An Online Journal of Exceptional Achievement

# Sandra Vivanc

# Design Excellence & Environmental Justice

BY LAUREN HERNANDEZ

Martin Mares & the lvy League

# By Roy R. Hernandez

Bydesign, An Ambitious clea, Turns 5 **By Jennifer Wolch** Dean, CED UC Berkeley

> VOLUME 19 Spring May 2016

# **ByDESIGN<sup>©</sup>** a quarterly e-zine

Spring 2016

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#### **Designing The Future**

Design ■ Business ■ Entertainment Technology ■ Art ■ Education

Volume 19 Cinco de Mayo 2016

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Progressive Professional Organizations Ink Non-Profit Memorandum of Understanding for Latino Scholarship Program** 



CASAalumni

An exciting collaboration has been initiated by Latinos in Architecture (LiA), the San Francisco AIA, the Center for Architecture and Design (CAD) and CASA Alumni to provide access to non-profit fund raising through AIA/CAD's existing 501 (3) (c) infrastructure.

Providing exciting leadership, LiA acted as the liaison across all organizations, brokering Memorandum of Understanding between LiA and CASA Alumni. In the future, when CASA Alumni carries out our scholarship fundraising we will request that our generous donors will contribute directly to CAD, who will act as our collection point and release all funds raised directly to CASA Alumni for distribution as we have always done.

Stay tuned!

## **INBOX**

Another great and inspiring issue. Thank you so much Roy, for all











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you do for the students of CED.

Susan Hagstrom Director CED Office of Undergraduate Advising, College of Environmental Design UC Berkeley

## **ON THE COVER:**

The cover image of Sandra Vivanco, Architect, AIA SEED, was photographed by Michael A. Hernandez on May 17, 2015 in San Francisco, CA. The photos were shot at a project of Ms. Vivanco, Dataway, 255 Golden Gate Avenue, which provides network security services to clients around the globe.

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## **MEMO from the Editor**

## The Incomparable Virtue of Doing

By Roy Rogelio Hernández



Wikipedia defines virtue as: "A trait or quality deemed to be morally good and thus is valued as a foundation of principle and good moral being.

Personal virtues are characteristics valued as promoting collective and individual greatness."

This trait, buttressed by the commitment of doing, e.g., taking the initiative, undertaking action, doing the right thing, or pursuing a dream when the odds seem unsurmountable - results in greatness that can shape the built environment, change the social/economic fabric, or educate a new generation of talented problem solvers.

The fact, and truism, is that one person can make a fantastic difference if they possess the *virtue of doing*. This issue of ByDESIGN provides some remarkable examples underscoring this premise. First we have the story of the renaissance woman Sandra Vivanco, another immigrant success story of Peruvian/ Colombian heritage. She has practiced architecture in the US, Japan, Portugal, Italy and Brazil. A Fulbright Scholar, she speaks four languages. Armed with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a love for design and a passionate commitment for teaching, Vivanco is a Professor of Architecture and Diversity Studies at California College of the Arts. She has taught and lectured for 20 years. We are privileged to relate her inspiring story.

We also have the remarkable story of **Martin Mares**, a principal in a Central California high school who took it upon himself to launch the Ivy League Project, an initiative to recruit Latinos to Ivy League universities. How's that for a tall order? Twenty-four years later, after recruiting thousands of students, his success is unparalleled in the US!

The CASA Alumni at Work article highlights the commitment of providing design services to underserved communities at **Asian Neighborhood** 



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Sandra Vivanco May 17, 2016 © Michael A. Hernandez

Design, a community design center established by UC Berkeley students 40 years ago, and still making a difference. And of course we have a piece on the 5<sup>m</sup> Annual CASA Alumni awards where we recognized the accomplishments of Isabel Castilla and CASA students. Kudos to all the virtuous doers in this issue for achieving individual and collective greatness!

## **Perspective**

## **ByDESIGN**, an Ambitious Idea, Turns 5

By Jennifer Wolch, Dean, College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley



Five years ago, Roy Hernandez had an ambitious idea: to produce an ezine that chronicles and celebrates the work of CASA students and alumni, and other Chicanx/Latinx environmental designers. The result was *By Design* – one of the most visually compelling and inspiring magazines that lands in my inbox.

At the same time, Oswaldo Lopez, Charles Higuera and Roy decided to raise funds for student design awards, and launch an annual CASA Awards event to bring the community together to recognize the excellent work being produced by CASA students. Over time, this evening has become a major CED annual event, featuring a public lecture, awards ceremony, and reception for multiple generations of CASA alumni and students. The articles in *By Design* as well as the CASA Awards are a model for alumni-student engagement, and in particular, mentorship. Students have benefitted enormously from encouragement as well as critique, and from advice and opportunities provided by CASA alumni mentors – who themselves were mentored by earlier generations of CASA students as well as CED faculty and other professionals.



The latest news, CASA Alumni's partnership with the AIASF, will allow all contributions to CASA student awards to be tax-deductible, and will surely increase the financial support CASA is able to offer talented planning and design students.

It all seems to have happened effortlessly, but I know better: this rapid evolution is the product of vision, hard work, and commitment on the part of many people, but especially Roy, Oswaldo, and Charles, along with their star journalist, Lauren Hernandez, their team of writers and photographer Michael Hernandez. The results are already clear, as CASA students excel at school, get internships and professional positions, and go on to become respected members of the design community to be emulated by future CASA students. And exposure to Chicanx/Latinx leaders in planning and design to Wurster Hall to present their work inspires us all.

What do the next five years hold for By Design? My best guess is that the magazine will offer more in-depth articles; cover the work of more Chicanx/Latinx designers both in the US and other parts of the world; highlight an annual awards event, attracting more and more people, at which CASA students are recognized and provided with more substantial prizes and awards to help them complete their CED education; and offer students as well as alumni ways to connect and learn from each other. No matter what else happens, I'm certain that *By Design* will continue to innovate, inspire, and perhaps most importantly dream. *Ojala que todos sus suenos sean realizados!* 



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## **Design Excellence and Environmental Justice**

By Lauren E. Hernández, Staff Writer



Peru native Sandra Vivanco's initial journey to the San Francisco Bay Area brought evolved perspectives on how economic, social and political constructs affect the built environment.

As a UC Berkeley alumna, she gained the political and social consciousness that now fuels her own work as a principal at A+D, Architecture+Design, a San Francisco firm that prides itself on it's participatory processes for public works.

With fluency in four languages, Vivanco connects with community members in what she refers to as participatory urbanism, where she directly collaborates and includes them in decision-making processes. Her work is based on the ideal that architecture and design is rooted in environmental justice — an ideal that Vivanco says is a basic right. Vivanco shared her journey and ambitions in a conversation with ByDESIGN.

## How did you first get interested in design?

From an early age, drawing gave me great pleasure. A high school counselor pointed to the fact that I should look into architecture because I was "both creative and exacting". At a deeper level, I have always been interested in cities and how buildings shape our perception of the environment and our life in a certain way. As a young woman trying to decide what to do, I was always aware of how cities change. It seemed like having the power to inform or modulate that change was an incredible challenge and opportunity. It is about the power of cities to code our experience and how we in turn can collectively transform a place.

At your time at CED UC Berkeley, when did you have that moment where you realized that the skills that you were learning could help you bring about that change that you're referring to? So years later when my family migrated here I thought I would seize the opportunity. During my educational career at the CED, I realized that I actually had the power to influence.

Early in my design education we were given a library as a design brief. cherished the opportunity to design a place where one goes to study the genealogy of ideas. The whole journey from approaching this open space of collective knowledge to sharing this experience with others that have gone there for the same reason was important.



Sandra Vivanco AIA SEED San Francisco, CA May 17, 2016

© 2016 Michael Hernandez



I enjoyed everything from siting the library and what it does to the neighborhood, to interior lighting, place making and its relationship to the outdoors. I think that was the most meaningful early project at UC Berkeley.

