ACSA Distinguished Professor

2015-2016 Winner Submission Materials

FRANCISCO J. RODRIGUEZ-SUAREZ Universidad De Puerto Rico

2015 ACSA DP SUBMISSION

FRANCISCO JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ, AIA, CAAPPR

DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

PRINCIPAL - RSVP ARCHITECTS; SAN JUAN, PR FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

VISITING SCHOLAR: AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

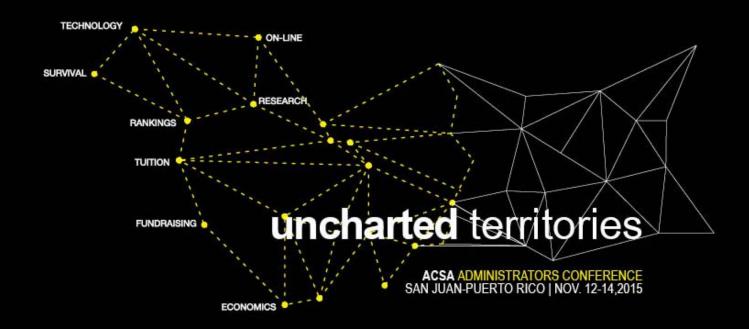
2013 NAAB / ACSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR: 2015 ACSA ADMININSTRATORS CONFERENCE

DELEGATE, BIENAL IBEAROAMERICANA DE ARQUITECTURA Y URBANISMO

 $\hbox{M.ARCH w DISTINCTION} + \hbox{AIA SCHOOL MEDAL, HARVARD GSD}$

BS.ARCH w HIGH HONORS, GEORGIA TECH



With the advent of the third millennium, the survival and relevance of both the university as an institution and the architecture discipline have been challenged by a global economic crisis, emerging technologies, new means of production and communications, and the prophesy of on-line education. Social media, external think tanks and digital innovation signal significant changes that are taking place faster than our ability to digest them, and more and rapid invention is occurring outside the university in spite of our best intentions.

On the one hand, research and interdisciplinary collaborations have unlocked intriguing possibilities for the discipline, but, on the other, the new economics of education have resulted in diminished enrollments and increased fundraising responsibilities for administrators. Furthermore, the recent debate on a streamlined path to licensure could drastically alter the relationship between academia and the profession.

These new realities call for academia and its administrative leaders to re-evaluate the traditional models that regulate our accepted notions of governance and planning.

The theme of the ACSA conference, Uncharted Territories, is neither a cyclopean prescription nor a myopic proscription, but a diagnostic filter that will focus on a series of new challenges that are relevant to the present and the future of architectural pedagogy.

Francisco Javier Rodríguez, Co-Chair Dean, UPR School of Architecture



For over twenty years, I have taught, lectured and served as guest critic at various universities in Europe, Asia, Latin America and the United States including the Architectural Association, the Glasgow School of Arts, Harvard, Penn, Cornell, MIT, Rice, Barcelona, Istambul Technological Institute and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

FRANCISCO JAVIER RODRIGUEZ

I studied architecture at Georgia Tech, the Université de Paris and Harvard GSD, where I earned a Master of Architecture with Distinction winning the AIA School Medal, the Portfolio Award and the Fulbright Fellowship.

From 2004-2007 I served as Undergraduate Program Director, and since 2007 as Dean of the UPR School of Architecture.

During the last decade I have occupied various administrative positions, presided the UPR Academic Senate, and was nominated to both the Presidency and the Chancellorship of the University of Puerto Rico.

In 2010 I was invited by the American Academy in Rome as a Visiting Scholar, to conduct research for my latest book: Chronologies of an Architectural Pedagogy. Recently I was named Co-Chair of ACSA Administrators Conference, wich the U.P.R. will host in 2015.

The following Dossier documents over twenty years of teaching, writing, editing, publishing, professional practice, and administrative leadership.

"During the mid-nineties, I spent a year in Spain with a Fulbright, increasingly interested in the Madrid-Barcelona duality and working on the historical restoration of the Mezquita de Córdoba. Later, I would return to Europe as a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome."



Architecture Review at the UPR.



EDUCATION

I enrolled at Georgia Tech right after the notorious SGF competition mentioned in Joan Ockman's recent book, where Raimund Abraham and Mack Scogin debated whether theoretical projects could be considered architecture.

