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COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL BUILDING: CREATING A PARK FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE GARBAGE DUMPS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN BUILD PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA

Winter Quarter 2008



Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Washington Seattle, Washington

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Introduction

The Winter Design/Build 2008 Program offers students a unique service learning opportunity to study in one of the world's most interesting countries, Guatemala. Rich in Mayan history and culture, Guatemala is an ecologically important with great swaths of forested land still intact and populations of endangered species threatened. This program is designed to meet two primary goals. First it offers students the opportunity to explore, observe and study in this unique country and gain insight into a unique culture and appreciate its vernacular environmental design. Second, the opportunity to work with a unique client and design and build an invaluable open space that will nurture and stimulate the children, their families and the community of garbage pickers.

Students will work with the client, Safe Passage (see description below), and the faculty to design and build an "outdoor classroom". Students will learn the skills of small culturally appropriate site design and construction detailing through this intensive project. The process is formed around the collaborative model of inclusive design. Once the design is completed, each student will take on individual responsibilities for various aspects of the project. The rapid pace of both the design and construction will demand a deep level of commitment and responsibility. In the design phase, students will be taught graphics, site design, and construction documentation and learn what a "therapeutic garden" is and how it might function. In the building phase, students will be taught the principles and methodologies of construction, how to use tools, calculate materials and cost estimating. The students will also learn through the children and volunteers of Safe Passage and gain insight into how people survive in radically different cultures and in great deprivation.

The park site is located in Zona #3, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the Guatemala City. The site, a former garbage dump has been partially cleared and a wall was recently erected around its perimeter to prevent land invasions and a pre-school is currently being erected on the park site. The park is surrounded on two sides by the squatter community, on another by the garbage dump; the largest in the city, where the families scavenge.

Applications can be reviewed and downloaded from the departmental Web page
http://www.caup.washington.edu/larch/Programs/design_build/guatemala/guatemala.php

Goals of the Project

- The creation of a park (Children's Peace Park) to be used by the children of Safe Passage to reduce their daily stresses, and accommodate a range of activities including vocational training, recreation and ecological awareness. The park will also serve as a therapeutic environment and safe refuge within the often violent and dangerous squatter community.
- In a working session with Safe Passage children and staff and the U of WA's students and faculty develop a program that meets the needs of the existing and planned future programs for Safe Passage.
- Develop construction documents that articulate the design intent and can be implemented within the construction budget.
- Implement the third phase of the park and work with the Safe Passage's staff and administrators to complete a maintenance plan.

Outcome of the Project

- The creation of a therapeutic learning environment that accommodates the therapeutic, academic, vocational and recreational goals of the Safe Passage curriculum.
- The creation of a replicable, community service model.
- Conduct a continuing evaluation based on follow up interviews over the next two years, to monitor and evaluate the park and document its use.

Participants

Landscape Architecture Design Build Program

The University of Washington Landscape Architecture Design Build Program has been asked by Camino Seguro/Safe Passage a non-governmental agency based in Antigua Guatemala to design and build a number of components in a Park designed for children and to be used as a part of their educational outreach and support program. The children are from the families of the garbage pickers who were pulled out of school by their families to harvest garbage for resale in an effort to increase the family income. Safe Passage is supporting the children in their effort to gain an education and break the cycle of dropouts/garbage picking. The park will be integrated into the programs curriculum and is intended to offer therapeutic, educational, vocational and recreation support and opportunities.

Students will work with the client, Safe Passage (staff, administrators and children (see description below), and the faculty to design and build an “interactive landscape. Students will learn the skills of small site design and construction detailing, management, community participation.

Faculty

The Landscape Architecture Design Build Program in Guatemala will be taught by Daniel Winterbottom, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture. The Design/Build Program was initiated by Professor Winterbottom in 1995 and over the past decade has completed a diverse range of projects. The projects include a public wash facility for a rural community in central Mexico; several projects in Seattle including an intergenerational play and recreational area, an outdoor classroom and environmental learning facility, a community adopt-a-park in the Cascade neighborhood, two formerly paved spaces on the UW's west campus that were transformed into green space for staff and students; and a series of gardens for a foster home for children with AIDS in New York City.

