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2022 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Ricardo Alvarez-Diaz
Organization Alvarez-Diaz & Villalon
Location San Juan, Puerto Rico
Chapter AIA Puerto Rico

Category of Nomination

Object 5 > Service to Society

Summary Statement

Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz unites community leadership, entrepreneurship and design practice to rebuild, educate, advance and sustain local communities. He presents a powerful model for architects to engage communities and transform social systems for the collective good.

Education

Advanced Management Development Program (AMDP), Graduate School of Design (GSD), Harvard University, Boston MA | 2019-2021

Executive Integral Leadership Program (EIL), Mendoza School of Business, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN | 2009

International Study, Rome Italy, School of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, Rome, Italy | 1993-1994

Professional Bachelor's in Architecture, School of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN | 1991-1996

Licensed in:

Puerto Rico -17169

New York State - 037064

Florida - AR96949

US Virgin Islands - 0-43055-1B

Texas - 28733

NCARB-73820

Employment

Founder, Owner - Alvarez-Diaz & Villalon, San Juan, PR and Miami, FL - 2012 to present

Professor, School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR – 2018

Professor, School of Architecture, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR -2017

Founder, Owner - AD+Group, San Juan, PR 2001 - 2012

Associate Architect - LRA Architects, San Juan, PR - 1999 -2001

Section Editor – The Classicist Journal, New York, NY -1997-1998

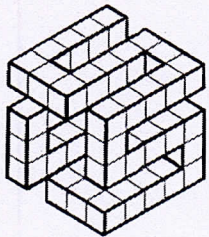
Associate Architect - Robert AM Stern Architects, New York, NY -1996-1998

Teaching Assistant – School of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN -1995-1996

Summer Intern – Baralt & Asociados, San Juan, PR -1995

Teaching Assistant – School of Architecture, Interamerican University, San German, PR -Summer 1994

Summer Intern – Capacete, Martin y Asociados, San Juan, PR -1992



Scott Simpson, FAIA, LEED AP
Architecture, Planning & Design Strategy

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5 October 2021

Steven Spurlock, FAIA
2022 Chair, Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20006

RE: Ricardo Alvarez-Diaz, AIA, 2022 Nominee for the AIA College of Fellows

Dear Chair Spurlock and Members of the 2022 Jury of Fellows,

It is my honor and privilege to enthusiastically recommend **Ricardo Alvarez-Diaz** for elevation to the AIA College of Fellows. I have known Ricardo for several years through our association at the Advanced Management Development Program at Harvard University and I have also worked closely with Ricardo as a consulting advisor to his firm. Thus, I have come to know him well both personally and professionally.

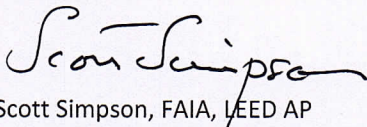
Ricardo is well known as the founder of a highly successful practice in San Juan, Puerto Rico (the largest such practice on the island, and one that consistently receives top rankings), it is his public service and the positive impact of using design to serve the interests of society as a whole that truly distinguish him. He has been a leading (and very effective voice) in proposing how to deal with the effects of climate change in the Caribbean, has made a meaningful impact on underprivileged communities, and has profoundly influenced the development of infrastructure. In this role, he has been an effective and respected voice in public policy-making.

His remarkable initiatives such as the Keep Safe Guide, Keep Safe Florida, resiliency training workshops and ResilientSEE-PR have proved an indispensable aid to those who still suffer the devastating effects of the effects of global warming. After hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the Island of Puerto Rico in 2017, his work has had implications far beyond the geographical limits of the Island and has served as a baseline to educate people from other coastal areas, from Florida to Hawaii.

His actions defending underserved communities and his involvement developing public policy solutions for all present a powerful model for how architects can engage with their communities and transform social systems for the collective good. Ricardo's unique approach to professional practice and his willingness to share his expertise with students, peers, with decision-makers in the public realm are testimony to the broad application of design thinking. Ricardo has truly been a catalyst for positive change.

As a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council, I believe Ricardo will bring his ideas, energy, and enthusiasm to advance the profession, and am very happy to offer my highest endorsement of his candidacy

Sincerely,


Scott Simpson, FAIA, LEED AP

SECTION 1.0 SUMMARY





Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz unites community leadership, entrepreneurship and design practice to **rebuild, educate, advance and sustain** communities. He presents a powerful model for architects to engage communities and transform social systems for collective good.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

Puerto Rico is uniquely susceptible to climate change with its location among the hurricane belt islands. Recent hurricanes—Irma and Maria among the most destructive—signify the devastating potential of climate change on a commonwealth lacking infrastructure and widespread intelligence on building resiliency.

As a native Puerto Rican architect, public servant and entrepreneur, Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz is at the front lines of bringing together expertise to compile, produce and circulate information on resilient design for island communities.

Appointed as the first licensed architect to lead the Puerto Rican Builders Association (PRBA), he rallied expertise and partnered with key collaborators to generate the publication, *Keep Safe: A Guide for Resilient Housing Design in Island Communities*. **Published in both Spanish and English, 3,000 guides have been produced and over 55,000 individuals have downloaded the digital edition.** To expand awareness of the Guide's resources, Ricardo founded and led the development of "The Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities" training series. **This resource attracted over 250 people to each of the series' six webinars, and the virtual content has been viewed over 100,000 times to date.**

Aligned with these efforts, Ricardo co-founded and led the creation of a new planning resource group, resilientSEE-Puerto Rico. This alliance of academic, private sector and nonprofit institutions provides pro bono data-driven, interconnected planning and resource development services to threatened communities of all scales. The group used island-wide event analysis and the Toa Baja Municipality as a model in the creation of a scaleable, replicable framework for resilient planning and design.

SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING

As Puerto Rico emerged from the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria, serious limitations within existing and obsolete federal laws opened the unfortunate possibility of permanent separations for over 24,000 low-income Island families.

Ricardo self-funded travel to HUD's offices in Washington DC to encourage the agency to delay implementing the law for at least four months. This gave families long enough time to continue receiving all federal benefits throughout the emergency.

His advocacy helped create new public policy that ensured 125,000 people retained their subsidies and could remain on the island to rebuild their homes and communities.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria also exposed coastal communities to environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities. As a volunteer of the nonprofit ENLACE Project Corporation of the Caño Martín Peña—a flood-prone area in Puerto Rico — Ricardo developed and led multiple community workshops to better understand residents' community needs. As a result, he designed three resilient model houses (pro bono) for community members to use to rebuild their homes and neighborhoods. Now, over 2,000 families and residents of Florida and Puerto Rico have benefited from his design prototypes which are now used as part of CDBG-DR HUD programs.

Invest Puerto Rico represents Ricardo's work to align economic resiliency with environmental and social resiliency. Through his service to the organization, 3,500 new jobs in professional services, manufacturing, banking and tourism have been created in just 3 years.

SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN

When the PR Secretary of Housing slated demolition of a 1970s-era Pruitt-Igoe-like housing project, home to 600, without a plan to replace the complex, he offered Ricardo the role of project architect. Instead, Ricardo took on pro bono community outreach and engagement to ensure planning and design of a community in alignment with resident needs rather than a solution imposed on them by an outsider. After completing the engagement process, **he led the design and development of the PR's first mixed-income housing project, which established a human-scaled framework for two future mixed-income housing projects.**

Ricardo's philanthropic approach to design practice is fueled by his success as an entrepreneur. He readily shares his practice philosophy and methodology to advance entrepreneurship and community service to other professionals. He has authored articles, given lectures, and developed a real estate curriculum on design entrepreneurship for the University of Puerto Rico, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico and the University of Notre Dame Fitzgerald Institute of Real Estate.

As president of the Puerto Rican Architecture Foundation, Ricardo established programs to bring attention to and support the local architecture community. Today, the Puerto Rican Architecture Tour Program and other Foundation-based resources, events and programs advance awareness of, celebrate and preserve the island's architecture; increase community knowledge of the work of architects; and attract tourism dollars—essential to the Island's economic resiliency—to Puerto Rico's communities.

SECTION 2.0
ACCOMPLISHMENTS





SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



Making case for PR's Reconstruction on ABC.
New York, 2019



Helping rebuild Roofs after Hurricane Maria.
Puerto Rico, 2017



resilientSEE presentation.
Toa Baja, PR, 2018

Advisory Board Member, *Keep Safe Miami*, Enterprise Communities | Miami, FL | 2020-Present

Advisor to program Director and City of Miami on resiliency and sustainability issues to create a tool to provide affordable housing owners and operators actionable strategies and guidance on financing for adapting existing inventory to be resilient to climate change and natural disasters, including how to address potential vulnerabilities. The tool has been downloaded over 10,000 times in less than a year.

Advisory Board Member, PROTECHOS | 2019-Present

Provides community technical advice, recommendations and connections for roof rebuilding; promotes and fund-raises for this Puerto Rico-based non-profit that rebuilds hurricane damaged roofs while paying and training individuals to become carpenters. Over 50 families' roofs have been repaired and over 20 individuals were trained as carpenters.

Co-Founder, resilientSEE-PR | 2018-Present

Co-founded and built a global, multidisciplinary alliance committed to designing a more resilient and sustainable Puerto Rico. Today, the alliance has various completed and on-going projects including the community of Villa del Sol (impacting over 50 families) and the Municipality of Toa Baja (impacting over 15,000 families).

Co-Founder (w/ Enterprise Communities), *Keep Safe: A Guide For Resilient Housing Design For Island Communities* | 2017-Present

Champions project including funding, student engagement, government support, concept and content development, intelligence gathering and section author selection for a comprehensive guide published in Spanish and English free to the public.

Launched in Puerto Rico in October 2019, the guide identifies best methods to adapt a home with everyday practices for resilience to the perils of climate change. The guide also includes a training phase. It has been rolled out to the Virgin Islands and other Caribbean Nations, and 3,000 guides were printed and distributed, with 25,000 downloaded guides.

Board Member & Pro Bono Collaborator, Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico | 2014-Present

Advises leadership, designs pro bono housing projects, and creates new multifamily options. Designed and coordinated an apartment complex and 3 single-family units, helping 8 families get their first home.

Created new vocational program that certifies and trains approximately 40 people every 8 weeks in the construction industry in conjunction with Sagrado Corazón University. 80 new professionals have graduated, with funding secured for 5+ years.

Co-Founder & Presenter, KEEP SAFE Summer Webinar Series, Enterprise Communities | 2020

Co-Created the free "Keep Safe Summer Webinar Series"—which became "The Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities" training series—as a resource to all residents of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other Caribbean Nations. This critical resource program informed planning and design solutions for recovery efforts under the CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program. An average 250 people per day joined the virtual training including Hawaii and several other US states.

Governor Appointment, Board of Directors, ENLACE Project Corporation of the Caño Martín Peña | 2018-2020

Advised and aided community on matters of design, ownership rights, sustainability and resiliency. ENLACE unites community efforts, the private sector and government to improve the quality of life of approximately 25,000 inhabitants who live around a body of water called "el Caño." ENLACE brings adequate infrastructure to residents by developing a master plan and elevating the area to prevent future flooding and ultimately rehabilitate the existing "Caño" body of water.

Commissioner, *Reimagina Puerto Rico Report* (with Center for a New Economy, 100 Resilient Cities & the Rockefeller Foundation) | 2017-2018

Collaborated with multi-sector leaders and advised on resiliency, sustainability and affordable housing issues. Reimagina PR is a locally-led nonprofit that seeks to establish a coordinated reconstruction strategy to rebuild a stronger, fairer and a more prosperous Island.

The initiative created a baseline blueprint to best maximize recovery funds. It included 77 dialogue sessions with 748 stakeholders to identify 6 cross-cutting strategies and 97 actionable recommendations, 17 of which were identified as immediate priorities. The results have been published for free in the *Reimagina Puerto Rico Report* and *Six Sector Report*, which collectively have been downloaded over 1,200 times.

Board Member, PR Center for Social Concerns – University Of Notre Dame | 2003-2011

Selected communities in need for a program that provided one year of service from Notre Dame Alumni volunteers, allowing students to contribute to social service and social injustice. Approximately 70 Notre Dame Alumni volunteers spent a year with over 20 local impoverished communities across the Island.



SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING



PR Investment Summit.
Puerto Rico, 2019



Juntos por Puerto Rico collaboration agreement.
Puerto Rico, 2016



Working on a community mural at Renaissance Square.
Puerto Rico, 2018

Advisory Council Member, ULI Caribbean Roundtable, Urban Land Institute (ULI) | Miami, FL | 2018-Present

Provides advice for a thinktank that meets throughout the year to share and discuss changes in public policy, environmental concerns, trends, insights and new projects. The mission is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities throughout South Florida and the Caribbean market. The Roundtable has held four 1-day seminars with over 600 people in physical or virtual attendance.

Governor, ULI Foundation | 2017-Present

Serves as a select group united to make a difference in future of communities via the design and construction professions. Provides funds for initiatives including Advisory Service Panel topics on affordable housing, infrastructure and transportation, revitalization, economic development, community and inclusion, climate resilience and sustainable development. Ricardo raised over \$100,000 for first PR Advisory Service Panel.

Governor Appointment, Member & Chair, Construction & Housing Advisory Committee | 2016-Present

Advisor to Governor on issues of infrastructure, permitting, CDBG-DR federal funds and affordable housing. Leads public policy initiatives including Construction Code law amendments, permit law amendments and new initiatives like Invest PR, Law 60 and Law 185. Serves as a bridge between the executive branch, legislative branch and private sector; these initiatives have positively affected all aspects of construction and economic development on the Island.