After three years in Atlanta, a study abroad experience in Paris provided a unique opportunity to complement our education with the indispensable constituent solely afforded by travel, our own Paris Prize. That year I placed second on the William Van Allen International Competition, earning a travelling fellowship to South America.

I pursued my graduate work at Harvard, where Mack Scogin maintained a pluralist environment that enabled a coexistence of individuals as diverse as Jorge Silvetti and Moshen Mostafavi, both of whom where my proffesors. At the GSD I was a T/A for Jude Le Blanc, Jorge Silvetti, Michael Hays, Nader Tehrani, Howard Burns and Wilfred Wang. Upon graduation, I received a fellowship, once again to travel to Latin America.

Those professors were pivotal in my decision to pursue a career in academia, where I could experience architecture, both as a profession and a discipline, as an art and a science.

DesignIntelligence

America's Best Architecture and Design Schools 2012

"This school has a terrific faculty, is located on a pleasant Caribbean campus, and has the lowest architecture tuition in the United States.

Its library boasts a signal rare book collection. And you'll find a spirited administration with vision. One visit demonstrates that there is important learning, idea sharing, collegial joyfulness, and growth going on.

James P. Cramer, America's Best Architecture Schools Publisher and Founding Editor. Design Intelligence

"Dean Rodríguez and his assistant deans are strong leaders with a firm resolve to continued improvement. The students and faculty consider them highly approachable and they are held in extraordinarily high regard. Their strong leadership is obvious and evident in the results generated."

"Dean Rodríguez has made increasing attempts to maintain programs and to develop, through the faculty, multiple ways of establishing dialogues with peer and collaborating institutions."

Architecture Accreditation Visiting Team Report, 2014

PEDAGOGY

After a few years teaching at Harvard GSD's Career Discovery, Northeastern University and the Boston Architectural Center while working for Machado & Silvetti, I returned to my native Puerto Rico and began an academic career at the UPR.

In 2004 I was named Undergraduate Program Director, and in 2007, Dean, a post I currently occupy. After 12 years of administrative positions designing possibilities, solutions and processes, my recent research has focused on architectural pedagogy, resulting in a series of international symposia discussing the continued relevance of the university as an institution, as well as three books on the subject.

"My latest research project, published in this book, centers on the chronologies of architectural pedagogy, and their evolution as part of the university curriculum."

(in)forma¹⁰

CHRONOLOGIES OF AN ARCHITECTURAL PEDAGOGY

CRONOLOGÍAS DE UNA PEDAGOGÍA ARQUITECTÓNICA

Peter Eisenman | Nader Tehrani | Toshiko Mori | Lars Lerup | Diane Lewis | Lebbeu | Woods | Guido Zuliani | Lance Brown | Val Warke | David Shapiro | Alan Balfou | Cameron Sinclair | Jim Williamson | Alberto Pérez-Gómez | Lily Chi | Brigida Hogar José María Torres-Nadal | Andrés Mighucci | Benjamin Barney | Jerry Wells | Ellet | Dunham-Jones | Jignas! Pérez-Arnal Jorge Moscato | Federico Soriano | Juan Penabas Jorge Rigau | Federico Bares | Andrea Simitch | Rem Koolhaas | Luis Fernánde, Galliano | Manuel de Landa | Oriol Bolliags | Judith Kinnard | Héchor Arce | Million Curr | Alejandro Zeare-Polo | Anton Garcia-Abril | Hansi Better | David Gersten | Sottiot Kotoulas | Iñaqu Camicero | Lorena del Río | F. Javier Blanco | Mayra Jiménez Montant | Rafael Balanzó | Antonio Vélez Catrán | Elias Torres Tur | Rodolfo Machado | Vicent | Guallart | Rafael Longoria | Enrique Larrañaga | Florian Urban | Cristian Undurrago

edited by Francisco Javier Rodrígue

CHRONOLOGIES OF AN ARCHITECTURAL PEDAGOGY

The investigation and publication documented, analyzed and critiqued through a series of essays, interviews and symposia the chronologies and evolutionary processes inherent to architectural pedagogy since its insertion within the university curriculum. During several years I embarked on the task of visiting architectural schools in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Canada and the United States, interviewing some of the protagonists of architectural pedagogy.