## Was attending Cal a goal when you left Peru?

Yes. I arrived in San Francisco and was initially advised to attend City College of San Francisco to try to find my bearings. I transferred to Architecture at Cal after completing my general education requirements in English and U.S. History

UC Berkeley was an important threshold in my experience moving to California. It sponsored a whole shift in my thinking and provided me new perspectives about the world and the people that had come before me. My new peers provided a very. positive experience for me.

Growing up in Peru I had heard about no more than a handful of U.S. universities, maybe five or so, and Berkeley was one of them. There was this kind of mystique or myth about California in general.



All project images courtesy of A+D, Architecture + Design © 2016

#### Latino Culinary Academy

The proposed design invigorates the dining experience by exposing layers of industrial history inherent in the building. Located in a historic vocational school surrounded by dramatic real estate flux, the culinary school presented the opportunity to develop a hybrid cuisine to be perfected at the restaurant. We envisioned the proposed dining hall, full bar and performance area would induce new levels of activity and engagement.





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## **Design Excellence and Environmental Justice**

Continued

#### How did your perceptions change once you arrived?

Even though Lima is a big metropolis right now, it has about 8 million people; it feels like a big place in a relatively small country. By small I am referring to it's global status. By comparison, California is a very rich state in physical and economic terms, and it carries significant political clout. By moving to California I felt a shift in my ability to work, the size of projects I might undertake and ultimately my effect. It also made me aware of being different. After the first year or so, I eventually gravitated toward the CASA student group, which is behind this magazine. They were definitely an influential cohort for me. Not only because I met people with very similar backgrounds, but that convivium raised my political consciousness in terms of class, race, political and ethnic conflict. This experience definitely contributed to the kind of professional that I am today. It made me experience the power of student led organizations and value the ability for both faculty mentoring students and senior students mentoring entering students. It was a very supportive, politically charged environment, which I appreciated contributing to.





## Is that why you came back to teach at the CED at UC Berkeley?

I went to architecture school for both undergraduate and graduate, finishing my graduate studies at Columbia. When I came back to Berkeley for a visit, I met up with a former professor of mine who invited me back on the spot. He said 'Would you like to come by and review the work of my students?' I realized then that I got incredible joy out of teaching young architects. Soon after that I was invited to join the UC Berkeley faculty. I found that it was the best way to continue to learn, as one must really master the material in order to teach it. It was challenging in a good way and it brought me a lot of satisfaction. I taught at UC Berkeley for about five years. While there, I also mentored many students - among them CASA members with whom I conducted an urban research project for the City of Pacifica. I curated an exhibit of their work at Wurster Hall and it was widely attended by community members as well as faculty. I wonder what those students are doing these days. It was great.



All project images courtesy of A+D, Architecture + Design  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  2016

#### **MRC Plaza Adelante**

The Plaza Adelante project poses to combine a number of Non-profit Organization operating out of different areas of the mission District of San Francisco into a single location in the heart of the Mission. The project looks at the high level of interaction between these organizations and explores the ways within which the architectural elements can promote and foster further connections and future interactions.



The building uses transparency and overlapping multifunctional spaces to merge the public spaces of the building with the semi-public areas of the individual organization headquarters spaces. The project hinged on funding that was available for a very small window of time in 2008 and as a result the entire project team worked tirelessly to obtain a Building Permit and Construction Contract on an unrelenting schedule. A+D and Gelfand Partners met these approval challenges and facilitated the further development of the project in what was easily less than a quarter of the typically expected timeline



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# Design Excellence and Environmental Justice: continued

Continued



#### Atlassian

A Warehouse space, that formerly housed light industry, serves as a foil for a series of dynamic interactions roughly described as a three part software creation process: research, production and sales. A+D and Studio Sarah Wilmer designed one large assembly room, two medium conference rooms and a variety of meeting places along the perimeter lined with industrial steel sash windows.

### That's a special relationship you have with Berkeley. How was it to be in the classroom again in another role, mentoring the students who were in the same position as you just years before?

It was a little strange at first, sitting at faculty meetings and lecture halls with people that had taught me previously less than ten years prior. But I also think everybody was very welcoming of this young energy that I brought with me as a recent graduate. It was surreal at times, but again very satisfying. It was kind of funny because I knew the place from within, right? I knew my way around so it was great. I had great mentors that were very encouraging and supportive of the kind of research and fresh viewpoints that I brought with me.

## How was your experience at Columbia when you were getting your Masters?

When I finished my undergraduate work at Berkeley, I started to work immediately after in San Francisco for a couple different architectural offices. I realized quickly that I wanted to do more work on the history and theory side of things, especially theory. So it was then that I went back East. I was very happy to be in New York City, which I love. It also allowed me to experience the East coast, a different kind of pedagogy and many international students and professors. I valued the ability to navigate the city and the opportunity to learn about its history as the gateway for immigration to the US. It brought it all into focus. It didn't hurt that it is a fantastic artistic hub.



All project images courtesy of A+D, Architecture + Design © 2016

A common kitchen and dining area, several storage spaces, restrooms including an accessible shower, and a compelling reception -fore grounded by a lounge-frame open work stations. The space was permitted and built in less than six months and without major disruption of their daily operation

It also allowed me to make it a home base of sorts and be able to gain architectural experience in other parts of the world. For example, through my Japanese architecture professor, I was able to get hired by a large firm in Tokyo, where I lived for four months. That was a long summer travel project. So every summer, I would choose to go to a different part of the world where I had never been. Since Columbia had a three-year program, the first summer I went to Japan and the second summer I went to Portugal.

I was lucky to work with the master architect Alvaro Siza from northern Portugal. I just loved it. I was learning so much at his studio that I decided to prolong my stay for an entire year. I actually skipped a year of grad school, stayed in Portugal working for him and then came back to finish my degree.

I was also able to work for a couple of professors at Columbia University so I ended up spending about four years in New York. I can't say enough good things about my time there. It allowed me to understand the U.S. from a different point of view. Sometimes in California, due to its size and wealth, we are not as in touch with the rest of the country as we could be. Initially reluctantly I came back, but of course now I'm happy to have made Northern California my home again. It was great to have a change of pace, to go to the East coast, gain some experience there, both practical and academic, and then return to establish myself in the Bay Area.

That simple notion has informed my career because I think that architecture is definitely linked to structures of power. It's so reliant on capital. It requires capital in order to be built, so to the extent that this capital is accessible only to a very few, to a small minority, its not accessible to all.



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## **Design Excellence and Environmental Justice**

Continued

# What sparked your interest in being a principal of your firm here in the Bay Area?

When I returned to San Francisco in the early 90's I realized my singular position as a bilingual, bicultural architect equipped with a compelling education. It was evident that my background has always filtered my perception of the built environment. I was also aware that these conditions placed me in a privileged position that enables me to work with a community that shares my rich, cultural background. I found my role as a kind of translator between their aspirations for participatory urbanism and a transparent process and the highly defined, top-down, mostly Western principles of architecture. How do we make sure community members have a seat at the table when some of these decisions are getting made? The basic notion of inclusion has informed my career because architecture is definitely linked to structures of power as it is so reliant on capital. It requires capital in order to be built, so to the extent that this capital is accessible only to a very small minority, it leaves many folks out of the equation. Moving forward, our biggest challenge is how to make that accessible to the general public so it is not just the one percent making decisions for the rest.



**Project:** Dataway, 255 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA © 2016 Michael A. Hernandez

# You once said that design is a form of environmental justice. Can you expand on that idea?

It is fair to say that the general public perceives architecture as a luxury. Design can also be considered a luxury. I started the conversation that way because I deeply believe that design does have an effect on lives, on memory, on your experience navigating the city and your sense of belonging. Design can transform this experience. You only have to look at Medellin or Bogota in Colombia. By being smart about infrastructure, green space, public institutions of learning, and the commons and making that accessible to all Colombians, they have actually transformed the lives of regular folks. Thoughtful design should not be accessible to only those with expendable income. It is a basic right just like housing, healthcare and education. In some ways, too often we think of design as purely aesthetic, or purely formal. But I definitely come from the school where design is coded politically, socially, economically and that if done right, it should be accessible to Design can transform the all. environment and because it has this mandate to be accessible to the general public, it is a form of environmental justice.

