

ByDESIGN

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UC Berkeley's **Prof. Miriam Chion**

Jailene Montano, Itzel Torrez,
Desiree Rodarte, Monica Carranza

Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined

Exponential Memory:
The Architecture of the Logan Heights
Library and the Origin of Big Data

*8th Annual
CASA Alumni
Scholarships*

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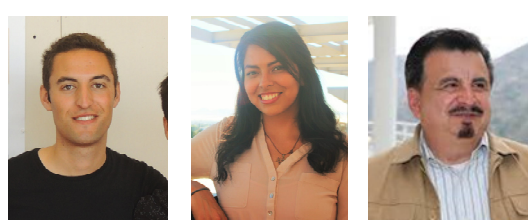
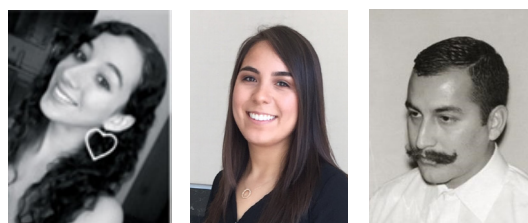
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ByDESIGN is published by: ByDESIGN Enterprises

11400 W. Olympic Blvd. Suite 200
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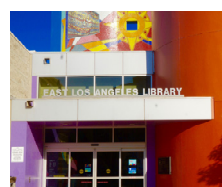
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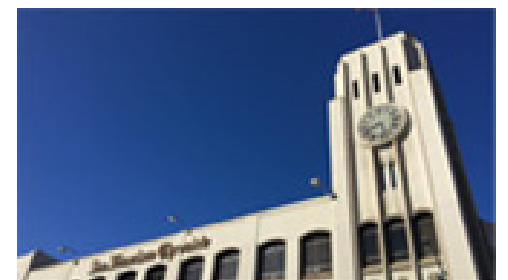
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College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Former ByDESIGN Senior Writer Joins the San Francisco Chronicle



A Dream Realized

San Francisco, CA

After years of grueling study, arduous work and journalistic acumen, the previous senior writer of ByDESIGN has been hired at one of the most prestigious newspapers in the US. Lauren Hernandez volunteered her journalistic talents as the senior writer and editor of BD from 2008 until 2015. She was one of two persons hired from a field of 1,000 applicants. The following appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on June 15, 2018:

Lauren Hernandez, Breaking News Reporter – San Francisco Chronicle (sfchronicle.com) Lauren Hernandez joined the San Francisco Chronicle in 2018. She covers crime, mayhem, and breaking news. Previously, she was a breaking news reporter for the USA TODAY Network's Statesman Journal in Salem, Oregon. She graduated from San Jose State University in 2015, with a bachelor of science in journalism and a minor in philosophy. She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She is also a licensed drone pilot through the Federal Aviation Administration.

The BD family wishes Lauren continued success!

ON THE COVER:

The cover photograph of Miriam Chion, City Planning Professor at the UC Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, along with her students, was taken by Los Angeles-based photographer Michael A. Hernández, on May 7, 2018 at UC Berkeley.

MEMO from the Editor

Building an America Grounded on Truth and Justice

Rogelio Roy Hernández, Publisher

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a quarterly e-zine

Volume 27

July 2018



Frederick Douglass, the American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman said: *“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”*

ByDESIGN was established with a commitment to fill an unacceptable void of hardcopy and online design publications in the US: specifically, the absence of Latinos, people of color and LGBT community achievements and their contributions to the built environment.

In this issue we continue our pursuit to inform and showcase this premise. Moreover, given BD's foundational edict to support truth and justice - and given the times we live in -- we are compelled to comment on the lack of truth and justice affecting our community by continuing centuries of folklore used to oppress fundamental human rights, a notion underscored by **Higueras** and **Hernandez** in the Perspective article: Internment Nation.

The article by **James Rojas** and **Carrie-Ann Sutkin** relate the story of a Chicana feminist community design effort, highlighting how gender impacts the design, use and experience of public space. The cover story showcases UC Berkeley **Professor Miriam Chion** and a group of Latina students in an urban planning course envisioning a new City of Berkeley Civic Center.

New contributing writer, **Aymee Barajas**, captures the life-changing impacts that having "Wheels" is making for a Latina and her family, as her career as a Landscape Architect begins. **Joseph Martinez** articulates the synthesis of architecture, big data, and "exponential memory."

And **Roy Hernandez** offers a summary of the 8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships Gala held at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, described by **Homer Perez**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C (Owner Representative for Sephora Americas and 2018 Chair of Latinos in Architecture SF) as a "magical evening."



Miriam Chion
Lecturer, City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA May 7, 2018
© Michael A. Hernández

Albert Einstein said: *“In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.”*

BD will continue its quest to slay long held myths about portions of society. This will be simultaneously fostered by a bedrock commitment to truth and justice resulting in an America where social, educational, racial, gender, economic and political justice exists for all.

Perspective Internment Nation: Winners...Losers?

Charles Higueras, FAIA and Rogelio Roy Hernández



Roy Hernandez stopped saying the pledge of allegiance in 5th grade. He recounts how his teacher found his impudence disgraceful and unpatriotic, although patriotism had nothing to do with it. "Why not? she asked. "I read an article that there are 13 states in the US where it's illegal for a black and white person to marry." he replied.

"Roy Hernandez you march to the principal's office this minute." she shrieked. "I did so without trepidation, because unlike her, I believed that "liberty and justice for all" meant all" Hernandez recounts.

In 1964 the elementary school teacher was outraged by a refusal to recite the pledge, but not by America's shameful hypocrisy. White supremacist values were easily supplanted by idealistic and patriotic rhetoric.

Like any experience dealing with racial disparity, this event was shocking to the 10 year old who wondered if the American way was to ignore serious societal flaws and pretend that "with liberty and justice for all" was reality?



As the summer issue of BD is produced in July, and the 4th is being celebrated, families seeking legal asylum are arrested and separated -- children sit in cages like dogs in kennels, shipped across the US. A two-year old appears before a judge in court, defenseless.



Anyone who has ever had a child, misplaced one in a mall, or had a child pass away, can relate to the panic and mortification this callous practice is causing. Hundreds of children will be orphaned by the State, and parents inflicted with unbearable pain and unending suffering.

Family separations and concentration camps reminds one of Nazi Germany in 1933. This is not a first for the US either (e.g., Native American Boarding Homes in the 1860's and Japanese internments camps in the 1940s.)

The US has once again become an interment nation, guilty of revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy. Orwellian America is producing winners and losers, impregnated with supreme cruelty resulting in intolerable anguish.

Winners

“While Congress debates funding for wall construction, U.S. Customs and Border Protection solicited bids to build eight wall prototypes and awarded contracts to six private companies for mock-ups in San Diego that are each 30 feet long and up to 30-feet high.



Caddell Construction Co. of Montgomery, Alabama; W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Co. of Philadelphia, Mississippi; Fisher Sand & Gravel Co. of Tempe, Arizona; and Texas Sterling Construction Co. of Houston won contracts to build prototypes made of concrete, the agency has said. Caddell, W.G. Yates, and KWR Construction Inc. of Sierra Vista, Arizona, and ELTA North America Inc. of Annapolis Junction, Maryland, won bids for four mock-ups made from materials other than concrete. The agency hasn't released all the names of the companies that bid on the prototypes, just the winners.”¹

Losers



“Of the 103 children under the age 5, the administration had been ordered to reunite with their families by July 10th, 57 had been deemed eligible and were returned to their

parents by early Thursday, two days after the deadline. Source: Department of Homeland Security.

Another 46 children were deemed ineligible for reunification, including 22 whose adult family members federal authorities determined to pose a potential safety risk. In another dozen cases, the adult accompanying the child was deported before reunification could occur, while in other cases adults remained jailed for other offenses, according to the statement. Source: Department of Homeland Security.”²

As this e-zine gets posted, 565 children still anguish incarcerated, separated from those who love them.

Prologue to Injustice

“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. O! had I the ability, and could I reach the nation's ear, I would, today, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced.

The injustices being perpetrated today have a prologue, as expressed by Frederick Douglas the day after July 4th in 1852. The scathing commentary rings true today.

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy — a thin veil

to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are the people of these United States, at this very hour.

Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the old world, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practices of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival.”

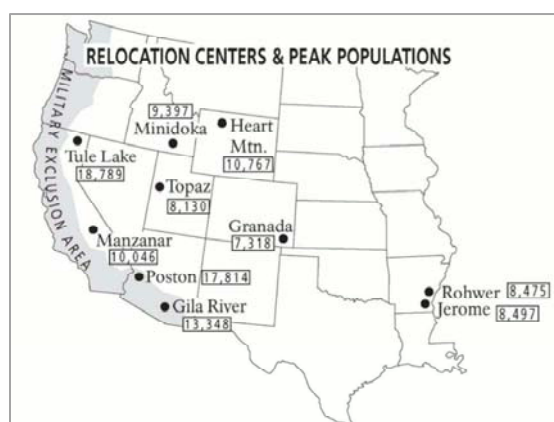
1860 Native Boarding Schools

The U.S. has a history of attempts to kill, remove, or assimilate Native Americans. The US Indian Removal Act forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi. Under the motto “Kill the Indian, save the Man,” thousands of children never saw their parents again.



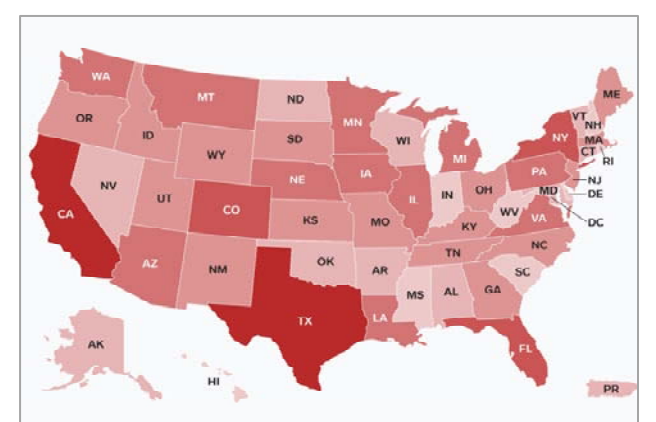
1942 Concentration Camps

Executive Order 9066 placed more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans in camps. As one of the most atrocious violations of American civil rights in the 20th century, most prisoners lost their homes and businesses.



2018 Internment Camps

4,000+ asylum seekers were jailed in the first half of 2018. Many of the Infants/young children shipped to detention centers across the US will suffer long term emotional/psychological trauma.. With parents deported, many will never see their parents again.



¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-01/border-wall-bidders-plead-for-trump-s-help-to-fend-off-opponents>

² Source reference: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-12/trump-war-on-immigration-catch-and-release-stymied-from-start>

Chicana Feminism Healing the Community Landscape! East Los Angeles Civic Center

James Rojas, Urban Planner, Community Activist, and Artist and
Carrie Ann Sutkin, Ph. D., Planner



The Chicana Feminist Tour of East Los Angeles Civic Center and “Place It” workshop helped Latinos understand how gender impacts the design, use and experience of public space.

On a recent Saturday morning, Carrie Sutkin, who worked with Supervisor Gloria Molina for many years, lead a walking tour explaining the transformation of the East Los Angeles Civic Center from a male, quazi military zone into a site gender and family friendly place.

The transformation of these 17-acres of LA County owned land took more than 15-years and millions of dollars. It was the struggle between then Supervisor Gloria Molina and LA County Sheriffs over how to plan and design for the site. However, more importantly, she revealed bringing in Chicanas into the planning and design of the site helped transform the site into a community friendly "civic center."

“ The transformation of these 17-acres of LA County owned land took more than 15-years and millions of dollars. It was the struggle between then Supervisor Gloria Molina and LA County Sheriffs over how to plan and design for the site. ”

This transformation was three pronged:

1. Collaborative planning
2. Family friendly uses
3. Gender friendly public realm

Topography

The East Los Angeles Civic Center is located on a historic creek that flows from the San Gabriel Mountains to the LA River. Most of the creek is underground except for a wetland or pond that is located in the middle of the site. The pond formed the site's topography and gentle slopes. This preserved the open space.

Community Profile

This site was never transformed into a park because it was a few miles east of the LA City border and in a low-income Mexican Barrio known as Maravilla. The site straddled this historic Mexican Barrio and the more affluent Belvedere neighborhood.



Top: Los Angeles Municipal Courts building.

Bottom: Public water fountains located in the Civic Center.

Top: Redesigned Civic Center facility.

Bottom: Outdoor community spaces.

Chicana Feminism Healing the Community Landscape! East Los Angeles Civic Center

Continued

Site History

During the late 1960's, the East Los Angeles site became the target of transportation infrastructure, road widening and other utility uses. The construction of the east-west Pomona Freeway (interstate 60) cut the open space off from the Maravilla Barrio and the public housing project. An ill-designed pedestrian bridge over the freeway was built to reconnect the two areas. In addition, the construction of the freeway lead to the reconfiguring and widening of local north-south streets around the site. For example, historic Kern Street was realigned and most of it disappeared into Mednick Street. Fetterly Street was turned into a dead-end. First and Third Streets serve as a major traffic artery from downtown LA to places east, like Montebello before the freeway.

The heavy presence of the LA County Sheriff contributed to community conflicts with Chicanos, which came to a "head" during the 1972 Chicano Moratorium. The site was part of the route of protesters who walked from the Maravilla

“ The heavy presence of the LA County Sheriffs contributed to community conflicts with Chicanos, which came to “a head” during the 1972 Chicano Moratorium. The site was part of the route of protesters who walked from the Maravilla Housing projects, down Third Street to Atlantic Street to Whittier Boulevard, and then west to Laguna Street (re-named: Ruben Salazar) County Park. ”

Housing projects, Third Street to Atlantic Street to Whittier Boulevard, and then west to Laguna (re-named: Ruben Salazar) County Park. During one hot summer day's walk, the original courthouse was set on fire by protestors.

The creek or pond became a hidden gem behind transportation infrastructure, the construction of the County Probation Office, and the first modern East Los Angeles Municipal Courthouse that was built at this site. These structures blocked the visual and pedestrian access to the lake. In addition, LA County designated the “male uses” on the site that included: Sheriff's locker rooms, the Sheriff Special Enforcement Unit, a helicopter pad, and control of the entrance points at Third and Mednik Streets.

Remnants from the Maravilla Barrio, however were still on the site, which included a small library, a clinic, and Soledad Church satellite facility which was where Sister Karen worked and formed Self Help Graphics. In addition, there was an iron works shop and a house.



Top: Lily Aguilar's Ballet Folklorico at Belvedere Park and performed a few times at the amphitheater at Belvedere Park Lake.

Bottom: Gateways, landscaped public spaces/walkways and community picnic areas.

Top: 1972 Chicano Moratorium, anti Vietnam War demonstration, led by activists from local colleges and members of the "Brown Berets."

Chicana Feminism Healing the Community Landscape! East Los Angeles Civic Center

Continued

The Collaborative Planning Process

The need for a master plan was critical to create a vision, and guide the redevelopment for the LA County owned site. Barrio Planners were hired to do the East Los Angeles Civic Center Master Plan, as well as Gruen and Associates to design the landscape.

A collaborative planning process and implementation strategy would be needed to bring all the plans, projects, stakeholders, and community members together to create an inclusive, and equitable plan. To make all the moving parts of planning, design, and redevelopment work, Carrie Sutkin, who worked for the Supervisor, took on the project leadership. This laid out the foundation for the transformation. She developed a robust community engagement and inclusive participatory process by forming the following groups:

- LA County Department Tenants at the East Los Angeles Civic Center-Working Group, to review the plans. The team made up of Supervisor's Office, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Department of Public Works, formed an executive committee.
- A Chicana volunteer group for Civic Art Committee to interview the artists, and commission the projects and recommend funding to Supervisor Molina.
- A park focus group made up of park users and boosters.
- A library user's group including student groups and the Friends of the ELA Library;
- An LA County Hall group of residents and activists

These groups help lead and oversee the planning, design, funding, and implementation of projects.

Family Friendly Uses

With robust community support and implementation strategy, Supervisor Gloria Molina and a group of Chicanas set out to battle with the "male powers" to remove barriers and introduce family-friendly uses to the site. The planning took years of negotiations, funding, design, and construction because dozens of small projects are wrapped into the creation of the ELA Civic Center. From improving circulation by cutting in new streets, public entrances, light rail station, to building a sound wall. Collectively, all these projects will improve the quality of the built environment.

These projects included:

- An expanded library
- A day care center
- A high school
- An LA County Hall, one-stop center for zoning, etc.
- An improved clinic
- The off-site commercial development to support the site

All these venues help all members of the community use the site. However, it was the final phase on how the site will be experienced that makes it gender and family-friendly.

Gender and Family-Friendly Public Realm

Dozens of local Latino youth were scavenging the site playing Pokemon Go, that same Saturday sharing the space with a farmers market. The site provided them a safe space to explore and experience a bit of nature and public art in their community.



Chicana Feminism Healing the Community Landscape! East Los Angeles Civic Center

Continued

Supervisor Molina and her Chicanas worked on the physical details of how the site is accessed and experienced. Gruen and Associates were hired to design the landscape plan. They hired a Chicana feminist architect, Teresa Sanchez to develop a robust public art program which included Chicano artists. These interventions took the shape of improved circulation, adding landscape, and public art.

The removal of the Sheriff's helicopter pad added a more open space for two playgrounds and four picnic shelters with brazers and sinks for cooking and picnicking. Constructing a sound wall between the civic center and freeway helps control the roar of cars.

The former Law Enforcement Campus was transformed into a plaza and sited a childcare center in the Civic Center.

External Access

Streets in and around the site were reconfigured to allow improved public access into the Civic Center. Public transportation was improved and added to the Civic Center through the alignment and construction of the Gold Line Light Rail and Civic Center Station. In addition, the creation of Transit Bus Center on Third Street served the local jitney called El Sol and created a formal entrance to the site.

A new mid-block crossing called Civic Center Way on Mednik Street was also added to allow better access to the Civic Center commercial development across the street.

Art and urban design were interacted through the creation of gateways designed by artist Micheal Amezca, signage, public art sculptures, wayfinding, and pedestrian walkways and lighting.

These landscape features make it visually and spatially accessible to community members by foot and by public transit.

The Plaza

The closing off of Fetterly Street in front of the huge monolithic Court House, opened up the site for the creation of a Plaza. The Plaza was created between the Court House and Mednick Street. The Plaza softens the entrance to the Court House through trees, plants, seating, water features, and sculptures by artist Linda Arreola.

Conclusion

The transformation of the East Los Angeles Civic Center was a catalyst for social change. These Chicanas were able to facilitate a new type of community participation, planning, design, and implementation process which developed a family place.



Above from left to right: Ray Gutierrez (Standing), James Rojas (kneeling), Guest, Carrie Sutkin (standing), Teresa Lucky (sitting). Guest, Carrie Sutkin, Tour leader, Sylvia Galan-Garcia, Anders Bjerregaard-Andersen (standing), Miranda Galind

Carrie Ann Sutkin was born in Detroit. She completed a Masters and Doctorate in Planning and Policy at USC. Her work includes community outreach and collaborative planning methods learned at the Echo Park Branch Library, the LAC-USC Medical Center replacement project and as Supervisor Molina's Field Director (1991-2004). In 1998 Sutkin headed up The East Los Angeles Civic Center Master Plan. She consults for non-profit organizations and neighborhood councils throughout the County of Los Angeles.

Left: East LA Civic Center art and urban design were interacted through the creation of gateways designed by artist Micheal Amezca.

James Rojas is an activist, planner, and community designer. He has lectured and facilitated workshops at MIT, Berkeley, Harvard, and Cornell. His work has been shown at the LA Museum of Contemporary Art, Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, Venice Biennale, Exploratorium, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Bronx Museum of Art, and the Getty. His research has appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Dwell, Places, and in numerous books. He received a Masters of City Planning (MCP) & Masters of Science in Architecture Studies (SMarchs) at MIT and Bachelor of Science in Interior Design, Woodbury University, Burbank
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COVER STORY:

UC Berkeley's Prof. Miriam Chion

Jailene Montano, Itzel Torrez, Desiree Rodarte,
Monica Carranza

Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined

Rogelio Roy Hernández, Photography: Michael A. Hernández and Dominic Matias

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a quarterly e-zine

Volume 27

July 2018



Socrates is credited with saying *“By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and human communities.”*

The following article represents a first for BD: We are publishing the wisdom and scholarship of a UC Berkeley Professor and her talented students on a city near and dear to the publishers of BD. (Full disclosure: all editors of BD received advanced degrees in architecture and urban planning from UC Berkeley.)

Can you tell us a little about your background?

I was raised in a family of 14 children in Lima, Peru, by immigrant parents who value education, family and community.

My college education in architecture in Lima had a fine focus on the socio-economic challenges of the shanty towns in Lima and rural communities in the highlands and Amazon region. In 1987, I was fortunate to come to UC Berkeley to study with Manuel Castells and Peter Hall and was strongly supported by the Students of Color Association. My master and doctoral studies in City and Regional Planning were essential to understand the complexities of our cities and political processes to address the needs of our disadvantaged communities, in particular.

Since then, my work has straddled between academia and planning practice. My work in San Francisco was strongly influenced by Eric Quezada, among other community leaders. My work in the Bay Area region focused on the integration of equity, resilience and sustainably.