The book includes stimulating essays by Val Warke (Cornell), Ellen Dunham-Jones (Georgia Tech), Oriol Bohigas (Barcelona), Lebbeus Woods (Cooper Union) and exciting interviews with Rem Koolhaas, Toshiko Mori, Peter Eisenman, Lars Lerup, Alan Balfour, Rodolfo Machado, Federico Soriano, Alejandro Zaera-Polo and Luis Fernández Galiano, among others.

It is the intent of the research and the publication to promote a continuous debate about our discipline, while we aspire to balance the pedagogical pendulum between ars and techne in the academic theater.

"An extraordinary and very necessary initiative to advance the history of architectural pedagogy, this project brings together for the first time an impressive and varied group of academic and professional leaders."

AIA-PR Honor Award for Research

As part of my own research, I organized four international symposia in an attempt to problematize architectural education at Cornell, Cooper Union, MIT, the UPR and Spain, and critically discuss a crucial moment in our recent history.

The first one celebrated the 40th anniversary of John Hejduk's Education of an Architect. It included the participation of distinguished professors and alumni from Cooper Union such as David Gersten, David Shapiro, Diane Lewis and Lance Jay Brown.

The second one focused on the pedagogical approach of Colin Rowe at Cornell and his influence on other programs around the globe, including ours.

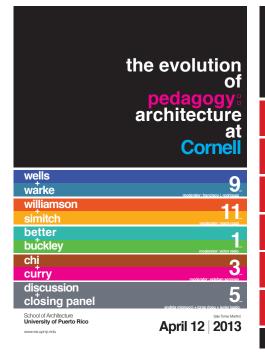
The third offered an academic dialogue between Nader Tehrani, Antón García-Abril, Andrés Mignucci and myself about pedagogical practices and practical pedagogies at UPR and MIT.

The fourth and final symposium revolved around the success of architectural education in Spain.

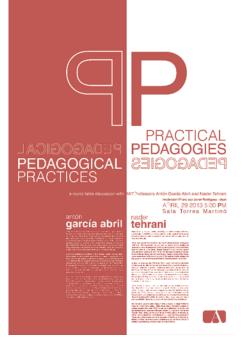


INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA ON ARCHITECTURAL PEDAGOGY

As Dean, I have organized four international symposia to discuss various educational legacies in the US and Europe, debating their continued relevance in today's curriculum, and discussing future scenarios for academia.













Francisco Javier Rodríguez Suárez | Jorge Rodríguez Beruff





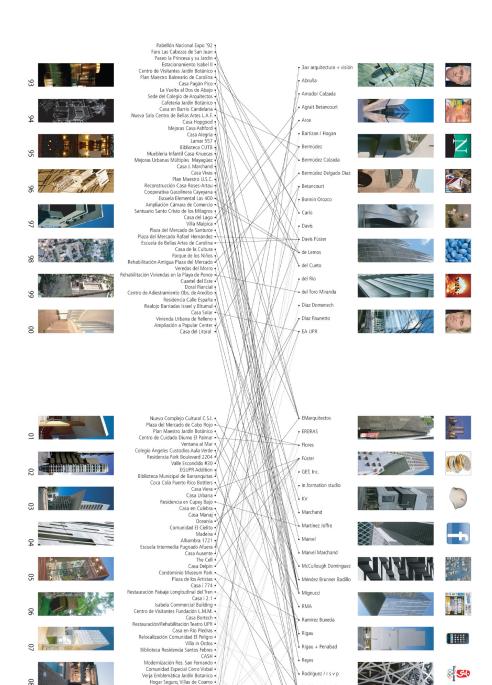
Francisco Javier Rodriguez Suárez | Jorge Rodriguez Beruff

ESCUELA DE APOUTECTURA UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO

TWO BOOKS ABOUT ACADEMIA

"The past decade has witnessed the remarkable transformation of the UPR School of Architecture from a modest professional program to an international multi-disciplinary academic epicenter, boasting seven research centers, including a creative incubator and an urban think tank. The institutional metamorphosis has been steered by Francisco Javier Rodríguez, AIA, whose experiences as the longest serving dean in the UPR system produced two books on the future and relevance of the university: Alma Mater: memories and perspectives of the possible university, and Aula Magna: university reform and the public institution. As a result, Dean Rodríguez has been asked to preside the UPR Academic Senate on various occasions and has been nominated to both the Presidency and the Chancellorship of the University of Puerto Rico. Recently, Rodríguez published Chronologies of an Architectural Pedagogy, the result of a decade long research project that received an AIA-PR Honor Award, and he has been honored as this years' ACSA Administrators Conference Co-Chair."