## What are these participatory processes?

There are different formats. They go from the more

## What has been your most fulfilling project?

So far, it has to be the Plaza Adelante: a one-stop facility for mostly Latino immigrants. Funded by Mission Economic Developmental Association, it is located on Mission and 19th Streets. They do incredible work. They have everything from business incubators, to micro lending, to legal and computer basic training and literacy. It was incredibly satisfying to work with all of the different agencies to make this place a reality. I was very happy with the way it came out, how it functions and how transparent, both literally and functionally, the building is. The transparent quality that we were able to achieve in the architecture really mimics the way in which MEDA works with the Latino community and how they conduct their business. So that was very fulfilling.

intimate meeting with three of four community leaders, that are running a particular department or that have particular stakes in a certain project that is proposed. The most common one is the large-scale participatory meeting, like the typical public meeting. My experience is that it is best when you break it down into smaller group activities with a very specific focus. Sometimes having "games" helps put a little bit of fun into the whole process and actually works wonders because it is more accessible for people from different age groups and different educational levels. If you actually put in the effort and are creative in how you ask the questions you will get significant answers. One must know how to ask the right questions.

# SIDE BAR Sandra Vivanco, AIA SEED



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## Architect, Designer, Professor, Mentor and Catalyst for Environmental Justice



Sandra Vivanco is founding principal of A+D, Architecture+Design, a San Francisco firm characterized by design excellence as well as innovative community-based processes. Published widely, Vivanco is sought as a Latino cultural expert with profound knowledge of modern art and architecture in Latin America.

Community building is the focus of A+D's work, supported by the belief that the application of architectural skills to the forum of affordable design is a necessary step in fulfilling their responsibility as citizens. It has also become the inspiration and informant for much of what they do outside of public works, showing that design is most compelling when it is creative, sensitive and inclusive.

Ms. Vivanco is a Mission resident, an avid dancer, a mother of two public school graduates and is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian.

#### **Awards & Fellowships**

- 2013 LAM Community award finalist, Advocate change for Latinos
- 2010 Architect of Community in California Home + Design's Ten To Watch: The next wave of star architects in California
- 2003 U.S. Fulbright Research Fellowship, Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería, Lima, Perú
- 1991 Third International Seminar of Architecture and Urbanism Scholarship, Naples, Italy

#### **Processional Experience**

- Principal, A+D, Architecture + Design
- Professor of Architecture & Diversity







#### **New Mission Housing**

A+D in association with Kwan Henmi designed the project to subdivide the main auditorium of the historically significant New Mission theater into five screens with 900 seats, a restaurant and a bar. The project also includes the demolition of the neighboring Giant Value department store to build an eight-story, mixed-use condominium building with 114 dwelling units, 89 off-street parking spaces, and ground-floor commercial space

All project images courtesy of A+D, Architecture + Design © 2016



**Visitacion Valley** (Above) The planning for the Schlage Lock site has been under way for more than a decade. When a proposal for a Home Depot (2000) was met with community opposition, a collaborative planning process between the community and the City of San Francisco was launched to revitalize Visitacion Valley. The design process by A+D and GLS Landscape examined how to reuse the Schlage Lock site in a way that benefits the existing neighborhood. The planning effort culminated in 2009 with the adoption of the Visitacion Valley Redevelopment Plan and the Design For Development document.

Studies, California College of the Arts

- Senior Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design
- Charles Pfister & Associates, Designer

#### Education

- MA Architecture, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, Preservation Columbia University 1991
- BA Architecture, with Honors University of California, Berkeley, 1985
- Colegio Santa Margarita

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#### Connecticut Residence (Below)

The house explores a dynamic flow of continuous spaces within the normative condition of an Edwardian house. The master suite sits on top a carved family room, linking the residence to the garden. A light well over the crow's nest study caps an open staircase that stitches the bedroom floors and the entry space to the rest of the house.





## ByDESIGN & CED Host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships

By Roy R. Hernández, Photography by Michael A, Hernández



Electricity filled the air on April 22 as the CED first floor Gallery began to fill with students, faculty and friends of Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley. After extensive planning and preparation between its sponsors, ByDESIGN, CASA Alumni, CASA and the College of Environmental Design, the anxiously awaited event had arrived.

The event program provided a full and exciting agenda composed of various presentations. The program began with \$4,000 in scholarships awarded to CASA students in various areas of scholarship. This was followed by a brief presentation by CED Alumnus who were part of the original group that started CASA in 1971! And a guest appearance was made by lara Bachman and Camila Garrido, representing Latinos in Architecture, San Francisco, an organization doing amazing work exposing Latino high school students to the design and construction professions. The evening was topped off with our quest speaker, internationally renowned landscape architect, Isabel Castilla, designer and project manager of the NYC Highline in Manhattan.

Marking the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scholarship program, this event was a significant milestone. The CASA Alumni Scholarships have recognized academic scholarship and contributions to underserviced communities with **\$20,000** over the last five years in diverse areas of study at CED, as illustrated in the figure below.

Scholarship	Degree / Program	No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Del Compo	MA Arch	6										
Del Campo	MA Arch	6										
	MA L Arch	1										
	BA Arch	2										
Esparza	BA Arch	5										
	BA Urban Studies	2										
	BA Sustain. Environ.	1										
	BA L Arch	1										



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Oswaldo Lopez and Roy Hernandez welcome attendees to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ByDESIGN Presents CASA Alumni Scholarships. The exciting event reviewed the work submitted by recipients of the CASA members, which culminated with a captivating presentation by Isabel Castilla, distinguished world renown Landscape Architect from New York City. (See ByDESIGN Vol. 17 cover story: "Isabel Castilla, Designer of the Future Metropolis.") Our sincerest thanks to Dean Jennifer Wolch and CED staff for their continued support in allowing us the use of the beautiful gallery and for catering the event.

## **Scholarship Recipients**



Escobar	BA Arch BA L Arch BA Urban Studies	2 2 2	
Sierra	BA Urban Studies BA L Arch	1 1	
Merit	BA Arch BA L Arch BA Sust. Design	9 3 2	



## ByDESIGN & CED Host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships

Continued

## What does it feel like to have received recognition from CASA Alumni?

ADRIAN GARCIA HERNANDEZ: It's a great opportunity to know that we're valued here at this school, especially since there aren't that many Latinos. I think CASA is a special organization for us because it gives us the opportunity to meet people who are like us. I think that's really difficult because some people here don't understand where we come from so this gives us the opportunity to be comfortable with each other. I've been doing this (CASA award participant) for a couple years now, and I feel like the more people we get, the more we're appreciated, recognized and a bigger presence we have on campus.

**ITZEL TORRES:** I feel like I've definitely come a long way. I feel that there is no shame in telling your story because you don't know if people have experience with the same things. I know that my design work and myself are so incorporated and I mesh them sometimes. My work and my writing are how I shed light on all these things.

## What drives you? What is your passion?

**MATTHEW ALMENDAREZ:** To persevere and strive to make anything possible are my family and friends I am constantly surrounded by everyday. They are the ones that make me go above and beyond and encourage me to go out of my comfort zone to explore the possibilities.

**ADRIAN GARCIA HERNANDEZ:** I think I'm really passionate about plants and equity so there's a weird intersection between making sure the people are being treated properly and making sure the plants are respected.









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## What drives you? What is your passion? continued

**MATTHEW ALMENDAREZ:** What drives me to persevere and strive to make anything possible are my family and friends I am constantly surrounded by everyday. They are the ones that make me go above and beyond and encourage me to go out of my comfort zone to explore the possibilities.

**ADRIAN GARCIA HERNANDEZ:** I think I'm really passionate about plants and equity so there's a weird intersection between making sure the people are being treated properly and making sure the plants are respected.

ABRAHAM ALDARACA: It is quite hard to know that I am not as privileged as others and that I have these constraints that make it harder for me to fully embed myself to my school work. These are both hard and encouraging since I am not just beating the odds but also learning more life skills that will allow me to get through life and make my transition from undergrad to postgrad years much smoother. My passion is to help those around me and to represent those that I love and care about the best I can. I want to help others and not just use them to gain a job with them but really get to know them and have a genuine relationship where we can really grow.