President, Vice President, Secretary & Board Member, Puerto Rico Builders Association (PRBA) | 2012-Present

Served as president during the worst economic time in PR's history (2015-2017) plus two devastating hurricanes. The PRBA promotes best land use and design practices in the construction industry. As a multi-sector group, it includes architects, engineers, government officials, bankers, developers, lawyers, accountants and contractors.

As the first licensed architect to lead the organization in 66 years, Ricardo continues to bring a more inclusive holistic vision to realigning the organization from traditional urban sprawl to city revitalization, urban development, walkability and community creation. Initiatives included:

- Creates alliances with over 10 organizations to open a dialog about the future of the Island including: NGOs such as Para la Naturaleza, Fundación Comunitaria and Grupo Guayacán, plus government corporations like Roosevelt Roads Authority and Private Sector leaders like the

Manufacturers Association. This initiative helps open communications between all multi-sector groups and focuses public policy changes from economic development to environmental issues.

- Created new annual entrepreneurship scholarship with 4 recipients to date.
- Expanded endowment to benefit sustainable funding for the entrepreneurship scholarship.
- Led creation of monthly lecture and workshop series that brought together politicians, community leaders, technical experts, government officials, architects and decision makers for 24 episodes that provide information and resources to benefit rebuilding for over 1,500 people.
- Created weekly 1-hour radio show that has reached over 100,000 people in 5 years.
- Created new quarterly magazine that publishes the Island's best design and construction work and educates readers on public policy; the publication currently reaches over 51,000 people annually.
- Changed Public Policy regarding Tourism and Economic Development by helping bring the new Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) and Invest PR into law.
- Led amendment to condominium law to allow more parity in decision making from unanimous to 2/3 of ownership, positively impacting existing inventory renovation efforts and code compliance.
- Helped create, for the first time in over a quarter century, an easy to understand and relevant economic incentive law, which has helped relocate over 2,500 families to the Island and attracted over 1,500 new businesses to Puerto Rico.
- Instrumental in approval of \$20 billion dollars in CDBG-DR funds for the Island.

Founder & Co-Chair, Puerto Rico Chapter, ULI | 2015-Present

Founded and expanded the local chapter to over 100 members in less than six months, making it the second largest Satellite Chapter in Latin America (behind Mexico). In 2018, recommended and created an ULI Advisory Panel Report for the Municipality of Toa Baja. Coordinated and organized expert and local stakeholders for the panel. The final panel report provided recommendations to aid short and long-term economic growth and resilient development.



SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING | CONTINUED



INVEST PR presentation.
New York, 2018



ULI Council Meeting.
Boston, 2018



Interview on CheddarTV.
New York Stock Exchange, 2019

The report was published by ULI Foundation and used by the Municipality of Toa Baja as their public policy action blueprint to successfully apply for CDBG-DR funds. Thanks to the recommendations, the municipality received over \$15 million in City Revitalization federal funds, which will impact approximately 7,000 families in Toa Baja as the work progresses.

Governor Appointment, Member & Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Invest Puerto Rico | 2017-2020

Directed the creation of private-sector-led investment promotion entity into law, via Act 13-2017. Became a founding board member and created Business Marketing CDBG-DR program to secure \$10 million in CDBG-DR federal funding for the non-for-profit. Invest PR promotes the Island as a world-class business destination. The organization has impacted all areas of economic development, including professional services, industrial, manufacturing, agriculture, banking and tourism. In three years, the initiative has streamlined information to over 400 companies and helped establish over 20 new small and mid-size and two large companies in Puerto Rico.

Board Member, YPO Latin America | 2018-2019

Created and organized “Inside Puerto Rico,” a 3-day deep dive into Puerto Rico’s social, economic, environmental and government issues with a focus on economic development. Over 35 people attended the 3-day seminar, which now occurs every three years focusing on positively showcasing all Puerto Rico offers to a national and international audience of YPO members. Approximately 5% of “Inside Puerto Rico” visitors have made Puerto Rico either their place of business, or their primary residence, because of it.

Board Member, Foundation for Puerto Rico | 2015-2019

Served as ambassador for the Foundation—a public charity founded in 2011 to promote opportunities for social and economic development in Puerto Rico by advancing the visitor economy and transforming Puerto Rico as an international destination. Championed a waiver in Washington DC that allowed use of \$25 million of CDBG-DR funds for marketing and promotion of Island. The funds helped develop the DMO and expand their marketing presence in the US, which ultimately helped increase tourism from 2 million visitors per year in 2018 to over 3 million in 2021.

Pro Bono Model House Design, ENLACE Project Corporation of the Caño Martín Peña | 2018

Created pro bono designs for three different house models for ENLACE community. Led three community workshops to better understand resident aspirational and practical needs. The workshops were crucial in the development of the final single-family model options, which became prototypes for the CDBG-DR, R-3 Program impacting approximately 250 families to date.

Secretary of State appointment, FEMA Liaison, Puerto Rico Private Sector | 2017

Served as communication bridge between private sector, local government and FEMA for 4 months in immediate aftermath of hurricanes Maria and Irma. Met daily with Governor’s team and participated in local service strategy implementation between federal government and private sector. Coordinate daily diesel deliveries for elderly and food and water for the most affected, serving over 150,000. Led development of short-term action plan for disasters to map and coordinate preparedness, response and recovery activities. Plan became part of government disaster response for all 3.2 million Puerto Ricans.

Board Member, Juntos por Puerto Rico | 2016-2017

Led construction industry advisory committee and made recommendations regarding exporting services, environmental capital and the green economy for this grassroots organization, which showcases community engagement through six regional assemblies on matters of public policy for five main economic pillars: Visitor’s Economy, Export services, Intellectual Capital, Environmental Economic Impact and Green Economy. The regional assemblies included 100 community members across six months and a final public policy statement. All initiatives were included as part of all three mayor and governor candidates’ public policy platforms for the 2016 election.



SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



Teaching entrepreneurship at the University of PR.
Puerto Rico, 2018



Promoting Puerto Rico's Foundation for Architecture's tours.
Puerto Rico, 2015



"Now with Oscar Haza" TV Interview on Resiliency in Construction.
Miami, 2019

Advisor, Pericles Initiative – Fitzgerald Institute of Real Estate (FIRE), University of Notre Dame | South Bend, IN | 2021-Present

Conceptualizes and champions collaboration between Catholic archdioceses across the US in need of real estate consulting to align development with the Catholic mission.

The program joins Notre Dame Real Estate Students with leaders in the real estate industry and the local community to create a blueprint and best practices to maximize land value and use. Advises on start-up creation, from vision and mission to services and financial structure. A total of 8 properties from the Archdiocese of Chicago, IL, South Bend, IN, and Roswell, GA, have benefited from this pro bono collaboration.

Advisory Board Member, FIRE, University of Notre Dame | South Bend, IN | 2020-Present

Founding Advisory Member and advisor to the faculty at Notre Dame's Fitzgerald Institute for Real Estate. Helped create its interdisciplinary curriculum, which combines the School of Architecture and the Mendoza School of Business.

The program brings together theory and practice through rigorous research, teaching, public policy and industry engagement to provide a distinctive voice in encouraging best building practices. In its first two years, over 95 students have been enrolled per year.

Advisory Board Member, EDP University of Puerto Rico | 2019-Present

Serves and advises the college chancellor and school directors on Architecture and Interior Design Education for Puerto Rico's premier Interior Design school. Program offerings allow students of all ages—over 100 per year—to develop abilities at any stage in their professional careers with night and day classes. Ricardo brings real life experience to the curriculum to better position students for a career in design.

Vice Chair, Home Builders Association Foundation, non-for-profit organization | 2018-Present

Led and implemented first vocational education program after hurricanes Irma and Maria in conjunction with the Puerto Rico Department of Education and the Home Builder's Institute in Washington DC. The program successfully trained and certified over 350 construction workers in 3 months, in general construction, finishes and woodwork.

Advisory Board Member, Infrastructure and Facilities Committee, Saint John's School, San Juan | 2012-2018

Pro bono design for new library, student center and student cafeteria. Advised on resiliency strategies and infrastructure improvements and helped expand student capacity from 760 in 2014 to over 900 in 2021.

Lead Participant, Puerto Rico Project Analysis Session: Municipality of Toa Baja, ULI | Boston, MA | October 2018

Led panel discussion and gathered all panel recommendations, which Ricardo presented to Puerto Rico's Governor. The panel's "City Revitalization" recommendations for the Municipality of Toa Baja served as the catalyst for development of the original CDBG-DR City Revitalization program. The panel's recommendations were also used by the Governor as part of his public policy resilience action plan. The "City Revitalization" section became part of CDBG-DR planning programs. Program funding of almost \$1.3 billion will impact all 78 Puerto Rican Municipalities.

Professor of Entrepreneurship & Finance for Architects, School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus | 2018

Created and taught entrepreneurship course curriculum for the School of Architecture and taught the first two courses for 38 students. The program continues with other professors teaching the curriculum established by Ricardo.

Board Member, Guayacan Endowment Fund | 2016-2017

Advised as founding member on business development strategies to create the Endowment to provide more sustainable funding pipeline for Grupo Guayacán's entrepreneurs' education program. Since 1996, the program has provided tools, resources and opportunities to enhance local business owners at various stages of their entrepreneurial journey and improve their success. The fund has raised over \$5 million and benefited over 30 local businesses, which grew substantially over 5 years, and represent an annual increase of \$250 million for the local economy.

Professor, Entrepreneurship for Architects, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico | 2017

Created and taught the first entrepreneurship course curriculum for the School of Architecture for 18 students. The program continues with other professors teaching the curriculum established by Ricardo.

President & Board Member, Foundation for Architecture | 2012-2016

Led the institution's financial recovery, opened the foundation's building assets to the public, created a rental and event space program, created the ArchiBazaar to showcase architecture entrepreneurship, reconfigured the existing board to include community leaders, began a lecture series, created a professional architecture walking tour program with the PR Department of Tourism and created public awareness of the foundation and its mission to advance awareness of Puerto Rican architecture and architects.

2.1 SPEAKING & PRESENTATIONS



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



Fox News interview on Rebuilding PR. New York, 2017



Keynote Speaker, Symposium on Architecture. Guadalajara, MX, 2014



Working for communities in need. Puerto Rico, 2017

[“Keep Safe: A Guide for Resilient Housing Design,”](#) Interviewee | Enterprise Community Partners | YouTube | April 2021

[“Keep Safe – Building the Resilience of Affordable Housing in Puerto Rico and Miami,”](#) Speaker | [University of Miami Coastal Resilience Colloquium](#) | April 2021

[“Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales: Puerto Rico,”](#) Speaker | [University of Miami Coastal Resilience Symposium](#) | April 2021

[“P3’s Role in Resilient Reconstruction Post Disasters,”](#) Speaker | The P3 Government Virtual Conference | December 2020

[“Sustainability & Construction,”](#) Panelist | Pre18 Gen. 3 Industry Week | December 2020

[“ODS \(Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible/ Sustainable Development Goals\): Global Goals in Private Businesses”](#) (webinar), Speaker | Virtual Science: Online Education Program | EcoExploratorio | September 2020

[“Impact of Sustainable Architecture on the Construction Industry”](#) (video), hosted by Brad Smith | Cheddar Reveals | September 2020

[“There’s a Greener Way to do Business,”](#) Speaker | Green Business Puerto Rico | April 2020

[“Keep Safe Seismic Safety”](#) (Webinar), Presenter | Enterprise Community Partners | April 2020

[“Puerto Rico Architect Calls for Stronger Buildings After Latest Natural Disaster”](#) | Cheddar (television) | January 2020

[“Puerto Rico: Two years after María”](#) | Hosts Yatzú López & José Perna-lete | Dígalo Aquí EVT (television) | November 2019

[“How the reconstruction of Puerto Rico is going with architect Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz”](#) | Host Adriel Reyes | Miami Diario Live (television) | November 2019

[On Resiliency and Sustainability](#) | María Laria | La Poderosa 670AM (radio) | November 2019

[On Reconstruction Funding & Building Codes for Island of Puerto Rico](#) | Mario Andrés Moreno | Radio Caracol 1260AM (radio) | November 2019

[“Keynote: Puerto Rican Home for the 21st Century,”](#) Panelist | PRBA 46th Annual Convention: A Challenge to Build the Future | October 2019

[“Saving Toa Baja,”](#) Panelist | ULI Event Toa Baja | May 2019

[“Interview: Moving Forward from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico,”](#) Interviewee | Nory Rivera | WORO (RADIO ORO) 92.5 FM | May 2019

[“Puerto Rico is Open for Green Business,”](#) Panelist | Green Building Panel PR | April 2019

[“Conversations with Luis A. Ferré Rangel: integrated cities as a formula for reconstruction,”](#) Interviewee | Luis A. Ferré Rangel | El Nuevo Día (video) | March 2019

[“Resiliency Advisory Services Panel for the Municipality of Toa Baja,”](#) Panelist | Urban Land Institute | December 2018

[“Safe Homes for Puerto Rico,”](#) Speaker | Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico | December 2018

[“After María: lessons learned,”](#) Panelist | PR Builders Association 2018 Convention | September 2018

[Organizations Join Forces to Rebuild Puerto Rico.](#) | Gaby Acevedo | 4 New York | June 2018

