

ByDESIGN

An Online Journal of Exceptional Achievement

Antonio Ismael Risianto

Integrating Design, Finance,
and Community Building
in the "Kampungs"
of Indonesia

**Becoming a Design
Professional**
Genuine Service - or, It's Not
All about You

**AIA Latinos in
Architecture Committee**
Fosters Diverse Relationships
With Architecture Professionals

VOLUME 9 SUMMER AUGUST 2013

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Top Row: Roy Hernandez, Oswaldo Lopez, Charles Higuera

Middle Row: Lauren Hernandez, Diana Marques, Michael Hernandez

Bottom Row: Iara Bachmann, Laura Arreola, Susan Hagstrom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"SO EAST LOS": New Artwork By Ramon Ramirez & Jose Ramirez

Prominent Southern California artist, educator, designer and CED/CASAalumni Ramon Ramirez, will be part of a two-man exhibit at Ave 50 Studio this September

Avenue 50 Studio is proud to present SO EAST LOS, an exhibition by two LA-based artists; Jose Ramirez and Ramon Ramirez. Their art is deeply rooted in the urban fabric of Los Angeles. Between the two artists, they hold five degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

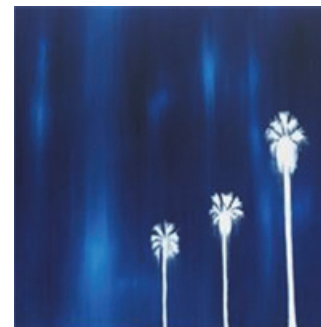
To commemorate this achievement, Avenue 50 Studio is holding a special reception for CAL alumni on Friday 13 September 2013 from 6-8pm. A special 10% discount will be given to CAL alumni on art purchases on that night only.

Please join us to meet the artists and explore our wonderful city through their eyes.



MY CALIFORNIA QUEEN
48" x 36" oil on canvas 2013

TOGETHER WE CRY
48" x 72" oil on canvas 2013



THEY CAME TO WATCH US FALL
48" x 48" oil on canvas 2013

For more information contact:
Kathy Gallegos, Gallery Director
131 N. Avenue 50
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www.avenue50studio.org
323.258.1435

Editor's Note: Ramon Ramirez, BA Arch '93 UC Berkeley, MA Arch '97 UC Berkeley, was featured in Volume 3 of ByDESIGN, DEC 2011.

Making a Difference Then, Now and Tomorrow

By Roy R. Hernandez



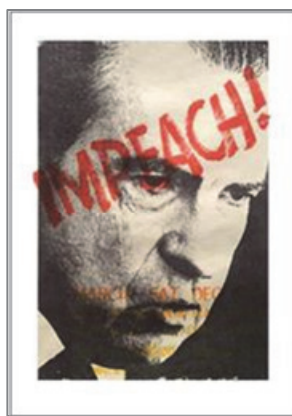
Lao Tzu, the sixth century B.C. philosopher, wrote the following in one of his paradoxical poems: "Going means going far, and going far means returning." He was reportedly 80 years old when he wrote that; he had a long life to observe and contemplate the social, political and philosophical conditions of life during turbulent times.

Last weekend I opened a time capsule: a treasure trove of posters / documents I collected from my first day at UC Berkeley in September 1972 to my last day in June 1978. The "capsule" contained several hundred political posters, untouched for 35 years.

As my college age daughter and I looked through them, many highlighted the social and political struggles of those days, for instance: the Vietnam anti-war movement, Richard Nixon, the lack of access to education for minorities, high unemployment rates for people of color, and so on. Observing the activism reflected in the posters (some of which I had designed) my daughter asked: "Did any of those efforts make a difference? Many of those issues are still around today."

Last weekend was also the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech; cable news stations provided non-stop coverage of the event in Washington. Like my daughter, commentators noting persistent challenges from the past posed the same questions: "Have things changed? Is the "Dream" still alive?" Five decades later, unemployment rates for people of color are disproportionately high, income disparities are wider between the middle class and affluent, and the prohibitive cost of a higher education (and student debt) is more acute.

My response to my daughter's question was: while many challenges persist, the efforts of the 60s / 70s most definitely made a difference: Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, and many others made a difference in significant and historic ways. However, challenges remain and will continue to exist. Realizing the nation's pledge "with liberty and justice for all" is a work in progress and a process - not an event.



"Impeach" (1973) poster; Richard Nixon would eventually resign from office.



Angela Davis (1976) once on the FBI's Most Wanted list is now a Prof. Emerita at UC Santa Cruz.