#### Student projects from top to bottom:

**Itzel Torres:** BA Arch/Public Health '18, New CASA Mural at UC Berkeley

Adrian Garcia Hernandez: BA Sustainable Environmental Design/ Forestry '17, Hesperia, CA: Sustainable Desert Development

**Anarosa Robledo:** BA Urban Studies, Architecture, Sustainable Design '17, Library Intertwinement - Arch 100a Fundamentals of Architectural Design

**Matthew Almendarez:** B.A. Arch, Sustainable Design '16, goodFOOD Fundamentals of Architectural Design

## ByDESIGN & CED Host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships

Continued

## ByDESIGN<sup>©</sup> a quarterly e-zine

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## What drives you? What is your passion? continued

**ITZEL TORRES:** For me and my work, what I do is very personal. I incorporate myself into my work. I'm very passionate about talking about mental health and demystifying mental health, especially in this college. I feel like a lot of students here at Berkeley really don't talk about mental health but we deal with immense amounts of stress. I allow that to show through my work as well and articulating that you can be open about things like that.

ALEJANDRA AGUILAR: My passion in general is to create better future for my family, the community, the latino community. In the future I aspire to make changes in my community whether that be in landscape or policy. Its definitely a passion that has driven me to this point.

ANAROSA ROBLEDO: I'm exploring what my passion is. Right now I'm looking into urban sustainability and how people are affected through planning, through design. Just seeing how not only sustainable aspects can not only be ecological but also just focusing on equity and how people are treated through this process and the community approach. I'm interested in all aspects of design and making sure the community is part of it.

## Student projects from top to bottom:

**Hector Arvizu,** BA L. Architecture '17, Higher Ground: Sutro Bath Tsunami Memorial, L. Arch 102: Fundamentals of Landscape Design





## Access to Public Transit: AC Transit Service Improvements Vanessa Hernandez Background AC Transit's Service Expansion Plan (SEP) is the one of the largest service increases and most Shellmound and Bay St. Mission and A St. Broadway and 13<sup>th</sup> St. Counting the Number of OL-D Pars

DacKground AC Tranit's Service Expansion Plan (SEP) is the one of the largest service increases and most extensive service redesigns in some time. It should significantly enhance local service for existing riders of public transit. AC Transit must comply with a Title VI equity analysis. That analysis attempts to determine if there is any disproportionate impact on populations protected by the Civil Rights Act if the Plan is implemented.

#### Objective

Conduct an analysis comparing impact of proposed service changes on protected populations and nonprotected populations. The time analysis attempts to understand how the proposed service change will affect the amount of time it would take for protected populations to access key destinations compared to non-protected populations. Through the creation of isochrones counting the number of accessible destinations from the random ongin points.

#### Methodology

Counting the Number of Q.D. Pains Staff analysed the number of high that could occurs within 60 minutes; with the curster of Charts that belief in the bisochrones for each Destimation, so charases are used to altern a most of equivalent, towet from Staff and Staff and the staff and the staff and protect Locar towns of amenites; Destinations for tab. The set sing and protect service at 2 km for 1.5, 20, 45, 50, minute travel time staff and used service at 2 km for 1.5, 20, 45, 50, minute travel time rune used

Average (avail (in e) to Comparia a Usefinitation) In order a compare activity (in euror only origin-definition parts that belonged to both the sefore and after sina were used. Staff a talyzed the average incert lime of the papa adors for the low copulation groups and got the average travel time is for each. Direct no Deeper

Solid to the way a require to be point, where the twee a generative to have a required add ensore transmiss.
 S11 Trip Plenner could not identify certain addresses the origin-destinations goints are evalual transed ones the closer: certain which would then be double checked to being an close enough approximation on Coople Maps.





This standys found there was an overall increase of Origins that fell into the isochrones for each Destination reached (45%). Non Low-income population had slightly larger increase in trips reached with DEs more) than Low income population, and Minority population received slightly larger intrases in trips reached (2% more) than Non-Minority population with all population groups having an increase trips reached.



verage Travel Time (to Comparable Destinations) his analysis found the origin-destination pairs that

elonged to both the before and after data had the reatest decreases in earcege travel time. Low income wild 11.39% more) than Non Low-income which had an Uncrease in average travel time, and Minority had a slighth reater decrease in average travel time (-1.06% more) han Non-Minority which als had had a decrease in average ravel time. Low income average travel time change decrease was (5 min, more) than Non Low income, and famority had a decrease in average time of (0.4 min more han Non-Minority.

an ison-waishing.								
	Existing	Proposed	% Change	Minute Charge				
aw Income	15	12.5	-5.33	-2.4				
ion Low-Income	42.3	45.5	30.3	2.6				
tinority	43.9	42.5	2.97	1.3				
los-Minority	47.2	46.3	-1.91	-0.5				

#### Conclusion

Proposals contained in the Service Expansion Plan will not have any negative impact on ... and ... groups. Those groups would experience increase in

**Maryell Abella,** BA L. Architecture, Sustainable Design '17, Presidio Parklands - Landscape Architecture 101: Fundamentals of Landscape Design

Vanessa Hernandez, BA Urban Studies '17, Accessibility/Expansion of Transit Service - AC Transit

Alejandra Aguilar, BA Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning '17, Higher Ground: Sutro Baths Tsunami Memorial Case Studies in Landscape Design 102





## ByDESIGN & CED Host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual CASA Alumni Scholarships

Continued

Left: Jennifer Wolch and Oswaldo Lopez welcome attendees to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ByDESIGN Presents.

**Right:** Roy Hernandez introduces Iara Bachman, (NCIDQ, Certified Interior Designer) and Camila Garrido (Senior Job Captain at KTGY Group, Inc.) founding board members of **Latinos in Architecture** (LiA) San Francisco. LiA and CASAalumni are in talks to establish a non-profit to raise funds for future CASAalumni Scholarships.

**Left:** Antonio Pizano (striped shirt) and Fred Atilano (seated), original founding members of CASA from 1971, shared the history of CASA with current CASA members.

**Right:** Attendees to the ByDESIGN Presents event enjoy refreshment, light fare and great conversations in the beautiful CED 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Gallery. Thanks to Jennifer Wolch for hosting us!

Left / Right: Award-winning ByDESIGN photojournalists Lauren Hernandez and Randy Vazquez interview the CASA Co-chairs Itzel Torres and Anarosa Robledo. Photography by LA-based professional freelance photographer Michael Hernandez. Thanks to our volunteer staff for lending their professional talents and time in support of the event! .A video of the event is forthcoming and will be posted on the CASAalumni website and Facebook.













## **2016 Scholarships**

Generous Donors	
Prof. David Diaz	\$ 100
Roy Hernandez	\$ 150
Oswaldo Lopez	\$ 250
Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction, Inc	\$ 500
Linda Higueras	\$ 500
Charles Higueras	\$ 500
ThirdWave Corporation	\$ 2,000
	\$ 4,000

## **Scholarships by Gender**



## ByDESIGN<sup>©</sup> a quarterly e-zine

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Scholarship Recipie	nts	
Martin Del Campo Scholarsh Itzel Torres	ip BA Architecture/Public Health '18	1,000
<b>Bob Esparza Scholarship</b> Adrian Garcia Hernandez	BA Sustainable Environmental Design/Forestry '17	1,000
Antonia Escobar Memorial S Anarosa Robledo	<b>cholarship</b> BA Urban Studies, Architecture, Sustainable Design '17	1,000
Yerba Buena Engineering & Alejandra Aguilar Venessa Hernandez	Construction Scholarships BA Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning '17 BA Urban Studies 16	300 200
Merit Scholarship Matthew Almendarez Maryell Abella Hector Arvizu Abraham Aldaraca	B.A. Arch, Sustainable Design '16 BA L. Architecture, Sustainable Design '17 BA L. Architecture '17 BA Architecture '17	200 100 100 100



2013

2014

2015

2015

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# **ByDESIGN Presents**

## Isabel Castilla, Designer of Vibrant Urban Public Spaces

By D. Oswaldo Lopez, AIA, LEED GA



On the evening of April 23, 2016, ByDesign and CASA Alumni in collaboration with the College of Environmental Design, were pleased to welcome Isabel Castilla, Senior Associate of the New York Landscape firm James Corner Field Operations.

