Challenges and Recommendations for ‘Visitors’ Teaching Design in the Developing World towards Sustainable Equitable Futures

Four Divided Nations

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All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. – Edmund Burke
In this essay we address the issue of poverty in Latin America and attempt to explain why this region of the world is so desperately poor despite its tremendous natural resources, indigenous skills, and proximity to the United States. We argue that a philanthropic architectural response is required in Latin America that stresses the importance of client/user design education and a respect for indigenous cultures. We describe the work of two NGOs, report on two grass roots projects, and describe how collaboration between Western university architecture departments and local NGOs can involve the community in successful building projects.
The site context would have been difficult for a local grass roots organization to respond to without the support of Stanford’s “think tank” and engineering faculty. The Stanford team was able to provide such expertise due to their acumen in seismic and related issues in the San Francisco Bay Area. For the Guatemalan community, the project has become a venue for intensive research, interdisciplinary collaboration, team spirit, and community outreach. Apart from the obvious research resources provided by the university partners, FC Search, a New York City Foundation Center computer program, provides useful donor identification at the international level; grant-making can cover design fees, expenses and
live projects
stanford architecture studio
Stanford Institute of Design (d-school)
design critics:
john haymaker, phd, aia
marga jann, aia, riba
david nieh, aia, aicp

web design by jane lilly
drawings by emily lesk

live projects: home
guatemala

france projects

the studio team

mexico projects
The World Is Flat
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
Thomas L. Friedman
the four arenas
The four arenas of architectural and design education explored in this article are Sri Lanka, Korea, Cyprus, and Uganda, each of which graciously welcomed the author’s teaching and research for a year or so as Visiting Professor.

The study attempts to pave the way for further exhaustive international exchange and cooperation in the design arts towards long-term poverty reduction and sustainable development. The arts in particular have much to glean from indigenous cultures and crafts in informing design, making such exchanges mutually beneficial (in multitudinous directions).

Additionally, the developing world now has virtually ubiquitous access to digital technologies (if only through ‘cracked’ programmes and computer ‘hacking’ levelling the playing field) enabling information exchange and design exploration at the highest levels, particularly in the fields of affordable housing, education, and health facility planning. While sustainable development in the ‘third’ world needs nurturing, patterns of globalisation suggest that the cultivation of ‘ethical intelligence’ also merits utmost, concomitant attention.
Sri Lanka after the tsunami
DEVELOPING HOUSES FOR THE AREAS HIT BY THE TSUNAMI

When Marga Jann, an architect, an Associate Professor of Architecture at Judson College and a Fulbright Scholar to Sri Lanka in 2005-2006, worked with her students at the Colombo School of Architecture, she set out to help them design housing that would be culturally sensitive, using local materials and vernacular styles and serve as eco-friendly models. The students’ designs were shown at a special exhibition in January 2006 in Colombo.

Marga Jann, far right, on the site of a tsunami village.
ready-to-purchase homes in thailand
Korean student live project design work: Seoul History Museum Exterior Plaza and Interior Exhibit
(Duksung Women’s University Interior Design Department)
서울이
How to Update Your Home: Korea Style

Written and photographed by Marga Jann

Moving into a new apartment? Want to revitalize a “frumpy” décor?

Use what’s local: Insadong and Suncheong-dong (north across the street) are great locations for both affordable and high-end art & artifacts.

Put your clothes on the wall! Fabrics and textiles make great hangings and ship easily when it’s time to move.

Hit Seoul’s used furniture shops: they deliver

Pictured right: garden table & chairs (left): 40,000 won / couch: 90,000 won—recycled from Seo Station used furniture shops.

Use the internet: [http://www.ikea.se](http://www.ikea.se). They also deliver! And try the new IKEA in Hayri Art Valley (www.ikea.se), well worth a visit along with Paju Creek City for stunning world-class contemporary architecture, just 40 minutes north of Seoul. To add a little flair, try mixing patterns and/or a splash of color. And keep things simple—don’t be afraid to donate to the Salvation Army!

About Marga Jann and her students:

Marga has a unique approach to teaching: she uses “live” projects (i.e. the projects typically get built) with her students. Last semester’s projects at Dukason included designs for the Seoul Museum of History Plaza, the interior renovation of the US Embassy here, and a sustainable eco-tourism village in Fiji in conjunction with her students at the University of Hawaii (see pages 3–5).

This semester she is working on “service-learning” designs for the Gang Buk Salvation Army Social Welfare Center, exhibits for the Dukason University Museum (to include a runway for fashion shows as Dukason has excellent Fashion & Textile Departments).

Seoul Museum of History Plaza

U.S. Embassy & Information Resource Center

Sustainable Eco-Tourism Cultural Resort Village

Bati, Fiji

Additional Tips:

* Lottic Mart is most convenient for attractive, affordable lamps, clothes, bedding, rugs, electric appliances, computer printers, etc. under one roof
* Hit in an occasional treasure and a few art books on Korean design/Sweet Selection Book Store & Cafe: [http://www.seoulsalection.com/](http://www.seoulsalection.com/)
cyprus
Uganda Martyrs University Campus, Nkozi
Edirisa Rubona UMU Orphanage ‘live project’ at Lake Bunyonyi, Uganda
(Crafts Centre design by UMU student Pam Akora, top right; Nursery School and Library design by students Nicholas Barisigara and Henry Twahirwa et al, top left and bottom)

“Life is not about maximizing everything, it’s about giving something back - light, space, form, serenity, joy. You have to give something back. We have to give back to society around us.”
-Glen MacCullum
ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS UNDERTAKE LIVE PROJECTS ON LAKE BUNYONYI AND AT THE U.S EMBASSY IN KAMPALA
architecture of ‘divided’ nations

Unyama, northern Uganda
http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2008/feb/19/background

Kabale, southern Uganda
http://www.getinvolved.ca/2011/12/49892/
The (unfinished) Ryugyong Hotel, Pyongyang, North Korea

Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, formerly Saint Nicolas Cathedral, Famagusta, Cyprus

Selimiye Mosque, formerly Cathedral of St Sophia, Nicosia/Lefkosia, Cyprus
For 1,000 or More Homeless in Hawaii, Beaches Are the Best Option

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/05/us/05hawaii.html
surfing the nations

wahiawa, oahu
Affordable Housing Prototype for Batiki, Fiji - Pouy Siphatay Phanphengdy
University of Hawai'i D.Arch. Program / Fall 2007
Marga Jann AIA, RIBA

The University of Hawaii Responds to the Call for Random Acts of Green Design

One green initiative, a sustainable, eco-friendly village master plan and design of eight prototypical buildings for the depressed island of Batiki, Fiji, is being undertaken by eight architecture graduate students in the D.Arch. program of the University of Hawaii under the mentorship of French-American architect and studio critic Marga Jann, AIA (Poetic License). These designs offer cost-effective, green solutions for much needed affordable housing in Hawaii as well, addressing the often neglected “equity” side of sustainability—concern for today’s poor and disadvantaged.

The Fiji project uses the University as a resource for providing “up-market,” green design to individuals and institutions which typically could not afford such input, foreshadowing the arrival of UH’s Community Design Center under the leadership of new Dean Clark Llewellyn next spring. All eight projects (which include a community center, council house, church, library, housing, and boutique hotel) employ rain-water harvesting, solar power, composting toilets, recycled materials, and culturally sensitive design. The initiative also includes fund-raising and grant-writing as a model for social entrepreneurship, and is being undertaken with former Fijian Minister of Housing, Adi Aseraca Caucau.