In 1976 three sophomores at UC Berkeley started Raza Day, a recruitment program that bussed minority students from throughout California to UC Berkeley for a day of workshops on pursuing a college education. A testament to its effectiveness, Raza Day was adopted by many major universities across the US, **37 years later it continues making a difference today.**

In the College of Environmental Design (CED), a group of Latino students started CASA in 1971. In 1978, CASA established the Community Design Outreach Program (CDOP), a formal CED funded effort to recruit students of color and establish an area of study referred to as Community Design. **Forty-two years later**, CASA is more viable than ever. (This e-zine is published by three CASA members who wrote the original CDOP proposal.)

This issue of ByDESIGN illustrates how "doers" are making a difference. The cover story on Antonio Risianto (a Berkeley/MIT/CASA Alumni) "returned" to his community to make a difference by practicing Community Building in Indonesia. Iara Bachmann and Laura Arreola are making a difference establishing the San Francisco AIA Latinos in Architecture Committee. The support lent by Charles Higuera, FAIA and Susan Hagstrom, CED Office of Undergraduate Advising, in support of our most talented students will impact the future as these brilliant minds graduate and make contributions to society. And the CED Alumni of Color also "returned" to CED to support those that will design the built environment of tomorrow.

Today education continues to be a compelling imperative and a prerequisite to address two key societal problems: jobs and income disparities. It also provides the tools to make a difference. When we leave our communities to "go" to college, upon graduation, we often "go far" in our careers (figuratively and literally). After gaining some perspective, and recognizing the inequities in society, we have a moral responsibility to "return" to "do" and give back. Maybe this is what Lao Tzu was talking about.



Raza Day was started by Sergio Hernandez, Maria Ceceña and Diane Bosquez in 1976. It was copied at major universities throughout the US and continues to this day! (© 1977 Roy Hernandez)



CASA application / booklet for CED funding that established the Community Design Outreach Program (1978) focusing on recruitment and Community Design at CED.

Braulio Soto, Urbana-Champaign MA Arch Program

By Diana B. Marquez, Staff Writer



I met Braulio Soto in 2004 when we were both undergraduates in the College of Environmental Design. Both of us doing long nights at Wurster Hall, CASA Board meetings and the occasional party.

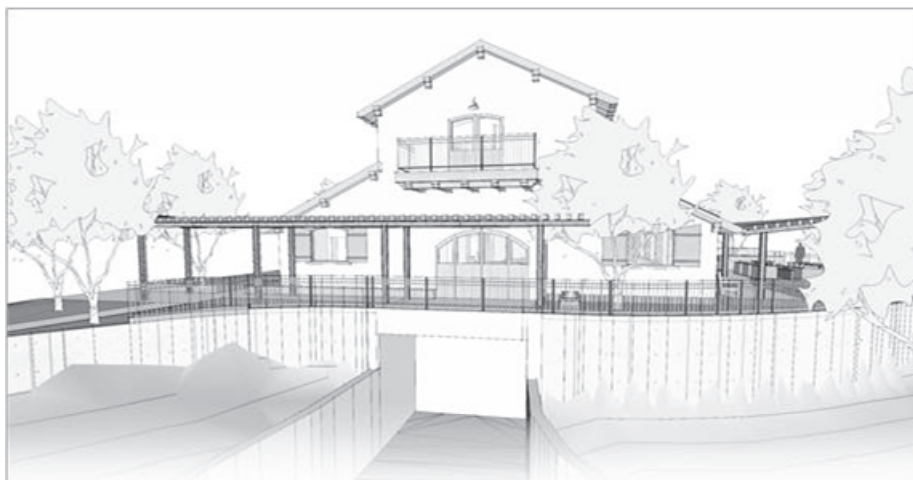
After our graduation in 2006, we went our separate ways. Since then, Braulio graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, where he received his Masters of Architecture degree on 2012. Today, Braulio is back in California.



After Berkeley, Braulio worked for a couple of years, during which he prepared his Graduate School applications. "I mostly looked at the published school rankings, and then I applied to most of the top programs". He applied while working full-time, which he explained is no easy task. "I worked during the day, then came home after and worked on my applications. It was very tough, but I knew it was worth it".

When the acceptance letters came, he made his decision based mostly on cost. He said that the University of Illinois was a top program and offered an acceptable financial package to him.