My teaching and research at Clark University and UC Berkeley, which focused on the spatial capital of marginal communities, has been both challenged and inspired by thoughtful and caring students. My current job as the Policy Director at the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, builds upon my practice and research to find new opportunities for just and healthy regions.

How long have you taught at Cal's College of Environmental Design, and what has that experience been like?

I started teaching at CED in the late 1990s when I was completing my doctoral studies. Since then, the student population has changed and the planning challenges have increased. Students are under more pressure in recent times and sometimes they are expected to accomplish more work with less resources. It was a good surprise to encounter several undergraduate Latin@s in the studio; it is my hope they pursue a planning career.

Can you give us an overview of the CP 116 Urban Planning Studio, Civic Center redesign project?

Students' work was guided by an advisory team which included Loni Hancock, Tom Bates, Arrietta Chakos, John Caner, Suzie Medak and Duane Bay. They provided insights on the social, historical and economic challenges of the Berkeley Civic Center, as well as their expertise on policies, strategies, public engagement, and investments to inform the development of proposals.

Students explored civic places around the world and conducted field work and analysis of the Berkeley Civic Center. This knowledge allowed them to develop six distinct proposals

I am impressed by the students' ability to expose their values against population needs and by their ability to build coherent group proposals. It is not easy for them to have collective critical debates. However, by the end of the semester they managed to integrate their disparate ideas into mature proposals. They also demonstrated substantial leadership guiding the overall class on various tasks (graphics, presentation, data, writing, etc.) which led to a single report and website.



Desiree Rodarte, Itzel Torrez, Prof. Miriam Chion, Monica Carranza & Jailene Montano. UC Berkeley, May 22, 2018
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Prof. Miriam Chion reviews the urban planning proposal for re-imagined Berkeley Civic Center with Latina design team.
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and Monica Carranza

Students defined a mission statement and final thoughts:

Mission statement: We aim to understand the current challenges of the Berkeley Civic Center to reimagine a vibrant place that serves our diverse communities today and tomorrow. Specifically, we will develop proposals for inclusive and equitable spaces that are safe, resilient, innovative, fun and beautiful while respecting Berkeley's unique historic and cultural resources.

Market the Park: Addresses resiliency opportunities, the implementation of multi-modal transportation, and synergies to uplift the local economy.

Citizensengagement: Focuses on cross-sector collaboration as a means to improve civic engagement.

The Berkeley Promenade: Establishes direct connectivity between BART Plaza and Berkeley Civic Center – while simultaneously providing public space for civic engagement with the construction of a pedestrian promenade.

What are your thoughts on the student proposals; how might they help move the City towards a re-envisioned Civic Center?

Students have developed substantial proposals to reimagine the Berkeley Civic Center from very different perspectives. They all grounded their proposals in a fine understanding of current challenges, but each proposal



Market the Park: Joseph Choi, Dominic Matias, Paige Pham, Monica Carranza, Troy Oates
All photos © Dominic Matias

Citizensengagement: Eric Dasmaichi, Emily Ehrlich, Gantuguldur Erdenepurev, Samantha Weintraub, James Wang

The Berkeley Promenade: Samantha Lewin, Alix Plascencia, Cindy Chou, Oscar Fung

COVER STORY:

UC Berkeley's Prof. Miriam Chion Jailene Montano, Itzel Torrez, Desiree Rodarte and Monica Carranza

explored a unique possibility, ranging from concrete practical changes to be implemented today (i.e. benches and traffic management) to bold transformations demanding much public engagement and resources (i.e. opening a direct connection to Shattuck Ave).

I expect this studio report to open new conversations on the possibilities of the Berkeley Civic Center as an important gathering place that can articulate the history and the future of the city, as well as a mature space of congregation of very diverse communities.

OASIS: Resolves issues related to ecology with greenways and exposing Strawberry Creek - all the while relocating traffic issues to enhance mobility.

Nu Urbanists: Stresses the importance of the 'Naked Street' concept in Berkeley Civic Center as a method for recreating the area as a center for culinary and entertainment.

Connectivity: Recognizes elements surrounding the Berkeley Civic Center in need of restoration, and forms new connections to create value within the space.



Market the Park: Desiree Rodarte, Azita Fallah, Itzel Torres, Jailene Mpntano, Sussana Savitt
All photos © Dominic Matias

Market the Park: Avi Hoen, Elaine Hsieh, Virgilio Cuasay, Adam Wright, George Michael Mitchell

Market the Park: Jiwan Kim, Kyung Su Lee, Roya Chagnon, Arlin Benavides, Jin Son,

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a quarterly e-zine

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July 2018

Prof. Chion, what advise would you give students, Latinos and others, about pursuing a career in Urban Planning?

Urban planning is a challenging field, which takes courage and commitment. It is not an appropriate professional path for all, but it is imperative to bring more students with strong commitment to equity and sustainability to our field.

In particular, Latino students interested in urban planning could make a substantial difference in our cities, in our democracy, given the very limited representation of the Latino population in planning leadership positions.

Latino planners can bring a perspective of the social and economic challenges, but most importantly of the cultural resources, community engagement and social dynamics which make our cities vibrant spaces for all.

THE OASIS PROPOSAL

The hope of the Oasis Proposal is to reimagine the Berkeley Civic Center as an oasis within the bustling and growing area of downtown City of Berkeley. We introduced new and engaging components that allowed for the connection between spaces, people, and the environment to be cohesive. The Oasis is conceptualized as a space of healing, by providing a design solution that focuses on the root problems within the Civic Center. It ties the organic component of the land creating a connection with nature and society, while providing activism as a form of design to tackle social and environmental justice issues.



**Itzel
Torres**

It was important for my team and I to understand what residents of the City of Berkeley needed and wanted. We had to engage with the population and emerge ourselves

into the downtown environment to conceptually and emotionally understand the space and people, to provide the most equitable and sustainable solutions.

This project allowed me to discover and assert myself as designer, problem solver, and leader. Great amounts of collaboration had to happen within the group to move in a direction where all different ideas and ways to solve problems could be validated as a unit. I am extremely proud of the development I saw, not only with myself, but with the planning studio as a unit. We navigated through design issues and processes cohesively and created products we were all extremely proud of.

For me, the Oasis Project emphasis was the core identity of transitioning into a professional designer. It encompasses concepts that not only form my identity as an individual, but what I also aspire to be a planner.

The response we had from all of the advisory board and support, reiterated the need to establish these types of proposals within the Berkeley Civic Center space. They are important and we hope to see some of these concepts brought up more publicly for the City of Berkeley to vote on the 2020 ballot.

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**Monica
Caranza**

I thought the planning process we undertook for this project was a great exposure to many difficulties involved in the planning, not just a theoretical way, but hands on.

I found there are many components which create challenges because people have different points of views of what would "work best" for certain issues. Yet by thinking about the consequences and listening to everyone's point of view, we could create solutions that could be beneficial and accommodate most ideas.

What I discovered about myself on this project was one's life experiences, personal interactions within a city, and people, are important. They dictate what ideas you give and no idea or solution you come up with is wrong. I learned that while it might be hard to work with people which are different, it only makes you and your proposal stronger.

I think that all of the proposals developed by my peers tried to find a way to address key issues found in the City of Berkeley today. We all have different interests, as shown through the variations and details of each proposal, yet the main concepts which ran through all, like the emphasis on resilience. Some proposals focused on a small practical scale while others looked to long-term scale. These proposals are a wonderful start to a conversation towards a re-envisioned Civic Center. I hope the re-envisioning continues by getting the community involved in the urban planning process.



**Jailene
Montano**

Looking back on our project, the studio was planned in a great and comprehensive manner. We started off with a tour of the Civic Center, followed by individual

assessments and specialized group reports (residential, financial, cultural, government, resilience, and historical). Throughout the process we interacted with the public, our board of advisors, and experts who generously donated their time. With thorough research and interaction, we drafted our proposals. I would like to thank our professor, Miriam Chion for her hard work and dedication. She designed the planning process and provided an unmatched level of support.

The Civic Center studio taught me how to coordinate, present my ideas, and balance a multitude of tasks. The level of coordination made a great impact on my public speaking skills and decisiveness. I was encouraged to rise up and voice my ideas. Finding a balance between respective responsibilities was essential to our success. This studio challenged my abilities as a scholar. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with my peers, advisors, and Professor Chion.

I think my team was amazing and we developed one of many great proposals. Every team had its unique collection of individuals, who brought something different to the table. Over time we bonded and strived to make a new version of the Berkeley Civic Center.

Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined, Executive Summary

The following is the Executive Summary of the Urban Planning Studio's Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined project report produced by the talented students of Prof. Miriam Chion.

MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to understand the current challenges of the Berkeley Civic Center to reimagine a vibrant place which serves our diverse communities today and tomorrow. Specifically, we will develop proposals for inclusive and equitable spaces that are safe, resilient, innovative, fun and beautiful while respecting Berkeley's unique historic and cultural resources.

INTRODUCTION

When interviewing a San Francisco State University student who was waiting in the park for his sister to get out of school at Berkeley High, they remarked that the park had always been empty, and only really used for a while after high schoolers got excused from school. During this interview, Pablo, the student waiting for his sister, also mentioned a perception around a lack of safety due to the growing homeless population and general lack of foot traffic in the area around the park.

This interview was one of the more striking ones as it directly brought up many of the underlying themes that this studio and the six proposals attempt to address and remedy. Pablo, at the end of his interview, talked about the positive of the park and Civic Center, stating that the open space allowed him refuge and a place to relax, which "felt good." The aim of this project was to reimagine the Civic Center for the people who are here today and will be tomorrow, and also to consider the multifaceted problems and solutions that exist at multiple levels to give this space back to the people.

Urban Vitality is an important component to cities. It serves to support the engagement of populations in daily lives. Urban Vitality also helps people operationalize spaces and their meanings, and should be formatted around special contexts, that is to say, the area should inform the space.

Indicators for vitality should be set based on what the space and people decide is the best for them and their support of their city.



City centers, whether they be historic, civic or economic, should afford people different activities within the space. Networks should be in place so multiple types and levels of exchanges can happen. The space should also operate as a place, not just solely rooted in space, but with meaning and should be supportive of the networks and activities in place.

The City of Berkeley currently has a busy and growing Downtown Center that acts as a hub of economic and other activities, but only two blocks away is the Berkeley Civic Center. The space contains numerous buildings, each with different uses, or non-uses, and has a different but additive component to the Civic Center. The most crucial in our proposal included:

- Old City Hall
- The Veterans Memorial Building
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Berkeley High School
- The U.S. Postal Office

“ Urban Vitality is an important component to cities. It serves to support the engagement of populations in daily lives. Urban Vitality also helps people operationalize spaces and their meanings, and should be formatted around special contexts, i.e. the area should inform the space. ”

These buildings and spaces, along with the long and rich history that the City of Berkeley has, are points of pride which the community has shown to care about and revel in. The physical infrastructure of Old City Hall and the Veterans Building, are something that was taken seriously when the groups initial proposals came to their final reimaginings.

Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined, Executive Summary

OBSERVATION PROCESS

The beginning of the studio focused on defining civic space - first in a broad, general context and then in relation to Berkeley specifically. In order to do so, the class was required to collect various examples of civic spaces, many from around the globe. Once more familiar with the concept, students were required to individually venture to Berkeley's Civic Center with the main purpose of holding an informal interview with a typical occupant of the park. Based on this experience, students were to write a short paragraph (including quotes and original pictures) in attempt to capture what they observed during their visit. This casual attempt at civic engagement was intended to help provide a more nuanced perception of the park, and to get a better overall understanding of its current user base in order to inform a more effective redesign project.

Later, the class participated in a more formal observation during a professionally led tour of the area and its multiple historic buildings (Old City Hall, Veterans Building, Post Office). Although some of these buildings are not officially earthquake resilient, it was a particularly enriching experience for students to be able to appreciate the historical and cultural context of the space (even when unoccupied).

ASSESSMENT

As part of the studio process, we conducted an assessment of current conditions from a variety of perspectives. This document contains a general introduction to Berkeley's Civic Center, as well as deeper analyses in the areas of: **Historic Resources, Resilience Resources, Financial Resources, Cultural Activities, Residential Activities, and Government Activities.**

The **Historic Resources** chapter analyzes the history of Berkeley, from indigenous lands through the founding of UC Berkeley and today.

“ We identify possibilities for refurbishing and enhancing civic spaces such as the Old City Hall, combining them with new technologies to reimagine Civic Center as a hub for citizen-government interaction. ”

The chapter then goes on to detail how Civic Center and its historical buildings are intimately connected to its history, concluding with a discussion of zoning and strategies and challenges for historic preservation.

The **Resilience Resources** chapter starts by cataloging the physical challenges to resilience in Berkeley and the Civic Center specifically.

While the Civic Center is in an area of minimal flood risk, earthquakes remain a concern. This danger is compounded by the dangerous condition of buildings like the Old City Hall and Veterans Building, which currently will not withstand a major earthquake without costly retrofits. Moving to community resilience, while the city has some resources in place, it's clear they could do more, with regard to preparing the homeless population in particular. In terms of economic resilience, the Civic Center is not especially vulnerable to economic shocks, though this is due to a relative lack of economic activity in addition to any innate stability. While any retrofit to address seismically unsafe buildings in the Civic Center area will be a massive undertaking, new technologies like the friction pendulum may help retrofit these buildings in a secure and durable way.

The **Financial Resources** chapter identifies education and research as one of the key drivers of economic activity in the City of Berkeley. Startup capital is also growing, with Berkeley startups raising \$200 million in 2014. However, the City Budget is also increasingly strained by costs including rising pension

obligations. Despite increasing private resources, it's clear that public capital to invest in programs such as a seismic retrofit of Old City Hall and the Veterans Building is currently limited.

In terms of **Cultural Activities**, we identify a broad range of cultural events in the City of Berkeley including theater, music, and even book clubs. However, the Civic Center and Martin Luther King Jr. Park in particular, seem to be disconnected from this activity, with the nearest hotspot being the YMCA. By offering a broader range of activities and learning from strong international examples, such as Dolores Park in San Francisco, Bryant Park in New York, and the Parc de la Ciutadella in Barcelona, we can create a more vibrant Civic Center for Berkeley.

The **Residential Activities** chapter illustrates Berkeley's recent growth, as well as its ongoing challenges with gentrification and housing affordability. Berkeley's population is highly educated, with most professionals commuting to work outside the city. This creates an opportunity for the Civic Center to become a place where Berkeley residents can meet other members of the community, as well as an eventual new center for business and collaboration.

However, Berkeley's homeless population and aging population also must be considered in any plan changing the residential character of the Civic Center. Finally, the **Government Activities** chapter seeks to understand the current administrative needs of Berkeley's City government, as well as how that government interacts with Berkeley's citizens. Currently, many government activities, such as meetings, take place outside the Civic Center due to a lack of suitable spaces. We identify possibilities for refurbishing and enhancing civic spaces such as the Old City Hall, combining them with new technologies to reimagine the Civic Center as a hub for citizen-government interaction.

Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined, Executive Summary

CHALLENGES & POSSIBILITIES

After the studio groups completed the existing conditions assessment of the Civic Center and City at-large, we took the information a step further and synthesized numerous challenges and possibilities the space currently had, or could have. Based off certain indicators, like existing physical infrastructures, changes that could happen physically, socially or economically, and how that could make a real impact on the Civic Center, the City, and to residents of the City.

The six different groups initially created 3 challenges that were present, and based off of those, decided on three ways in which the issues could be remedied or positively impacted. Some overarching themes revolved around:

- An underutilization of the physical space, including surrounding buildings such as Old City Hall.
- A lack of identity within the Civic Center, and understanding between users and the space, especially when it comes to the City's and Civic Centers history.
- Fragmentations city-wide that impact the space, how it is used and how who uses it, including residential, class, race, and economic divides.
- Equity and inclusion components that are lacking at the moment and could be brought in to provide some solutions.

These big four challenges are what sparked a lot of thought in each proposal, and were launching points for the design components which each group recommended for the Civic Center. It was around these recommendations the planning studio attempted to be conscious about and take into consideration.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Each proposal had six different larger components within itself, including:

- Mobility
- Resilience
- Historic Preservation
- Land Use and Zoning Changes
- Civic Engagement/Event, Street Furn.
- Finance

These were important as components intentionally spread across each proposal because of their impact on not only the physical environment, but the social and economic fabric that people will interact with in their daily lives.



Berkeley Civic Center Reimagined, Executive Summary

Mobility was intended to get us thinking about how people currently move about and through the space, and how that could be improved to make the area more vibrant. Resilience was important since we are changing a part of the city, and the real impacts to the physical and social components take serious consideration. As we are in earthquake territory, and multiple buildings, such as Old City Hall have been deemed seismically unfit, physical resilience is an especially important consideration.

This goes hand in hand with the historic preservation component, which aims to resolve issues about seismically unsound infrastructure and somehow balancing that with lacking finance, but a rich and protected historical component. On this point, finance was important in aiding groups into not only weighing different design changes, but deeming what ideas were more possible, or completely reinventing the wheel on how to fund their proposal ideas. The aforementioned components tie in together as part of the larger aim of increasing the amount, ways and opportunities that both residents and visitors can engage with and use the space. Part of increasing the Civic Center's utilization is also increasing the infrastructure, both small and large, to support those activities and the participants.

In order to make some of these considerations, a stern look at current zoning and land use patterns/regulations was first needed. Once those were assessed, groups either took the liberty of suggesting changes or alterations to zoning, or found ways to work within zoning ordinances.

This was important because each aspect of every proposal was very multifaceted and meant to not only increase activity but also increase the use value of the space and buildings to give the most back to the city and their residents.

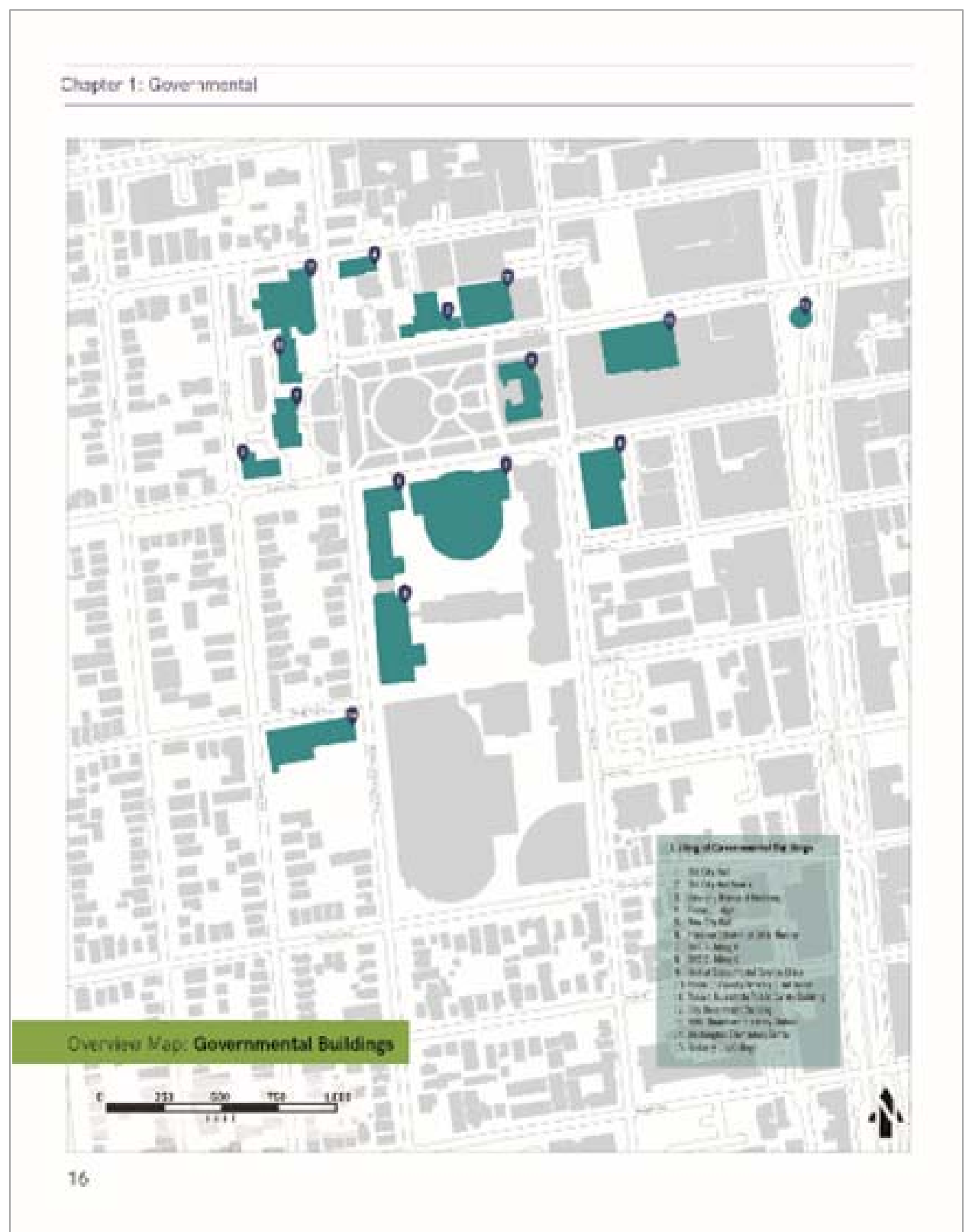
FINAL THOUGHTS

These six proposals are the culmination of a semester's long look and analysis of the Berkeley Civic Center, Downtown Berkeley, and the City of Berkeley at-large.