Ms. Castilla is responsible for a number of the firm's notable projects but more recently has been distinguished for her role on the Highline Project in New York City and the new Underline Project underway in Miami.

Under her leadership these projects deliver in new ways a completely new vision in re-purposing previously unusable space for people to use and interact with as new urban places.

Ms. Castilla, is well versed in presenting these places in a format that captivates her audience in understanding the power of well thought out design. She is capable of weaving the setting of the creative process that recaptures, recreates and repurposes these lost urban spaces that enhance the cities in which they reside.

More importantly, if there were moments that became apparent throughout her discussion it was clearly her commitment and talent as a landscape architect devoted to making urban change in what for many designers would be a very challenging assignment.

Throughout her talking points, it was clear to all, that each level of detail is meaningful, thoughtful and capable of integrating the cultural fabric of the city using landscaping and hardscaping as affective tools in enhancing these newly created assets for these two great American Cities of New York and Miami.

It was indeed with great anticipation that we expected an interesting presentation. However, upon completion of her presentation it became clear and evident to all that her presentation was one of the most compelling ever that we at ByDesign, CASA Alumni and the College of Environmental Design have had the pleasure of enjoying.



**Right:** Isabel Castilla, Senior Associate, James Corner Field Operations, captivates the audience with her presentation on Landscape Architecture Public Realm Urbanism.



**Below**: Isabel walks the audience through her ground breaking urban landscape architecture design, the 1.5 mile long New York City High Line an elevated urban park; and the 10 mile long Miami Underline, a multi-modal corridor and signature linear park and urban trail.





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**Top L/R**: Itzel Torrez, CASA Co-chair, shows CASA's appreciation with roses for our distinguished speaker. Itzel Torrez, Isabel Castilla, Roy Hernandez, ByDESIGN publisher and Dean Jennifer Wolch.

**Below L/R:** Isabel Castilla provides advice on working in the landscape architecture profession to CASA members Hector Arvizu, unknown, and Alejandra Aguilar.

It was indeed with great anticipation that we expected a very interesting presentation. However, upon the completion of her presentation it became clear and evident to all that her presentation was one of the most compelling ever that we at ByDesign, CASA Alumni and the College of Environmental Design have had the pleasure of enjoying.

## **Oswaldo Lopez**

# **Notes from the Field**

## ByDESIGN<sup>©</sup> a quarterly e-zine

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## The Straw that Stirs the Drink

By Miguel Galarza



One things for sure in the Construction industry: there is no lack of ego's claiming to be the reason one's firm is a success, profitable or for that matter even in business.

From every level of management one can hear the same recurring theme, "if not for ME this company would go under. The estimator claims, "if not for my efforts there would be no work", the controller emphatically states, "If I didn't control the monies, pay the bills, payroll report, taxes, and government filings, the firm would be ruined". Then there's the business development manager who unequivocally proclaims that if not for his connections and political influence, the estimator would have nothing to bid, the controller would have nothing to count, and the tradesmen would have nothing to build, hence I am "the straw that Stirs the Drink".

Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson of the New York Yankees is widely credited with this quote of self- importance. Jackson took a lot of heat for the press, public and his fellow teammates, given the cast of all-stars and future hall of famers on that 1977 roster. Baseball purest believe that this claim of all self-importance was sacrilegious given baseball's perception as being the ultimate team sport.

As president of a multi-million construction firm, having risen from the ranks of tradesman to senior manager in two firms, I can attest that it a is a rare organization that can avoid this self-importance attitude of being "the Straw that Stirs the Drink". As young professionals entering your chosen field of Engineering, Architecture and or Construction, you will be surrounded by straws. The straw of design, and straw of estimating, the straw of accounting, and straw of business development. How will you respond?

As my memory serves me, the year was 1997 the project was at Moffett Naval Air Station. The project involved the design and building of an Air-aparging system to remove volatile organic compounds from the ground water. Our firm was subcontracted to construct a 120' x 60' x 16" concrete equipment pad. The Concrete pad was designed with a # 8 reinforcing steel, double matted with an exotic 6 sack mix design. In addition to the perimeter raised curb, number raised equipment pad and built-in sump drains, other subcontractors were reasonable for the installation of Stainless steel compressed air piping, CPVC chemical piping, PVC coated rigid electrical conduit, along with a myriad of controls piping to operate and monitor the air-aparging system. All of these components were woven into and around the concrete reinforcing steel, to be ultimately entombed with 400 Cubic Yards of concrete.

Yes, the US Navy was proud, the designer was proud, the business development manager was proud, the accountant watching over cost was proud.



Everyone on the project team was ready to take the lion's share of the credit and proclaim they were "the Straw that Stirs the Drink."

The final day was perfect for pouring, placing and finishing concrete. By 1:00 PM all 400+ yards of the concrete had been placed and a team of ten concrete finisher descended upon the gray mast to trowel the concrete into submission and produce a finish the complete project team could be proud of. Less one problem.

Union concrete finisher are a fickle bunch. You see, union cement finisher are accustomed to projects lasting one or two days only. Consequently, they expect to be paid the day the project is complete for that current work day. If payment for the correct number of hours is not on their check the union imposes a 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  overtime penalty for every hour of time that passes until the worker (cement finisher) is paid the correct wage.

Needless to say the cement finishers were not happy when they received their checks at 2:00 PM one hour before quitting time, showing they were to be paid for 8 hours that day. Why the unhappiness? The concrete was not finished! The team of ten cement finishers would need an additional two hours of overtime to finish the concrete properly. The finishers had the following choices, work for free for two hours, file a grievance with the union to get the additional two hours overtime owed or worse, just leave at 3:00 out of spite. You guess it! Seven of the ten finishers at 3:00 PM pick up their tools and walked off the project.

Teams of engineers, architects and construction personnel are interwoven to create magnificent structures around the world. In your career you will be fortunate to be involved at different levels at different organizations were you no doubt will encounter individuals that proclaim to be "the straw the stirs the drink." The tradesmen proved to be "the Straw that Stirs the Drink" on that day

**About the Author:** Miguel Galarza, is the Founder and President of Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction, Inc, (YBEC) San Francisco, CA. Established in 2002, YBEC is a growing SBA 8(a) certified and HUBZone. Miguel Galarza is a 22-year veteran in the construction industry who has managed more than \$100 million in projects for the Army Corps of Engineers, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, National Park Service, and other federal government agencies.

# **CASAalumni at Work**

## **Graduates Pursue Their Dreams at AND**

By Babette Jee, LEED AP BD+C, Steve Suzuki, NOMA, LEED GA & Elizabeth Lagarde

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Many CASA Alumni and CED Alumni of Color walked through the doors of AND, as architects, designers, and planners. There are currently three alumni at AND, continuing a legacy established decades ago.



## Babette Jee, LEED AP BD+C

Co-Principal BA Architecture '76 University of California, Berkeley

## **AsianNeighborhood**Design

## **New Construction**





**Top: Friendship House and Healing Center,** Mission District, San Francisco, CA - New 20 unit building with support services and community rooms

**Below: Minna Russ Multi-Family Apartments**, SoMa District, San Francisco, CA - New 4-Story, 26 unit affordable housing building

## Affordable Housing Renovation

#### How I came about joining AND:

I have been aware of AND since its beginning, as a student at CED and have always been connected to and aware of AND's growth and work, but never worked there until very recently. I began working at Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) in SF Chinatown as a planner and beginning architect after graduation. CCDC and AND were closely collaborating on projects. We all knew each other and talked about how to define and do Community Design work with all of it challenges, frustrations and rewards. Until recently I had a private practice that focused on work for community based non-profits.

#### My role and responsibilities include:

As Co-Principal Architect at AND, I help the organization, though a non-profit, be more financially sustainable.

#### What is the most significant aspects of a firm that synthesizes architecture services, community planning and employment training?