[“Implementing resilient design in Puerto Rico,”](#) Speaker | SESA PR Energy Forum | June 2018

[“Investment without resiliency is not investment,”](#) Speaker | P3 Summit | June 2018

[“Reimagina,”](#) Speaker | Puerto Rico Report Launch | June 2018

[“Strategies for Housing Resilience in Puerto Rico”](#) Panel | Enterprise Communities | April 2018

[“Invest on a new future,”](#) Speaker | Challenges & Opportunities of the Dominican Private Sector Forum | April 2018

[Campaign “Say No to Foam?”](#) (against styrofoam containers) | Zuania Matos | Radio San Juan | Onda Cero | April 2018

[“About housing and communities,”](#) Lecturer | School of Architecture UPR RP | February 2018

[“Entrevista a Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz,”](#) Interviewee (on aftermath and rebuilding after hurricane Maria), Fox News | October 2017

[“Energy Transfer and its Implications for the Economic Development of Puerto Rico,”](#) Speaker | US Green Building Council | August 2017

[“USGBC Revolución de Edificios Verdes en PR,”](#) Guest Speaker | USGBC PR | January 2016

[“Demo Day: entrepreneurial and innovation driven ecosystem,”](#) Speaker | [ECOSISTEMA 20/22](#) | August 2016

[“Eco Expo – Building Sustainable,”](#) Lecturer | San Juan, PR | February 2013

2.1 SPEAKING & PRESENTATIONS



SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING



Visiting communities with Louisiana Governor Edwards and PR Governor Rosselló. Puerto Rico, 2017



Habitat for Humanity's Del Carmen Project presentation. Puerto Rico, 2019



Interview by NASDAQ TV on resilient construction. New York, 2019

"The Latest Information on CDBG-DR Funds" | Puerto Rico Builder's Association Webcast | March 2021

"Earthquakes to Pandemics: An interview with Ex HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan," Interviewer | 47th Annual Virtual Convention, Puerto Rico Builders Association | November 2020

"Making an Impact on the Public Sector from the Private Sector," Speaker | [Pecha Kucha](#) | Seriously Creative | June 2020

"Architect Ricardo Álvarez shares his expertise regarding the economic catalyst for Puerto Rico" | Host Joel Katz | ReBoot (podcast) | April 2020

"Can Puerto Rico's Economy Be Rebuilt: Linking the Private Sector & Fema," Interviewee | #TradeTalks, youtube.com | December 2019

"AD&V Global Goals 100x35," Speaker | Global Goals 100x35 | UNA-USA PR (United Nations Association of the United States of America) | December 2019

"Can Puerto Rico's Economy be Rebuilt?" | Jill Malandrino | TradeTalks | Nasdaq (television) | October 2019

"Álvarez-Díaz: Puerto Rico Has Benefits For Investors" | Hosts Lisa Abramowicz and Paul Sweeney | Bloomberg Radio | October 2019

"Industry and Commerce in Action" | Radio Isla | September 2019

"Shop Talk: The real estate opportunities in a rebuilding Puerto Rico" | Real Assets Adviser (podcast) and [Institutional Real Estate, Inc. Podcast](#) | September 2019

"Puerto Rico as an Opportunity for Investment," Speaker | Puerto Rico: A Paradise of Opportunities Summit | May 2019

"Investment/Tourism/ Urban Revitalization of the Future," Panelist | LAI Land Economics Weekend | May 2019

"Local Insight: Unique challenges and opportunities to investing and developing in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands," Panelist | Novogradac 2019 Investing in Puerto Rico Conference | May 2019

"Investing on a new future," Speaker | SIGMA (Support for Improvement of Governance and Monitoring Advancement) Foundation | August 2018

"Investing on a new future," Speaker | Rotary Club | June 2018

"Architect Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz" | CNN en Español (television) | May 2018

"Puerto Rico Pathway to the Future Forum," Speaker | New York City | February 2018

Export and Services Forum, Speaker | PR Chamber of Commerce and Exportation | February 2018

"Puerto Rico Economic Development Growth Plan," Speaker | 2nd PROMESA Conference | September 2017

"Let's refocus: It's time to rethink the possibilities," Speaker | Rotary Club of San Juan | August 2017

"Debt Island: A Critical Analysis of ACT 20 & 22 in Puerto Rico," Speaker | PR Chamber of Commerce | June 2017

"Perspectives, challenges and opportunities in housing & construction," Speaker | Congreso de Arrendadores | May 2017

"Perspectives and Challenges on Puerto Rico's Economic Development Under Our Current Fiscal Outlook," Speaker | JSF Meeting | March 2017

"Understanding Puerto Rico's Real Estate Business Opportunities," Speaker | BISNOW LATAM Caribbean Investment | March 2017

"Developing in Puerto Rico," Speaker | ULI Latin American & Caribbean Conference | February 2017

"How to develop LOCALLY, while exporting GLOBALLY," Speaker | H3 2015 Tech Conference | November 2015

"Simposio Sobre el Plan de Uso de Terrenos de Puerto Rico" (Symposium on the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan), Panelist | AC Puerto Rico Convention | November 2015

"Incentives, Economics and Opportunities Panel," Moderator | ACPR Convention | November 2015

"Invest in PR: A Look Into Law 20/22," Moderator | ICSC Caribbean Convention | October 2015

PR Investment Summit: LatAm Edition, Invited Panelist | San Juan, Puerto Rico | February 2015

"Economic recovery through affordable Housing Development," Invited speaker | Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce | March 2014

"Puerto Rico's 2nd Grand Economic Transformation: What's in it for you?" Invited Speaker | Puerto Rico Executive Investment Forum | San Juan, Puerto Rico | December 2014

"A new housing Model," Lecturer | US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC | October 2013

2.1 SPEAKING & PRESENTATIONS



SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



United Nations Sustainability Development Goals presentation.
Puerto Rico, 2019



Advocating for new public policy regarding affordable housing.
Miami, 2016



Presentation on Exporting Architecture.
AIA PR Chapter, 2015

“My Experience: A Colloquium with Architect and Entrepreneur Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz,” Speaker | University of Notre Dame, March 2021

“What’s Hot in Development and Design,” Panelist | Multifamily Housing Breakout Session | [CPE-MHN 2020 Summit Series](#) | November 2020

“Thrive, Survive or Be Extinct: How to Grow Your Practice Pre & Post COVID-19,” Speaker | [AIA Kentucky & AIA Indiana Convention Webinar Series](#) | August 2020

“Santurce & It’s History,” Speaker | The University of Notre Dame School of Architecture | January 2020

“Global Startup Weekend Sustainable Revolution Puerto Rico Edition, Speaker | Centro Para Emprendedores & Basura Cero | June 2019

“Culture, Society and Design,” Speaker | EDP University of PR | May 2019

“Leadership: the not-so-common common sense,” Speaker | 80th Conference of District 7000 2018-2019 | Santurce Rotary Club | April 2019

“Case Study of AD&V’s Entrepreneurial Story,” Speaker | host, John Mullins | London School of Economics | April 2019

“Places of Purpose, Selected Work 2001-2018,” Speaker | University of Puerto Rico School of Architecture, Rio Piedras Campus | December 2018

“A moving donation in the midst of desolation in Puerto Rico” | [Telemundo 47](#) (television) | June 2018

“Strategies for firm success,” interview with Enoch Sears | [Business of Architecture](#) (radio) | November 2017

“How to develop the profession locally, by exporting globally,” Speaker | El Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas Convention ([CAAPPR](#); association of Puerto Rican Architects) | June 2017

“How to develop the profession locally, by exporting globally,” Speaker | [Parallel18](#) | May 2017

“The Architect as an Entrepreneur,” Speaker | Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico | March 2017

“A changing world,” Speaker | Colegio Marista’s SNHS | February 2017

“224: Strategies for Firm Success” ([podcast](#)); hosted by Enoch Bartlett Sears, AIA | [The Business of Architecture](#) | January 2017

“223: Architecture as Business and Product” ([podcast](#)), hosted by Enoch Bartlett Sears, AIA | [The Business of Architecture](#) | January 2017

“Retos para la industria del diseño local” (“Challenges for the local design industry”), Panelist | Moderator, Liz Sandra Santiago | [Diseño y Construcción - El Nuevo Día](#) | November 2016

“The importance of Philanthropy,” Speaker | [Fundación Flamboyán](#) | September 2016

“40 Years of CODDI,” Keynote Speaker | Colegio de Diseñadores / Decoradores de Interiores de Puerto Rico Convention (CODDI) | March 2016

“El Futuro de La Habana,” Interview with Architect Julio César Pérez | [La Fundación por la Arquitectura Conference](#) | April 2016

“Affordable Housing: Myths and Realities,” Invited Speaker | Cuban Charrette, San Juan Puerto Rico | March 2016

“The Profession of Architecture,” Speaker | Colegio Marista | November 2015

“Exporting Architecture: Puerto Rico is the Answer,” Invited Panelist | [Emerge Convention, AIA Puerto Rico](#) | September 2015

ArchiCamp, Lecturer | [CAAPPR-PR](#) | San Juan, Puerto Rico | July 2015

“So You Want To Be An Architect,” Panelist | [AIA Puerto Rico](#) | March 2015

“Cómo desarrollar la profesión local mediante la exportación global” (“How to develop the local profession through global export”), Keynote Speaker | [Boom Fair 2015](#) | Ponce, Puerto Rico | February 2015

“Places of Purpose (Tell Them Your Story), Selected Work 2001-2014,” Invited Speaker | International Congress of Interior Design and Architecture | Guadalajara, México | October 2014

“Developing the LOCAL profession through GLOBAL positioning,” Invited Speaker | [CAAPPR – Semana de la Arquitectura](#) | September 2014

“How can we as Architects add value to the Profession,” Panelist | [PR Architects Convention](#) | June 2014

“Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón Work,” Invited Speaker | San Juan School of Design - EDP University | May 2014

“30K in 5: Affordable Housing in Puerto Rico,” Invited Speaker | Pecha Kucha at Seriously Creative | San Juan, Puerto Rico | April 2014

“The Added Value of Architecture,” Lecturer, [Arquitectura Pa’l Pueblo](#) (Architecture for the People) | [AIA series](#) | San Juan, PR | April 2013

“Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz: His Work,” Invited Speaker | University of Notre Dame | February 2014

2.1 RELEVANT WORK - PRO BONO



VOLUNTEER PROJECT LEADERSHIP



**ResilientSEE
community workshop.**
Puerto Rico, 2019



**Caño Martín Peña
community workshop.**
Puerto Rico, 2017



**Habitat for Humanity
of Puerto Rico housing
project.**
Puerto Rico, 2018

Rio Piedras Community Trust | Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico | 2021

Lead Designer, Strategy Consultant

Master plan and pre-development analysis.

St. Peter Chapel Catholic Church | Roswell, Georgia | 2021

Lead designer and strategy consultant

Predevelopment Analysis, Building Programming.

Autonomous Municipality of San Juan | San Juan, Puerto Rico | 2020

Lead Designer, Smart Cities, Resilience Strategist

Santurce Master Plan and City Revitalization.

**Community Together: A Guide for Resilient Community | Puerto Rico
and Virgin Islands | 2018-Present**

Local Architect

Centers Design for Island Communities.

Villas del Sol Community | Toa Baja, Puerto Rico | 2018-Present

Local Architect, Resilience Strategist, Housing Expert

Resilient Framework Plan.

**Habitat for Humanity Housing Project – New Housing Units | Hato Rey,
Puerto Rico | 2018**

Lead Architect

Design of New Housing Units.

**Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja | Toa Baja, Puerto Rico |
2018-Present**

Local Architect, Project Leader, Resilience Strategist

Resilient Framework Plan.

Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja | Toa Baja, Puerto Rico | 2018

Lead Designer, Strategy Consultant

Isla de Cabra Re-development Master Plan.

**Keep Safe: A Guide for Resilient Housing Design for Island | Puerto
Rico and Virgin Islands Communities | 2017-Present**

Co-Founder and primary leader

Content developer.

Caño Martín Peña Housing Models | Hato Rey, Puerto Rico | 2017

Lead Designer, Community Workshop Facilitator

Three new single family design models.

2.1 RELEVANT WORK - PRACTICE



Mixed-income community: Emerald Village
Caguas, Puerto Rico



Bahía Urbana Redevelopment Master Plan
San Juan, Puerto Rico



Unico Wellness Community Master Plan
Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico

RECONSTRUCTION, RESILIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY

Rebuild Florida Housing Program Model Housing Units | Florida | 2021-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing for 400 low-income families impacted by Hurricane Maria.

HUD – Department of Housing R-3 Housing Program – Model Housing Units | Puerto Rico | 2019-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing for 2,500 low-income families impacted by Hurricane Maria.

RSV Government Retrofit – Building Repurposing, Energy Retrofit | Santurce, Puerto Rico | 2012

Principal in Charge, Lead Architect

Reduced building energy consumption by 42%.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Monte Elvira – Affordable Income Community | Coamo, Puerto Rico | 2020-Present

Principal in Charge

Housing community for 650 hurricane displaced low-income families.

Fort Myers Community Redevelopment – Mixed Income Community | Fort Myers, Florida | 2019-Present

Principal in Charge, Lead Designer

Housing community for 350 families.

Panorama Gold – Mixed Income Community | Bayamón, Puerto Rico | 2019-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing community for 84 families.