Camino Seguro/Safe Passage

Located in both Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala, Safe Passage was founded in 1999 in an effort to help the poorest of Guatemala's children break out of poverty in a dignified and permanent way through education. Working with children living near the garbage dump, Safe Passage has turned the dream of education into a reality for more than 500 children.

Children are the hidden victims of poverty. As innocent victims, born into poverty, they are forced by their parents to drop out of school and work aside their families to pick through the garbage and sell what they can, to eke out their minimal survival, amidst the domestic violence, alcoholism, and drug and sexual abuse that plagues their neighborhoods.

Safe Passage offers a wide range of services for the children of these families. By providing ongoing school support in the form of school enrollment, supplies, books and uniforms, Safe Passage supports children in twelve area public schools. Each child can earn assistance with clothing, shoes and other needed items, by regularly attending school and the daily reinforcement program. Safe

Passage also provides home and school visits to provide each child with additional support and a powerful awareness that someone cares deeply about them and their future.

The reinforcement program assists children with their homework and provides creative, meaningful hands on activities to reinforce their skills. Safe Passage depends on local and foreign volunteers to provide the children with individual attention they so desperately need. Volunteers are instrumental in the planning and administration of these activities. The park will play a significant role in the activities Safe Passage administers. It is intended to be a place of learning, recreation, exploration and healing. As a safe place, where children can express themselves as children, they will also learn about their local culture and ecology. The park will be a unique refuge in a neighborhood torn between poverty, violence and despair.

This collaborative relationship between the Safe Passage and the University of Washington offers a wonderful opportunity to combine teaching, research and to develop across discipline interaction between the Safe Passage personnel and the Department of Landscape Architecture. The design/build program represents an innovative model for teaching, intellectual exchange and service learning, and when realized, will provide a valuable community asset for the people of Zona #3 Guatemala City.

Courses and Credits

Students will receive 12 quarter credits.

Course credit will be discussed with each accepted student to the Guatemala Program. Currently enrolled UW Landscape Architecture students must meet with the graduate or undergraduate program coordinators PRIOR to departure for approval of coursework listed below:

LARC 498/598 6-credit Design Build Studio
LARC 411 3-credit Landscape Graphics
LARC 499/600 3-credit Independent Study

Schedule

The Guatemala Design Build Landscape Program will begin in Antigua, Guatemala on January 7th, 2009 and end on March 6th, 2009. During this time, participants will see Guatemala City and travel within the country to see natural and cultural sites.

Preparation and Orientation

A preparatory 1- credit seminar course (L Arch 498B/598B) will be taught by Professor Winterbottom in Fall Quarter 2008 beginning October 1st 2008. *This class is not required, but is recommended for all students enrolled in the program.* In addition, all students are required to complete a mandatory on-line orientation prior to departure. The on-line orientation provides information on concurrent enrollment, financial aid, grades, insurance and much more. It can be found on-line at http://www.ipe.washington.edu/domestic/online_orientation.html

Housing & Meals

All student housing between January 7th and March 6th, 2009 will be provided by the program. Housing in Antigua will be in hotel or dormitory rooms with multiple occupancy. Most of the food in Antigua will be provided by the program except meals during the student's assigned days off. Snacks and other food items will be at the student's expense. We are organizing potential field trips, however these are subject to change.

Transportation

All transportation during the program, except as noted below, will be provided by the program. Students are responsible for round trip air travel to Guatemala, any public transportation and housing during days off, and any travel within Guatemala or outside of the country, after the program ends.

To enable you to estimate costs, a round trip plane flight from Seattle is approximately \$500.00.

Guatemala City is a relatively large city and accessible by bus or taxicabs. Antigua is a relatively small city and accessible by walking or taxicabs.

Physical Conditions and Medical Precautions

The program will take place in an impoverished urban site. Because of this, students will be required to have a pre-departure physical and to arrange for the recommended inoculations. If you have an existing medical condition, discuss this with your doctor so that s/he can assess your needs prior to departure. The work will require students to be in good physical and mental condition--see the Technical Standards in the application at the end of this brochure.

