

Isabel Fernández

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Assistant Professor SUNY ESF | Landscape Architect | Urban Designer

Area of Specialization

Through practice, teaching and research I have developed an expertise and focus on the design, implementation, evaluation, and understanding of public space. In particular how as users we are affected by its condition. "One of the great but often unmentioned causes of both happiness and misery is the quality of our environment" (De Botton, 2006). I truly believe that the availability of quality public space within our urban realm allows for healthier citizens and environments. This belief has led me to design and conduct in depth research of public spaces. Through this investigation new knowledge was developed with regard to how certain research methods can shed light on how to minimize the user-designer gap and reveal landscape value. Building upon this work this summer I begin a long term study on the 78 municipal plazas of my native Puerto Rico. Working across-disciplines and cultures I lead a collaboration between SUNY ESF students in Landscape Architecture and PUCPR students in architecture with Prof. Orozco and Prof. Martinez, the Dean of the School of Architecture, at the PUCPR. These plazas although historic in character are intensely used by the islands' citizens and sit as untapped laboratories of information to advance the design, management and preservation of public space.

Education

Master of Landscape Architecture II | 2010

Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

Concentration: Human Ecology **Thesis:** "Learning from the First Wave of New Urbanist Developments: A Post Occupancy Evaluation of the Parks and Open Space System at Lowry, Colorado"

Committee Members: Prof. Paula Horrigan | LA, Prof. Ann Forsyth | CRP, Prof. Gary Evans, DEA

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture | 2001

Clemson University *Clemson, SC*

Thesis: "A Rebuilding Strategy for Santiago Texacuangos" _Master plan and strategies for the safe and adequate reconstruction of the town, its residential areas, plaza, market & sports arena after three consecutive earthquakes. **Team Members:** Andrew Bleckley | Cite Design Richmond, VA & Jason Smit | Arbor Engineering, SC

Committee Chair: Prof. Umit Yilmaz

Teaching

Assistant Professor | August 2011 - Present State University of New York College of Environmental, Science and Forestry Department of Landscape Architecture *Syracuse, NY*

LSA 425 Off-Campus Design Studio - Puerto Rico

- > Coastal conditions of Puerto Rico in relation to disaster preparedness | Amanda Bishof
- > Resort typologies of the Caribbean and their relation to the local culture | Edward Li

> Across Typologies - Indoor Outdoor Conditions from a landscape architecture perspective | Sarah Russo

LSA 495/695 On the Plaza

Understanding Public Space within Complex Urban Environments Cross-disciplinary & Cross-cultural Studio in Puerto Rico with the PUCPR School of Architecture

LSA 327 Design Studio

LSA 552 Graphic Communication

LSA 220 Introduction to Landscape Architecture

LSA 301 Digital Graphics & Documents

LSA 302 3d Modeling

LSA 800 Capstone Studio | Chair

> An Eco-Resort for the Hacienda of San Antonio Silil, Mexico | Nathan Ogdahl | MLA 2012

Other Current Academic Activities

Landscape Urban Forum | International Workshop in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain - June 11-21 | Landscape, Architecture & Urban Planning: Green Infrastructure in the City.

Skype Talks Fall 2011 | Bringing to the classroom and the Department young and bright practitioners and educators in Landscape Architecture to inspire the student body

Graduate Committee Member DLA | Governance committee Public Service and Outreach (2yr. term) SUNY ESF | Guest Critic & Advisor at both SUNY ESF & Cornell University.