Regarding the experience, Braulio commented on the challenges of attending the University of Illinois: "Coming from a place like California, it is easy to forget how small a small town can be. After a while, it can get a bit too slow". Braulio underestimated the impact that the small town environment would have on his life. There wasn't a lot of opportunities to interact with people outside of the program, and the number of Latinos and other minorities in his program was almost zero. As a response to this, he enrolled in as many courses as possible which offered field studies. "I took a lot of trips to Chicago. Also many of my studios took me outside of the country. I took advantage of all of them".



Current Project: Trattore Winery, Tasting Room & Offices, Geyserville, CA

The biggest advantage of the program was the academics; "Definitely the technical emphasis of the entire curriculum" - believes Braulio. "In this program, you get classes on all different construction materials and methods. It was interesting and eye-opening to explore and learn about the different materials' applications from some of the country's top researchers." It helped him see how many Architects make the mistake of choosing materials and methods solely on the mere fact that that is what they have always used.

When asked what he would do differently, Braulio responded that he would do a lot more research prior to selecting a program. He would contact the admissions offices as well as each University department before applying. He also recommended doing as he did once enrolled: Taking advantage of as many traveling opportunities as a program will allow.

In my opinion, it seems that the rigorous technical emphasis of the University of Illinois' program fit Braulio perfectly.

It allowed him to grow in the areas that he had not had a great chance to develop in Berkeley. It also allowed him to understand the limitations as well as the opportunities provided by a small town.



Laser cut model: 3D physical construct of a port city of the post-global warming future where water levels have destroyed much of the dry land.



ZipBlock Housing: a transit oriented development maximizing social networks and urban resources while minimizing the private car load on transportation systems.

“ I worked during the day, then came home after and worked on my applications. It was very tough, but I knew it was worth it. ”

Urbana provided the incentive to find his own resources in order to make Urbana his home. Of course, not his home like Wurster hall was his home back in 2004, but as a true Cal Bear, he came through with flying colors.

Braulio currently resides in Berkeley, CA and encourages anyone considering a Graduate Program to contact him for advice. brauliooster@gmail.com

COVER STORY: Antonio Ismael Risianto, IAI

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August 30, 2013

Integrating Design, Finance, and Community Building in the "Kampungs" of Indonesia

By D. Oswaldo Lopez, AIA



The practice of planning and architecture in response to global problems such as financial poverty, climate change, and food shortages is what Antonio Risianto and Triaco - 3CoArch & Associates (Sanur, Bali) are dedicated to solving.

Antonio's firm focuses on striking a balance as a "commercial" architect and urban planning firm in solving poverty and difficult environmental conditions in Asia. In addition, he is also committed to re-thinking the direction of architectural education in collaboration with the National University of Singapore. His brainchild program entitled "Barefoot Architects: a Different Architect for a Different World," provides students the opportunity to participate on rural/urban planning and building projects for neglected communities throughout the Asian continent.

The following provides an insight into this international award winning architect and his devotion to participatory design, planning and innovative community building.



How did CASA and CED prepare you for the practice of design and architecture?

CASA was one of the most memorable moments in my life. Together as a student group, we struggled like 17 to 25 samurai warriors and felt like family living on the same "life boat". We had fun while studying hard but we all had a sense of purpose. At the time, our interest was to go back to work in our communities, it was a struggle, but important to us. We found a home for our efforts in our "community design courses" with Professors Martin Del Campo, Ken Simmons, and Sara Ishikawa. We developed confidence doing actual work in the community. Fellow classmates Bob Esparza, Julio Martinez, and



Balikpapan Condominium, Bali, Indonesia

Jose Gutierrez became our older brothers. However beyond school and our community design studies we also had fun going to dance parties. Those were good times.

You graduated with advanced degrees from such prestigious design schools in the United States as UC Berkeley and MIT. How did you end up practicing architecture in Bali?

No one knows what your fate will be. At the time I was thinking of living in Mexico but somehow I ended up in Indonesia. Post Berkeley I went to MIT where I received a scholarship studying "Human Settlement in Developing Countries" and "Development and the Poor". While at MIT, I also became more involved with my Indonesian background. I also met my wife there who is Indonesian. During this period I got an award to do research on "Village Developments and Appropriate Technology". So I ended up studying Villages in Bali, Java, and North Celebes. I also lived there for a year witnessing the poverty. Bali was where I did my research on the subject but all during this time I told myself, "I will be back on this island someday". So here I am in Bali my home and base.

Did you practice architecture in the US prior to moving to Bali? If so, what would you say is the biggest difference between the two countries?