We hoped to spark the imagination and support of the City, its residents and other actors, but further give real solutions to what we have deemed to be challenges facing the Civic Center.

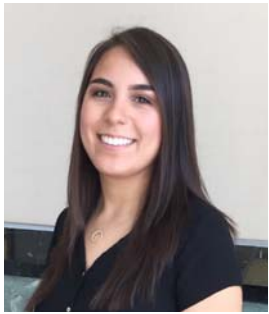
In the six different re-imaginings for the Berkeley Civic Center, hope was found in that they all aimed at the Civic Center becoming a hub which

people not only wanted to use, but could come together as a community to flourish in. The city has such rich and diverse histories, populations and opportunities, and lays at the confluence of immense changes. Our mission was to create a plan for the Berkeley Civic Center which reimagines the area by creating a vibrant Center that offers a variety of spaces to serve the various communities of Berkeley and beyond. Specifically, we hope to propose an inclusive and equitable space that is safe, resilient, and beautiful while respecting Berkeley's unique historic and cultural resources.



Alejandra Aguilar, Graduate on Wheels

Aymee Barajas, Contributing Writer



Alejandra Aguilar, CASA alumni and UC Berkeley graduate, has been working at SWA's Downtown Los Angeles office for 8 months. Commuting has been a challenge, especially after having an unpleasant experience in public transportation. Until now, figuring out how to get to her dream job was a full family effort. Thankfully, Alejandra and her family don't have to worry about how she gets to work anymore.

How does it feel to be the recipient of this type of support as you begin your Landscape Architecture career at a world class firm like SWA?

My greatest support system have been my parents. They have always gone out of their way to give my sisters and I everything we need in order to attend college and earn a degree. They apply for various small loans, work overtime, and my mom also makes and sells home baked cookies and cakes on her spare time.

I help my parents whenever I possibly can, from sending my grandma in Mexico a monthly allowance for her medicine and expenses, in addition to buying groceries and paying for my younger sisters' school expenses, while also submitting my monthly loan payments.

Even in the toughest of times my parents and I always lean on each other for support, which is why we were so humbled and eternally grateful for the support from Roy Hernandez gifted us with. It never crossed our minds that someone would be so caring as to gift us a car which would not only benefit me, but my entire family!

This gift also comes at a crucial moment in the beginning of my career in which it is essential to have some mode of transportation to attend community and coordination meetings, as well as site visits.

Working at SWA has been a dream come true. Being able to continue working and growing at such a prestigious firm will open a path to creating a brighter and better future for my family. I have already been able to alleviate some of my parents' financial worries and gifting us a car, free of charge, has eliminated the possibility of any additional financial strife for my family. We are forever grateful for such a kind gesture from someone who believes in helping others in order to uplift the entire community.

“ Even in the toughest of times my parents and I always lean on each other for support, which is why we were so humbled and eternally grateful for the support that Roy Hernandez gifted us with. It never crossed our minds that someone would be so caring as to gift us a car that would not only benefit me, but my entire family! ”



How were you getting to your new job from South Gate to Downtown LA getting before getting your car?

Ever since I started my internship, which became a full-time job, my parents insisted I drive or be driven to work instead of using public transportation. A few years back, I had a negative encounter on the Metro while on my way to Downtown L.A. The closest Metro Station to my home is in Watts, which my parents don't consider to be a very safe location to arrive at night. I tend to stay at work a bit longer some days to make sure we meet deadlines, which is why I often arrive home late. At the start of my job, my dad would drive me to and from work, while he was on vacation. After his vacation ended, my mom opted to walk or get rides from coworkers to work since we live relatively close to her work, and would lend me her car to drive to work. On days that my mom needed her car to run errands, my dad would get rides from his coworkers and had me take his car. On days I could not use either car, I would Uber to work, but it turned out costly since going to and from work was roughly \$40 a day. The situation proved to be very inconvenient, but was necessary in the eyes of my parents, for me to arrive to and from work safely.

What has the car meant to your family?

My parents have always instilled in me a benefit for one is a benefit for all. This car is not my car, it is our car. They are as deserving, if not more, of this support. We have always had problems with my parents' cars, as they are old. Now that we have another car, they can use it whenever one of our other cars has issues.

This car was also a great financial aid as my parents had already done everything they could and I did not have enough money saved to buy a car. We have no words and are thankful from the bottom of our hearts for the support Roy has shown our family and the community of Latinos that strive for a better life for themselves and their families. The best way to express my gratitude will be to become a landscape architect and extend the same support Roy has shown me to other young professionals who seek a better life.

Mr. Hernandez, you have a long history of giving back; why gift a car?

I mentored Alejandra at Cal. She represents the brightest of our community, Latinos who will become future leaders. But realizing one's full potential requires resources; and working in LA still requires a car. Supporting the success and economic empowerment of Alejandra, and her hard working family, was the right thing to do. I was glad to be able to do it.



About the Author: Contributing Writer, Aymee Barajas is a Systems Specialist at ThirdWave Corp., a technology company in Los Angeles. She received her BS in Business Management and Economics from the University of California, Merced.

Giving Back: Roy Hernandez is an inventor, author, co-founder of CASA Alumni, founder/publisher of by ByDESIGN, and developer of the CASA Alumni website. He is an innovator and thought-leader in the tech industry where he is the founder, president and CEO of ThirdWave Corp, based in Los Angeles.

Exponential Memory: The Architecture of the Logan Heights Library and the Origin of Big Data

Joseph Martinez, Architect



To adequately and accurately promote a concept or idea, it is imperative to "drill deep" into the topic, but also amplify its exploration. Consider, for example, these two mathematical expressions:

$$2+2+2+2= 8 \text{ versus } ((2^2)^2) = 256$$

Note, the same digit ("2") is used only four times, however the disparity of their resultant is of a significant order of magnitude which is solely based on the mathematical operation of addition (=8) versus exponents (=256). No contest, 8 vs. 256, "Big Data" will always win, no exceptions.

Similarly, the more knowledge you possess, the more powerful you become: Knowledge is Power (e.g., upward mobility, self-esteem, and civic engagement). Likewise, in an emerging multi-cultural, democratic society, without shared Exponential Memory, the potential for assimilation, loss of culture and self, and various other discriminatory actions, will marginalize a certain segment or sector of a population/society (e.g., apartheid). As such, the overarching proposition is every culture and civilization have humanistic-value, and in turn, its "truth" is the summation of its many attributes/liabilities made visible and transparent.

Moreover, the ability to draw from a broader array of memorable experiences provides the framework to synthesize disparate elements into a new work. That being said, and in the most abstract of ways, theoretical physics has shown it is actually the sophistication of mathematical operations which ignites and releases Big Data: Dark Energy, Fabric of Time-Space, Matter, Black Holes, and Electro-magnetic Waves.

Said another way, "...by amplifying a singular-perspective with non-categorical attributes, the slogan attains greater, multi-dimensional density" (Oneness: The Architecture of Self, Volume 26, page 11, ByDesign).

“ Similarly, the more knowledge you possess, the more powerful you become: Knowledge is Power (e.g., upward mobility, self-esteem, and civic engagement). ”



This eclectic phenomena can be observed, for example, by examining the initial design sketches of the Logan Heights Community Library¹, San Diego. As is always the case, the final aesthetics is not exclusively derived from the program and/or function of the facility, but rather it is a select collection of ideas from the architect's past, designed in the present, and offered to the future. In this case, it is ancient building sites of the Americas, specifically, Chichen Itza, Tikal, Teotihuacan, Nazca, Fajada Butte, as well as pottery and weavings from the American Southwest, and the Aztec Rain God, Tlaloc. Common to these objects is more than 1,000 years of rituals, customs and traditions pronounced by their monumentality and made sacred by its spirituality. In turn, the goal is to write the next chapter, as well as provide the exposure and subsequent inclusion into the contemporary American mosaic.

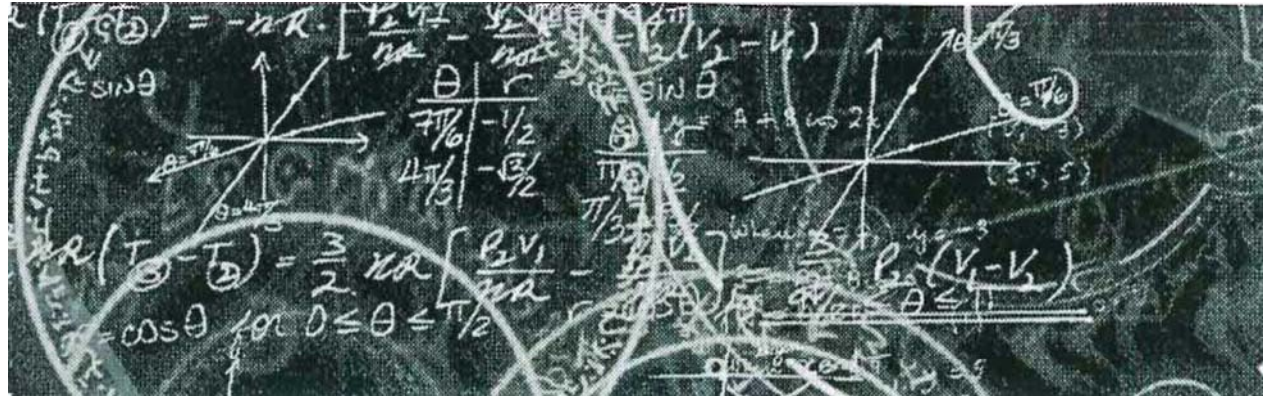
The aesthetics, from the very beginning, will be exclusively in the Chicano Style -- not California Mission Style, not Contemporary American, and not European Modernism. The unique elements and attributes of this new library would include: the bi-lingual collection, the children's reading area, el museo para la comunidad, and further, the Barrio Logan/Logan Heights community which is 88% Mexican-American.

The long narrow site, located between an elementary school and a middle school, necessitates an entry occurring at the middle of the library, thus a lengthy procession from the street. Likewise, the narrow site dictated a long, skinny rectangular volume for the 2-story, 25,000 sf public library.

Already two architectural ideas leap forth: **Procession**, and the sacred program of **El Museo**. Simultaneously, the 2-story massing provides the opportunity for the building's cross-section to reveal its inter-connectivity amongst the interior spaces, on the one hand, and on the other, how these spaces engage the street, playgrounds, and sky. As such, these architectural ideas now come into play: **Axiality, Spatial Continuity, and Astronomical Alignment**. Exploring the interior domain for the first time or the Nth time, it should be an adventure filled with discovery and aggregated knowledge, thereby amplifying time-space and expanding **Memory**.