"Interestingly, it was probably the first time that a school of architecture led a serious international conversation on higher education, organizing debates, discussions, symposia and the publications."



Casa Patio 1 • Cono Visual • Nuevo Anexo al CAAPPR •

Water Dune • Hacienda La Esperanza •

> Parque del Litoral • PDOT •

Galería AirMaster • Escuela de Arquitectura PUCPR •

Centro de Estudiantes Manuel González Pató -Cacique 2050 / Comarca - Rodríguez / rvmdg

SCF

Sánchez

• S-Mart

Toro Ferr

LIBRANA

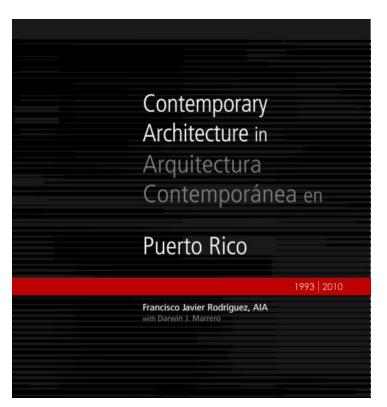
"When scanning the images of Francisco Javier Rodriguez' book on contemporary architecture in Puerto Rico, the architectural ontology is not exactly obscure, but strangely in and out of sync with its milieu [...] The sturdy, if in the new highly articulated white box is at home on this island; its heritage is fundamentally Spanish and maybe more deeply Arab, rediscovered by Le Corbusier in cities like Algiers."

Lars Lerup, author: After the City, and former Dean at Rice University School of Architecture

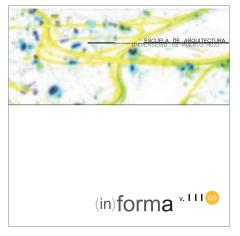
Official Selection Bienal Iberoamericana de Diseño

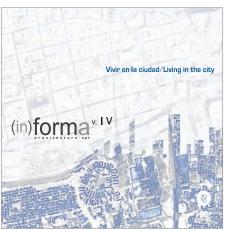
PUBLICATIONS

Although I have concentrated my research efforts on architectural pedagogy and the continued relevance of the university as an institution, I am also committed to elevating the architecture of Puerto Rico and Latin America to a global audience.



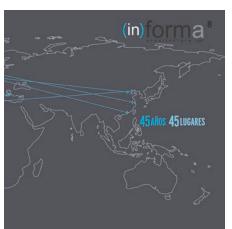














(In)forma JOURNAL

Having worked at Assemblage during my days at the GSD, one of the obvious decisions once I returned to Puerto Rico was to produce an academic journal of the highest quality.

The publication of (in)forma aspires for a critical public debate about our discipline and our profession. As Dean and Director of (in)forma, I strongly believe in an academic environment predicated on excellence that transcends the physical borders of our building, our campus and our Island. (in)forma is undoubtedly a fundamental tool in this globalization effort.

I have reiterated our commitment to expand the role of the architect in our society through the strategic communication of a discourse that seeks a unifying paradigm between theory and practice for the university, the discipline, and an urban society.

With the last issue we started to incorporate student essays as an integral part of the format. The journal is edited, produced and designed at the UPR, and we try to complete one volume every semester.

As Director and Editor of the award winning journal (in)forma, one of my first tasks was the creation of in-house publication office to produce not only this periodical but also a series of books that document our research and academic production at the UPR.





Aside from Architecture, I studied literature and modern languages, and I enjoy writing short stories and multidisciplinary articles, not only in architectural journals, but also on mainstream magazines and newspapers in an attempt to position the virtues of architectural design and urban life closer to the average person.

