

Commentary

Oswaldo D. Lopez AIA, LEED GA
(BA '76, MArch '78)

Sharing information via the net is an integral part of our lives today. It is a great tool for connecting people if used correctly, which brings me to the CASA Alumni website. It became obvious to me and my fellow CASA Alumni members that the website could be a good informational tool supplementing the formal educational process of present and past CASA members.

In the future this "Commentary" column will be used to provide opinions and insights into design professions. Dialogue with those interested in writing about architecture, planning, urban design, real estate development, community design, landscape architecture, or construction management will be explored with an emphasis on how young alumni professionals and students can gain further exposure to these fields.

Like all good tools in your tool box, they need to be used if they are going to be of any use.

CED Alumni of Color

Kathryn Hoover, Esq.
(MArch 86, JD 89)

The Governing Board of CED Alumni of Color announced in April that they will raise \$100,000 to support African American, Asian American and Chicano students at CED. The Bob Esparza / Ken Simmons Fund will be named in honor of two great CED Alumni who were committed to social justice and who supported a whole generation of students of color at CED who later went on to establish themselves in the fields of architecture, planning, design, law, development, politics and business. The endowment is intended to be a permanent resource to students of color for scholarships, special courses, independent study, internships, or travel to enhance or supplement the educational opportunities provided by CED.

A launch event for the Bob Esparza / Ken Simmons Endowment Fund is scheduled for Fall 2011.

Workshop Emphasizes Need for Larger Latino Presence

The quiet halls of the architecture building at UC Berkeley quickly filled with excited chatter. Twenty-five enthusiastic voices bounced off the hushed walls, immediately creating an attentive, thought-provoking atmosphere even before the workshop began. A large lecture room swiftly became bountiful with creative minds, each prepared to offer feedback, suggestions and support.

The Chicano/Latino Architecture Student Association (CASA) held a special workshop on February 8, 2010. CASA Co-Chair **Cesar Murrillo** invited CED Alumni **Roy Hernandez** (BA '76 / Honors, MArch '78) as a guest speaker. The first half of the evening addressed questions related to the practice of Architecture, as well as guidance that can be crucial to succeeding in such a competitive field. After a pizza and refreshment break, the subsequent portion of the workshop consisted of a design charrette with student participation to add a "CASA Now!" page to the CASA Alumni Website, with the objectives of gaining a larger Latino / Minority presence at the College of Environmental Design.

An astounding 25 students attended the workshop, all of whom expressed their concern for lending creative ideas to aid CASA in its quest to provide outreach and support. "As a student organization, it's all about support," remarked **Carla Arechar**, CASA Co-Chair "that's what really keeps [us] going." Upon the workshop's conclusion, CASA Treasurer **Jesus Barajas** declared that CASA's goal is to "empower Latinos...and this is a good beginning."

Carla Arechar, CASA Co-chair,
Major: Architecture

Do you have any recommendations that may enhance CASA?

Publicizing more to people beyond Berkeley, at other schools that have architectural majors, or other Chicano organizations. I know that Cal State Pomona wanted to have CASA, or a board. If we reach out to other schools and Chicanos in architecture or design, that would be really great.

Do you have any ideas as to how you would promote that?

I would contact school officials or for us also. CASA as a group could outreach to other schools, whether it be Calpoly Pomona, San Luis Obispo, USC, UCLA, because we have been an organization since the 70s...

How many members are a part of CASA?

We don't have any membership requirements, or fees, but in average we have about 15 people to each meeting. Depending on what topic the meeting is about, we usually have guest speakers, something fun to do. It looks like there are 25 here - so that's great!

Jesus Barajas, CASA Treasurer,
Major: Architecture

What kind of impact do you think CASA will have?

It will make us have a bigger network. Right now we have a big group, but it's not as big as we want it. We want more people and we want it, like every other organization, as big as we can get it. Being a board member, it's a challenge. We want to empower Latinos to become successful. It's a good start and a good beginning.

What are you doing to promote CASA?

We do fundraising. I'm the treasurer. We have to do fundraising to try to make money for CASA. But as a group, we did the website, we're being outgoing, making fliers and putting them up on elevators.

Has this meeting helped you?

(Roy Hernandez) is really inspiring, like everything he went through. He seems like a very inspirational guy, I mean he inspired me.

Oscar Roque,
Major: Architectur

What impact can CASA have?

It's nice to come to CASA and see people who have actually done something, just to hear somebody is always nice.

Lauren Hernandez, Staff Writer



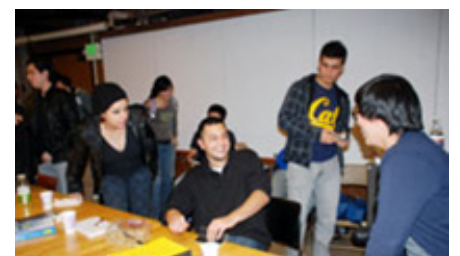
CASA Co-Chair Cesar Murrillo kicks off the lecture introducing Roy Hernandez.



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Luis Ochoa lays out the new CASA Web page - CASA NOW! with suggestions from students, i.e., Events, Pics, Calendar, list of Books / Websites, CASA Archives, and a scrolling "Work in Progress" feature to solicit critiques on student projects.. The Page will be for the exclusive use of CED CASA members who will control and manage its content.



Josie Dybe, Gerardo Guzman, Manuel Guzman and Eli Leonardo take a break.

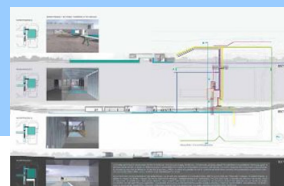
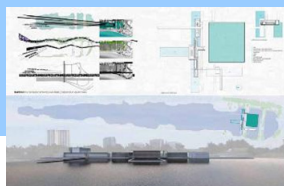
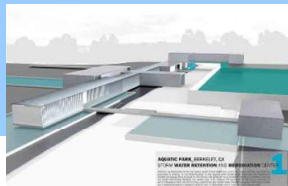


Roy Hernandez, Alejandra Hernandez, (no relation) Leslie Valencia and Matt Mojica.

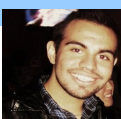
CASA attendees: 2nd yr: Jorge Andrade, Jesus Barajas, Alejandra Hernandez, Edwin Siliezar; 3rd yr: Cacillia Cardenas, Evette Gonzalez, Luis Ochoa, Ruben Rodela, Edgar Toledo, Manuel Valdez; 4th yr: Carla Arechar, Josie Dybe, Julio Gutierrez, Gerardo Guzman, Elizabeth Leonardo, Matt Mojica, Cesar Murillo, Silvia Robertson, Oscar Roque, Carlos Velador

On the Boards, exceptional Student Work posted on the CASA Website

Mathew Mojica
BA Arch 2011



Cesar Murillo
BA Arch 2011



Alberto Orozco
BA Arch 2012