After all, isn't the resultant of singularity² raised to the power of memory³ identically equal to spirituality?

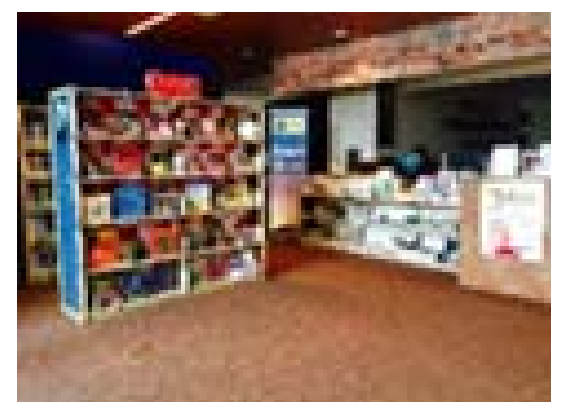
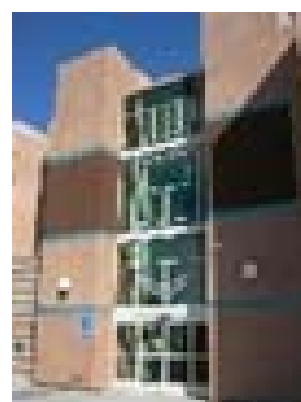
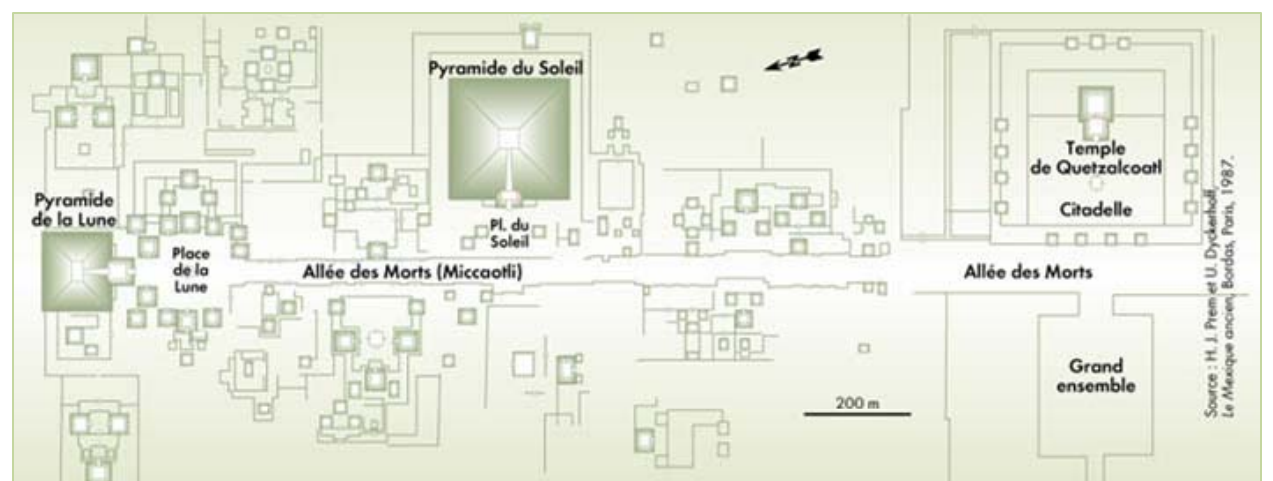
Collectively, and in consideration of various user groups and a sensitivity to the public realm, these architectural ideas will serve as a catalyst, the point of departure, for a personal, cultural-experience and a heightened sense of presence.



Procession and Artifacts

(Elevations of layered "stone" platform construction, Entry at facade of the books, Toltec warrior of Tula at glass entry, Circulation Desk of nations & places, Aztec headdress at reading lounge, Indian Corn at kids reading area)

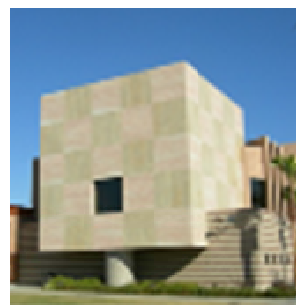
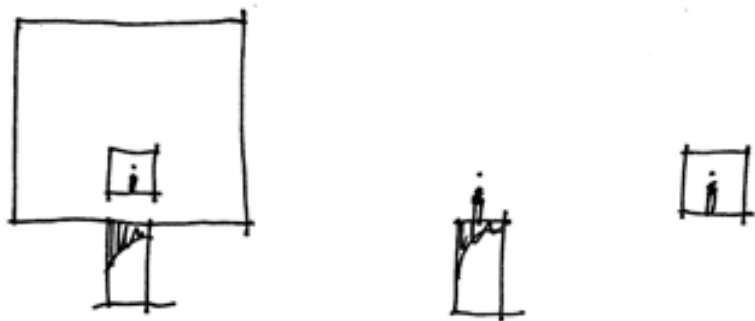
Walking the 5 kilometers of the Avenida de los Muertos towards the pyramid of the Sun, accompanied by 100,000 other inhabitants of Teotihuacan while passing several "pyramides de tabud-tablero", and listening to the chants of thousands and thousands of spectators during a festive ceremonial event, most certainly would be a powerful, life-altering experience.



Monumentality and Ritual

(Elevation of El Museo: Gold granite cube, picture window, and 7-foot diameter column)

Standing atop of El Castillo, Chichen Itza, and overlooking the Yucatan jungle and the horizon beyond, the sense of omnipotence is matched by the sensation of omnipresence, and acquires a surrealistic aura by becoming an integral part of the architectural composition.



Sacred Offering

(Elevation of El Museo: Checkerboard patterned granite cube with walk-in picture window)

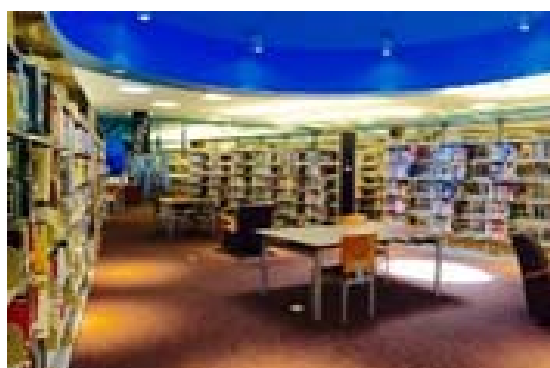
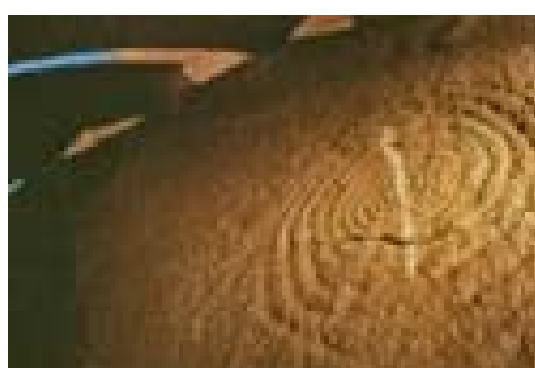
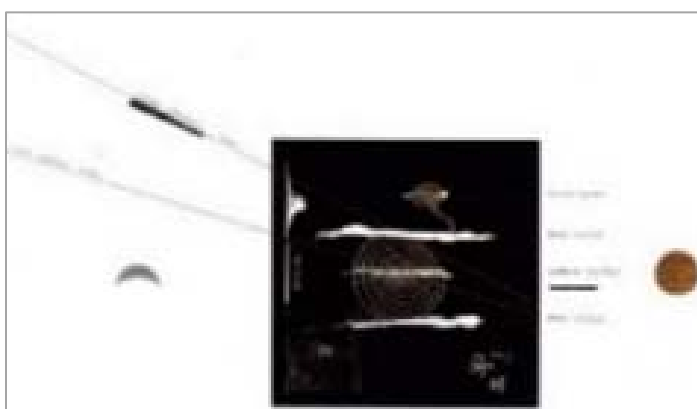
The cube is 35-feet on a side and is clad in granite panels and supported by a 7-foot diameter, solid concrete column. Aligned with the centerline of the cube and column is a 7'x7' gold tinted window. The pattern of the cube's surface and its materiality reveals a subtle composition similar to pottery from the Southwest featuring mathematical geometry and color; also its capable of being used as a vessel for utilitarian and sacred purposes. Consider, for example, the strength of the concrete column which is capable of supporting 20 tons of load. Obviously, the column is designed to support sacred artifacts for eternity.



Axiality and Astronomy

(Section: Views through entry library, skylights, atrium, circulation desk DNA soffit, reading lounges)

Throughout the entirety of human history, there has only been one structure designed by man which was both a solar and lunar calendar—this time piece is located on the Fajada Butte, Chaco Canyon, NM. Similarly, the indigenous peoples of the Americas master planned their cities in harmony with the cosmos, developed advanced numerology and a highly sophisticated calendar, and understood the value of "zero".



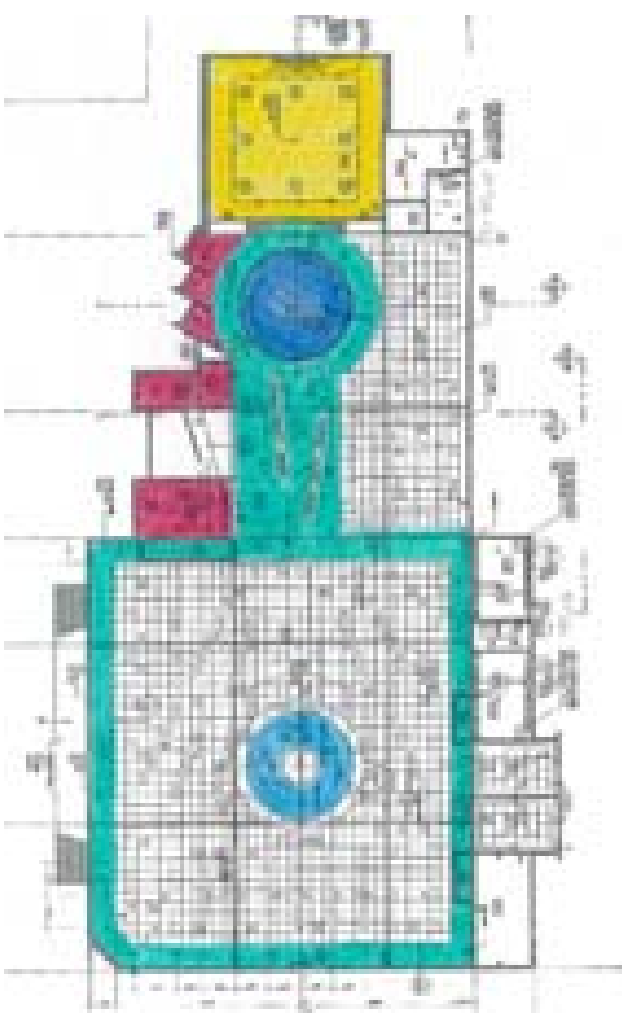
Tlaloc

(Second level, Reflected Ceiling Plan: Massive scale of a glyph painted turquoise, space-time-memory)

Tlaloc, the Aztec god, was a rainmaker, the giver of life, of water, and thunder and lightning -- in cosmology, the four Tlalocs mark the four corners of the universe, they hold up the sky and function as the frame for the passing of time. Accordingly, the essence of Tlaloc cannot be overstated, his presence must be forever sustainable and kept pure.