River Park – Mixed Income Community | Caguas, Puerto Rico | 2018-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing community for 220 families.

Apolonia – Mixed Income Community | Bayamón, Puerto Rico | 2018-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing community for 140 families.

Emerald Village/José Gautier Benítez – Mixed Income Community | Caguas, Puerto Rico | 2014-Present

Principal in Charge, Designer

Housing community for 440 families.

Bayshore Villas/Puerta de Tierra – Mixed Income Community | Puerta de Tierra (Old San Juan), Puerto Rico | 2014-2019

Principal in Charge, Lead Designer

New housing for 172 families.

Renaissance Square/Las Gladiolas – Mixed Income Community | San Juan, Puerto Rico | 2011 -2017

Principal in charge – Lead Designer

112 displaced low-income families returned to their original home with 28 new market-rate family homes.

MASTER PLANNING

Unico Wellness Community Master Plan | Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico | 2020

Principal in Charge, Concept Designer

Mixed use community and town center pre-development, programming and master plan.

Universal Studios Housing for Tomorrow Master Plan | Orlando, Florida | 2020

Principal in Charge, Concept Designer

Mix-use pre-development, programming, master plan and walkability study.

Ponce Health Sciences University (PHSU) Master Plan | Ponce, Puerto Rico | 2020

Principal in Charge, Concept Designer

Medical school campus master plan development.

Bahía Urbana Redevelopment Master Plan | San Juan, Puerto Rico | 2017

Principal in Charge, Concept Designer

97-acre master plan and walkability study.

University of Mayagüez Student Life | Mayagüez, Puerto Rico | 2016

Principal in Charge, Concept Designer

Student housing and facilities master plan.

2.2 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Kemp Excellence in Affordable and Workforce Housing Award: Bayshore Villas
Urban Land Institute



Sustainability Honorable Mention Award: AD&V Headquarters
AIA Puerto Rico



Excellence Award | Bronze Award, Development & Design: Affordable Housing for Renaissance Square
Multi-Housing News

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE | PROJECTS

- Kemp Excellence in Affordable and Workforce Housing Award: Bayshore Villas | Urban Land Institute | 2021
- Citation: Campus and Urban Planning, **Boston Society of Architects / AIA** | 2021
- Vision Category Honor Award, Phil Freelon Professional Design Award: *ResilientSEE's Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja*, **NOMA** | 2020
- Honorable Mention: Computational Design Award, *ResilientSEE's Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja*, **ACADIA + AUTODESK + NOMA** | 2020
- Puerto Rico Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Alliance's Efficiency & Sustainability Award, Design & Construction Category – Renaissance Square | Battle of the Buildings Puerto Rico | 2017
- Sustainability Honorable Mention Award: AD&V Headquarters | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2015
- Environmental Excellence Award: Museo de Arte de PR | Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association | 2014
- Case Study: Minillas | Clinton Foundation | Clinton's Climate Initiative | 2011

SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING

- Governor Appointment, Board of Directors, ENLACE Project Corporation of the Caño Martín Peña, Puerto Rico | 2018-2020
- Presidential Award for Outstanding Service in the Industry, PR Builders Association | 2020
- Governor Appointment, Member and Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Invest Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico | 2020-2017
- Governor Appointment, Member, Governor's Construction and Housing Advisory Committee, Puerto Rico | 2018-Present
- Governor Appointment, Chair, Governor's Construction and Housing Advisory Committee, Puerto Rico | 2017
- Power 100 – Puerto Rico's Top 100 Executives, *Caribbean Business* | 2017 & 2018
- Secretary of State Appointment, FEMA Liaison, Puerto Rico Private Sector, Puerto Rico | 2017

- Young Professional Award Finalist, National Home Builder's Association | 2017
- Associate Member of the Year, Puerto Rico Home Builders Association | 2012

SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN | ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The following awards support and recognize Ricardo's success as an entrepreneur in practice and add credibility in his professional advocacy for entrepreneurship among architects.

- Top 225 International Design Firms, *ENR* | 2021
- Top 300 Architecture Firms in the United States, *Architectural Record* | 2021
- Top 225 International Design Firms, *ENR* | 2020
- Top 155 Architecture Firms for 2020, *Building Design+Construction* | 2020
- Top 15 Architects in Miami, *Builddirect.com* | 2016
- Top 50 Industry's Leading Design Firms in US | *VMSD* | 2015

Caribbean Business Book of Lists

- Top Architectural Firm | 2020
- 2nd Largest Architectural Services Firm in Puerto Rico | 2019
- Top Architectural Firm | 2018
- Top 3, PR's Largest Architectural Services Firms | 2017
- Power 100, PR's Top 100 Companies | 2016
- Top 5, PR's Largest Architectural Services Firms | 2016
- Power 100, PR's Top 100 Companies | 2015
- Top 5, PR's Largest Architectural Services Firms | 2014
- Top 10 Architecture and Design Firms | 2010-2013

2.2 AWARDS - PROJECTS



Best in American Living
Gold Award:
Renaissance Square
**National Association of
Home Builders**



Presidential Award
given by Chef Andrés
Ricardo for outstanding
service.
PRBA Convention



People's Choice Award:
Mutual Services
Blood Bank
AIA Puerto Rico

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Bronze Award, Development & Design: Affordable Category – Renaissance Square | *Multi-Housing News Excellence Awards* | 2019
- Special Award, Social Value Category – Renaissance Square & Bayshore Villas | *CEMEX Building Awards* | 2019
- Public Housing Redevelopment Award – Renaissance Square | *Affordable Housing Finance* | 2018
- International Skyline Award – Renaissance Square | *LAMBDA ALPHA* | 2019
- Gold Award – Renaissance Square | *NAHB's Best in American Living Award* | 2018
- Efficiency & Sustainability Award – Design & Construction category, Renaissance Square Puerto Rico Energy | *Efficiency & Sustainability Alliance, Battle of the Buildings PR* | 2017
- Gold Award - Unbuilt: Renaissance Square Multi-Housing | *News Excellence* | 2017

MULTI-FAMILY

- Housing Development Award: The Ramblas, Downtown Guaynabo | *PR Builders Association* | 2018
- Residential Impact Project: Las Ramblas | *PR Builders Association* | 2015
- Multi-Family Project of the Year: Murano Apartments | *PR Home Builders Association* | 2006
- Project of the Year: Paseo Corales | *PR Home Builders Association* | 2005

AIA AWARDS

- People's Choice Award: Mutual Services Blood Bank | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2018
- Sustainability Honorable Mention Award: AD&V Headquarters | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2015
- People's Choice Award: The Venetian | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2014
- Honorable Mention – Best of Interiors: Gatsby Department Store | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2014
- People's Choice Award: AD&V Headquarters | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2013
- People's Choice Award: Florsheim | **AIA Puerto Rico** | 2012

2.3 PUBLICATIONS ABOUT NOMINEE



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

The Architect's Newspaper

[“Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz on why Puerto Rico needs the help of more architects”](#)



[“A post-storm Puerto Rico reconsiders how and what to rebuild”](#)

[“Nine Puerto Rican companies train to level up,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | June 2021

[“Construction is reborn in Puerto Rico despite the challenges of the pandemic and the rise in material prices,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | June 2021

[“AD&V Launches Educational Campaign for Earth Day 2021,”](#) Staff Writer | *The Weekly Journal* | April 2021

[Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales: Puerto Rico](#) | *ACADIA 2020* | November 2020

[“Bayshore Villas,”](#) Staff Writer | *Developing Urban Resilience/Urban Land Institute* | September 2020

[“Navigating the Road to Renewable Energy,”](#) Brandi Wampler | University of Notre Dame | August 2020

[“The New Puerto Rico,”](#) Adriana Cañellas | *Modo de Vida* | August 2020

[“A post-storm Puerto Rico reconsiders how and what to rebuild,”](#) John Caulfield | *Building Design+Construction* | February 2020

[“Puerto Ricans displaced by earthquakes wait for a safe home amid roadblocks, delays,”](#) Nicole Acevedo | *NBC News* | January 2020

[“In the midst of blackouts and shakes, some Puerto Ricans sleep outdoors,”](#) Jim Wyss | *El Nuevo Herald* | January 2020

[“Puerto Rico Endures Damage Amid Ongoing Quakes,”](#) Scott Judy | *Engineering News-Record* | January 2020

[“Safety is ‘the Ultimate Luxury’,”](#) Lucy Cohen Blatter | *Mansion Global* | December 2019

[Time to Build, The Magazine, 2nd Edition](#) | December 2019

[“21st Century Housing”](#) (on affordable housing needs) | *El Nuevo Día* | November 2019

[“New Manual for Resilience Considers Puerto Rico’s Unique Challenges,”](#) Zoe Sullivan | *Next City* | October 2019

[KEEP SAFE A Guide for Resilient Housing Design in Island Communities](#) | AD&V | Enterprise Community Partners | October 2019

[“Architect Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz is All About Sustainability and Resilience,”](#) Lucy Cohen Blatter | *Mansion Global* | October 2019

[“Alliance to create ‘Places of Purpose’”](#) (on firm’s alliance with Habitat for Humanity) | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | October 2019

[“Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz on why Puerto Rico needs the help of more architects,”](#) Sydney Franklin | *The Architect’s Newspaper* | September 2019

[“Estuary program joins the cleaning of coasts and rivers”](#) | *El Vocero* | September 2019

[“What’s Next for Puerto Rico Two Years after Devastating Hurricanes?”](#) Bendix Anderson | *Multifamily Executive Magazine* | September 2019

[“Toa Baja Can Rebuild by Embracing Plans to Protect People and Property While Strengthening the Community,”](#) Justin Arnold | *Urban Land Institute* | June 2019

[“Habitat for Humanity and AD&V present three families with safe new homes”](#) | *Primera Hora* | June 2019

[“Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón joins the #TrashChallenge movement on the Earth Day,”](#) Staff Writer | *El Nuevo Día* | April 2019

[“Environmental groups join forces for project against ‘foam’: The measure also prohibits the wholesale or retail sale of these products”](#) (on eradicating use of Styrofoam) | *WapaTV* | April 2019

[“2019: a key year in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico,”](#) Larissa Vázquez Zapatal | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | March 2019

[“Affordable Housing”](#) | *Ferreteros y Constructores* | August 2019

[“A manual to survive the effects of extreme weather for island homes”](#) | *Unidos Por Puerto Rico* | January 2019

[“Powerful bet on a more resilient Toa Baja,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2018

[“Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico presents its new multifamily project under construction”](#) | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | December 2018

2.3 PUBLICATIONS ABOUT NOMINEE



[“Moving Forward from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico”](#)



[“José Gautier Benítez Development”](#)



[“Half of Puerto Rico’s housing was built illegally. Then came Hurricane Maria”](#)

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE | CONTINUED

[“The Urban Land Institute to Advise Toa Baja, Puerto Rico on Hurricane Preparedness and Resilience,”](#) Justin Arnold | Urban Land Institute | November 2018

[“The Perfect Storm: How Climate Change and Wall Street Almost Killed Puerto Rico,”](#) Jeff Goodell | *Rolling Stone* | September 2018

[“A call to build the future responsibly,”](#) Jomar José Rivera Cedeñol | *Construcción, El Nuevo Día* | September 2018

[Reimagina Puerto Rico Report](#) | ResilientSEE | June 2018

[“Architecture book profits will go to rebuilding houses in Puerto Rico,”](#) Jorge Muñiz | *Periódico La Perla* | April 2018

[“Half The Houses in Puerto Rico Were Built Illegally,”](#) Tim Pearce | *The Daily Caller* | February 2018

[“Half of Puerto Rico’s housing was built illegally. Then came Hurricane Maria,”](#) Andrés Viglucci | *Miami Herald* | February 2018

[“Call to create sustainable communities for older adults”](#) | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | May 2017

[“Visual pollution and the collective psyche: How unhealthy cities have become?”](#) Reina Fermaint | *90 Grados* | April 2017

[“Sustainable impulse in the construction industry despite uncertainty,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día | Negocios* | December 2016

[“Builders close their convention with an emphasis on sustainability,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | September 2016

[“Puerto Rican company launches campaign to promote the use of less polluting packaging”](#) | *The San Diego Union Tribune, Miami 24 Horas,* and *Agencia EFE USA* | April 2016

[“Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón calls residents of Santurce on Planet Day”](#) | *Construction | El Nuevo Día* | April 2016

[“Meet the architects taking LEED to Latin-America”](#) | *Architser.com* | August 2014

[“Walking the talk in green design”](#) | *Switch Road Magazine* | April 2014

SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING

[“Fusion of talents to advance an agenda for the environment”](#) | *Negocios-El Nuevo Día* | November 2013

[“Creative and ecological alliance”](#) | *Magacín – El Nuevo Día* | August 2013

[“Experts predict a 2021 year of action for mortgage banks,”](#) Jomar José Rivera Cedeño | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2020

[“Colectivo 360 to Host Investors Summit Next Month,”](#) Cynthia López Cabán | *The Weekly Journal* | January 2020

[“Local firm achieves outstanding seat in the UN,”](#) Staff Writer | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2019

[“The First Puerto Rican Architecture and Interior Design Firm Joins The United Nations Global Compact,”](#) Newsroom Staff | *The Weekly Journal* | December 2019

[“PRBA present in DC”](#) | Puerto Rico Builders Association | October 2019

[“Breaking the Corrupt Cycle,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | July 2019

[“New LIHTC project breaks ground in Puerto Rico,”](#) Mariah Brown (affordable housing) | *Real Estate Finance & Investment* | May 2019