Mexicali Self Help Housing: CED, UC Berkeley: *Architecture Students Learning by Doing Program, the Univ. of California, Berkeley and the Universidad of Baja California, led by Prof. Christopher Alexander, Howard Davis, Julio Martinez. Appropriate Technology Research, Participatory Cluster and House Design; Hands on Construction and Self Help Housing Operation Management.*

COVER STORY: Antonio Ismael Risianto

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Continued

I worked for Professor Joe Esherick in San Francisco then with HOK and also for the Mission Area Model Cities program in the Oakland Development Office where I worked in the Fruitvale and Chinatown districts. I also worked for Asian Neighborhood Design working in the Asian, Black, and Filipino communities.

The biggest difference working in Indonesia from that of the United States is the lack of modern building codes and regulations. In Indonesia, there is more leeway but too few enforcement procedures to assure safe conditions.

What obstacles have you experienced in your career; how did you overcome them?

I am not sure if they are obstacles or challenges. I see them more as challenges. I am not the son of a military general, or a political leader, or the son of a wealthy owner of a major commercial conglomerate who had privileges in life. I think being honest, fair and doing the hard work are the fundamentals of developing opportunities in seeking projects that are important to you. Developing trust through your honesty allows people in turn wanting to help or do projects with you.

Your website describes your firm as a "commercial" architectural and urban planning firm that aims to participate on social poverty alleviation and environmental improvement. Can you describe the work of Triaco 3 CoArch & Associates?

Most of our projects focus on issues concerning the "kampung" environments of the countries we practice in. Some would refer to them as "slum" environments.

Much of the work is experimental. But we have developed a trust with governments, the private sector, and the communities in which we work.

Our first project was a redevelopment of squatter shops and housing on city streets consisting of inhabitants who were there for many years. We developed a system of "renewal" without evictions, integrating design, finance, institutional change, and a community building process. By using the term Participatory Design and Planning we organized the squatters and street peddlers and did so in creating a positive situation for the local community, private sector and government.

You refer to "Social Architecture" on your website; can you elaborate on what that means?

Citra Niaga Mixed Use Development, Samarinda, East Borneo

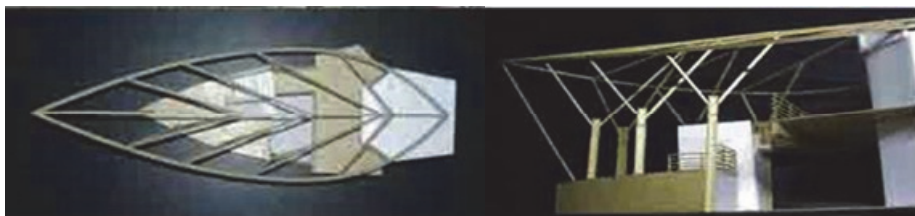
Before: Slums in East Borneo



After: Urban Redevelopment without Evictions



“ Most of our projects focus on issues concerning the slum environments of the countries we practice in. ”



ON THE COVER: Otto Campus, Rancamaya, Bogor - Classroom, Student Center, Canteen, Dormitory, Multi Function Hall. Total 4600 m2 Gross Area.

COVER STORY: Antonio Ismael Risianto

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Continued

The above example is what I would term a "Social Architecture" project. My question as an architect and urban planner is, can we as Architects and Planners do something for the poor? Architecture is usually a profession that caters to the financial and political interests. But it is also a profession that deals with spatial environment so how do you integrate the social art of convincing the community to strive for the right to live in suitable urban settings and not be subjected to displacement due to pure economics.

This condition is more apparent in Indonesian Cities where often 30% of the inhabitants are destitute.

In Indonesia, a vicious condition occurs where the rural sector is squeezed by large corporations for land use control for food plantations and mining. Rural peasants are then pushed to survive in the cities. Once in the cities, they have no access to suitable dwellings so they live under bridges, along river banks, and in some cases cemeteries that fester horrible conditions. So what is created is an unbalanced development process. So ultimately who are we building cities for and for what purpose?

Is there a role planners and architects can play in working with destitute communities to enhance the built environment in which they live?

There are all of things Planners and Architects can do spatially to strike the right balance. Green open space, public spaces, and lanes for the bicycle verses the car are just a quick example. Economically, viable spaces for "street peddlers" who need small shops verses a big mall comes to mind. In Bali, the land and beaches are now being devoted to large hotels. My question is why can't we build "community hotels" so indigenous populations can still be the owners and share the benefits of the developments, rather than being subjected to low paid work without land. This is a global issue that also happens in Latin America and other countries of the world. So my efforts are towards the question of how we can design spaces for the poor in order for them to survive.

