

Abstracts

EDITORIAL

With this edition, Bitácora architecture joins to the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the “dedication” of Ciudad Universitaria (cu), on November 20 1952, as well as for the fifteenth anniversary of the inclusion of its central campus in the list UNESCO World Heritage. Therefore, we offer a section to these commemorations: cu 70 years opens with an article by the architect Carlos Lazo, general manager of the cu construction project, published in the *Magazine of the University of Mexico* just in November 1952, with an explanation of its construction systems that reveals the magnitude of the company. We also include a letter – finding by Juan Manuel Salazar Pérez– in which Diego Rivera proposes to Lazo the linking of his dream City of the Arts with cu. Subsequently, Imelda Morales Ferrero describes and highlights the aesthetic values of the Central Library, perhaps the most emblematic building on campus; Leonardo Solórzano tells us about the inauguration of the first scenic area in cu, precisely housed in our faculty, with the play *Spring Awakening* by Frank Wedekind, under the direction of Juan José Gurrola; To close the section, Gabriela Álvarez documents the new appointments that various spaces of the Faculty of Architecture have received, as essential actions to make women visible, their trajectories and contributions, in the disciplines that concern us.

In our Investigation section, Erika Alcántar and Héctor Quiroz address the presence of women in the history and theory of urban planning, to rethink this discipline in the context of a new consciousness; Siomara Ruckstuhl analyzes the Civic Center of Guatemala and three analogous cases, to determine the urban qualities and limitations that make a place a citizen meeting space; and, in “The House of the Beasts and the Indian Chapel”, Sandra

Álvarez and Xavier Cortés Rocha analyze the contribution of this building, which does not exist today, to the architectural colonial typology.

In the Essay section, Luis Ángel Morales addresses different ways of looking to approach recognizing objects and spaces, focusing on the observer’s relationship with minimalism; In “Walled Space”, Pablo Quintero Valladares offers readers an analysis of this architectural object, beyond its protective qualities; Bettina Cetto records the uncontrolled growth of Cancun, Quintana Roo, founded only 52 years ago; and Eyal Weizman closes with “Contraforensic Architecture”, on the investigations of the team he directs, in the face of situations of violence and the importance of his work in the current reality of Mexico.

The number two articles in Conversation close: in the first –part of a collection that presents conversations with important figures in landscape architecture–, María del Carmen Meza Aguilar interviews the geographer Manuel Mollá Ruiz-Gómez and, finally, Elisa Drago talks with the architect Alberto González Pozo, recently awarded the Federico Mariscal Extraordinary Chair, to learn a little more about the work and experience of such a distinguished architect.

In the purest miscellaneous tradition, this issue of our magazine brings together a series of reflections on commemorations, discoveries, and current issues that have moved us as a community. • Centli

Zamora

INVESTIGATION

The Presence of Women in Urbanist History and Theory: A Review of University Teaching Experiences **Héctor Quiroz Rothe** **Erika Alcántar García**

Through undergraduate teaching experiences at the UNAM’s urbanism program, we have conducted a study of the presence of women in the history and theory of this discipline, both locally and internationally. We explored the biographies of female professionals and leaders, both on the institutional plane as well as in processes of informal urbanization, the latter of which largely define our cities. Through this comparison, we have put forward a proposal to rethink the discipline on our continent, with all its epistemic, historiographical and political debts.

Keywords: female urbanists, Mexico, urban history and theory

The House of the Beasts and the Indian Chapel: A Brief History of Mexico’s First Open Chapel **Sandra Álvarez Hernández** **Xavier Cortés Rocha**

This is a brief history of the Chapel of San José de los Naturales, founded by Fray Pedro de Gante. It is considered to be the first open chapel, a structure that was one of New Spain’s greatest contributions to the field of architecture, invented as a solution to specific evangelization needs and in response to the rich syncretism that occurred during the sixteenth century. This particular chapel was built on a site once occupied by Moctezuma’s House of Beasts: it was originally a simple portico and grew to become the city’s most impressive temple. Over time, it gradually lost space until it entirely disappeared.

Keywords: Fray Pedro de Gante, open chapel, San José de los Naturales, syncretism, transformation

Urban Intervention Strategies for the Civic Center of Guatemala

Analysis of the Urban Characteristics of Modern Civic Centers

Siomara Elizabeth Ruckstuhl

The Civic Center of Guatemala—like other projects in Argentina, Brazil and India—was built under modernist concepts. However, it confronts problems that have prevented it from being the heart of the city, as it was designed to be. This article compares its urban characteristics with those of three analogous cases, determining shortcomings and opportunities that could orient strategies for turning it into a popular meeting place.

Keywords: Civic Center, Guatemala, modernity, urban characteristics, centrality, diversity, interaction, accessibility, adaptation, appropriation

CU 70 YEARS

Construction Systems in University City Carlos Lazo

The editorial

In 1952, the architect Carlos Lazo wrote a delightful text that addressed the construction systems used in University City, going over their characteristics and the principles that guided the choice of both the type of structure to be built as well as the materials used in each of the project's buildings. He placed special attention on the construction of the Olympic Stadium, detailing the stages of the construction process, starting with the selection of an earthen structure, a logical solution given the nature of the site. Lazo was directly involved in the execution of this construction process and so this text offers a deep understanding of University City.