[“José Gautier Benítez Development”](#) | *Architect Magazine* | May 2019

[“Affordable Puerto Rican housing is imposed at the national level,”](#) Jomar José Rivera Cedeño | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | March 2019

[“Rebuilding a Puerto Rico Barrio: ‘Dead Is the Only Way They’ll Ever Get Me to Leave,’”](#) (on family relocations) Michael Kimmelman | *The New York Times* | January 2019

[“Maria’s disaster in Puerto Rico leaves a lesson for reconstruction, say architects with a proposal,”](#) Sarah Moreno | *El Nuevo Herald* | May 2018

[“Moving Forward from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico,”](#) Jacqueline Canales & Leah Shepperd | *Urban Land Institute* | March 2019

[“Public Housing, Dignified and in Community,”](#) Male Noguera Osuna | *Ferreteros y Constructores* | March 2019

[“Puerto Rico address issues of ‘informal construction’ after Hurricane Maria,”](#) Pedro Portal | *Miami Herald* | February 2018

2.3 PUBLICATIONS ABOUT NOMINEE



[“Weak Building Code Enforcement Exacerbates Destruction in Puerto Rico”](#)



[“Development Touted as Puerto Rico’s First Mixed-Income Community”](#)



[“Architects leading the way to revitalize San Juan”](#)

SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING | CONTINUED

[“Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz: ‘The government has to be a facilitator,’”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | January 2018

[“Development Touted as Puerto Rico’s First Mixed-Income Community,”](#) Christine Serlin | *Affordable Housing Finance* | July 2018

[“An inclusive housing model opens its doors in Old San Juan”](#) | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | June 2018

[“Weak Building Code Enforcement Exacerbates Destruction in Puerto Rico,”](#) Emily Nonko | *The Wall Street Journal* | December 2017

[“Allies to combat informal construction,”](#) Jomar José Rivera Cedeño | *El Nuevo Día* | November 2017

[“Puerto Rico developments seek to build community, not just public housing,”](#) Patrick Sisson | *Curbed.com* | July 2017

[“Fixing Puerto Rico’s Debt Problem Won’t Fix Its Economy,”](#) Jonathan Levin | *Bloomberg* | May 2016

[“Time to revitalize urban centers,”](#) Nelson Gabriel Berríos | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | August 2015

[“Interview with ACH Members regarding the future of housing in Puerto Rico,”](#) Nelson Gabriel Berríos | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | December 2014

[“Arquitectura Pa’l Pueblo, initiative that benefits the community”](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | July 2013

[“New housing formula,”](#) Rebecca Banuchi | *Negocios/El Nuevo Día* | September 2011

SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN

[“Make Way for Innovation,”](#) Yanella Vigil Delis | *Ferreteros y Constructores #352* | November 2020

[“A look at architecture with purpose,”](#) Luz Nereida Pérez | *La Perla del Sur* | January 2019

[“Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón has 75% of leadership positions held by women,”](#) Staff Writer | *El Nuevo Día* | March 2021

[“Creating Community is at the Forefront of Multifamily Design,”](#) Ivy Lee Rosario | *Multi-Housing News* | November 2020

[“Introducing Bayshore Villas,”](#) McCormack Baron Salazar (on low- and mixed-income housing) | YouTube | November 2020

[“The New Normal: Working From Home: Tips for a Productive Experience,”](#) Rosario Fajardo | *The Weekly Journal* | April 2020

[“In a global showcase the trajectory of AD&V: The Puerto Rican firm became a London Business School case study,”](#) Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | October 2019

[“Hurricane Maria Left Thousands of Puerto Rico’s Small Businesses Shuttered. Some Are Now Thriving Thanks to Quick Action—Even on Day 1 of the Storm,”](#) Leigh Buchanan | *Inc. Magazine* | September 2019

[“Builders submit proposals to the Task Force for economic development,”](#) Edison R. Mislá | *Empresarios 360* | September 2016

[“Havana Master Plan inspires local professionals to develop a better plan for the future”](#) | *Modo de Vida* | April 2016

[“Celebrating the Second Edition of the Arqui Bazar”](#) | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | December 2015

[“Historic Architecture: The Streets of Old San Juan,”](#) Jomar José Rivera Cedeño | *Construcción/El Nuevo Día* | September 2015

[“Exploring New Horizons as an Intern in Puerto Rico”](#) | School of Architecture | University of Notre Dame | September 2015

[“The Leed Platinum office of PR Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón’s is built to educate clients about design”](#) | *GBDmagazine.com* | November 2014

[“Architects leading the way to revitalize San Juan”](#) | *Architizer.com* | July 2014

2.3 PUBLICATIONS BY NOMINEE



“Resilient Housing is no Longer a Luxury, It’s a Necessity”



“The role of the architect in the reconstruction after a natural disaster”



“The Critical Role of Resilient Design in Post-Disaster Reconstruction”

Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz is a regular contributor to a number of publications on issues related to sustainability, resiliency, policy and advancing entrepreneurship in the profession. Below is a sampling of his contributions.

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL | OPINION EDITORIALS

- The Champlain Towers Collapse: [A Lesson We Should Never Forget](#) | August 2021
- Emergency Preparedness: [The Key to Disaster Survival](#) | July 2021
- [Resilient Placemaking for Communities and Cities](#) | June 2021
- [Resilient Housing is no Longer a Luxury, It’s a Necessity](#) | August 2020
- [A Second Wave We All Saw Coming](#) | July 2020
- [Investing in Smart Cities](#) | June 2020
- [Stop, Reflect and Reset, Earth Day Turns 50](#) | April 2020
- [Political Protagonism By Fear](#) | March 2020
- Small Business Minded | February 2020
- Cost Versus Value: [Investing Instead of Spending](#) | December 2019
- Challenging your “WHY” in order to be recession proof | November 2019
- Two Years after Hurricane Maria, [Puerto Rico is Poised for a New Beginning](#) | September 2019
- The Stability of Instability: [A Study in Fear](#) | July 2019
- [The Time to Invest is Now](#) | May 2019

EL NUEVO DÍA NEWSPAPER | CONSTRUCTION SECTION

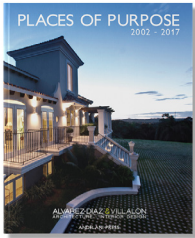
- [The role of the architect in the reconstruction after a natural disaster](#) | June 2018
- [Networking is the basis of any business](#) | August 2017
- [The healing power of architecture](#) | June 2017
- The hidden benefits of Affordable Housing | April 2017
- [Habitat III: The future of sustainable cities](#) | March 2017
- [Humanism, Feminism for Men](#) | February 2016
- [Santurce: a neighborhood with history](#) | May 2014, April 2014, November 2013
- [More with less](#) | November 2015

- [A Puerto Rican in La Media Luna](#) | August 2015
- [The new reality in retail](#) | April 2015
- The Importance of Urban Parks in Puerto Rico | November 2013
- Looking at the Future | October 2013
- Lessons Learned by the Foundation for Architecture | September 2013
- Let’s Be Architects of Possibilities | September 2013
- Misión Presidencial | August 2013
- [Leadership without protagonism: the goal of the architect profession in a new millennium](#) | June 2013
- [Condo-hotels: A new tool for the economic development of the country?](#) | June 2013
- In search of a new economic model | April 2013

AS A CONTRIBUTOR

- [True Leadership: Expectation VS Reality](#) | *El Vocero* | May 2021
- [The only responsible future for construction](#) | *Tiempo de Construir La Revista* | April 2021
- [The Critical Role of Resilient Design in Post-Disaster Reconstruction](#) | *Multi-Housing News* | January 2020
- [Designing Communities Not Just Housing](#) | *Tiempo de Construir La Revista* | December 2019
- [“Workplace Wellness,”](#) Jade Tilley | *Architecture Magazine* | November 2019
- Construction codes | *Modo De Vida* | November 2017
- La Misión de la Fundación por la Arquitectura | *Entorno Magazine* | May 2015
- Una idea constructiva | February 2013
- Soñando despierto | January 2013

2.3 PUBLICATIONS BY NOMINEE



*Places of Purpose
2002-2017
Second Edition*



*Resilient Puerto Rico:
Advisory Commission
Report*



*Keep Safe: A guide for
resilient housing design
in island communities*

BOOKS AUTHORED BY NOMINEE

- *Thrive, Survive or be Extinct: The Architect as Entrepreneur*, Andelani Press | Release date – August 2022
- *Santurce: The Trolley City*, Andelani Press | Release date - May 2022
- *Places of Purpose | 2002-2017*, with Cristina Villalón, Andelani Press | Second Edition – 2020
Proceeds from the sale of this book go toward rebuilding communities.
- *Places of Purpose | 2002-2017*, with Cristina Villalón, Andelani Press | First Edition - 2017
Proceeds from the sale of this book go toward rebuilding communities.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINE COLLABORATIONS BY NOMINEE

- *Design for Habitat II: Collaborations with Habitat for Humanity*, Routledge | Release date 2022
- *VIVO: Museo en evolución | Ave. De Diego #299, Santurce: Edificio y barrio en constante evolución*, Museo de Arte PR | 2015
- *Best of Office Volume II, Showcase* | Interior Design Books | 2015
- *The Best of Education and Culture, SJS Library* | Interior Design Books | 2014
- *Best of Residential, Weekend getaway* | Interior Design Books | 2012
- *The Classicist No. 5, Section Editor* | Institute of Classical Architecture and Art | 1998
- *The Classicist No.4, Section Editor* | Institute of Classical Architecture and Art | 1997

MANUAL COLLABORATIONS BY NOMINEE

- “*Keep Safe: A guide for resilient housing design in island communities*,” Enterprise Communities | 2019
- “*Resilient Puerto Rico: Advisory Commission Report*,” Reimagina Puerto Rico | 2018

SECTION 3.0 EXHIBITS



3.0 EXHIBIT LIST



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY:
BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY &
RESILIENCE

- 3.1 Guide to Building Resilient Island Communities
- 3.2 “The Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities” Training Series
- 3.3 Island-wide Scalable, Replicable Framework for Resilient Planning & Design



SERVICE ON POLICY:
ACTION & POLICY MAKING

- 3.4 Overriding Obsolete Policies: Preventing Post-Hurricane Voucher Relocations and Family Separations
- 3.5 Caño Martín Peña Workshop: When a Community Speaks, We All Benefit
- 3.6 Invest PR: A New Economic Plan



SERVICE IN PRACTICE:
EDUCATION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN

- 3.7 Affordable Housing Community: Avoiding Another Pruitt-Igoe
- 3.8 Expanding Entrepreneurship
- 3.9 Puerto Rican Architecture Tour Program

3.1 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



Guide to Building Resilient Island Communities



ROLE

Originator, Champion and Leader (in guide development, creation and publication)

FIRM OF RECORD

Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón® (pro bono partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.)

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

October 2019

SYNOPSIS

In 2017 Puerto Rico was hit by two destructive hurricanes. Island citizens lacked a straightforward guide to help them better prepare and build back stronger, more resilient communities that had been devastated by natural disasters. Homeowners and the general public had to be empowered to participate in rebuilding safer structures once federal aid arrived.

ACTIONS

Ricardo originated, championed and led the effort to produce *Keep Safe: A Guide for Resilient Housing Design in Island Communities*, to help shape housing construction in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and the Florida Keys. He assembled a team of multi-sector representatives and experts to create content and produce a comprehensive, technically accurate, relevant and contextual resilient housing guide.

He developed the original concept, coordinated and led the funding, student engagement, government support efforts, performed intelligence gathering and identified section authors for the guide.

The audience for the guides include homeowners and the general public. The *Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities* educates homeowners to better prepare for other impacts

from natural hazards like hurricanes, earthquakes and flooding.

RESULT

The guide provides practical and affordable ideas for rebuilding homes and strengthening organizational capacity and resiliency to climate, social and economic changes. It offers practical suggestions, including developing community organizations, operational capacity and relevant physical assets to achieve resilience. The 500-page guide is free to all residents of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and other Caribbean Nations. This resource informs planning and design for recovery efforts for the \$19.8 billion fund already available from the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).

IMPACT

3,000 *Guides* were published both in English and Spanish. All were distributed. Digital *Guide*: Over 55,000 individual downloads to date.

“Ricardo is a wonderful leader and a true servant to the needs of the community. He is a caring and inspirational individual; but most important, he gets things done.”

-Laurie Schoeman
Enterprise Communities



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including founding the *Keep Safe Guide’s* creation and gathering and leading experts to create the guide and contribute to and sponsor its publication.