At CED you had a strong commitment to recruit students from low income communities. You've continued this effort. Can you talk about about your "Teaching the Knowledge" and "Student Volunteers-Learning by Doing" programs?

Student Volunteers-Learning by Doing is where students can come and experience projects that address issues concerning the poor while they are in school. This is a model I adopted during my involvement with CASA at CED. For instance as CASA students we went to Mexicali, Mexico to assist land squatters in designing and building their own homes and settlements. We did this work with Professor Christopher Alexander and Julio Martinez and other CASA members. We were "hands on" in those days and it also gave me what I would term "life preparation tools". I learned using my heart as well as learning the skill of social team work. That feeling of worth is something I never forgot and I continue to practice it with the next generation of students whenever I can.

In my firm, we have a program known as "Barefoot Architects", this allows students to volunteer within the many relief entities and organizations in assisting Tsunami victims get back to their normal lives.

What advice would you give to design graduates in planning and architecture?

“... be conscious of whatever you do so that we don't destroy mother earth or each other. Better yet, if you have a chance to help out, do it!”

My personal message is one that I believe transcends to all professions and that message is "don't forget the other side of life". Be conscious of whatever you do so that we don't destroy mother earth or each other. Better yet, if you have a chance to help out, do it!



"Squatters" Community-based Housing: 80% of the houses are built by the people themselves. Became UNDP Best Practice and Indonesian Development Model and was visited by the 2nd President of Indonesia, Mr. Gus Dur (2000).

About Antonio I. Risianto: Principal, Triaco - 3CoArch & Associates: M. Arch, University of California, Berkeley, 1976, Urban Design & Community Development, Post Master Advanced Studies Program, MIT, 1981, "Human Settlement Design for Developing Countries," green.triaco@gmail.com / antoniodesk2011@gmail.com Jl. Batursari No.99 Sanur, Bali, Indonesia Office +62 361 285 476 / Mobile: +62 81 139 5140

Community / Commercial Design & Barefoot Architects

By Roy R. Hernández



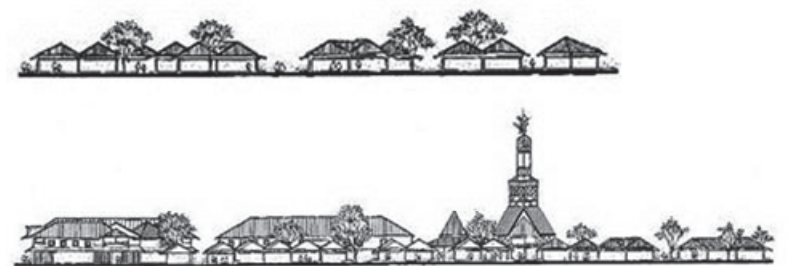
As stated in the firm's website, Antonio Risianto and 3CoArch & Associates' work spans an impressive range of projects including urban planning, community building and commercial design, proving that a commitment to housing the poor

and exceptional commercial architecture are not mutually exclusive. The photos below provide a small, yet impressive, glimpse of 3CoArch's body of work, including Antonio's work with students at the National University of Singapore, known as the *barefoot architects*.

Community / Regional Planning

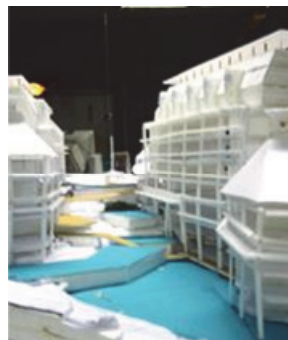
Citra Niaga Mixed Use Development: Samarinda, East Borneo

ICOMOS: Urban Heritage Best Practices in Indonesia & Urban Future: Best Practices in the Third World - Community Land Consolidation Project 250 families: (ADB) Asian Development Bank model.



Commercial Architecture

- C1: Singapore View Towers, Batam 220 Unit Apartment / 3 Towers, 20,115 m2 Gross Area: Fitness, Café, Meeting Rooms, Office, Pool (2002)
- C2: Shopping Mall, Bumi Serpong Damai Newtown: 28,000 m2 gross
- C3: Gitgit Magic Hotel: 6 Bedrooms. 12 Unit Villas, Gitgit Waterfall, BALI.
- C4: Baikpapan Plaza 15,000 m2 Commercial Shopping Mall (1996)