Patience, Patience, Patience. This type of work doesn't happen overnight, even by architectural standards. Commitment and enjoyment of the process is to persevere is the best skill to have. Enjoyment of the process is needed.

#### What I like most about my job:

Like best working with our non-profit clients. The work is most rewarding when you can help them solve their space needs in a way that will enhance the way in which they serve their clients.



## Steve Suzuki, NOMA, LEED GA

Co-Principal BA Architecture '92 University of California, Berkeley

#### How I came about joining AND:

Four years before starting at AND, I got a summer job at the Neighborhood Design Center of Oakland (NDCO) as a referral from a friend I met while at Laney College. The experience opened my eyes to the idea of 'Community Design' and how architecture /design could be used to improve the quality of lives for families and neighborhoods very similar to the ones I grew up in.

After that summer I applied and got into the Cal-Berkeley Architecture School and I maintained a focus on community design which, in those days, was still part of the curriculum at CED (Joe Esherick- was the Department Chair and held, and protected, the belief that Community Design was an important concept to teach but it was quickly dismantled after he departed the school years later).



Left: 53 Columbus Avenue (Fong Building), Chinatown, Francisco. San CA Renovation of existing 21building. unit SRO This building was the first Community Land Trust project in San Francisco. As part of a broader Community Trust movement. Land organizations such as San Francisco Community Land Trust, MEDA and other nonprofit Housing Development Corporations are using the Land Trust model to purchase, preserve and protect permanent affordable housing.

# **CASAalumni at Work**

## Graduates Pursue Their Dreams at AND Continued



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While at CED, besides seeking out the Asian Architectural Association, I was able to take studio classes that had Community Design as a focus and met some fantastic Instructor/mentors along the way: Maurice Lim Miller-Teaching the Furniture making class in the shop to design/build furniture for seniors living in a Chinatown SRO, Tony Enriquez's studio where we did a master plan for La Clinica de la Raza in Oakland, and James Vann who ran the Elmhurst Community Design Center where I got to work on designing an adaptive reuse of a building for the Allen Temple Baptist Church, also Mary Comerio who taught an introductory development class with a focus on community design.

The experience of working with architects, designers in the context of communities of color and the organizations that did the work inspired me. After I graduated I went to work for the small firm of Barcelon + Jang, who I originally met as board members of NDCO, then I heard of a job opening at Asian Neighborhood Design for a Project Manager. Knowing that I had NO experience in projects or management I figured I would not be hired but I'd go for the interview anyway just to test out my portfolio and resume in preparation for a 'REAL' architectural job later. After interviewing with Maurice, Gilbert and Antonio I was eventually hired.

#### My role and responsibilities include:

My primary role is now as Principal Architect along with Babette Jee. My responsibilities are to seek and secure jobs and income for the office to stay in business, manage and support my staff in its ability to do quality/efficient work, bridge the world of codes, construction, budgets and schedules with the needs of the community, and to be aware of initiatives or movements that connect with architecture and design as solutions to problems in our society.

Secondary roles are as community advocate. I try and engage with the various justice initiatives that exist in our communities: affordable housing, support services, jobs, programs for seniors and youth and families, immigration and anti-violence.

# What is the most significant aspects of a firm that synthesizes architecture services, community planning and employment training?

The Diversity of people and life experiences. From my experience the worlds of Architecture, Planning and Development are generally of similar 'cultures': college educated, white collar- used to drawing, writing and working more from the 'Head'. While Employment Training generally deals with blue collar more physical labor (construction, food service, hospitality etc.) and working more from the 'Hands'. These two different life focus' have an impact on each other as either a collision of differences or an interactive learning experience. With the three aspects at AND we go through the interaction every day.



**410 Fairmont, Oakland, CA** - Renovation of existing apartment building for 31 new permanently affordable apartments with new community building constructed in the courtyard

## **Community Serving Facilities**



Boys and Girls Club Excelsior Youth Center, San Francisco, CA. New Community Youth Center with gymnasium, computer lab, teen center, activity rooms and recording studio



## Affordable Housing Renovation: continued

#### What I like most about my job:

The occasional 'ahaa' moment when I/we come up with a design solution that solves a particular design/code/construction problem and; mostly working with a great movement of people who are committed to working in this area; from the direct line staff workers and case managers, clients, to the Directors and community leaders who struggle to effect positive change in our world.

Children's Campus SFSU, San Francisco, CA - New 8,000 sq. ft child care for infants, toddlers, and preschool.

All project images courtesy of A+D, Architecture + Design © 2016

# **CASAalumni at Work**

## **Graduates Pursue Their Dreams at AND**

Continued

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### **Elizabeth Lagarde**

Architectural Job Captain / Project Coordinator BA Architecture '11, Minor in City Planning University of California, Berkeley

#### How I came about joining AND:

Through researching firms around the Bay Area, I found out AND was looking for a Job Captain and I did my research on them before considering on applying and they stood out to me because the work they've done and continue to do aligned with my interest and passion in Community Design. So I submitted my cover letter, resume, and portfolio. Weeks later, I went through their interview process and was interviewed by Steve Suzuki. I was fortunate that they considered me to join their team.

#### My role and responsibilities include:

As a Job Captain at AND I am actively involved in a variety of projects from start to finish. I work along with the Project Architect and clients/community to assess the problems and needs to develop the projects schematic designs. I am responsible for the production and coordination of Construction Documents, constant communication with clients and consultants and work alongside the Project Architect in meeting deadlines. I also prepare renderings and drawings.

# What is the most significant aspects of a firm that synthesizes architecture services, community planning and employment training?

Passion, commitment and patience. Community Design work isn't all pretty at times and can be a challenge.

## What I like most about my job:

It feels great to be a part of an organization that has contributed to many communities of color. I enjoy the projects that I'm working on. Many times it is challenging and overwhelming work, but knowing that they will have a big positive impact on the clients and the communities they serve is what continues to drive me to complete the work. Working here is a constant reminder of how much work still needs to be done at a local level to uplift our communities.

## Community Serving Facilities: continued



Excelsior Family Connections, San Francisco, CA Converting existing 4,000 sq. ft. warehouse to a new family support service center with a daycare center.



HUG Preschool, Sunset District, San Francisco, CA - Converting existing 2,000 sq. ft. retail space to a toddler and preschool childcare center





**ABOVE:** AND's Community Planning program provides underserved communities with the tools and support needed to become effective players in the shaping of equitable, safe and vibrant neighborhoods throughout San Francisco.

**RIGHT:** Home For over 35 years, AND Employment Training Center (ETC) has successfully trained at-risk, low-income youth and young adults in the green construction field to gain vital life and employment skills and achieve self-sufficiency.

# Sidebar: **AND Architects**



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that the community can have ownership of

AND Architecture has a record history of

successfully designing over 1 million sq. ft.

of new and renovated affordable housing,

more than 30 community-serving facilities.

such as child care, health and neighborhood

centers and over 140 commercial facades

and

retail

tenant

signage

## Architecture + Community Planning: **Providing Design Services to Underserved Communities**



## AND - 43 Years and counting

On June 7th, AND will be celebrating their 43rd Anniversary.

For more information on the event, contact Lilia Arellano at info@andnet.org

# **AsianNeighborhood**Design

the building.

including

improvements.

The Architecture + Community Planning team is dedicated to providing low and moderate-income residents and other nonprofit community based organizations with access to a full range of high quality professional architectural and planning services. They provide a holistic design practice where they collaborate closely with their clients to realize their vision with their expertise in community participatory design. They encourage community input into the public building and spaces they design so

## AND Community Planning



Above: SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Youth & Family Zone, in partnership with SOMCAN to help build the vision for the Youth & Family Zo

## **Employment Training**



AND Community Planning provides underserved communities with the tools, technology and expertise to become effective players in the shaping of equitable, healthy and sustainable neighborhoods throughout San Francisco. AND believes that local residents, workers, stakeholders, and community-based organizations are most engaged in their own communities and know their needs better than anyone.





