

DECOLONIZATION POLLINATORS:

RECLAIMING AND HYBRIDIZING A LATIN
AMERICAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Saturday November 20, 2021
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
SAT-B04

500 years since the fall of pre-colonial America and we are still confronting issues of race and the built environment. Can we integrate native traditions, ecological wisdom, and socio-environmental responsibility to produce a discipline and profession specific to the continent while accepting its cultural hybridity and diverse peoples and landscapes?

OVERVIEW

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Connect with other Latinx in Landscape Architecture, create a conversation, and expand a network towards the decolonization of landscape architecture.
- Look at pre-Columbian open space design concepts and explore how to apply them in contemporary design.
- Learn foundational, theoretical, historical, and ethical principles to depart towards the production of a discipline and profession of Landscape Architecture which is specific to Latin America, its peoples, and regions.
- Investigate new modes of practice that aim to be inclusive and address lack of representation in positions of power in the field.

SPEAKERS



Patricia Algara, ASLA
BASE Landscape Architecture

Patricia was born and raised in Mexico, she is the founder and president of BASE. A recognized leader in sustainable design and community involvement, Patricia creates landscapes that immerse people of all backgrounds and abilities in learning, exploration and play. Patricia's community involvement and advocacy expand the boundaries of traditional landscape architecture. She founded an NGO that creates healthy habitats for pollinators. She has lectured at many universities and has won two national faculty ASLA awards. She received her MLA from UC Berkeley in 2007.



Jason Prado, ASLA
Miridae

Jason was born to Peruvian parents and raised in the Central Valley of California, which have played a huge impact on his outlook. At a young age, he experienced the seamless manner in which the Incas merged the built with the natural and in his upbringing, he witnessed the annual celebration of productive landscapes that united a community. This sensibility emerges in his practice. He is currently a landscape designer at Miridae and founding member of LLAMA, a Latinx landscape network of designers. He received his MLA from UC Berkeley in 2017.



Gabriel Díaz Montemayor, ASLA
University of Arkansas

Gabriel is an assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion and associate professor of landscape architecture at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. His teaching has focused on service-learning projects for public urban planning agencies and other local institutions. He keeps a part-time practice, LABor Studio, based in Chihuahua City, Mexico where he is a founding partner. His current research includes investigations for regenerative urban (infra)structures in the US-Mexico border and investigating a decolonized socio-ecological perspective for Landscape Architecture in Latin America. Gabriel is a two-time Diversity Summit participant of the ASLA. He holds an MLA from Auburn University, 2007.

TETZCOTZINGO



Tetzcotzingo is a project in San Nicolás Tlaminca, Texcoco, Mexico that aims at restoring the agricultural and ethno-botanical heritage of Tetzcotzingo. This site is believed to be the first botanical garden in the world and was once a cultural center known for its terraced botanical gardens, production of medicinal herbs, artistic performances, sacred rituals, and teachings. BASE is working to restore the nature of the site by working with local medicine people to document the knowledge of the plants used and create a garden that honors and restores what was there.

LLAMA



Landscape as defined by the profession and discipline of landscape architecture is rooted in a European understanding of human relationship, design, ownership, and stewardship of land. It is shaped by a history of European values, ideas, literature, and art. However, across the Americas, an understanding and relationship with *tierra* is ancient, multifaceted, and rooted in a different set of values. LLAMA is looking at the question of Latinx identity in Landscape Architecture, and ask, how can we reconcile this identity with a discipline and profession rooted in (primarily white, male) Eurocentrism and US-centrism? LLAMA is a grassroots colectivo that aims to move beyond acknowledgement and challenge existing structures, question hierarchies in practice, and seek to foster horizontal leadership in the discipline. Most importantly, it is a call to connect Latinx designers and collaborators across North, South, and Central America, the Caribbean, and beyond.

LATIN AMERICAN LANDSCAPES (LALA)



LALA is a course designed for students in the disciplines of landscape architecture, architecture, community and regional planning, and interior design. The course's main objective is to understand and research the foundation, meaning, performance, and the promise of public space in Latin America's diverse peoples and collective imaginary, while embracing their unique cultural and socio-ecological character and mission.

Left: Vistas Cerro Grande Linear Park in Chihuahua City by LABor Studio. A Latin American Landscape. Photo by Delfoz.

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