C1



C2



C3



C4

Residential Architecture

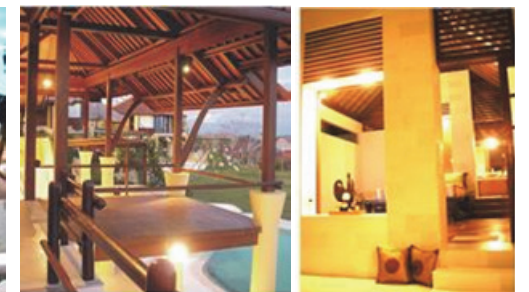
- R1: Villa Tiga Bidadari 3 Villas, Ungasan, BALI.
- R2: Kampong Perak 12 Villas, Suwung - BALI (2003)
- R3: Villa Tiga Bidadari (Completed 1997)
- R4: Villa La Risaia, Umalas, Bali (Completed 2000)



R1



R2



R3

R4

Educational Programs

- E1 Student Barefoot Architects working on a urban design project..
- E2 Community Participatory Planning, Lamreh, Aceh, 2006
- E3 Antonio teaching at the National University of Singapore) 2004: Eco Village, Disaster Housing, Architecture for the Poor



E1



E2



E3

ABOUT ANTONIO RISIANTO:

- Member of IAI (Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia / Indonesian Institute of Architects).
- AGCA California State License No.413561.
- Green Building Council, Bali
- Member City Council / Anggota Dewan Kota Samarinda
- Forkimnas/ForkimJa: Multi Stake Holders Forum for Humane Squatter Settlement Solutions
- Asian Coalition Community Architects: Asian Housing for the Poor
- Asian Coalition for Housing Rights.
- Sustainable Urban Development, Directorate of Spatial Planning, Ministry Public Works.
- AKPPI: Indonesian Development Consultants Assoc., Head Representative of Bali1998-2001

AWARDS:

- Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Geneva, Switzerland,
- IAI Award: Best Indonesian Architect Award (Indonesian Institute of Architect)
- Albert Bemis Award: MIT- Harvard Architecture - Planning Laboratory Field Research Competition Award: "Village Appropriate Technology", Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ALCOA Design Award: University of California, Berkeley Department of Architecture Design Student Award.
- ARCASIA Award Nomination, Singapore
- International Habitat Conference I: United Nations Center Human Settlements Self Help Housing - Site and Vancouver, Canada Services Competition, Tondo, Manila, the Philippines (Published).
- Albert Fulbright Nomination: European Travel Award - UC Berkeley CUM LAUDE Honors
- Habitat Conference II: Selected Best Practices (Indonesia): Co-Housing Development, Indonesian NGO Representatives, Istanbul, Turkey.

Genuine Service - or, It's Not All about You

By Charles A. Higuera, FAIA



Design professionals typically have considerable interaction with others to provide their service - and architects interact with the most others; it is an unarguable fact that interaction with others demands a particular sensibility - a deep interest in what matters to them.

So much of our training and development regards personal abilities - those attributes that inform our interest and ever continuing pursuit of the mastery of our skill-set. It is for the most part, a self-centered focus - What is MY perspective? How should I approach the problem? This orientation can breed a conceit, even an arrogance that WE have the answers - that we are the best and singular intellectual authors of the solution.

Architecture is sometimes described as a combination of both art and business, I would suggest that alongside these 2 descriptors must also be humanism. We are taught (I hope) that architecture is a social art - that it help defines the built environment. And we know that within these observations are the people ostensibly served - the others - but how truly inclined are we to serving them?

Modern architecture has had some notorious failures in this regard, most notably in the post WWII construction of high density urban housing, founded upon theoretical constructs that had nothing to do with what impact they'd have on the life of the people who'd reside in these buildings.



“ But what is always true is that the design professional must approach the context with a genuine interest in seeking the essential facts and truths as they are defined by the others. ”

Such were the negative results from this imposition of a deeply flawed solution that most of these buildings have been (or will be) demolished, with the balance either dramatically redesigned or re-purposed.

This experience has greatly humbled the design profession to be more responsible and responsive to the significance of what we do in service to the human condition.

We need to balance our natural instincts to bias toward our unique perspective with a deep resolve to consider and involve the others - clients as well as those most likely to be affected by what we propose to do.

It is also said of architecture that it is a political act. In this regard, it is folly to fail to understand how the popular opinion and will, figures into the calculus of who gets to build what. In some places the dynamic is much more layered and complex, sometimes even byzantine.

But what is always true is that the design professional must approach the context with a genuine interest in seeking the essential facts and truths as they are defined by the others. How to succeed then, or at least enhance the possibility of success? A few tips when engaging others:

- Listen - carefully
- Humble yourself
- Entertain possibilities
- Resist solution
- Inquire / seek clarity
- Summarize to confirm
- Deliver!