WRITING





LA TORRE



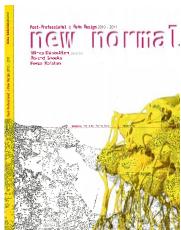
EUROPEOS Y ANTILLANOS, LA JORNADA TRASATLÁNTICA





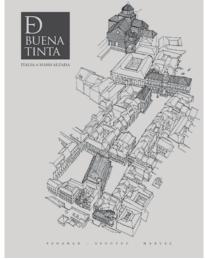


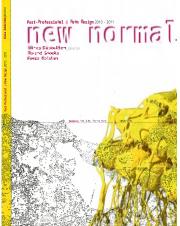






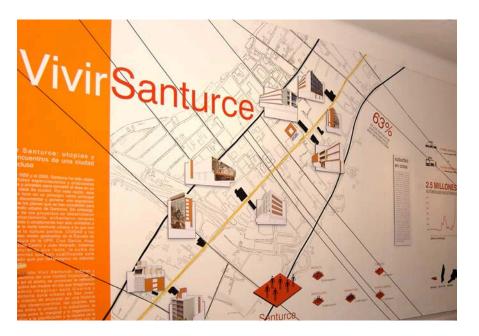
arq.i.tec













De sueños globales a distopias locales: vivienda social y cambio

29 DE ABRIL DE 2010 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm / 1:00-3:00 pm

Memoria y olvido en la arquitectura moderna de Puerto Rico 30 DE ABRIL DE 2010 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm / 1:00-3:00 pm











BARCELONA-SAN JUAN

ESTRATEGIAS,

REFERENCIAS Y

UPR School of Architecture exhibition on the city at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC).

Centro Interdisciplinario de Urbanismo, Diseño Ambiental y Desarrollo

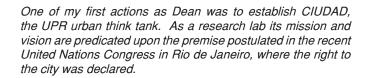
THE CITY: CIUDAD-UPR URBAN THINK TANK

I have reiterated our commitment to the city through the organization of symposia such as San Juan-Barcelona with the Universidad de Barcelona and Re-Thinking the City with the Humboldt University in Berlin, as well as exhibitions with the Museum of Contemporary Art and the MAPR.

Recently--for the first time in history--over half of the world's population became city dwellers. Furthermore, it is estimated that the planet's urban population grows at a rate of one million inhabitants per week. This condition calls for academia to understand, investigate and discuss the city as the focus of architectonic production and the dramatic backdrop of the theater of life.

Politically, CIUDAD operates as an urban think tank capable of producing knowledge and non-partisan public policy about the city.

Academically, CIUDAD aspires for a critical public debate over the virtues of urban life, and our roles as architects, landscape architects and urbanists in the design of the cities we seek to occupy.

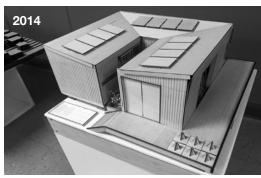
















The UPR was the only university selected to participate on the first four editions of the prestigious Solar Decathlon in Washington DC, and is currently collaborating with a university in Chile to participate in Construye Solar-Latin America.

SUSTAINABILITY

During my Deanship, I have steered the UPR on an aggressive program to incorporate sustainability along the entire design studio sequence, stressing the importance of a new way of thinking for an overpopulated, overdeveloped 100 x 35 Island.

We created a sustainability studio that has been published on Architectural Record, Arq.i.tec and (in)Forma magazines and won the International Green Dot Award for an innovative micro ecological dwelling.

The UPR, which is part of the Cool Cities initiative, has also developed prototypes for an electric-solar urban micro-car, performed research and construction of urban green roofs and designed master plans for the the Puerto Rico Northeast Ecological Corridor--in collaboration with the Sierra Club and various community organizations.

For the last three years I have organized (together with the Law School, the Faculty of Natural Sciences and EPA) an interdisciplinary symposium focusing on energy, food and water with each school providing their own perspectives on design, research and policy.





Unfortunately there aren't enough design competitions for professionals in the US. The UPR Competition Studio is predicated upon the premise that competitions are a fundamental tool to guarantee the best solution for each possible project.

Students charretting on a group competition.

UPR COMPETITION STUDIO

In order to maintain a connection to the school's design studio during my Deanship, I created an advanced Competition Design Studio where students could gauge their abilities against other students around the world.