Keywords: University City, Carlos Lazo, reinforced concrete, compacted earth

An Unpublished Missive from Diego Rivera to Carlos Lazo

Toward a City of the Arts

The editorial

While conducting research for his dissertation on the SCOP Center at the Carlos Lazo Archive (part of the General Archive of the Nation), Juan Manuel Salazar Pérez found a strange message that Diego Rivera sent to Carlos Lazo on November 27, 1951. It has remained unpublished until now. Why is it so strange and why must we make it known, when both correspondents seemed to wish for it to remain secret? This brief missive is anomalous because, quite simply, the painter proposed something extravagant to the architect.

Keywords: City of the Arts, Anahuacalli, University City, Alberto T. Arai

The Central Library and its Stone

Mosaics

Imelda M. Morales Ferrero

The Central Library of University City is undoubtedly one of the most emblematic buildings in this midcentury architectonic complex, built 70 years ago and a World Heritage Site since 2007. This building, with the stone mosaics that cover its façades, constitutes a major example of modern architecture and plastic integration and is one of the most representative works by the architect, painter and muralist Juan O'Gorman.

Keywords: Juan O'Gorman, modern architecture, plastic integration, mosaic, stones

From theatricality to the reality of the contemporary student movement

Spring Awakening at the Faculty of Architecture

Leonardo Solórzano

Among the many spaces that form part of the Faculty of Architecture, there is a theater, the first to be inaugurated at University City. Its first performance was of Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening*, a paradigmatic play whose discourses evoke the contemporary struggles of young

women within and outside the faculty. Sixty-two years after the inauguration of this cultural space, the theater was renamed to turn the page to a new chapter in an unfinished history.

Keywords: Estefanía Chávez Barragán Theater, Juan José Gurrola, staging, feminist movement

Renaming the Faculty of Architecture Gabriela Álvarez

In the context of a student strike against gender violence, the work of the feminist collectives within the Faculty of Architecture has been reflected in a series of changes. This article addresses one of these changes, the process of renaming four major spaces within the faculty's vestibule, the first step in a process of change in which three-quarters of its spaces will be renamed in order to recognize the contributions of women. It will therefore give a brief summary of the careers of each of these women and emphasize the importance of these actions.

Keywords: renaming, gender violence, feminism, Lilia Margarita Guzmán y García Library, María Luisa Dehesa Gómez Farías Gallery, María Costanza Cervera Gómez Student Hall, Estefanía Chávez Barragán Theater

ESSAY

Seeing Minimalism

Luis Angel Morales

When analyzing the relationship between the observer and minimalist compositions, we need to study the different meanings of the verb to see: the gaze of the elite, apparently cultivated; the gaze of the blind masses, in need of kitsch; the gaze of the unconscious.

Seeing and strolling, seeing and comparing our bodies with our environment, seeing and unfocusing to match the blur to our emotions, seeing and constructing three-dimensionally, seeing and feeling with all five senses: the haptic gaze.

Keywords: minimal, seeing, blur, kitsch, haptic, observer

Walled Space (And Some Experiences for Overcoming It)

Pablo Quintero Valladares

This article constitutes a reflection on walls beyond the issue of security. Examining the reconstruction of a school, it addresses the impact of the wall on its architectonic space. This case is then complemented by examples from the author's previous works.

Keywords: space, enclosure, wall, security, intimacy, structure, construction process

Cancún Turns 52: Reflections on its Urban Development

Bettina Cetto

While modern Cancún was officially born on August 10, 1971—when the federal government registered its incorporation through a decree published in the Official Diary of the Federation—its birthday is celebrated on April 20. So it was decided by the city council, to commemorate the 1970 day when the first machinery reached Punta Sam that would be used to take over the work that was being done by machete just months beforehand...

Keywords: master plan, touristic development, urban sprawl, deforestation

Counterforensic Architecture

Elis Mendoza

Sergio Beltrán-García

This article addresses the work of Forensic Architecture, an interdisciplinary team led by Eyal Weizman, whose work concentrates on investigations into situations of violence through the interpretation of architectonic spaces that contain material evidence. Their work has contributed to destabilizing hegemonic narratives told by the state: they have carried out over eighty investigations in nearly thirty countries, addressing violations of human rights. Their investigation into the 43 disappeared students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College was

captured in a mural at the University Museum of Contemporary Art. In Mexico's violent context, the creation of a Forensic Architecture unit is an important development, as is the Faculty of Architecture's approach to the team.

Keywords: Forensic Architecture, material witnesses, state violence, human rights

CONVERSATION

The Landscape Is Just Another Point: A Conversation with Manuel Mollá Ruiz-Gómez

María del Carmen Meza Aguilar

This interview has the objective of introducing readers to the concept of the landscape via the reflections of an open-minded geographer who shares his impressions on the development of this broad field of study through his sharp, educated gaze. He has studied the landscape for its historical and identitarian value and has made use of a variety of tools, such as photography, to understand it. He is a knowledgeable lover of our country and a great conversationalist who takes an interest in everything, leaving us with a major written legacy.

Keywords: landscape, geography, landscape architecture, environment, landscape studies

Interview with Alberto González Pozo Federico Mariscal Extraordinary Chair 2021

Elisa Drago

The architect Alberto González Pozo was awarded the Federico Mariscal Extraordinary Chair, which every year elects one architecture professional in Mexico. In addition to the talks, was accompanied by an exhibition inaugurated at the Maria Luisa Dehesa Farías gallery. This interview is part of the activities of this chair, in which Elisa Drago talks with González Pozo reviewing her professional career and experiences working with other architects such as Abraham Zabludovsky, Enrique de la

Mora, Fernando López Carmona, among others. Also it addressed his travel learning, his first projects, his editorial work, and dissemination of architecture.

Keywords: participatory architecture, Alberto González Pozo, dissemination of architecture, modern Mexico.