce carbon footprints, taking advantage of solar opportunities, and designing homes that work for large families and subsistence lifestyles.

While at the University of Kansas, Naalkh has been awarded two research awards. The first being the KU undergraduate Research Award, and the other being the McNair's Scholars Award. Naalkh will use these opportunities to research Tlingit architecture and its developments from before contact into the modern day.

Naalkh recently presented an inspired discussion on Tlingit community structure, past, present, and potential future at the 2023 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Regional conference in Juneau. His insights were particularly astute and forward-thinking with regards to Indigenous people's values and the architect's role as steward of the community through the built environment.