“ Architecture is sometimes described as a combination of both art and business, I would suggest that alongside these 2 descriptors must also be humanism. ”



A historic photo of architects standing around a large housing development model



The infamous Pruitt-Igoe public housing development in St. Louis, Mo.



A David Baker Architect housing project in San Francisco

AIA Latinos in Architecture Committee Fosters Diverse Relationships with Architecture Professionals

By Lara Bachmann and Laura Arreola



The Latinos in Architecture Committee (LiA) of the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was established to serve and support the local community, strengthen networks between design professionals and enrich Bay Area architecture practices by embracing diverse cultural views through the fostering of educational, professional and community-oriented programs.

The five-panel national jury was most impressed with LiA's variety of program events; its three-pronged focus on education, the community, and the profession; and the relative ease that its initiatives could be duplicated across the country.



Three years ago, two young AIA members Yesenia Blandon and Jimmy Castellanos, motivated to make a difference and encouraged by their employer Perkins+Will, founded the first AIA Dallas' Latinos in Architecture Committee. LiA was conceived in February 2010 with the mission of strengthening relationships between Hispanic architects within the community, and inspiring Hispanic students to consider a career in architecture.

LiA's most recent chapter, LiA SF, was launched and developed by Lara Bachmann of Gino Castano and Laura Arreola, of Perkins+Will. The San Francisco chapter became an official committee of the AIA San Francisco chapter in March 2013.

The first Hispanic design networking organization in the country, LiA now has over 400 members in three established chapters: Dallas, Austin and, most recently, San Francisco. The AIA San Diego Chapter also participates in many LIA initiatives.

“ The AIA named the Latinos in Architecture Dallas chapter recipient of the 2012 Diversity Recognition Program. ”

The AIA named the Latinos in Architecture Dallas chapter recipient of the 2012 Diversity Recognition Program.

The first professional mixer was hosted at Perkins+Will San Francisco on July 11, 2013, and proved to be a huge success, with approximately 50 people from the architecture and design community in attendance.

During the few months since its inception, the committee has actively supported educational and professional programs. One program is "From an Architect's Bookshelf," a book drive and library development program that seeks to motivate high school students to stay in school and pursue a college education by collecting and donating architectural design books to local high schools. Through volunteer bookshelf leaders in architectural offices throughout the Bay Area, LiA has successfully broadened the program's reach. The book drive is currently underway and will continue through mid-September.



Attendees enjoy food, refreshments and good conversation at the professional mixer.



Students browse through books on architecture and design donated by professionals.

AIA Latinos in Architecture Committee Fosters Diverse Relationships with Architecture Professionals

Continued

In addition to the education program, LiA is collaborating with the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (SFNOMA) and AIA San Francisco to host a lecture by renowned Latino architect Teddy Cruz on September 19 as part of its annual Architecture and the City Festival in conjunction with LiA's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations for 2013.



As LiA SF continues to grow, the chapter anticipates developing additional programs with the goal of being a positive influence on education, the local community, and the design profession in San Francisco and the Bay Area.



About the Authors

Iara Bachmann works at Gino Castano in San Francisco. She received a Master in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas in 2005, a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas in 2003, She also studied at the École des Arts Décoratifs, Interior Architecture, Geneva, Switzerland in 2000. Iara may be contacted at to iara@iarabachmann.com.

Laura Arreola works at Perkins+Will, San Francisco with the title of ARCH I. She received a Bachelor of Architecture from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2012 with a concentration in digital fabrication. Laura may be reached at laurarreola@gmail.com.

SIDEBAR

LiA San Francisco Proposal

Objective:

The bay area is in need of an organization that fosters Latino and minority relationships with architecture professionals and local the community. LiA will help fill this void by creating a network of professionals which will include: architects, structural engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, educators, students, and the community.

Mission:

The mission of the Latinos in Architecture Committee is to serve and support our local communities, strengthen relationships and networks between professionals in the field of architecture, and promote their projects in our community. We will also work to be a positive influence for students aspiring to become architects, by finding opportunities to volunteer and provide guidance, expertise and mentoring programs.

LiA's primary focus is based on the following components:

1. Professional Network

Networking: A happy hour to promote networking between professionals in the architecture field (architects, structural engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, educators, students, and the community) through a yearly happy hour hosted at a local architecture firm.

Exhibitions: National Hispanic Heritage Month in September. The exhibition recognizes local Hispanic architects and designers and their participation and responsibility as roles models for future practitioners.

Lectures: Recognize practitioners through lecture series in collaboration with local colleges, universities, and other institutions.

