

Benjamin A. Bross, Ph.D.

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Mexico

Education

- **Ph.D. History**, 2016. *Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F.* Thesis: The Construction of a Mexican National Identity Through the History of Mexico City's Constitution Plaza: Transformation of a Symbolic Space. Dr. Luis Vergara Anderson, Reader.
- **M. Urban Design**, 2006. *University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design.* Thesis Project: "Semiotic Topology: San Pablo Avenue as Urban Essay". Walter Hood, Chair of Thesis Committee.
- **M. Arch.** 2001 *Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.* Thesis Project: "The New American Embassy, Israel." Thesis Advisor: Jorge Silvetti, Chair, *Department of Architecture.*
- *Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, Venice, Italy.* Urban Design course taught by Michael Stanton and Mateo Eilitz, guest critics included Laurie Hawkinson and Henry Smith Miller.
- **B.A. Architecture**, 1996. *University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design.*
- *University of California at San Diego, California.* Urban Planning course taught by International Boundary Commission member, Lawrence Herzog, Ph.D., in social and urban border development.

Areas of Expertise

- Architecture and Urban Development Design & History: Urban Morphology and Spatial Geography
- Land Use Planning and Entitlements (Mexico, California and New York).
- Building, City and Regional Scale Sustainable Practices, Accreditation: LEED Accredited (US Green Building Council).
- Commercial and Mixed Use Large Scale Architectural Projects
- Real Estate Development and Project Management Delivery Methodology, ICSC: CRX, CDP, Master Developer.

Awards, Honors and Service:

- **Highest Honors, (Mención Honorífica)** 2016, *Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de Mexico.*
- **2015 Key Note Lecturer**, Graduate School Day, *Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F.*
- **Gadsby-Trudgett Fellowship** 2005, *CED UC Berkeley*
- **University Fellow** 2005, *UC Berkeley*
- **Graduate Student Associate**, 2000, *David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard U.*
- **Minority Recruitment Committee**, 1999-2000 *Harvard GSD*, (appointed)
- **Treasurer (elected)**, 1999-2000, *Latin American GSD*
- *Harvard GSD*, Student Forum Member, M.Arch. Representative 1999-2000 (appointed/volunteer)
- *Harvard GSD*, Academic Affairs Committee 1999-2000 (appointed/volunteer)
- Mexico City Regent's Technical Advisory Board (1997, guest)
- *College of Environmental Design* Student Council President (elected 1996)
- **Departmental Citation**, 1996, for excellence in the field of Architecture, *UC Berkeley*
- *College of Environmental Design* Scholarship (merit based), 1996 *UC Berkeley*

Academic/Teaching (12 years)

- 08/09-05/12 **Adjunct Faculty, Graduate Studio Instructor** (7 semesters). *Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F.* Maestría en Proyectos para el Desarrollo Urbano (MPDU). Core Urban Planning and Design Studio.
- 08/11-05/12 **Guest Lecturer**, "City and Regional Sustainable Topics", *Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F.* Invited to give lecture on large scale (such as TOD, Citizen Mobility) sustainability topics three different semesters for Certificate Program.
- 08/05-07/09 **History Instructor** (8 semesters), *Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA.* History of Architecture Survey Course: From Paleolithic through Contemporary Periods.
- 01/03-05/05 **Graduate Option Studio Instructor** (4 semesters), *Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA.* Developed course curriculum for studios that included historical analysis, concept development, site planning, full schematic design, critical writing, and large detail studies. Student work was used towards school NAAB accreditation.

- 1/00-1/01 **Option Studio Instructor** (2 semesters), at the *Boston Architectural Center*, Course C-2. Advanced option studio with Michael Sewell. Titled "The Architectural Manifesto". Students developed written and graphic work that exemplifies their architectural ideas. Administrator/ Student reviews available upon request. **Core Studio Instructor** Course A-1. Taught 1st year architecture studio. The studio focused on color, composition, balance, basic three-dimensional drawing and model assembly.
- 2/99-6/99 **Volunteer "City Build" Teacher** (1 semester), *O'Bryant Technical High School, Roxbury, Boston*. As a staff member of the Non-Profit Historic Neighborhood Foundation, taught Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors citizen involvement in urban development and policy. Demonstrated roles of architects, planners, engineers, developers and contractors in city growth and policy.
- 1/96-6/96 **Volunteer Art Teacher** (1 semester), *Emerson Elementary, Oakland, California*. Worked with "Gate", the gifted student program ages 7-10, focus was on development of community spirit and identity through drawings, paper maché, and sand painting art.
- 6/94-8/94 **Volunteer Art Teacher and Assistant** (1 semester), *San Diego Children's Museum, San Diego, California*. Prepared materials for daily activities. Delivered "how to" classes on painting, drawing, clay molding, and cardboard construction.