Visiting Lecturer | 2010 - 2011

Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

Department of City & Regional Planning Real Estate Program

CRP 5075 Real Estate Capstone Project Workshop | Urban Design Multi-disciplinary studio with Landscape Architecture, Planning & Real Estate Students _ A new downtown for Wheaton, MD

CRP 5851 Graphic Communication in Real Estate | A course on how Real Estate Students can generate better graphics for statistical context

CRP 5851 Graphic Communication for Planners | A course focused on how planning students can generate strong competition boards

Teaching Assistant | 2008 - 2010

Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

Department of Landscape Architecture

S.2010 4th yr. Undergraduate Capstone Studio | Prof. Horrigan

F.2009 1st yr. Graduate Studio and Graphics Course | Prof. Horrigan

S.2009 2nd yr. Graduate Studio on Urban Ecology | Prof. Vanucchi

F.2008 3rd yr. Graduate Studio on Urban Morphologies | Prof. Foster

Professional Experience

D+H China | North American Partner | 2008 - present Ithaca, NY

*Selected Project Experience & Built Work | *Awards*

Kunyushan National Park Phase II | National Park Design in collaboration with D+H . China | *Yantai, China*

***Kunyushan National Park** | National Park Design Competition in collaboration with D+H . China | 1st Place *Yantai, China*

***SPICE** | Ideas on Edge Urban Design Competition | Finalists . Work Selected for Public Exhibition *Parramatta, Australia*

White Breast Ecological Restoration Strategies & Site Design for a heavily farmed site with deteriorated river corridors *Des Moines, IA*

Dano's Heuriger (Restaurant) Sign Design, Landscape Architecture, Bidding & Negotiation, and Construction Administration *Seneca Lake, NY*

Tonel/Weeden Residence Landscape Architecture, Bidding & Negotiation, Construction Administration *Ithaca, NY*

Design Workshop | 2002-2008 *Denver, CO* Project Manager, Lead Designer & Construction Administrator

*Selected Project Experience | *Awards*

Public Space & Urban Design

Parks, Plazas & Open Space System Design for Lowry an 1,800 ac. Military Base Redeveloped into a New Community in *Denver, CO*

Power House Plaza | Sunset Village Park | Roslyn Park | *Reading Garden | 2009 Recipient of Denver's Mayor Award - Category: Home is where the art is | Prospect Park | Lowry East Dog Park & Linear Parkway *Denver, CO*

Lowry East: Builder Design Guidelines, Community Design, Parks & Open Space System Design & Construction Administration

Green Roof Design | Basset Street Apartments Landscape Connection & Roof Terraces *Denver, CO*

Meadows Town Center | New Community design & guidelines for Parks, Plazas, Boulevards and Parkways *Castle Rock, CO*

Residential & Resort

Phil Mickleson's Residence *Rancho Santa Fe, CA* | Playa Almirante Rincon, *PR*, Martineau Bay *Vieques, PR* | Isabela Beach Resort *Isabela, PR* and * Glacier Club *Durango, CO* | 2007 ASLA National Honor Award

Service

2008 Pro-Bono Work: Women's Home *Aurora, CO* and 2007 Pro-Bono Work: Denver Children's Home *Denver, CO*

Publications | *refereed

Fernández, Isabel | Mind the Gap - Post Occupancy Evaluations as a tool for minimizing the user-designer gap and revealing landscape value | Abstract accepted & presentation given for the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture annual conference, March 28-31, 2012. *

Read, A. and Fernandez, I. "Integrated Greenspace Networks a Smart Option." *Public Management* 92.10 (2010): 16-19 *

Fernandez, I. "Imagine Rust Renewed: Addressing Sprawl in Puerto Rico." *Getting Smart* | 2010 *

Fernandez, I. "The Ithaca Bio-Swale Initiative" Online at Prezi.com: http://prezi.com/mhkojk8_xipy/the-ithaca-bio-swale-initiative 2010

Fernandez, I. "Mending the Urban Fabric The Case of: Santiago de Texacuangos, El Salvador." *The Bumwad Design Workshop's Internal Magazine* | 2002

Fernandez, I. "Parks from Design to Implementation." *The Bumwad Design Workshop's Internal Magazine* | 2006

Guest Lectures | Speaker

Spring 2012 Invited by the School of Architecture at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico as Guest Speaker "Landscape Art" & "The International Practice"

2012 Speaker at the CELA Conference - peer reviewed abstract selected "Research Methods for the Analysis of Parks , Plazas & Open Space Systems"