Laurie Schoeman, National Resilience and Disaster Recovery, Enterprise Communities



Guide to Building Resilient Island Communities

PUBLICATIONS

- **“KEEP SAFE A Guide for Resilient Housing Design in Island Communities”** | Enterprise Community Partners | October 2019
- **“Lanzan guía para viviendas resistentes al cambio climático”** | Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | October 2019
- **“New Manual for Resilience Considers Puerto Rico’s Unique Challenges”** | Zoe Sullivan | *Next City* | October 2019
- **“resilientSEE: A framework to Achieve Resilience Across Scales”** | Perkins & Will | February 2019
- **“resilientSEE: A framework to Achieve Resilience Across Scales”** | *Building Design + Construction* | February 2019
- **“A manual to survive the effects of extreme weather for island homes”** | *Unidos Por Puerto Rico* | January 2019
- **“\$20 Billion from HUD and “Informal” Housing to Meet in Puerto Rico”** | *Non-Profit Quarterly* | May 2018
- **“After Hurricane Maria, partnership emerges to encourage resilient housing design and construction in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands”** | Yield Pro | April 2018
- **“Instructions on Rebuilding a Resilient Puerto Rico”** | Building Green | 2018
- **“Preparan una guía de vivienda resiliente”** | Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | April 2018

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A RESILIENT HOME

ALISSON IN RESILIENCE

By Ricardo Alvarez-Díaz - Architect

In the early morning hours of September 20, 2017, I found myself locked inside my apartment in San Juan with my wife and three daughters. This was not the first time we had experienced a hurricane in Puerto Rico, and that might be why we decided to stay on the island and brave out the storm. The roar of the sea, the hiss of the wind and the intense rain that hammered against our glass windows, foreshadowed one of the most devastating hurricanes of the past century. For hours, my only defense was to hug my terrified daughters, and hold on to my wife, to lessen the anxiety and fear I felt as a direct result of the general lack of preparedness we faced during this catastrophic event.

Both Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which hit land in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and later on the mainland in the United States, caused the loss of thousands of lives, separated families, weakened infrastructure, destroyed the environment, and caused billions of dollars in property damage. However, the biggest challenge of these climatic disasters in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands was what happened afterwards. The situation was truly dire. We could not communicate with the outside world nor even amongst ourselves. We could not work. We could not buy anything. There was no water. There was no light. And all was due to the fact that we had not mapped out our resilience strategies beforehand.

But what is resilience? The term comes from the Latin “resiliere” which means durability, elasticity, or the ability to recover with speed after a great difficulty. In 2017, we learned that rebuilding after a natural disaster of this magnitude is much more than simply raising up damaged or destroyed structures. Indeed, natural disasters offer up opportunities to employ better construction techniques, to utilize new construction materials, and to implement new strategies of resilient and sustainable design that better meet the needs of the people before, during, and after such catastrophes. We learned how important it is to support each other as human beings through our shared communities and citizen collaboration and education.

This manual was born from that desire. So, we can educate both working professionals and the general public on how to be better prepared for the next disaster. Thus armed, we will rise again with greater impetus, flexibility, and ease—to not only survive, this time, but to thrive.

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KEEP SAFE

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Regularly inspect your PV system for signs of natural disasters or theft.
- Monitor PV array output monthly to detect any anomalies. Some PV installers or manufacturers offer online monitoring of system performance and maintenance data.
- Inspect your PV system to check for:
 - Dirt on array
 - Storm damage
 - Loose cables
 - Impact and protect your system by dismantling your panels before a storm event, whether it is a pole-mounted system or a ground-mounted system.
 - For off-grid and hybrid systems, be sure to inspect your battery bank regularly and look for:
 - Battery voltage inconsistencies
 - Loose connections
 - If you have lead batteries, check depleted electrolyte levels by verifying water levels in the lead batteries.
- Properties prior to hurricane landfall:
 - Property owners or operators should have a maintenance staff or a contractor perform post-event inspections prior to landfalling hurricanes or forecasted severe windstorms by performing the following:
 - Debris removal from roof drains, eavestroughs, and gutters.
 - Removal of loose objects such as buckets, ladders, and sheet metal from the roof and surrounding areas.
 - If there is enough time, check tightness of the PV array's bolted connections with a torque wrench.
 - After a severe wind storm:
 - Property owners or operators should have a maintenance staff or a contractor perform post-event inspections/damage assessments and take any actions needed for repairs or improvements to their system, including the following:
 - Check the PV array for damage.
 - Remove, replace, or temporarily secure loose panels.
 - Check the roof covering for damage caused by windborne PV panels or other debris.
 - Check tightness of the PV array's bolted connections.

B. WINDOW SIZE

Size your windows according to sun exposure in the home.

WEST
Minimize the quantity and size of openings in this facade. Since it is exposed to direct sunlight in the afternoon, it will increase heat gain.

NORTH
Maximize the quantity and size of openings in this facade. Near sunrise and sunset on the summer, the North facade can barely receive direct sun, but the energy it gains is low. In May, June and July, the sun can be slightly north of directly overhead but with the slightest overcast it will miss the North facade.

SOUTH
Shade openings, since they are constantly exposed to sunlight.

EAST
Minimize the quantity and size of openings in this facade. Since it is exposed to direct sunlight in the morning, it will increase heat gain.

LITHIUM ION BATTERIES

- ▶ Lithium Batteries - (Longer Life: higher charge/discharge cycles) - Higher initial cost (\$)
- ▶ Lithium-Ion can be discharged to 90% of its capacity. Typically, it can endure three times the number of cycles compared to lead-acid.
- ▶ Lithium Ferro Phosphate - usually found in normal 24V and 48V packages.

DISCLAIMERS

- DO hire a professional to ensure that installation complies with local codes and regulations. Code or NEC.
- DO verify neighborhood regulations or talk with your neighbor to comply with aesthetic concerns.
- DO NOT connect the system to electric circuits by yourself. Hire an electric technician/engineer for this purpose.

DIAGRAMS AND MAPS BY LARISA OVALLES PALLINO
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IDENTIFYING HAZARD TYPES

Each home, whether single family or located in a multifamily building, needs to be fortified against the direct impact of predicted hazards as well as the cascade of effects that occur in the wake of natural hazard events such as damaged electrical systems or blocked roads. Identification and classification of existing and anticipated hazards is an essential first step in working toward a safer and more resilient home and community, and the primary step toward implementation of safer strategies.

The protection of a home always needs to be considered in the context of its location within the environment because the same hazard may manifest itself differently in the mountains, valleys, and coastal regions of Puerto Rico. In the central mountainous regions, with their sloping hills and in combination with development patterns, landslide hazards are a growing concern. Coastal zones face increased risks of flooding, storm surges, and coastal erosion. At the regional scale, strategic land use planning and land use policy can help improve resilience against these hazards and mitigate disaster risks.

Building to current codes is the first and most important step toward creating a resilient home, but that alone is not enough to withstand the impact from events, which can damage systems such as utilities, roads, and other infrastructure that support homes and communities. Therefore, it is crucial to have alternatives in place to support affected homes when those systems are not available. The strategies in this guide seek to help mitigate these impacts while strengthening and ultimately preserving homes.

This section will focus specifically on the different types of natural hazards common to Puerto Rico that are caused by major disaster events, such as tropical cyclones and earthquakes. For the purpose of this guide, hazards will be grouped into three main categories: **Air (Atmospheric)**, **Water (Hydrologic)**, and **Land (Geologic)**. Communities often face more than one type of hazard as well as unique challenges based on their social, economic, and physical vulnerabilities, exposing them to different levels of risks:

Air (Atmospheric) focuses on the effects of rising atmospheric temperatures, which leads to higher wind speeds driving more powerful tropical cyclones and extreme heat, in turn creating the conditions for drought and wildfires.

Water (Hydrologic) covers the consequences of sea level rise, storm surges, and altered precipitation that lead to both flooding and drought.

Land (Geologic) covers the consequences of land movement including earthquakes and the movement of land resulting from compaction, which leads to liquefaction, erosion, landslides, and subsidence.

This section will focus specifically on the different types of natural hazards common to Puerto Rico that are caused by major disaster events, such as tropical cyclones and earthquakes. For the purpose of this guide, hazards will be grouped into three main categories: **Air (Atmospheric)**, **Water (Hydrologic)**, and **Land (Geologic)**. Communities often face more than one type of hazard as well as unique challenges based on their social, economic, and physical vulnerabilities, exposing them to different levels of risks:

INTRODUCTION

STEP 3 - UTILIZE VEGETATION TO VENTILATE YOUR SPACE

- ▶ Plant trees to direct breeze towards the house and openings.
- ▶ Do not plant trees very close together because foliage can work as a massive horizontal wall through which wind cannot permeate.
- ▶ Keep a distance between trees and the building to avoid damage during strong winds. The distance from the tree to the house should exceed the tree's height.

STEP 4 - INSTALL WIND CHASES AND VENTS

Hot air moves up, circulating towers or chimneys that allow hot air to exit the building cools a space.

VENT TOWER
A continuous space throughout floors, such as staircases or a central atrium, can capture hot air from individual units and expels it upwards. For the techniques to work, ensure each unit has an appropriate entry that allows air to move.

WIND CHASES
An opening near the eave of the ceiling that allows hot air to exit the space, thus reducing the temperature inside.

TRANSOM WINDOWS
An opening above the doors that allows hot air to exit space thus reducing temperature inside.

3.2 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



“The Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities” Training Series



ROLE

Co-Founder, Organizer and Presenter

FIRM OF RECORD

Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón® (pro bono partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.)

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

2020

SYNOPSIS

A lack of clarity in continuing education by federal agencies on building resilience in the aftermath of hurricanes Maria and Irma prompted Ricardo to create the free “Keep Safe Summer Webinar Series,” which became “The Keep Safe Guide to Building Resilience in Island Communities” training series.

The program serves as a resource to all residents of Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other Caribbean Nations to inform planning and design solutions for recovery efforts under the CDBG-DR Program.

ACTIONS

Led a team of leaders from across Puerto Rico to introduce attendees to the steps necessary for resilient home design, construction and operation before, during and after an extreme weather event.

Offered the training simultaneously in Spanish and English to an audience of contractors, home builders, homeowners, Federal Housing agency directors and the general public.

RESULT

The 6-series training program provides best practices in the areas of site fortification, building protection, passive habitability, water and energy management, community preparedness and more. Provides education on resilient home design, construction and operation before, during and after an extreme weather event.

IMPACT

An average 250 people per day joined the virtual training including Hawaii and several other US States. Digital Guide: Over 100,000 views in total.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Keep Safe Summer Series: Site Fortification Strategies](#) | Keep Safe Summer Webinar Series | Enterprise Community Partners | August 2020
- “Community Together: A Guide for Resilient Housing Community Center Design in Island Communities,” Recover Rebuild | 2019
- [Keep Safe - Building the Resilience of Affordable Housing in Puerto Rico and Miami](#) | Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz | University of Miami Coastal Resilience Symposium | April 2021



Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz with Laurie Schoeman and Enterprise Communities CEO.

“After Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria, Ricardo concentrated all his efforts and energy on educating others about the importance of formal and resilient construction. He seemingly inserted himself in every important forum that focused on the safety of homeowners and the hazards of informal construction.”

— Vanessa De Mari, AIA, President of the PR Builders Association

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for founding, organizing and presenting the Keep Safe Training webinar series.

Laurie Schoeman (Guide Co-creator)
National Resilience and Disaster Recovery, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

3.3 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



Island-wide Scalable, Replicable Framework for Resilient Planning & Design

ROLE

Co-Founder & Initiative Leader, resilientSEE-PR/Resilience Strategist

FIRM OF RECORD

Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón® (pro bono)

DESIGN FIRM

Perkins and Will (pro bono partnership)

COMPLETION

Phase 1: Assessment, Analysis and Principles | 2018

Phase 2 Synthesis and Phase 3: Final Framework Plan | 2020

SYNOPSIS

ResilientSEE-Puerto Rico—an alliance of academic institutions, private sector and nonprofit organizations—was formed after Hurricane María to provide data-driven, interconnected planning and resource development services for the significant, coordinated and resilient rebuilding of Puerto Rico communities of all scales. Island-wide analysis and the Toa Baja Municipality framework are key projects under resilientSEE-PR.

CHALLENGE

The problems Puerto Rico faces in climate resilience are complex and can't be solved in silos. The Island did not have a comprehensive analysis to contextualize risks and vulnerabilities or a clear framework to systematically and comprehensively tackle complex resilient planning issues.

Municipalities, like Toa Baja, lack resources to assess how they fit into the larger Island and regional ecosystem and insight into potential solutions that consider the granularity of community needs.

ACTIONS

Ricardo co-founded the resilientSEE-PR Resilience Strategy in the wake of Hurricane María. The resilientSEE alliance includes expertise in economic development, climate justice policy, social science and the built environment on issues impacting energy and water, health, housing and education. The group creates regional, municipal and community framework plans, with Ricardo as initiative leader, resilience strategist and housing expert.

The Resilient Framework Plan for the Autonomous Municipality of Toa Baja partners Álvarez Díaz Villalón with the MIT Urban Risk Lab and Perkins and Will in a long-term, island-wide engagement and consensus-building planning process being test-piloted in Toa Baja, which will be launched nationwide and free to municipalities across the nation.

RESULT & IMPACT

The development of a scalable and replicable resilient planning methodology with a S-E-E approach (Social, Environmental and Economic Resilience) is helping the roughly 89,000 residents of Toa Baja and the larger Island community to build consensus, centralize existing information, identify gaps of data and analysis, synthesize analysis and think strategically about implementable solutions. All services were provided pro bono. [Four other communities](#) have benefited from resilientSEE-PR's services, and the program is now engaged with communities in Florida, including Miami.

TRUE RESILIENCE REQUIRES... COMMUNITY CO-AUTHORED SOLUTIONS



“Ricardo is a tireless professional and a great leader. He always says yes to any community initiative that aims to educate, support, or defend our people in need.”

-Betito Márquez, Mayor of Toa Baja



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including co-founding and leading the resilientSEE-PR/Resilience Strategist.