The link below is the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory Website. There are many links about health and safety to which you may refer, both in general and in relation to Guatemala.

Reference: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1030.html

Student Eligibility

Advanced undergraduate and graduate students in landscape architecture, architecture, anthropology, fine arts and any other **related fields** may apply. Program emphasis is on, **but not limited to** students who are preparing for professional careers in environmental design disciplines. Participants are selected on the basis of high scholarship, academic preparation, motivation, emotional maturity, and financial responsibility.

A maximum of 15 students will be accepted.

How to Apply

All interested students must fill out the attached application form and mail (Rachel Ward, 224 Gould Hall, Box 355726, UW Seattle, WA 98195-5726) or email (nina@u.washington.edu) no later than **Monday May 26, 2008**. In addition, a non-refundable deposit of \$350.00 will be charged to your students account upon acceptance to the program. Students will be notified by **Monday June 16, 2008** of their status.

Turn in all materials to Rachel Ward in CAUP Dean's Office 224 Gould Hall. See **Program Cost and Payment Plan**.

Application Deadline

Application deadline is **Monday May 26, 2008**. Program applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by **Monday June 16, 2008**.

Program Costs

The **Program Fee** for each student is \$3,750.00. This total includes the \$350 deposit, housing in Guatemala, transportation within Guatemala, and all meals during the project activities. **Not included** are IPE fee (see below), student health insurance, airfare, personal pocket money, optional field trip costs, travel documents and textbooks.

Office of International Program & Exchanges (IPE)

Students will be concurrently enrolled through the IPE Office (459 Schmitz Hall); an IPE fee of \$200 for this will be charged to your Student Account. Upon submission of the concurrent enrollment and health screening form to IPE, participants in the program will be registered by IPE for a FSTDY course during Summer Quarter 2006. Students will NOT be able to enroll themselves.

Concurrent Enrollment Forms will be distributed at the FIUTS/IPE Pre-Departure Orientation and are also available at <http://ipe.washington.edu>. These forms should be submitted to IPE on or before December 1, 2008 for Winter Quarter 2009.

IPE's website is <http://www.ipe.washington.edu/>

Non-UW Students

Non-UW students should submit the Non-Matriculated Application for Non-UW Students (available at <http://ipe.washington.edu>) to IPE upon acceptance to the program. They will then be given a UW Student Number, a UW Net ID and access to their MyUW personal page, UW email, etc. The fee for this is \$500 and will be assessed to students' new UW accounts upon receipt of the form.

Payment Plan

A \$350.00 will be charged to your student account when you apply to the program. Payment of this deposit will complete your application and guarantee your consideration for the program. Applications should be submitted to Rachel Ward, College of Architecture and Urban Planning Dean's Office, 224 Gould Hall.

\$350 will be charged to your account at time of application
\$1500 will be charged to your account on June 16th, 2008
\$1900 will be charged to your account on January 23, 2008

All payments will be made at Student Fiscal Services, 129 Schmitz Hall or electronically via MyUW.

Insurance

All students participating in international programs must be covered by some kind of student insurance. Students in University of Washington degree programs may purchase UW student insurance or other coverage; others may provide proof of insurance through their families, etc. Please provide proof of insurance coverage at time of application. Currently, UW student health insurance is \$371 per quarter. Next year's rate will increase when insurance carrier rates increase.. University insurance is purchased from Office of International Programs and Exchanges (IPE), who can also give you information on other insurance carriers if you want to explore insurance other than the University's policy. Please visit <http://ipe.washington.edu> for more information regarding insurance.

Financial Aid

If you have Financial Aid, when your award comes through it will be automatically applied to your Student Account, to which the Program Fee will have been charged. If you are awarded more than that amount, you should be sure to have Direct Deposit set up prior to departure. If you are awarded less than the amount owed, you will be responsible to pay the balance while you are in Guatemala.

Most forms of financial aid can be utilized during participation in this program. Participants who are on financial aid should contact the Financial Aid Office to verify that their awards will apply. Students interested in applying for increased financial aid during their quarter of study abroad should obtain a revision request from the Financial Aid office, and a budget of student expenses from the IPE office, and submit both to the Financial Aid office in Schmitz Hall.