First Impressions Project: before and after



## Contact

#### Office:

1245 Howard St. San Francisco. California 94103 p: 415.575-0423 f: 415.575-0424 www.andnet.org

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In addition to Architecture and Community Planning, AND also provides a comprehensive construction job training, as part of AND's mission to reduce poverty and provide opportunities for low-income people to become economically selfsufficient, One of the employment trainings programs offered is the First Impressions Project, a collaboration of UCSF Citywide Employment Program, SF Department of Public Health (DPH), and Asian Neighborhood Design, where the lobby and reception area of selected SF community clinics are renovated to make them more welcoming. The clients/consumers receiving the services from the clinic are involved in the decision making process of how their clinic will look and they also receive on?the?job training in basic construction and remodeling skills to make the changes in the look and feel of their clinic.

# **Education**

## Martin Mares & the Ivy League Project

By Roy Rogelio Hernández



The Ivy League Project (ILP) was founded by Martín Mares in 1992 to encourage economically disadvantaged students to apply to the most prestigious universities in America. The program selects the most talented and promising 10th and 11th grade students and takes them to visit the top universities on the east coast.

Under the motto of "Engage, Envision, and Empower," the ILP is arguably the most effective and successful program of its kind in the US. Mr. Mares illustrates the dramatic contributions and impacts one impassioned individual can make.

#### Tell us about your roots.

I grew up in the poor farm working community of Parlier which is identified as the fourth poorest city in California in a large Mexican American Catholic family. I matured very fast because my family used to pick grapes and I had to accompany my father. When he picked grapes I would take the leaves off the brown paper and make trays.

As a youngster, I started working with the big crew made up of Mexican men from Mexico. By the time I was 15, my brother and I were running a farm crew and transporting men from one ranch to another to pick the crops. I grew up in a very responsible and hard working family. We would make yearly trips to the motherland every five years to see relatives in Delicias, Chihuahua Mexico. I grew up in an educational environment that didn't value education. Most students, if any, were encouraged to attend the local junior college or trade schools. At the age of 9, my sisters who all graduated from the university, told me that I was going to go to college. I believed them. At a young age, I already knew and believed that I was going to go to the university after high school graduation.

# The ILP started in 1992; what was the catalyst for getting economically disadvantaged students into Ivy League schools?

I started the ILP because I was tired of hearing about ignorance of our the community. In college, I had a person come up to me and tell me that they didn't believe I was from Parlier because i didn't have a bandana on my forehead and а bad vocabulary. I was shocked by his assessment and opinion of Parlier students. I made it my mission to prove to him and others that Parlier students were bright, intelligent, and hard working students.



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Martin Mares Founder, President, and CEO The Ivy league Project maresvision@yahoo.com

After graduation from Fresno State, I taught in Madera for a few years and then moved over to Parlier. It was there as a teacher that I met Ruben Navarrette who inspired me to initiate the Ivy League Project.

The project was known as the Harvard Tomorrow Project the first year. I changed it because the Yale Dean didn't like the name and told me that if i ever wanted to stay free at Yale again, I would have to change the name. I laughed and changed the name to incorporate more lvy League Universities the following year.

I took 8 high school students the first year: two junior high school students and four Parlier HS students, as well as two independent students from Riverdale High School in Riverdale, CA and Roosevelt High School (who happened to be the Parlier HS Counselor's daughter). The first year went well. We visited Harvard, Yale, and MIT during our first five day trip to the east coast. The second year we extended the trip to go to New York. We also added more students from other communities and that's how the ILP got started. All students had to raise their own money to go on the trip. We sold candy, flowers, pizzas at special events and asked for donations from members of the community. The program was very popular with many students throughout the valley and the state. We added Saturday sessions to the schedule to review our fundraising efforts and later heard from guest speakers.

The catalyst was Ruben Navarrette who came to my school to speak to my junior high school students about Harvard University. After the meeting, Ruben invited me to take students to visit Harvard. It was radical because it was like taking students to the opposite side of the world. Many people in my community didn't believe that Parlier students could be accepted to Ivy League Universities. In fact, the people of my community had low expectations of themselves and didn't believe in themselves.

In college, I had a person come up to me and tell me that they didn't believe I was from Parlier because i didn't have a bandana on my forehead and a bad vocabulary.

## How does the ILP project work; how do students participate?

Students must meet all requirements to participate in the ILP. Students are expected to have at least a 3.75 and apply on line. If selected, students are invited to the ILP Orientation in the summer. Students are provided a year long calendar of ILP meetings in their region. Meetings are usually held every four or five weeks on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Students take the annual Ivy League East Coast tour during Spring Break; 45 students are selected from throughout Central CA to participate in this trip. We have other ILP's doing the trip from other regions of CA and AZ during the same time.

# Education

## Martin Mares & the Ivy League Project

Continued

### What is the Young Latina Network, and why did you initiate a program specifically focusing on Latinas?

It was the brain child of my 10 year old daughter Jacqui. The goal is to identify high achieving Latina girls in 7th -12th grades and expose them to Latina STEM Leaders as well as take the annual CA university tour.

#### You have dedicated yourself to getting low income Latinos into the best universities in the country for 24 years. How has recruiting changed in that time?

I see the universities more responsive to Latinos since I first initiated the Ivy League Project. Back in the day, it was rare to universities who had titles for Director of Minority Recruitment. Today, President Obama has given the Ivy League University Presidents a challenge to identify First Generation and poor students to their universities. The universities have responded by being more responsive to students of color and Dream students by providing support and aid for those students.

#### You have helped underrepresented students gain entrance to Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Princeton, Penn, Colby, Wellesley, Georgetown, Duke, and MIT, amongst others. How many students have you help in 24 years?

We currently have over 268 students who have been accepted to Ivy League Universities and other selective universities on the East Coast.

#### We noticed on your website that you not only recruit to lvy League schools. We saw a list of UC system schools and Stanford.

We have over 1500 students who have been accepted to CA selective universities, UC Universities, and State Universities.







Martin Mares with the sharpest Laino students in the nation, on their life changing trajectory to Ivy League Universities and bright futures.

#### Can you describe what a "project" is, how many ILP project are there, and where are they located?

We currently have over 18 lvy League Projects in California, Texas, and Arizona. A project is a school or community based program consisting of many different high schools in a city or region. Each ILP has a regional or school based ILP Executive Director that oversees the project. We currently have projects in Parlier, Fresno, Delano, Bakersfield, Greenfield, Salinas, Arvin, Watsonville, San Jose, Phoenix, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. We are scheduled to open up ILP's in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Sonoma, Fairfield, Atwater, Miami, Chicago, and Harlingen, Texas.

#### This year the ILP will take outstanding high schools students to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Columbia, MIT, and Penn during spring break. How many students will participate and what will students do at the universities they visit?

Every year we usually have 45 to 50 students participate in the annual Ivy League University College Spring trip. We accomplish our trip by keeping the students busy as soon as they wake up to the time they go to sleep. We have a very busy schedule every day packed with two universities informational sessions per day, school tours, as well as evening meetings with university admission officers, deans, college students, and alumni. By the end of the day students are tired and ready to go to sleep.

Your program has changed the lives of many economically disadvantaged Latinos. What are the most memorable students you dramatic success stories the ILP has fostered?

**ByDESIGN**<sup>©</sup> a quarterly e-zine

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**We** currently have over 268 students who have been accepted to Ivy League Universities . . . and over 1500 students who have been accepted universities, UC selective CA to Universities, and State Universities. 55

We've met many Super Star students, but the ones I remember are people like Alex Padilla who currently serves as the Secretary of CA. He used to provide movies, dancing, and pep talks to our students. He always provided opportunities for our students to meet other MIT students. Another student was our very own student from Parlier who's name is Carlos Paz. Carlos distinguished himself by earning honors and wrestling for Yale. He went on to Harvard Medical School earning a MD and a PHD. Today he is a very successful dermatologist in Fresno and owns his own office. He ended marrying another ILP Scholar who went to Brown and Bolt Law School. Lastly, Gus Gonzalez is another success story. He came from a single parent household. We got him into the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. He went on to Brown University and will be graduating May 2016 and entering the Brown medical school.