Yanel De Ángel, FAIA, Co-Founder, resilientSEE-PR & Project Manager Principal, Higher Education, Perkins&Will, Boston

3.3 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE



Island-wide Scalable, Replicable Framework for Resilient Planning & Design

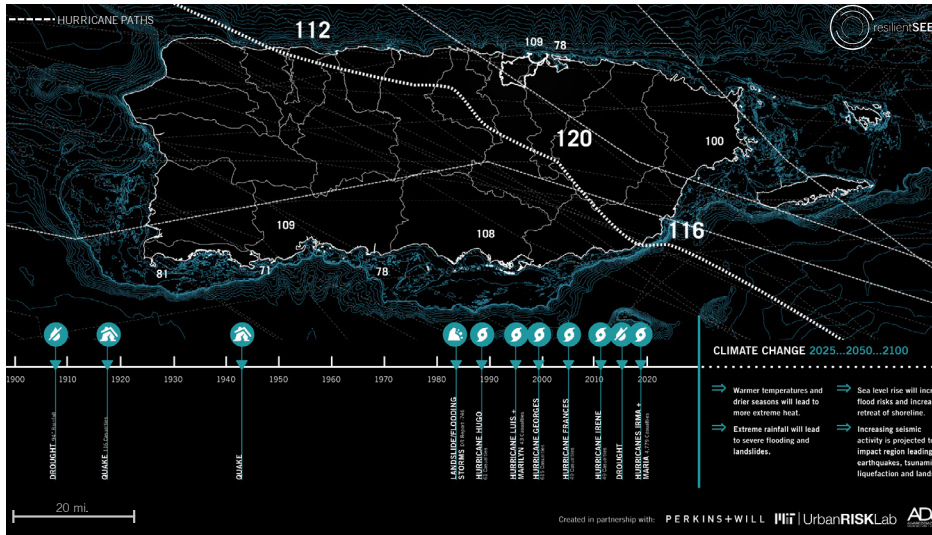
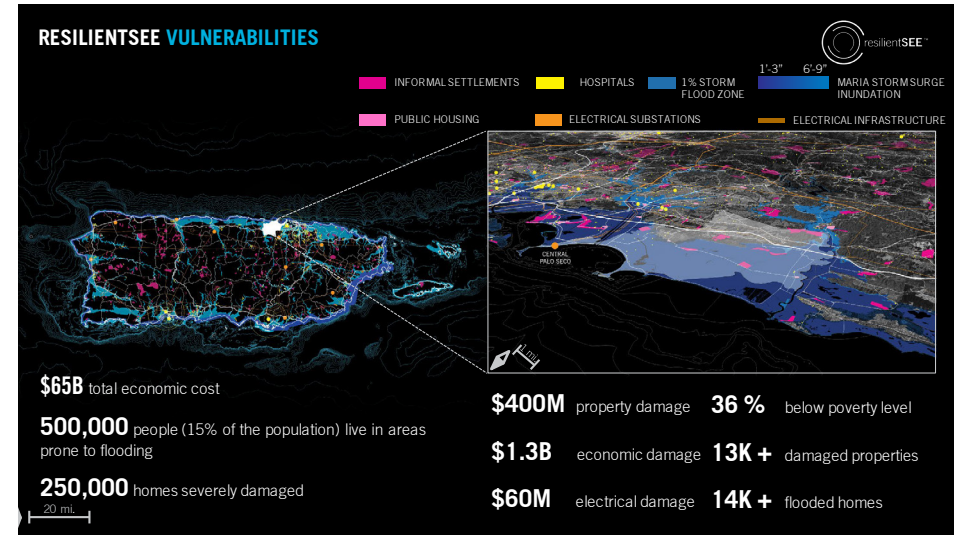


Illustration of Puerto Rico’s natural events since 1900, including major hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes and landslides. With climate change, as the diagram above illustrates, these events are becoming more intense and frequent.



A data-driven process founded on principle that all systems are connected. Begins with understanding vulnerabilities and risks, dissecting them through different lenses to diagnose problems and find synergistic solutions

AWARDS

- openDEAR, Perkins and Will | 2018
- Citation, Campus and Urban Planning by the Boston Society of Architects / American Institute of Architects | 2021
- Vision Category of the Phil Freelon Professional Design Award at the NOMA National Conference | 2020
- Honorable Mention of the ACADIA + AUTODESK + NOMA Computational Design Award | 2020

PUBLICATIONS

- **Resilient Planning at Multiple Scales: Puerto Rico** | Ricardo Álvarez-Díaz | University of Miami Coastal Resilience Symposium | April 2021
- **Highlights of NOMA’s Virtual National Conference: New President, New Awards, New Partnerships** | Kelly Beamon | *Metropolis* | October 2020
- **NOMA Announces 2020 Phil Freelon Professional Design Award Winners** | Madeleine D’Angelo | *Architect Magazine* | October 2020
- **Toa Baja Can Rebuild by Embracing Plans to Protect People and Property While Strengthening the Community** | Justin Arnold | Urban Land Institute | June 2019

- **resilientSEE: A framework to Achieve Resilience Across Scales** | Perkins & Will | February 2019
- **resilientSEE: A framework to Achieve Resilience Across Scales** | Building Design + Construction | February 2019
- **ULI presents its recipe for the recovery of Toa Baja** | Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2018
- **Powerful bet on a more resilient Toa Baja** | Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2018
- **The Urban Land Institute to Advise Toa Baja, Puerto Rico on Hurricane Preparedness and Resilience** | Justin Arnold | Urban Land Institute | November 2018
- **How Architects Are Helping Communities in Puerto Rico Rebuild** | *Metropolis* | November 2018

3.4 SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING

Overriding Obsolete Policies: Preventing Post-Hurricane Voucher Relocations and Family Separations



ROLE

Community Leader and Ambassador to over 24,000 families

FIRM OF RECORD & DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

N/A

SYNOPSIS

As Puerto Rico emerged from the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria, serious limitations within existing and obsolete federal laws opened the unfortunate possibility of family separations for over 24,000 low-income Island families.

The obscure 1930s law required property managers to continuously

provide water and electric power to their properties for a minimum of 8 weeks. If not, families had to be relocated or would lose local Federal benefits.

The original law never took into account the possibility of natural disasters, and Puerto Rico had been without power for over 8 weeks, approximately 120,000 people would have been relocated to the mainland. Adding to all the challenges in the aftermath of the hurricanes, families encountered a difficult decision: stay in their communities and lose their local Federal benefits or relocate to Florida—a move that would most likely become permanent.

ACTIONS

Ricardo coordinated an urgent meeting with Pamela Patenaude, Deputy Secretary for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, DC, to prevent the obsolete policy from taking effect. He:

- Met every two to three weeks with HUD Leadership.
- Worked closely on approval of CDBG-DR emergency federal funds and became a local voice with a direct connection with the Deputy Secretary.
- Led development of the original Action Plan for use of CDBG-DR funds.
- Worked directly with HUD's Deputy Secretary and the HUD team as well as the communities directly affected.

RESULTS

Persuaded HUD leadership to delay the law by four months, long enough to permit families to continue receiving all federal benefits throughout the emergency.

As a result, 125,000 residents were able to remain in Puerto Rico and help rebuild their communities.

IMPACT

24,000 families remained on the Island and retained all their Federal benefits, representing approximately 125,000 individuals, reducing the population exodus from the Island and the adverse economic impact that exodus would mean to all Puerto Ricans.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Puerto Ricans displaced by earthquakes wait for a safe home amid roadblocks, delays](#) | Nicole Acevedo | NBC News | January 2020
- [Renewed Housing Assistance For Puerto Ricans Displaced By Hurricane Maria](#) | Amy Green | WMFE | January 2018
- [2,300 Puerto Rican families displaced by Hurricane Maria are about to lose their FEMA housing assistance](#) | Daniella Silva | NBC News | June 2018

- [Judge extends FEMA temporary housing for Puerto Ricans displaced after hurricane](#) | Nicole Acevedo | NBC News | July 2018

“It was Ricardo’s passion and conviction that convinced me this was the right thing to do.”

— Pamela Patenaude, Deputy Secretary, HUD (2016-2018)

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including representing Puerto Rican family and community needs in delaying enacting an obsolete federal policy.

Pamela Patenaude, Deputy Secretary, HUD (2016-2018)
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

3.5 SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING

Caño Martín Peña Workshop: When a Community Speaks, We All Benefit



ROLE

Architect and Principal Designer.

FIRM OF RECORD

Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón® (pro bono)

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

2018



CHALLENGE / SYNOPSIS

The Caño Martín Peña community has struggled for 100 years without sewer and water infrastructure. The community also experiences regular flooding.

The ENLACE project unites community efforts, the private sector and the government to improve the quality of life for approximately 25,000 inhabitants that surround a body of water called “el Caño”.

ENLACE works to bring adequate infrastructure to residents by developing a complete master plan to elevate the area, prevent future flooding and ultimately rehabilitate the existing “Caño” body of water.

ACTIONS

Advised and helped community on design, gain ownership rights, and build sustainably and resiliently. Then led a “charrette” with local leaders to develop single family concepts that could be used to replace existing informal housing for over 70 families. The exercise led to the three model single family concepts and construction documents. Ricardo also:

- Pro bono design and documents for three unique house models.
- Led multiple community workshops to better understand residents’ aspira-

tion and practical needs.

- Audience included ENLACE community and R3 Program beneficiaries.

RESULTS

The community workshops were crucial in the development of the final three single family model prototypes.

IMPACT

The three housing design options to meet the CDBG-DR, R-3 Program requirements have impacted approximately 2,000 families to date.

“Ricardo worked closely with me and our team. The clarity of ideas and his deep understanding of the needs of the communities, were instrumental in the development of the CDBG-DR programs and the beginning of reconstruction in the Island.”

– Eng. Dennis González, Deputy Secretary, PR Department of Housing

PUBLICATIONS

- [Entregan nuevas viviendas a familias del Caño Martín Peña](#) | *Primera Hora* | February 2021
- [Próximos pasos en el Proyecto Enlace](#) | *Puerto Rico Te Quiero* | November 2019
- [Preparan una guía de vivienda resiliente](#) | Sharon Minelli Pérez | *El Nuevo Día* | April 2018
- [Construirán viviendas seguras en el Caño Martín Peña](#) | *El Nuevo Día* |

February 2018

- [Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña: Restoring an Ecosystem and Building Resilient Communities in Puerto Rico](#) | *Urban Waters* | December 2017
- [Celebran millonaria asignación de fondos al Caño Martín Peña](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | May 2016
- [Celebra una década el Proyecto Enlace](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | September 2014

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including leading the workshops, charrette and other community design efforts and creating three home prototypes for the communities.

Lyvia Rodríguez Del Valle, Former Executive Director (until 2020)
Facilitator, Enlace Caño Martín Peña

RICARDO ÁLVAREZ-DÍAZ, AIA | 29

3.6 SERVICE ON POLICY: ACTION & POLICY MAKING



Invest PR: A New Economic Plan



ROLE

Founding Member, Board of Directors, Invest Puerto Rico

Chair, Private Sector Group, Board of Directors, Invest Puerto Rico

FIRM OF RECORD

N/A

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

DATE

2017-Present

SYNOPSIS

Revitalize the economy of Puerto Rico by creating an entity to promote the Island as a world-class business destination.

Impact all areas of economic development, including professional services, industrial, manufacturing, agriculture, banking and tourism.

ACTIONS

Ricardo spearheaded and promoted the creation of a non-government controlled, private sector led, investment promotion organization into law, via Act 13-2017 to integrate economic resiliency into the Island's rebuilding. He also:

- Participated in creating the vision, mission and all business policies for the new initiative.
- Participated in creating the Business Marketing CDBG-DR program.
- Secured \$10 million of CDBG-DR federal funding for the non-for-profit organization.
- Brought the initiative to company de-

cision-makers looking to relocate their businesses to Puerto Rico.

RESULT

This initiative has helped streamline information to over 2,500 companies and helped establish over 300 new businesses on the Island.

IMPACT

In 3 years, the initiative has created approximately 3,500 new jobs in professional services, manufacturing, banking and tourism.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Inicia el pase de batón a Invest Puerto Rico](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | August 2017

- [Invest Puerto Rico: con la agenda apretada de cara al 2018](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | August 2017
- [InvestPR se prepara para asumir la tarea de promoción de industrias](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | September 2018
- [Trabajan en conjunto para crear la "marca" de Puerto Rico](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | September 2018
- [Anuncian nuevo CEO para Invest Puerto Rico](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | February 2019
- [The Time to Invest is Now](#) | *The Weekly Journal* | May 2019



"Ricardo's impact on the economic development promotion of the Island cannot be understated. He singlehandedly negotiated the use of CDBG-DR funds focused on marketing the island as a place to visit and do business."

– Brad Dean, Executive Director- Discover Puerto Rico

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including as a founding member, board member and leader of private sector participation in Invest Puerto Rico.

Ella Woger, CFO, Invest PR

3.7 SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



Affordable Housing Community: Avoiding Another Pruitt-Igoe



ROLE

Pro Bono Planning Consultant; Lead Architect, Lead Designer & Community Organizer

FIRM OF RECORD & DESIGN FIRM

Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón®

COMPLETION

2018

CHALLENGE / SYNOPSIS

In 2012 the PR Secretary of Housing slated demolition of a 1971 housing project—home to 600 people—but lacked a vision for how to replace the complex. Potential existed for the development to be stigmatized much like the 1968 Pruitt-Igoe housing development in St. Louis.