Endnotes



1. Logan Heights Library - A 25,000 sf community facility with a 300-seat multi-purpose room, computer labs, digital reference rooms, reading lounges and kids study area, small meeting rooms, bi-lingual collection, and a community museum. The library is a joint-venture between the City of San Diego, and the San Diego Unified School District. The project is the recipient of a State of California, Proposition 14 First Award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development/CDBG Grant 2002. In addition, the project won an American Institute of Architects Award, San Diego Chapter 2000, and a National American Institute of Architects Citation 1999.
2. Singularity - The state, fact, quality or condition of being unique, distinctive, a rarity, and/or original; synonymous with oneness, absoluteness, and congruity.
3. Memory - A faculty of the mind by which information is encoded, stored, and retrieved; it is vital to experiences. Likewise, it is the retention of information over time which is used for the purposes of influencing future action.

About the Author

Joseph Martinez is a Registered Architect in California and Nevada and holds NCARB Certification. He received his Master of Architecture from Harvard University, Graduate School of Design. Joseph is the founding partner of Martinez+Cutri Corporation; the firm is based in San Diego, CA and practices architecture, planning and urban design worldwide. jmartinez@martinezcutri.com

8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships & Distinguished Speaker Gala

Rogelio Roy Hernández, Photography by Lauren E. Hernández



ByDESIGN Presents the 8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarship & Distinguished Speaker Gala was held on the evening of April 20th at UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design. As the scholarship nears its tenth anniversary, the event has become the most momentous Latino/Women/LGBT design scholarship programs at a major university across the country.

By any measure, this noteworthy event has become an institutional celebration of accomplishment for underrepresented students pursuing higher degrees in a number of multi-disciplinary design programs. The evening was the culmination of close collaboration between several strategic partners: **ByDESIGN**, **CASA Alumni**, **UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design**, **CASA** student organization, **Latinos in Architecture**, and the **AIASF's Center for Architecture**. We were delighted to receive support from **CED's Alumni of Color** members.

The gala was made possible by the support of CED Dean **Jennifer Wolch** who provided the dinner, refreshments along with use of the facility. We have a special shout out to **Monica Renner**, Development Associate, Development + Alumni Relations Office at CED for making the facilities and dinner arrangements.



Above: Roy Hernandez welcomes the attendees to the 8th annual CASA Alumni scholarship gala which had an outstanding attendance by students, professors and design professionals.

This event represented the second year of our strategic partnership with SF Latinos in Architecture and CAD/AIASF. Our shared vision and their 501 (3)(c) status has produced an effective fundraising collaborative.

We owe special kudos to **Homer Perez**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Architect + Green Building Consultant, and a LiA Board Member. His leadership and selfless commitment to exposing young Latinos to design professions, and fundraising efforts have been extraordinary.



8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarship Gala Continued

A special thanks goes out to CAD/AIASF, our non-profit partner, for providing the avenue to substantially increase our donations. This includes **Jennifer Jones**, CAE, IOM, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco (AIASF), **Kendra Lee Adams**, Sponsorship + Partnership Manager, CAD/AIASF and **Dolma Chuteng**, Finance Manager, AIASF.

Likewise, a sincere thanks to the sixty or so persons who joined our community for the evening, including CASA members, Cal and CED students, family members, CED faculty, and LiA members including **Irving Gonzales**, Principal, AIA/CGBP, G7A. It was an inspiring evening had by all.

The 8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarship program was a highly successful event. It demonstrates the commitment our community has to supporting our next generation of thought leaders who, armed with a world class education, will shape the future built environment. Attendees expressed a considerable amount of excitement and pride in the event. Remarkd **Homer Perez**: *“To me this event is like a dream come true. Giving back to your community is in the Latino DNA, I feel very strongly: What a magical evening this was!! So stoked for next year!”*

I would like to thank you, again. I did not have the opportunity to shake your hand an additional time at the end of the CASA Alumni Scholarship ceremony, but please know I would have if your attention was not pre-occupied. I really appreciated your additional words in regard to my shoe design.

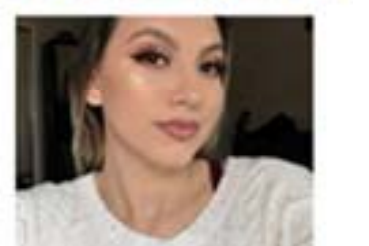
Again, thank you for your contributions to a scholarships such as this. It gives me a lot of hope for the future of my younger family members and designer family as well. You can count on my future support.
Shane Krpata

The CASA scholarship event is beautiful. I think as a graduating senior, looking at my journey. I don't think I would have made it without CASA. It's familia.
Itzel Torres

Thank you so much! I truly appreciate this opportunity. **Alix Plascencia Cabrales**



Group Shot: Jonathan Solis, Roy Hernandez (ByDESIGN Publisher, CASA Alumni Chair), Elizabeth Romo, Jailene Montano Berber, Sandra Vivanco, Architect (Distinguished Speaker), Itzel Torres, Maria Celeste Lomeli, Charles Higuera, FAIA (ByDESIGN Co-editor, CASA Alumni Board Member), Desiree M. Rodarte, Joseph Martinez, Architect (Distinguished Speaker), Vanessa Vasquez, Homer Perez, AIA, LEED AP BD+C (Latinos in Architecture), Shane Krpata



Ana Rosa Robledo
BA Urban Studies 2018
Antonia Escobar Scholarship
(Currently studying at UNAM,
Mexico City DF) \$1,000

Itzel Torres
BA Urban Studies 2018
ThirdWave Tech Scholarship
\$800

Shane Krpata
BA User Centric Design, 2018
Bob Esparza Scholarship
\$500

Maria Celeste Lomeli
BA Society and Environment, 2018
Bob Esparza Scholarship
\$500

Ruby J. Soto Cardona
BA Landscape Architecture/Gender
& Women's Studies 2018
Antonia Escobar Scholarship
(Not present) \$1,000

Jailene Montano Berber
BA Urban Studies 2018
ThirdWave Tech Scholarship
\$800

Elizabeth Romo
BA Architecture, Sustainable
Design, 2018
Bob Esparza Scholarship
\$500

Vanessa Vasquez
BA Architecture, 2018
Latinos in Architecture Scholarship
\$300

Jonathan Solis
BA Architecture, 2018
ThirdWave Tech Scholarship
\$800

Kevin Fernando Aviles
BA Architecture 2018
Bob Esparza Scholarship
\$600

Desiree M. Rodarte
BA Urban Studies, 2018
Latinos in Architecture Scholarship
\$500

Alix Plascencia Cabrales
BA Urban Studies, 2018
Latinos in Architecture Scholarship
(Not present) \$300

8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarship Gala Continued

Scholarship Criteria

- Personal history statement
- Participation with CASA
- Contributions to ByDESIGN, student organizations or community work
- CED academic achievement
- Vision statement
- Student Work: project samples

Recipients

1. **Ana Rosa Robledo**
BA Urban Studies 2018
Urban Site Analysis and Intervention
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City DF
Arch 111: Environmental Psychology
2. **Ruby J. Soto Cardona**
**BA Landscape Architecture/
Gender & Women's Studies 2018**
Demystifying the Landscape
Landscape Arch 103
3. **Jonathan Solis**
BA Architecture, 2018
Superfluous Pieces
Arch 100D
4. **Itzel Torres**
BA Urban Studies 2018
Current CASA Co-chair
Analyzing San Francisco
Neighborhoods- Russian Hill Historic
Analysis
City Planning 140: Urban Design:
City-Building and Place-Making
5. **Jailene Montano Berber**
BA Urban Studies 2018
Skates on the Bay & Climate Change
(Buildings and the climate change)
Environmental Design 4C
6. **Shane Krpata**
BA User Centric Design, 2018
Smart Shoe
ARCH 212 – Body Conscious Design
7. **Maria Celeste Lomeli**
BA Society and Environment, 2018
Risking Lives for Fuel: Oil Drilling in
Los Angeles County
8. **Elizabeth Romo**
**BA Architecture, Sustainable
Design, 2018**
House of the Future (Courtyard
Dwellings)
Arch 100C
9. **Desiree M. Rodarte**
BA Urban Studies, 2018
West Berkeley Public Library Re-
Design
Arch 110AC
10. **Vanessa Vasquez**
BA Architecture, 2018
Latinos in Architecture Scholarship
Norrebro Knolls
Study Abroad Urban Design
11. **Alix Plascencia Cabrales**
BA Urban Studies, 2018
Inventory of Buildings & Activities
City Planning 116: Urban Planning



8th Annual CASA Alumni Scholarship Gala

Continued

Scholarship History

2011, the first CASA Alumni Scholarship was held, in response to the severe impact the Great Recession was having on low income underrepresented students attending the College of Environmental Design, at UC Berkeley. Seven scholarships were awarded that night totaling \$2,700.00, ranging from \$300 - \$1,000.