Collaboration: Extend our hand to other AIA chapters to developed future LiA committees with the same principles and goals.

2. Education

From an Architect's Bookshelf: The launch of a book donation / library development program that would provide local high schools with books, journals and monographs that are essential to teach and learn architecture but too costly for most schools or scholars to afford. The program is envisioned as a library development project, with all the material donated through the LiA community, to local high schools.

This program runs from July through September.

Architecture 101: Host architecture workshops at elementary schools to inspire students to study architecture. The workshop can focus on different aspects of architecture such as drafting, design process, urbanism and neighborhood development.

3. Community Outreach

Volunteering: Through active participation on volunteering programs. LiA collaborates with different organizations in the Bay area to serve as facilitators for the community. Example from LiA in Dallas: West Dallas Design Charrettes: LiA helped keep the community involve of La Bajada neighborhood during important urban developments taking place in their area, informed them and helped them to make decision which helped to generate a smooth and organic development of their community.

Omar Ramirez Joins CED as Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator, Major Adviser, and Undergraduate Diversity Officer

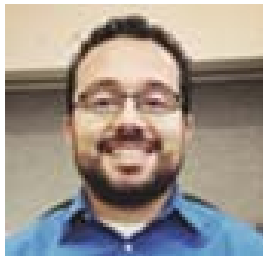
By Susan Janan Hagstrom



Omar Ramirez has joined the College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley. He is assuming the position vacated by Donna Vivar and will wear many hats in CED: Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator, Major Adviser, and Undergraduate Diversity Officer.

Omar comes to CED with a wealth of expertise working with students at UC Berkeley. Some of his recent experiences include:

- Admissions Advisor, Diversity Coordinator, Lead Veteran Student Advocate and Transfer Specialist at the UC Berkeley Office of Undergraduate Admissions.
- Coordinator of Academic Preparation Programs and Services in the Transfer, Re-entry, and Student Parent Center
- Coordinator of the Cal Summer Experience (college prep program for prospective students)
- Coordinator of the Starting Point Mentorship Program, matching current student mentors to prospective transfer students
- Interim Director of the Chicana/Latino Academic Student Development Office
- Member, Cal Veterans Student Services Team
- Possessing a stellar reputation on campus, Omar is skilled at counseling, advising, and mentoring students towards a successful educational experience at Berkeley.



The following is a conversation with Omar.

What was your role as the Interim Director of the Chicana/Latino Academic Student Development Office?

I counseled and advocated for undergraduate students through the process of accessing resources, navigating systems, and thriving as undergraduate scholars. Advocated for the needs of first-year and continuing students in the office of Financial Aid, Registrar, and Admissions. I also ensured that our intern program of 50 Chicana/Latino students met their personal and academic goals during the semester, and facilitated a university transition course for first-year undergraduate students and leadership seminar for continuing students.

About the Author

Susan Hagstrom is the Director of Office of Undergraduate Advising at the College of Environmental Design, 250 Wurster Hall. Susan has been a fervent supporter of CASAalumni, and a key participant of the CASAalumni scholarship program. She can be reached at 510.642.0408 or at hagstrom@berkeley.edu.

Why did you decide to take your talents to the College of Environmental Design?

There are many reasons that CED appealed to me. First, CED is home to the highest percentage of historically underrepresented minority students and first generation college students. As a first generation college student myself, I understand the important role a counselor and adviser plays in the development of students, so my goal is to always be of assistance to students as they accomplish their personal, academic, and career goals.

I was also very excited to see the areas of outreach, academic advising, and diversity efforts in one position within an academic department. I have experience in all three of these areas but this is the first department that has had the vision to include all of these into a professional staff position. The benefits of this more holistic approach is that these components enrich the other and in the end the students benefit from having an adviser who is able to assist them as prospective students all the way through graduation. I believe that CED has an opportunity to create nation-wide model for outreach and retention.

Have you given some thought on what activities you might implement at CED to help promote Diversity?

“ I would like to further develop a focus on students from first-generation college and low-income communities. ”

During my tenure at CED I will strive to create accessibility and opportunity for students to the College Of Environmental Design. In the areas of outreach and yield I would like to further develop a focus on students from first-generation college and low-income communities.

To begin to meet this goal, we will target parents and families through schools and community-based organizations to provide informational workshops that highlight CED programs and the amazing careers alumni pursue after earning their degree.

We will also work to build direct relationships with high school and community college counselors from lower-resourced schools. Because diversity efforts are not limited to outreach and yield, I look forward to developing additional opportunities and programs that will promote diversity among current students as well.

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