“It’s rewarding to see that my daughters now have their own space and their privacy. I love how they speak with pride and how they always want to invite their friends to our home. As a mother I don’t know how to express how I feel. I can simply summarize it in one phrase: I’m happy.”

– Bárbara Sánchez, Renaissance Square Resident

ACTIONS

Rather than take on the project as Architect, which the Secretary requested, Ricardo chose to work as a pro bono consultant focused on community outreach and engagement. His vision was to ensure the federally funded project provided the type of housing the residents sought rather than imposing a solution, as had been done with the original project. This led to a push for lower density housing.

Across an entire year, Ricardo worked with the community through demolition, government changes and, after displacing all 600 residents, project cancellation. To house displaced residents, Section A vouchers enabled 456 of the original residents, who did not want to wait for the new development, to find other options.

In 2014, an RFP was issued for affordable housing developers, mainly from the US. Based on prior work with Ricardo, the community’s leader required a credible architecture firm be hired for the project, which led to Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón.

RESULTS

The community gained the low-density complex, with streets open to the neighborhood desired by residents (144 families).

IMPACT

The Renaissance Square mixed-use development created a model mixed-income, human-scaled, walkable community that informed similar future projects on the Island.

“Ricardo, selflessly helped us defend our rights as a community.”

– Mirta Colón, Resident of Renaissance Square (former site for Las Gladiolas)



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: pro bono community engagement, planning, programing and design of this mixed-income project.

Miguel Hernández Vivoni, Secretary of Housing (2008-2012)
Puerto Rico Department of Housing

3.7 SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN

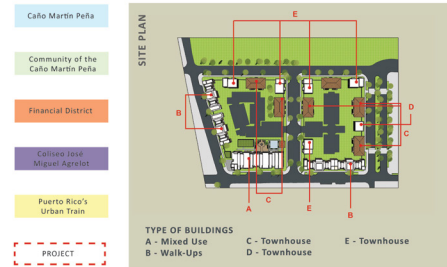
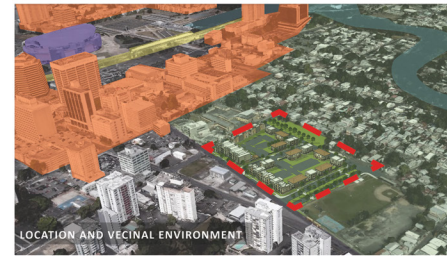


Affordable Housing Community: Avoiding Another Pruitt-Igoe

PUBLICATIONS

- [LIHTC Funding Recovers. Will It Last?](#) | *Multi-Housing News* | April 2020
- [A post-storm Puerto Rico reconsiders how and what to rebuild](#) | *Building Design + Construction* | February 2020
- [Diseñar Comunidad No Solo Vivienda](#) | *Tiempo de Construir La Revista* | December 2019
- [Ángulo Social](#) | *Ambiente y Color* | October 2019
- [What's Next for Puerto Rico Two Years after Devastating Hurricanes?](#) | *Multifamily Executive* | September 2019
- [Premian la perfección en cemento](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | September 2019
- [La vivienda asequible puertorriqueña se impone a nivel nacional](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | March 2019
- [Vivienda Pública, Digna y en Comunidad](#) | *Ferreteros y Constructores* | February 2019
- [\\$35.5M mixed-income housing complex, Renaissance Square, opens in San Juan](#) | *News is my Business* | February 2019
- [Renaissance Square Opens](#) | *MBS* | February 2019
- [Vivienda Pública dice cumplir con vecinos de Las Gladiolas](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | January 2019
- [Development Touted as Puerto Rico's First Mixed-Income Community](#) | *Affordable Housing Finance* | July 2018
- [El desastre de María en Puerto Rico deja una lección para la reconstrucción, dicen arquitectos con una propuesta](#) | *El Nuevo Herald* | May 2018
- [Antes Las Gladiolas, ahora Renaissance](#)

- [Square](#) | *Telemundo PR* | December 2017
- [Renacimiento en terrenos de Las Gladiolas](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2017
- [Presentan nuevo complejo de vivienda pública en Hato Rey](#) | *Metro PR* | December 2017
- [La nueva cara de Las Gladiolas](#) | *El Vocero* | December 2017
- [Urbanismo Positivo](#) | *Modo de Vida* | September 2017
- [Puerto Rico developments seek to build community, not just public housing](#) | *Curbed* | July 2017
- [Las Gladiolas se transforma en un complejo tipo resort](#) | *Primera Hora* | June 2017
- [Impulso verde en la construcción pese a la incertidumbre](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2016
- [Inspeccionan modelos de vivienda mixta en la Isla](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | December 2016
- [Affordable Housing Development Breaks Ground in Puerto Rico](#) | *Affordable Housing Finance* | September 2016
- [Housing Dept. Makes Deal to Revitalize Vacant Las Gladiolas Site](#) | *Caribbean Business* | August 2016
- [Fin de los caseríos se acerca](#) | *El Vocero* | August 2016
- [Le cambian la cara a los caseríos](#) | *Primera Hora* | May 2016
- [Puerto Rico Aims to Solve Its Affordable-Housing Crisis](#) | *The Wall Street Journal* | January 2016



AWARDS

- Multi-Housing News Excellence Award | Bronze Award in the Development & Design: Affordable Category | 2019
- CEMEX Award | Special Award in the Social Value Category | 2019
- LAMBDA ALPHA International Skyline Award | 2019
- NAHB's Best in American Living Gold Award | 2018
- Affordable Housing Finance, Public Housing Redevelopment Award | 2018
- Puerto Rico Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Alliance's Efficiency & Sustainability Award | Battle of the Buildings Puerto Rico | Design & Construction category | 2018
- Multi-Housing News Excellence Gold Award in the Unbuilt category | 2017

3.8 SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



Expanding Entrepreneurship



ROLE

Professor, Founding Advisory member, Writer, Speaker & Lecturer, Mentor, etc

FIRM OF RECORD

N/A

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

Various Dates

SYNOPSIS

As professor, writer, lecturer and owner of a successful design practice, Ricardo has made it his mission to promote the importance of architects gaining an entrepreneurial mindset.

Through his outreach, he urges architects to put their skills to work in service to others by both designing better opportunities and experiences for all of society and helping shape public policy.

“Ricardo has a gift not only with his creativity but with his ability to communicate and inspire others.”

- Jean Paul Rocafort, Mentee

Summer introduction course for children 6-12.

Puerto Rico, 2015

ACTIONS

- Created and taught the entrepreneurship course for the University of Puerto Rico’s School of Architecture.
- Created and taught the entrepreneurship course for the Polytechnic University of PR’s School of Architecture.
- Served as a mentor for several professionals in developing their businesses.
- Given dozens of presentations on entrepreneurship locally and internationally, including Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and the United States.
- Conceptualized and served as main advisor for the Pericles Initiative (FIRE, University of Notre Dame) a collaboration between Catholic archdioceses across the nation in need of real estate consulting.

- Ricardo has written extensively on business and entrepreneurship and is finishing his book: *Thrive, Survive or Be Extinct: Entrepreneurship in Architecture*, being released summer 2022.
- He helped develop the Fitzgerald Institute of Real Estate and its interdisciplinary curriculum, which combines the School of Architecture and the Mendoza School of Business at the University of Notre Dame through academia and industry engagement.
- Ricardo has served as a speaker at AIA Puerto Rico, AIA Kentucky, AIA Indiana and recently was chosen as a speaker at AIA National Convention.

Audience: Architecture Students, Architects, general public



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including: teaching, speaking, writing, lecturing and advising on curriculum to foster entrepreneurship among architects.

John Mullins | Associate Professor, Management Practice in Marketing and Entrepreneurship
London Business School

3.8 SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



Expanding Entrepreneurship

RESULTS

By creating and teaching university courses focused only on entrepreneurial architecture education, Ricardo provides an opportunity for students to learn real life business skills that will help them be successful in their careers.

Through his lectures and presentations, Ricardo has provided a clear blueprint for professionals, aspiring architects and the general public.

His one-on-one mentoring of students and architects provides essential guidance on professional success and, for existing business owners, on how to grow their operations.

The story of Ricardo's professional career and practice was chosen as a London Business School Case Study, which has been used in 5 classes in the past two years at the Business School.

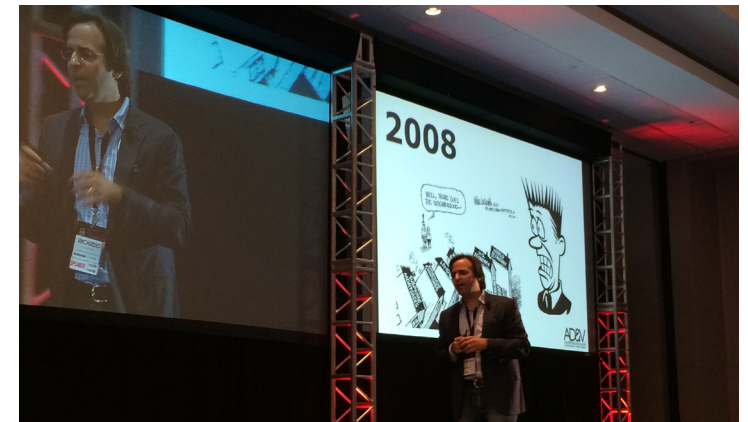
The Fitzgerald Institute of Real Estate at the University of Notre Dame has, for the last two years, combined theory and practice through research, teaching, public policy and industry engagement.

IMPACT

- Approximately 14 students have benefited from the Entrepreneurship course per semester for a total of approximately 30 students in one year in the two academic programs in Puerto Rico.
- The above lectures and presentations have been seen by over 2,000 people.
- Approximately 40 students have benefited from the London Business School Case Study per class, for a total of about 200 students.
- Since the FIRE program was founded, it has an enrollment of over 95 students per year.
- The articles, podcasts, radio and TV appearances have been seen, downloaded or heard by over 25,000 people.

PUBLICATIONS

- [Navigating the Road to Renewable Energy](#) | Notre Dame | August 2020
- [Thrive, Survive or Be Extinct: How to Grow Your Practice - Pre & Post COVID-19](#) | AIA Kentucky | Indiana Convention Webinar Series | August 2020
- [Panel Cultura, Sociedad y Diseño](#) | EDP University | May 2019
- [Places of Purpose \(Tell them your story\) Presentation](#) | Escuela de Arquitectura UPR | December 2018
- [¿Formal o informal? El eterno debate en la construcción puertorriqueña](#) | *Diálogo UPR* | February 2018
- [Cuestionan medida que impulsaría construcción en municipios de la montaña](#) | *Diálogo UPR* | December 2017
- [El futuro de La Habana según Julio César Pérez](#) | *90 Grados* | April 2016
- [EDP University a desarrollar un epicentro de diseño con la ayuda de sus estudiantes](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | February 2016
- [Exploring New Horizons as an Intern in Puerto Rico](#) | University of Notre Dame | February 2015



3.9 SERVICE IN PRACTICE: EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DESIGN



Puerto Rican Architecture Tour Program



ROLE

Founder and Leader (together with the PR Tourism Company and PR Foundation for Architecture)

FIRM OF RECORD

N/A

DESIGN FIRM

N/A

COMPLETION

Created in 2014

CHALLENGE/SYNOPSIS

A lack of awareness of the virtues of Puerto Rican Architecture and the Island's architectural heritage among locals, tourists and visitors meant the Puerto Rico Foundation for Architec-

ture had no community or professional presence and no meaningful engagement with the territory's tourism agency.

The Foundation had to grow its branding presence and educate people about Puerto Rican Architecture to survive.

Therefore, an opportunity was developed to create a Local Architecture Tour Program to educate locals and visitors about Puerto Rican Architecture. With the Puerto Rico Tourism Company's funding and the Foundation's architecture stewardship, Ricardo created the first architecture-based tours on the island for locals and tourists.

ACTIONS

Ricardo united the Foundation, private entities and the Department of Tourism to create an architecture tour program.

He gained government funding for the program and curated a selection of architecturally significant buildings to tour.

He coordinated training sessions for Tour Guides and invested his time promoting the program and bringing in sponsors.

RESULTS

The Architecture Foundation is now a self-sustaining entity and the face of architecture within Puerto Rican culture.

The program includes regular monthly tours as well as custom VIP tours.

The Foundation and Tour programs continue to thrive after 8 years.

IMPACT

Over 3,500 visitors and locals attend the tours each year, and there are now 13 trained tour guides.

PUBLICATIONS

- [El futuro de La Habana según Julio César Pérez](#) | *90 Grados* | April 2016
- [Destacado arquitecto cubano ofrecerá conferencia sobre el futuro de La Habana](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | April 2016
- [Mirada a Cuba y su arquitectura](#) | *El Nuevo Día* | April 2016
- [ARCHI Camp: el campamento de arquitectura para niños](#) | *Deco News* | July 2015
- [La misión de la Fundación por la Arquitectura](#) | *CAAPPR* | May 2015
- [Cómo construir un mejor futuro para nuestra Isla: lecciones aprendidas en](#)

[la Fundación por la Arquitectura](#) |

September 2013

“Ricardo’s passion for education and the importance of promoting Puerto Rico’s Architectural heritage has made the program an ongoing success.”

- Julio César Pérez, Founder and Director of I.N.B.A.U. Cuba



DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed herein including as founder and architect leader of the tour initiative to advance awareness of the architectural heritage of Puerto Rico.

Carola Ballester, Executive Director (2014-2017)
Puerto Rico Foundation for Architecture