This year, thanks to the collaborative effort between **CASA Alumni, LiA, CAD/AIASF and CED**, \$7,500 were awarded to a group of talented and hardworking students, an investment which will provide a return for decades to come. As we like to say *“Your support keeps their dreams alive.”*

2018 Scholarships

Our Generous Donors

Platinum (\$1,000 +)

ThirdWave Corporation, Roy Hernandez	3,000
Charles Higuera	2,000

Gold (\$500 – \$999)

Maritza Delgadillo	500
Katherine Hoover (In Memory of Jose Arce)	500
Oswaldo Lopez (In Memory of David Rodriguez)	500

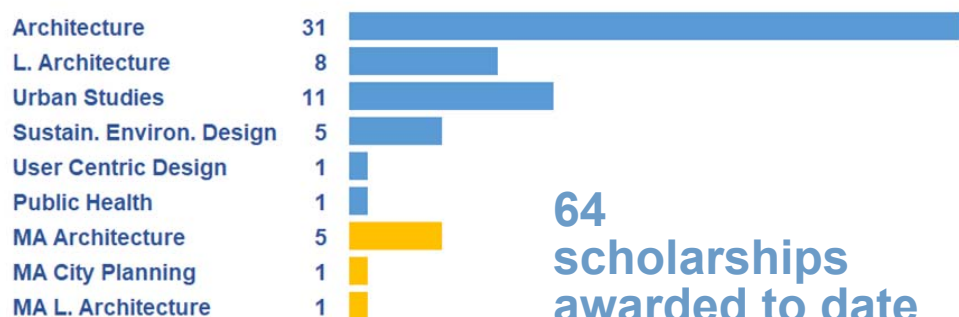
Silver (\$100 - \$499)

Sandra W. Esparza	250
Jennifer Wolch	250
Michael Dear	250
Rudy Carrasquilla	200
Homer Perez	200
A+D Architecture + Design	150
Barelona Jange Architecture	100
Celest Rodriguez	100
David Diaz	100
Carlos Mendoza	65

\$ 7,500

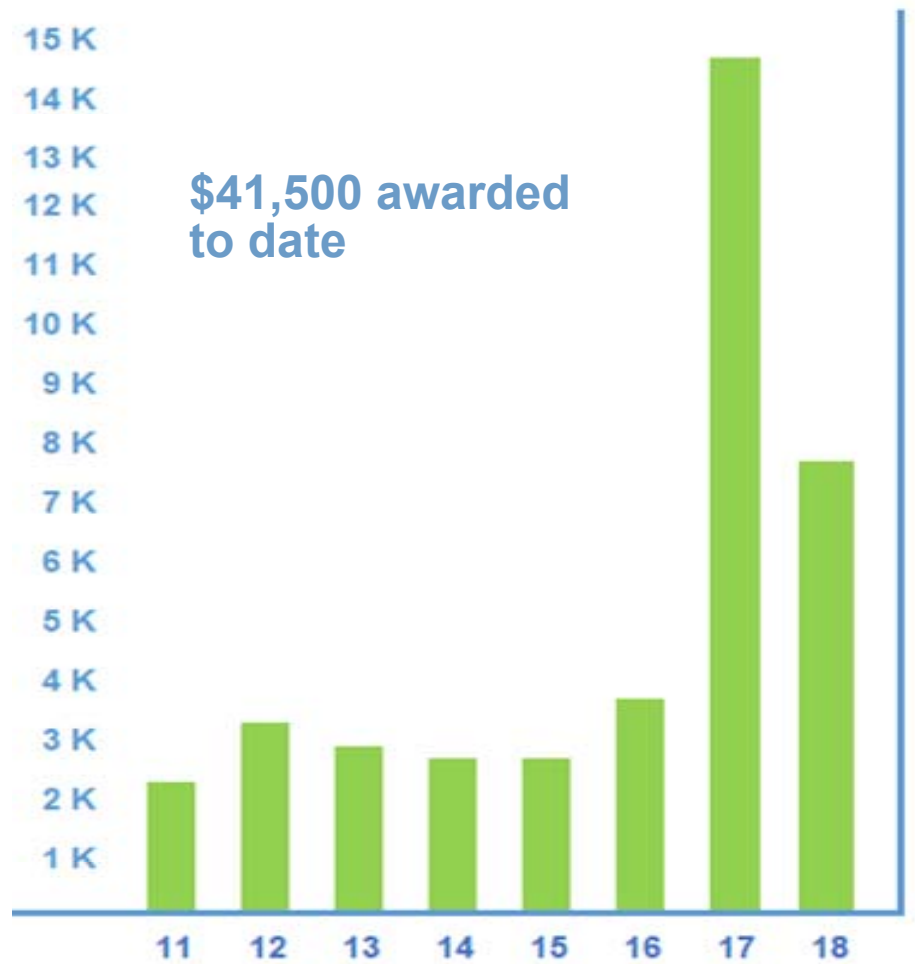
Scholarships by Area of Study

The chart below illustrates the distribution of awards by area of study at the CED. While the majority of recipients have been in the area of architecture, we see a growth trend in other areas of study, including Urban Studies, Landscape Architecture, and Sustainable Environmental Design. In the future we will endeavor to expand awards to all low income students of all colors/women/LGBT, in all areas of study at CED - increasing our outreach to graduate students as well.



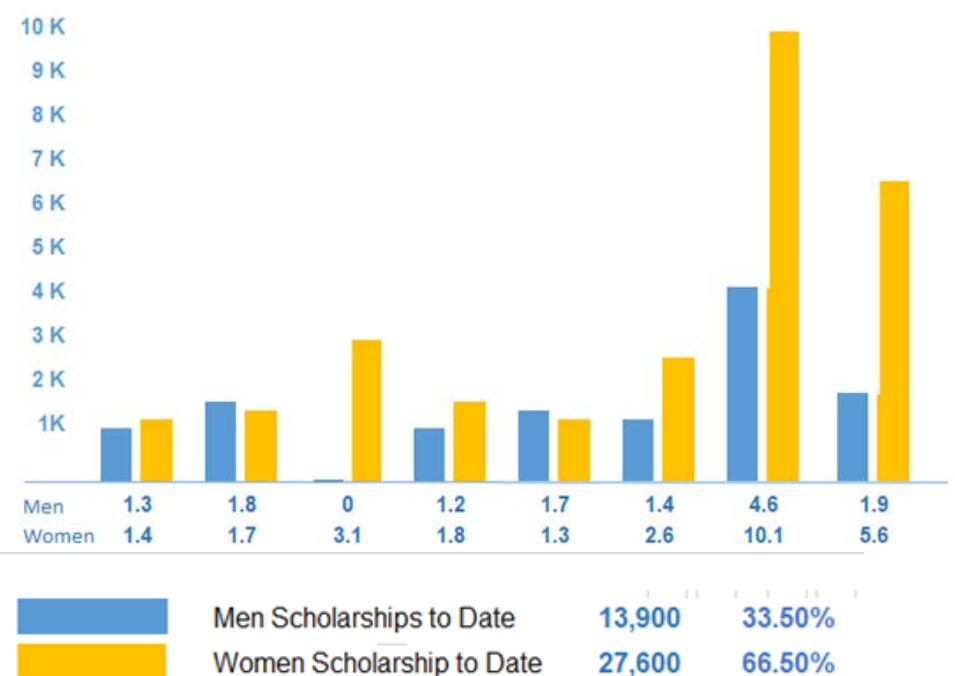
Fundraising by Year

The figure below illustrates a general trend of increased fundraising after entering into our partnership with Latinos in Architecture and CAD/AIASF, which provides the scholarships program a non-profit avenue. We encourage individual and corporate donors to lend their support in the future. While we saw a dip in donations this year, we will work aggressively to increase our numbers in next year.



Scholarships by Gender

This chart illustrates the distribution of awards to male and female students. Historically, women have consistently outnumbered male recipients: more female students apply to the scholarships than young men. We hope to see a more balanced distribution curve in future years.



ByDESIGN Presents

Distinguished Speakers

ByDESIGN[®]
a quarterly e-zine

Volume 27

July 2018

The ByDESIGN Presents Distinguished Speaker Program was privileged to have Sandra Vivanco and Joseph Martinez address this year's Scholarship Gala. Each architect shared their illustrious careers with students. Those present listened to Harvard GSD graduate, Joseph Martinez, the 'Father of Chicano Architecture' and Sandra Vivanco, Columbia / UC Berkeley alumna, offer words of wisdom.

Sandra Vivanco, AIA, SEED

A+D, Architecture + Design, San Francisco
Race Architecture & the City

CASA was the portal of entry to the profession in many ways. I probably saw a flier by the elevator and decided to go — I didn't know many people and decided to join the group. There were some very verbal, organized and committed group of students. We were trying to ask the department for a tenure-track faculty, for a hire that would represent us. I don't think that went anywhere, but at least it gave us an objective and something to work toward.

CASA started as Chicano Architectural Student Association, but at some point, in the 80s it decided to become more inclusive. So the name was changed to Chicano / Latino Architectural Student Association. But the acronym was never changed. That was a time in which a significant amount of Latin American immigrants came into the city.

One of the first small commission I got on my own coming back from Columbia Grad School was a project in the Mission. I graduated in 1992. I actually got a job teaching here (at CED, UC Berkeley) as a lecturer.

*In general, students seem to be more informed and more empowered. I feel like this new generation knows better. They know they can redefine the terms of success, they don't necessarily have to drink the Kool Aid, they can think differently, they can express themselves differently, they are empowered. Berkeley has only become more widely recognized, it's the best public institution in the country. They come with certain pride -- they are part of a selective few. It was hard back then to get in, but now it's near impossible to get in as a high school graduate. They are rightfully proud of themselves. It gives me hope. I have high hopes they're going to take their future in their hands. They're going to define their own path, define their own context, build their own theories to frame the work that they'll be engaged in. **Change will come out of this opportunity.***



© Sandra Vivanco

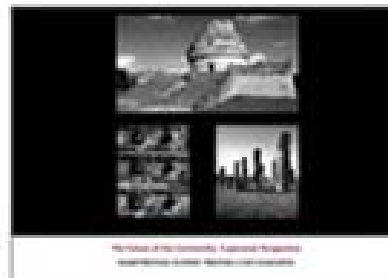
Both have taught at UC Berkeley's prestigious College of Environmental Design; Ms Vivanco is currently a professor at California College for the Arts. The speakers treated students to mesmerizing and inspiring presentations, most certainly an eye opening experience. The following represent excerpts from conversations with the illustrious speakers after the presentations.

Joseph Martinez, Architect

Martinez+Cutri Corporation, San Diego
The Future of Community: A Personal Perspective

I used to teach at Cal from 1979 - 81, and got to meet a lot of the young kids, including Roy and Oswaldo. We stumbled across each other 40 years later, so Roy invited me to this event.

One thing I see is most important, is to know who you are, and from there you have a very strong basis for entering the workforce, dealing with difficult situations, but also passing it on to the next generation. Pride of one's own self is really fundamental to having a good self-worth, holistic view of the universe and everything in between.



© Joseph Martinez

You don't know where your future is going to take you, but we do know if you're rigorous, you work hard, and you create opportunities, you will have a successful outcome.

One of the things that is critically important is when one designs a building or develops a master plan, it's definitely going to have impacts. Chicanos need to be involved in the development not only of Chicano communities, but the greater participation in society across the board. There is no prohibition on intelligence, intellect, and rigor. Whether you're Chicano, Asian, African American or Anglo, everyone has a set of ideas and can contribute to the betterment of society. We all live together on this one spaceship called planet earth.

I think recognition is unbelievably important. The dollar amount doesn't matter. To be recognized by, in this case, CASA, and to be given that certificate, you get to share that with classmates. You get to share that with your parents, brothers and sisters; one day your kids, grandkids and great grandkids too.

*If you know who you are and where you came from, and have a great deal of self-esteem and high confidence, you can go out and conquer. When my boys were little, we'd have breakfast and I'd say: "So guys, go out and conquer." When my son found out I was going to speak, he said "Dad, don't forget to tell them what you used to tell us . . . **"Go out and conquer!"***