Spring 2012 Invited by the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico Department of Landscape Architecture | Via Skype: "Urban Design"

Spring 2012 Guest Lecturer for the Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture at Cornell University "The Landscape Architect's Portfolio and the Job Interview"

Fall 2011 & Spring 2012 Guest Speaker at ESF for Research Methods | Prof. Dieterland "Multi-Methodological Approaches in Landscape Research" | "The Post Occupancy Evaluation of the Lowry Community its Parks, Plazas and Open Space System"

Fall 2011 Guest Speaker at Cornell University for CRP 5852 Graphic Communication | Prof. Boggs "Portfolio's and Resume's for Planners"

Fall 2011 & Fall 2010 Skype Speaker for the Polytechnic School of Puerto Rico Department of Landscape Architecture Pro-Practice Course | Prof. Olga Angueira "Designing & planning the professional portfolio and preparing for the job interview"

Spring 2011 Guest Speaker for Cornell University's ULI Preparation Course | Prof. Marc Miller and Prof. Pike Oliver "Graphic Communication for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Student Competition"

Fall 2010 Guest Speaker for Cornell University's LA Department Young Professionals Talk | Prof. Paula Horrigan "My career path"

Spring 2010 Guest Lecturer Polytechnic School of Puerto Rico Department of Landscape Architecture | Prof. Olga Angueira "Practicing Landscape Architecture, Planning & Urban Design Abroad"

Spring 2010 Guest Speaker for Real Estate Course on Community Design

and Planning | Prof. Pike Oliver *"New Community Design"*

Fall and Spring 2010 Recurring Guest Lecturer at Cornell University for the City & Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture Departments on: *"How to Create a Portfolio to Get the Interview and Job You Want"*

Fall 2007 Guest Speaker at Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture *"The Design Process at Design Workshop"* and sent by Design Workshop Inc. to recruit students

October 2003 - July 2008 Recurring Speaker at Design Workshops Coffee Talks in Denver, CO *"Field Experiences in Landscape Architecture"*, *"The Construction Process"*, *"Resort Design in Puerto Rico"*, *"A Rebuilding Strategy for Santiago de Texacuangos in El Salvador"*.

Awards | Design Competitions, Fellowships & Research Initiatives

2011 First place Kunyushan National Park International Design Competition *Yantai, China*

2011 Work on Exhibition Parramata International Design Competition *Parramata, Australia*

2011 Honorable Mention Ford Foundation Fellowship Predoctoral Competition

2010 Research Fellowship Rust to Green New York State \$5,000

2009 Clarence Stein Fellowship \$8,000

2007 Honor Award Colorado ASLA for the Glacier Club *Durango, CO*

2002 First Place Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design Competition LARBF & CLARB

2002 Undergraduate Team Design Award ASLA National Student Design Competition

2001 CAF Mickel Grant for Travel Abroad \$4,000

2009 -10 Outstanding Teaching Assistant in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

2010 Outstanding Performance and Dedication in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

2001 - 2002 ASLA Honor Award for Excellence in the Study of Landscape Architecture

2000 Architecture Program the Universidad Complutense de Barcelona

2000 City & Regional Planning Summer Graduate Program in Zurich, Athens & Turkey

1999 Art & Architecture History Program in Italy

1996 - 1997 Exchange Program | Marine Science USC; Air Force ROTC Blue Eagles Drill Team Sergeant's Award; Air Force ROTC

AMVETS of World War II, Korea, Vietnam Medal; Volleyball Varsity Team University of Puerto Rico

1994 Presidential Classroom *Washington, DC*

Professional Memberships & Affiliations

Registered Professional Landscape Architect in the State of Colorado
American Society of Landscape Architects | Sigma Lambda Alpha
ODK National Honors

Languages

Fluent: Spanish and English | Some written, spoken and reading knowledge of Italian | reading knowledge of Portuguese, Catalan, French and Latin.

Other interests

Adobe CS5.5 Series, Mac - PC Platforms, SketchUP, Travel, Yoga, Volleyball and Snowboarding