
Gabriel Arboleda

Ph.D. Program in Architecture - College of Environmental Design
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Extensive field experience with urban and rural communities of Ecuador, El Salvador, Colombia and other developing countries. Work centered on areas of sustainable building, technology transfer and ethno-technologies, as well as participatory building and planning processes. Trained as an architect and planner at the doctoral level (in progress), in prestigious United States and Latin American schools.

EXPERIENCE

2005 – 2006

Coastal Hurricane Resistant Housing

Houma – Louisiana

Participated in the preliminary planning process for the development of the “Lift House,” an approach to hurricane resistant structures that combines affordability with sturdiness and ease of construction.

2004 – 2006

Participatory Community Design

San Cayetano Istepeque – El Salvador

Facilitated a participatory design project to develop a new neighborhood with a displaced community that was settling on abandoned railroad property. This project was implemented through a partnership between MIT’s Special Interest Group in Urban Settlement (SIGUS), Irish NGO Trocaire, local foundations REDES and Bálamo, and families of the community.

2004

Environmental Sustainability

Cambridge – Massachusetts

Winner in the developmental/social category of the MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition warm-up round. The winning project was the Com-portable, a portable, biodegradable composting toilet that becomes compost itself after use. This idea aims to alleviate health, contamination and low water availability issues that afflict the world’s underprivileged communities.

2004

Community Development Planning

Vientiane – Laos

Assisted the community of Nong Duang Thong in the design of a new development plan related to the road built by Village Focus International. This project was part of

a partnership between MIT Public Service Center, SIGUS and Oxford Brookes University.

2002 – 2007

Development Instruction

Cambridge, Massachusetts; Berkeley, California

Teaching assistant for several classes on the topic of development, planning, low-income housing and environmental design at both MIT and UC Berkeley. Among these, 4.237 – The New Practitioner: Dialogue Tools and Techniques (MIT), ED4 – Introduction to Environmental Design (Berkeley), and CP 115 – Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes in the new Millennium (Berkeley – Fall 2007).

2002

Community Participatory Infrastructure Planning

Quito – Ecuador

Consulted pro-bono for Ecuadorian Emergency Social Investment Fund (FISE), on implementing an “ethno-engineering” methodology for infrastructure building using a community participatory approach.

1998 – 2001

Settlement Development Planning

San Lorenzo – Coast of Ecuador

Assisted in the implementation of a development plan, stressing environmental and economic solutions, for the San Martin settlement. This was a Kellogg Foundation project managed through CIBT (Tropical Forest Research Center – Spanish initials).

1997

Environmental Knowledge Exchange

San Pablo – Ecuadorian Amazon

Promoted a series of knowledge exchange workshops with the Secoya (Sieco_pai), with the goal of implementing environmentally and culturally sensitive building and planning systems for this changing indigenous community. This was a project developed in collaboration with Malibu, California's Earth Ways Foundation.

1996

Sustainable Rural Development

Buenaventura – Colombia

Co-designed and implemented a sustainable, productive system that involved farming, residues disposal and building in the community of Santa Helena. This project was established through Arcadia, a self-established NGO.

EDUCATION

2005 - 2007

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Architecture

Major field of study: Environmental Design in Developing Countries

2002 - 2004

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master of Science in Architecture Studies (SMArchS)

Area of study: Architecture and Urbanism

1992 - 1998

Universidad del Valle - Colombia

Arquitecto (BA)

Thesis studio course: Culture and Spatial Order
