

2018 SEED AWARD WINNERS

CULTURAL CENTER CHAMANGA



Location: San Jose de Chamanga, Ecuador

Project Description:

The Cultural Centre Chamanga was planned and built by students and teachers of three universities, from three continents. It is embedded in a broad academic network of experts and supporters, that came together in solidarity as a response to the earthquake in the spring of 2016 that severely damaged over 80% of the buildings in the fishing community of Chamanga.

The organization at the heart of this effort, the Chamangue, and Cultural Collective Opción Más had been running programs in a rental house, destroyed by the earthquake. Their focus on using culture to provide positive alternatives to the youth

was not only plausible but necessary after the earthquake. In workshops, run by the Ecuadorian architects Atarraya, expectations and possible design options were discussed. Particular care was taken to ensure a participatory decision-making process, in which various stakeholder groups were heard.

The future users required an auditorium that might be extended to the street. A dance-studio, a library, an audio-studio and an office, that could accommodate a guest for a couple of nights. This spatial layout had to be realized on a plot of 135 m² and should be as flexible as possible. A solution for the bathrooms had to be found, as there is no water treatment in Chamanga.

A two-stage master plan was drawn up by the Portland State University enabling the students to plan the first construction phase and build it in September 2017. In October 2017, the University of Applied Sciences München who accompanied the development process of phase I since August, joined the effort. An interdisciplinary team of architects and engineers developed the actual design of the building that they came to build in February-March 2018.

Since the opening, Opción Más has organized taekwondo classes, marimba lessons, and workshops related to skill-building and technical training on organic farming and fishing and have lent the space for several organizations to run their meetings.

SEED Jury Comments:

Excellent design. It is a part of a larger recovery strategy that tackles multiple problems and issues. Therefore, a very good example of post-earthquake rehabilitation project. This explanation and documentation are very well done, particularly the timeline that provided very comprehensive data about the process and multiple stakeholders of the project. Also value the multiple design workshops with the community. The building is very interesting, and it incorporate local low-tech techniques that is a most if replicability is a goal. The project expanded on the built form and presents more information into the complexity of an intervention in this foreign context. However, maybe the best part of the project is not the building but the process — something that many other projects like this could learn

Project Team:

Center of Public Interest Design, Portland State University, USA: Willy Chandler, Dustin Gerhardt, Oana Iancu, Thomas Jones, Czarina Joy Ducay, Faith Lindner, Amy Peterson, Ossie Pleasant, Jennifer Rodriguez, Kelsey Sagrero, Lauren Sanchez, Angela Van Duzen, Students; Todd Ferry, Marta Petteni, Alejandra Ruiz, Construction Faculty; Prof. Sergio Palleroni, Project Lead
University of Applied Sciences Muenchen, Germany: Michael Arzberger, Lena Baumeister, Katharina Biet, Dennis Brandt, Fabian Fromme, Cinya Fürstenberger, David Glöckler, Andreas Haberland, Paul Hacker, Ricarda Hörmann, Regina Keilhacker, Vera Kuisl, Caroline Makowski, Kathrin Pfeffer, Andreas Reiser, Anna-Lena Rischer, Deborah Rosenfeld, Stefan Seifert, Maria Zettl, Ferdinand Loserth, Philipp Bachert, Sandra Schmid: Students; Prof. Dr. Christof Dauberschmidt, Prof. Dr. Andreas Scholz, Prof. Dr. Lars Schiemann Structural Engineers; Ursula Schmid Bamboo Construction; Prof. Ursula Hartig Project Lead.
University of Tokyo, Japan: Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Atsuki Ryokawa, Kosuke Sakura, Students; Prof. Akiko Okabe Urbanist; Prof. Jun Sato, Mika Araki Structural Engineers
On-site Architects: Atarraya, Quito, Ecuador: Lorena Burbano, Sebastian Oviedo
Master Artisans: Valentin Angst, Fabian Burbano.
Client/User: Alberto Lopez Baltín, Ericka Godoy Mejia, Mauricio Gudío, Nathaly Godoy, Vladimir Patiño, Mebers; Soledad Godoy Mejia, President.

More information: <https://designcorps.org/seed-awards-about/#cultural-center-chamanga>