# **Education**

## Martin Mares & the Ivy League Project

Continued

## What kind of partnership, if any, do you have with the universities you take students too?

Most of the partnerships I have are friendship relationships with school admission officers whom I built relationships for the past 24 years. I've known many of them for over 20 years. I can pick up the phone and talk to admission officers, deans, and other important people at different universities.

## How is the ILP financed?

The students pay for the annual trip every year. Every student is responsible for raising \$2,600 for the trip. We charge a small administrative fee to run the program. We seek donations from our alumni, write grants, and have fundraisers to pay for the trip.

#### The ILP program has delivered remarkable results over 24 years, making a difference in farmworker communities and inner city neighborhoods across the US. Have high schools or universities approached you to clone your program?

I've received a lot of interest over the years by many individuals including students, parents, and community members on my effective strategies of how I help students get accepted to Ivies. I'm currently working on a book and an application to show parents and students alike on how to get accepted to Ivy League Universities.

## Where does the ILP go from here?

The Ivy League Project will be the next national Starbucks. We plan to be in every major city within the next 10 years. I'm currently writing a uniform curriculum for each project. The same strategies and focus will be consistent in each city. I'm currently writing application software that individuals can purchase and learn how to effectively develop an Academic Game Plan to gain admittance at an Ivy League University. I want to be able to help people in different countries build a winning academic plan for their child without having to pay a large sum of money to a personal college coach.

## What is it that drives you efforts, what is most gratifying about your work?

I'm driven by a passion to empower my community of Parlier because I was tired of hearing how poor and ignorant my community was perceived by many people in Central California. I wanted to change that perception and demonstrate that Parlier kids could get accepted to the top universities of the United States. I've come to realize that students and teachers will arise to the level of your expectation. Nothing happens by hope. You have to make it happen and have a passion to want to make a difference for kids. I never knew that God would use me in this way to empower not just my community, but countless others throughout the United States.





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**6** Nothing happens by hope. You have to make it happen and have a passion to want to make a difference for kids. **9** Martin Mares

# CASA Now!

## **Transitioning for an Even Greater Year**

By Itzel Torres & Anarosa Robledo



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CASA Latina Leadership

This has been a vear of transition for CASA in different many ways: new leadership, new members, and new projects. Fall semester was dedicated to preparing the transition of new leadership for and spring, allowing for a closer bond to unify the board.

Our board managed to work cohesively to keep CASA moving forward. We all understand that we, as students with other obligations, have full agendas; however, with different majors and schedules, taking on responsibilities became more interchangeable among us all.

Our board, as well as, the new members that attended our meetings this year consisted of individuals from different CED majors and backgrounds. We are all resources for each other in our community, whether it is academically, socially, or emotionally. Through collaborative sharing of our interests, we exchange knowledge of distinct aspects of design and its implementations on society. It was a goal of ours to be able to capture this knowledge in our projects and events.



CASA Board members: Maryell Abella (Publicity Chair), Lizbeth Ruiz (Outreach Coordinator), Anarosa Robledo (Co-chair), Itzel Torrez (Co-chair), Adrian Garcia Hernandez (Treasurer), and Alejandra Aguilar (Social Chair)

In an attempt to provide outreach to all people of color in CED, our Outreach Coordinator, Lizbeth Ruiz, was tasked with organizing firm tours that targeted all majors, such as a panel with the City Planning Department of the City of Berkeley, a presentation from San Francisco Public Works with Edgar Lopez, and tours with prominent landscape architecture firms, CMG Landscape and Office of Cheryl Barron. CASA members experienced the different dynamics and personalities each department and firm offered, giving us insight to the realities of working in the design fields in comparison to what we learn as students.

As mentioned in the previous issue of ByDesign Fall 2016, the casa mural became one of our leading projects this semester. The Diversity Platform Committee granted CASA funding to create a mural at Wurster. This mural is to demonstrate a visual narrative about our culture and the unity that transcends throughout communities of colors. We are establishing work committees to start mobilizing concepts for the mural. The mural project is set to be finished next year.

Working alongside RAZA, CASA was asked to helped host a small activity for the Oakland kindergarteners participating in Kindercaminata, which is an event that exposes students and parents to higher education at an early age. With our popular booth of building structures gumdrops and toothpicks, with children practiced dimensionality and form, as well as understanding support. We take advantage of the opportunity to introduce design at an early age with a fun, memorable

<sup>C</sup> This has been a year of transition for CASA in <sup>activity.</sup> many different ways: new leadership, new members, and new projects.





FAR LEFT: CASA leads an onsite tours at leading the City of Berkeley, San Francisco and leading design firms in San Francisco.

LEFT: CASA members contribute to the community by participating in Kindercaminata, an event that exposes students and parents to higher education at an early age.

# **CASA Now!**

# **Transitioning for an Even Greater Year**

Continued

CASA has been part of establishing Mental Health Awareness workshops to acknowledge the epidemic of poor health in CED. mental The workshops are designed to establish a safe space where mental health can be talked about openly. Our mission is to provide our casitas in which they feel resources. supported throughout their college experience. We are currently formulating a schedule to create more of these workshops for the upcoming year and activities that revolve around self-care. One of our activities is creating stress balls and lavender mesh bags to keep around work spaces in CED. In addition, we plan on hosting meditation hikes and social events, and fostering more collaborations with CED Wellness Affairs Committee.

Our annual CASA Alumni Awards provide casitas the opportunity to be acknowledged for their work in the design field at CED. This year's event we had the honor to have guest lecturer Isabel Castilla present at the ceremony. Isabel is a internationally recognized senior associate at James Corner Field Operations whose projects ignite an innovative step into the future of sustainable design. This is one of the events our casitas are eagerly awaiting for as it recognizes and celebrates all the hard work we put into the organization, as well as being scholars at UC Berkeley.





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**66** . . . we encourage casitas to come and volunteer to help create safe housing for low-income seniors, veterans and disabled individuals in the East Bay. 7

Our final event for the semester was collaborating with Rebuilding Together Oakland in which we encourage our casitas to come out and volunteer to help create safe housing for low-income seniors, veterans and disabled individuals in the East Bay. This experience gives our casitas a perspective that we usually do not get taught in classroom settings.

We get first hand experience in what it means to build a safe community together for predominantly lowincome people of color in which their stories resonate much to our own.

As we wrap up this school year, we look forward to announcing all the workshops, firm tours, activities, and opportunities we have set up for this upcoming school year.



Maryell Abella 3A L. Architecture, Sustainable Design '17





Alejandra Aguilar BA L. Architecture, Environmental Planning '17

## Adrian Garcia Hernandez

BA Sustainable Environmental Design / Forestry '17







Anarosa Robledo BA Urban Studies, Architecture, Sustainable Design '17

Lizbeth Ruiz Urban Studies, Arch. '16

**Itzel Torrez** BA Architecture / Public Health '18

# **Graphics Gallery**

## **Bay Area Natives Protest Trump Visit**

Photography by Lauren Hernandez

The ByDESIGN Graphics Gallery is a space dedicated to content received from our readers. We invite our readership to submit content including: artwork, political cartoons, photographs of any subject matter including graphic design work, computer generated models, renderings, or pics of current events.

In this issue, these photographs present a snap shot of the current political landscape. This issue picks up on the ByDesign Summer 2015 issue article entitled "The Summer of Trump."

These photographs were taken by ByDESIGN photojournalist Lauren Hernandez, as hundreds protested Donald Trump's presence at the California GOP Convention at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport hotel in Burlingame, Calif. on April 29.



A member of the Brown Beret's holds a sign expressing his opinion of Donald Trump,.



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An anti-Donald Trump protester screams "why are you armed like you're ready for war?" at Foster City Police..



**Above:** Protesters lock arms and shut down a busy street outside the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport hotel in Burlingame, Calif.



**Above:** An anti-Donald Trump protester passes out scarves adorned with "We Vote No Confidence" to passersby.







**Above:** A member of the Brown Beret's paces a line of Foster City Police during the anti-Donald Trump protest.

**Above:** Foster City Police barricade anti-Donald Trump protesters outside of the GOP Convention.