As Dean, I have reiterated a commitment to a strong design pedagogy, and these studios allow the students to design up to five projects - both individually or in groups - per semester. Normally, an undergraduate studio is taught in the Fall, while the Spring Semester offering concentrates on Graduate students. Reviews are typically in group presentation and digital format, and collective interaction is encouraged as a means to enhance and develop the critical abilities of its participants.

Our studios specialize in international competitions, and thus far, the studio has earned at least one award - and sometimes two or three - per semester, and even enrolling in it has become a competitive process.

Competition Studio alumni have excelled at MIT, Georgia Tech, Penn, Pratt, Sci Arc and AA. Several of them have won other student competitions at their respective grad schools.

UPR | RICE

UPR | HARVARD 2007. 2013

UPR | CORNELL 2007- 2015

UPR | U PENN 2008

UPR | UNIV. HUSTON

UPR | UNIV WISCONSIN

UPR | GEORGIA TECH

UPR | F.I.U 2009- 2011

UPR | NYIT

UPR | HUMBOLDT

UPR | O.S.U 2012

UPR | BARCELONA 2010. 2011. 2013

UPR | CORCEGA 2007- 2015

UPR | LJUBLJANA 2013. 2014. 2015

UPR | M.I.T 2014

UPR | STANFORD 2004- 2015

UPR | PRATT 2013

UPR | S. DE CHILE 2013. 2014

UPR | AARHUS 2014. 2015



UPR JOINT STUDIOS INITIATIVE

I created a joint studio program where each semester a studio from the UPR School of Architecture collaborates with a studio from another university working on the same project.

With the advent of the third millennium, Steve Jobs seemingly transformed every aspect of our lives, especially our ability to communicate. Architecture practice and pedagogy would also change exponentially, especially with the possibilities of on-line education.

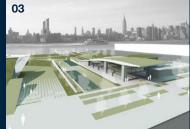
As the twentieth century came to a close, the profession celebrated that we could finally build the complex forms developed through computation, while the discipline celebrated that architecture suddenly possessed the capability of positioning a city like Bilbao on the global cultural map.

Operating within the tangents of the traditional centers of architectural production, it is now possible to engages in dialogues and debates previously difficulted by physical distance.























LECTURES / GUEST CRITIC

LECTURES:

University of Houston, Houston, TX Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago, Chile Harvard University GSD Cambridge, MA Istanbul Technical University Istanbul, Turkey Glasgow School of Art Glasgow, Scotland Rice University, Houston, TX American Academy in Rome, Roma, Italia The Architectural League-Ordos 13, New York, NY UNPHU Santo Domingo, DR Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK Tulane, University New Orleans, LA UPR Escuela de Arquitectura Río Piedras, PR AIAS Forum Minneapolis, MN Pontificia Universidad Católica Santo Domingo, DR Colegio de Arquitectos CAAPPR San Juan, PR Universidad de Sevilla Seville, Spain MUNDANEUM San José, C. Rica City College New York, NY Universidad Iberoamericana Santo Domingo, DR University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI 2008 World Congress on Housing and Planning San Juan, PR San Juan-Barcelona Symposium on the City San Juan, PR 2005 AIAS FORUM Cincinnati, OH Auburn University Auburn, AL Congreso Iberoamericano de Urbanismo San Juan, PR Universidad Central de Venezuela Caracas. Venezuela Universidad de Cantabria Suances, Spain Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain International Centre (Fulbright Lecture) Madrid, Spain

GUEST CRITIC:

Architectural Association, London, England Harvard University GSD, Cambridge, MA U. Penn, Philadelphia, PA Rice University Houston, TX Cornell University Ithaca, NY MIT Cambridge, MA Tulane University, New Orleans, LA UPC/ETSA-Barcelona, Spain Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY NY City College, New York, NY Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA PUCMM, Santo Domingo, DR Catholic University, Washington, DC Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK Universidad de los Andes Cartagena, Colombia Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain UniDis, San José, Costa Rica Universidad Iberoamericana, Santo Domingo, DR University of Houston, Houston, TX Auburn University, Auburn, AL Universidad Politécnica de Puerto Rico, San Juan, RISD, Providence, RI Boston Architectural Center, Boston, MA Northeastern University, Boston, MA Taller Internacional de Cartagena, Colombia

