



International Project Workshop

Puerto Rico Re_Start

March 16th to 26th 2018 San Juan – Puerto Rico



Background

After the consequential Hurricanes Irma and Maria passage through the Island of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean Islands, the Office of UF VP Dr. David Norton opened the possibility of supporting UPR Faculty and Graduate Students for a limited stay at UF. We were able to receive two Faculty members and 7 students for 4 weeks. CHU acted as the host of the activities and actively engaged in logistics and academics with the visitors. Sponsored by Dean Anumba DCP, and Director Alread SOA, we developed jointly the ideas for an International Workshop, to be held yearly in Puerto Rico. The first edition will be in 2018 from March 16th to 26th. **The Puerto Rico Re_Start PREP**, the preparatory instance held between October 16th and October 30th, presented its results publicly on November 1st in the School of Architecture. It produced extensive background research, bibliographic and web content, alumni linkages, consolidated in a google drive data bank. The visitors returned to Puerto Rico after the conclusion. **The PR RS International Project Workshop** has gathered the support of The Chancellor of UPR, the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Urban Quality and Culture Rome, the UF Center for Latin American Studies and the College of DCP through academic units and Centers.

Proposal

The Puerto Rico Re_Start International Project Workshop, PR_RS co-organized by the University of Florida and the University of Puerto Rico will address the resiliency of the Islands, with expected consequences for the Virgin Islands, Guadalupe, Dominica, Barbuda, Haiti and Cuba. Interdisciplinary participants will gather around subjects of research and proposals. Professionals, faculty and students from UPR, UF, and international institutions from Europe and Latin America will direct the **Design Laboratories**, while an **Open Lecture Series** will discuss publicly the advancement scenarios. Representatives from stakeholders and public officials will join the discussions. Results will be presented publicly and published.

Subjects of Research and Project

A synthetic outline of the proposals has been developed under the umbrella concerns of infrastructure, settlement, environmental, economic and human sustainability.

Design Lab 01 - RIVER TRANSECT. MOUNTIAIN-TO-BEACH SYSTEMS

- highland settlements
- fisheries + reservoirs
- water management
- renewable energy
- landslides + sinkholes
- riverbed + coastal reconsideration
- rising sea level challenges

Design Lab 02 - INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENT ALTERNATIVES

- high-risk riverbed settlements
- high-risk coastal cities
- risk-free relocations
- rethinking land-use policies
- consolidation of informal settlements
- rising sea levels response
- riverbed flood abatement systems
- ocean surge protection systems

Design Lab 03 - UNTAPPED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- American railroad
- military bases
- airports + shipping ports
- public transportation systems (bus + train)
- tourism hotspots + beaches + reefs
- water sports + fishing charters
- hotels + *paradores* + rental by owner units
- convention centers
- natural reserves
- estuaries + bioluminescent bays
- caves + ziplines + observatories

- historical town centers
- first-response medical facilities
- regional hospital centers
- industrial parks
- green enterprises

Design Lab 04 - URBAN SERVICED-BUILDING REUSE

- unfinished structures
- historical stock
- abandoned buildings
- empty lots
- storm-damaged properties
- closed schools
- city park systems + urban reforestation

Design Lab 05 - HOUSING RESILIENCY

- existing housing typologies
- public housing
- new prototypes + regulations
- green communities
- community empowerment

Design Lab 06 - TEMPORARY & PERMANENT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY CORES

- container reuse as temporary core
- prototype + fabrication
- wifi hotspot
- solar energy
- rain water collection
- shade + safe haven
- food preparation
- first aid + medical supplies
- accessible

Organization and funding

The **Workshop** will be co- directed by Professor Martha Kohen, CHU Director UF, and Dr. Anna Georas, Graduate Coordinator SOA UP, with an Organizing Committee. The Directors have developed an estimated budget to cover the displacement, honorarium and in loco hospitality of student participants from United States, Italy and Brazil, as well as international renowned Professors-Practitioners, UPR professors and professional, and UF professors.

Timeline and programs for **Puerto Rico Re_Start**

Dates

Friday March 16th, 2018

Evening Kickoff Addresses

Keynote Speaker UNESCO

Reception

Saturday March 17th

Lectures and Presentations by Local Authorities and Stakeholders

Distribution of Research materials, documents and maps

Sunday March 18th

Morning sites visit by bus

Teams convene for project at the UPR studios

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd

Projects Development by teams

6pm – Evening Lecture Series by Overseas Guests

Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th

Preparation of Displays and Power Point presentations

Sunday 25th

6 pm Closure of Work and Closing Party

Monday 26th

10 am – 4pm Presentation of Projects for Public Discussion

5 pm – Closure and Departure

Certificates will be issued to registered workshops participants and registered lecture series participants.