Students should reference <http://ipe.washington.edu> for information about scholarships, including the quarterly IPE scholarship.

Withdrawal Policy

Any students not accepted to the program will receive a refund for the \$350 program deposit. For all accepted applicants, this fee is non-refundable. Any accepted student withdrawing from the program by **Monday June 30, 2008** will be refunded all but the non-refundable \$350 program deposit. Any student withdrawing from the program after this deadline will be liable for the non-refundable \$350 program deposit and any non-recoverable payments already made or committed on behalf of the participant, which could range from \$500 to the entire program fee. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made **in writing** to the program faculty and a copy provided to the CAUP Dean's Office.

Changes in Cost or Scope of Program

In the event of significant devaluation of the dollar, some adjustments to program activities may be necessary. If such a change occurs, students will be notified of the changes in the program and options for the students will be given.

Program Cancellation

If viable enrollment is not reached by April 19th, the program will be canceled and all money paid in, including the application fee, will be refunded

Questions about the Program

Questions should be directed to Daniel Winterbottom (nina@u.washington.edu). There will be at least one informational session before applications are due.

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN BUILD PROGRAM
Guatemala Winter 2009**

APPLICATION

Name _____ UW Student # _____

email _____ Birth Date _____

Major _____ Expect to graduate (Month/year) _____

Current Address

Current Phone _____ Until When? _____

Passport # _____ Citizenship _____ Expiration Date _____

Note: You must apply for a student visa for Guatemala after you have received your passport. Be sure to allow at least a month before leaving the U.S. for this process.

Permanent Address

Name/Address/Phone # of person we can contact while you are abroad:

How do you plan to finance the costs of the program?

Will you be relying on Financial Aid? _____ Will you be purchasing UW student insurance? _____

(If not, you please provide proof of your own insurance; a xerox of a current coverage card or document will suffice. Please provide this proof with your application)

University of Washington Status (check where appropriate)

Never before enrolled _____ Enrolled the quarter prior to Autumn 2008 _____

Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____ Non-matriculated _____

List all institutions that you have attended (starting with the most recent)

University or College	Location	Dates Attended	Degree
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Application continues on reverse side>>

**On a separate sheet, please answer all of the following questions as thoroughly as possible.
Please be sure to put your name on this sheet, and staple it to your application.**

1. Why do you want to enroll in this course?
2. What do you hope to get out of it?
3. What is your experience with group travel and study in a new environment?
4. What is your comfort level with the design process?
5. What is your construction experience?
6. How many cubic feet in a cubic yard?
7. Define plumb and level.
8. How many lineal feet are there in 4 8' 2X4's and 19 10' 2X6's?
9. Do you speak any foreign languages? If so, please list and include level of competence.
10. In what other countries have you traveled? lived?

I have read the brochure and understand the conditions under which the programs are offered, including those which apply to payment and refund conditions.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date_____

Return to: Dean's Office, College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Attn: Rachel Ward
224 Gould Hall, Box 355726
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

The University of Washington provides equal opportunity in education without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the University of Washington policy.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Technical Standards for international study are accurately descriptive statements designed to convey the reality of, and required skill set necessary for, a particular international program or exchange. Their use is encouraged to provide participants with a realistic picture of the program and can be used in counseling students about their study abroad options.

UW's Winter 2009 Program in Guatemala

Participants will need to be able to:

- Transport themselves several miles per day
- Negotiate stairs and uneven pavement (including cobblestones, dirt paths, high curbs)
- Tolerate sun, heat and humidity
- Experience shortages and other inconveniences, such as power outages, lack of refrigeration, periodic absence of hot water
- Respect cultural differences
- Learn in a different educational environment
- Adjust to a different diet
- Engage in dialogue with those holding different political views
- Demonstrate teamwork
- Maintain a sense of humor and emotional stability in a potentially challenging environment

Resources for Mobility Issues:

<http://www.miusa.org>

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/travel/disability/index.shtml>

*Prepared by:
The Office of International Education
University of Washington*