Academic/Research

- 06/02-06/03 **Writer & Support Staff**, *Urbanists International, Berkeley CA*. Assisted Jeff Horowitz in planning, writing, translating and editing documentation for the Havana Project Launch. Urbanists International delegates met with local architects, planners, and government officials to exchange ideas on the planning, preservation and future development of Havana, Cuba. (<http://www.urbanists.org>)
- 09/00-11/00 **Researcher/Writer**, "An Evaluation of the Urban Design and Architecture of Selected Housing Developments". Prepared for *INFONAVIT, Graduate School of Design/Joint Center for Housing Studies*. Co-authored with Prof. Leland Cott a 28 page illustrated document reviewing current practices in the development of housing stock for the INFONAVIT and related agencies. Documented, analyzed, and presented a brief discussion of our observations as well as possible future guidelines. Met with developers and Mexican government officials.
- 9/99-06/00 **Research, Administrative and Teaching Assistant**, *K. Michael Hays, Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University*. Compiled and processed data for primary research. Prepared manuscripts and course handouts for Architectural Theory courses. Maintained and supplemented slide and visual aids library.
- 8/95-2/97 **Research and Administrative Assistant**, *Jean-Paul Bourdier, Professor, Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley*. Compiled and processed data for academic courses, manuscripts and reader of world vernacular architecture. Assisted in coordination of art show "The Third Eye, at the Alliance Francé, San Francisco California."

Academic/Administrative

- 08/10-05/12 **Lecture Series Committee Chair**, *Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico D.F* Headed committee that oversaw invitations and logistics for 16 Architecture and Urban Development lectures. Speakers included Sir Peter Hall, Walter Hood, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Lawrence Herzog, Martin Wachs and Peter Bosselmann.
- 11/99-11/00 **Organizer, Treasurer**, "First Annual Latin America GSD Symposium: Thinking Building and Teaching". *Graduate School of Design*. Brought together over 16 architects from 10 Countries in Latin America and Europe. In coordination with Elisa Silva, raised funds, arranged logistics, and developed program.
- 5/96-12/96 **Lecture Series Committee Assistant**, *University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design. Student Representative*. Carried out communication between school and architectural, planning, history and landscape design lecturers. Prepared contracts, budgets, calendar, and itineraries. Assisted in design of graphic displays for Series publicity. Created biographical archives of speakers.

Selected Articles and Publications:

- "The Collapse of the Mexican Mass Housing Market: When Economics, Politics and Urbanism Fail." Working Title, In process.
- "Freedom in Tension: Metallic Expressions", *Fahrenheit Magazine*, September 2016, Year 13, No.79.
- "El Impacto del Diseño en el Éxito de Un Centro Comercial" *Inmobiliare, LATAM*, 05/11, 2010
- "The Retail Green Agenda", *Milan Rudolph E.* 2008, ICSC. Quoted as an expert source on Sustainable Real Estate practices.
- "Considering the Place of Campus" *Places*, Vol.17, No.1 Spring 2005, Spring 2005 Marthinsen, Emily. Illustration with Marianne Stuck
- "An evaluation of the urban design and architecture of selected housing developments." Cambridge, Mass: Cott, Leland, Benjamin Bross, and Peter G. Rowe. Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 2000.

Selected Professional Work Experience:

10/05-Pres **Chief Development Officer** *Planigrupo LatAm S.A. de. C.V.*

- **Over 25 Retail, Industrial, Office and Mixed Use Projects in 12 cities across Mexico.** Responsible for the development (financial feasibility and deal-making), design and construction divisions of the company. As Director, instituted Project Management team approach. Responsible for on-time, on-budget, and financial performance. Activities include entitlements, financial planning, anchor and sub-anchor deal making, relations with government, design proposals and construction supervision. Total investment will be over 1 Billion dollars. Started in 2005 as Design Director.

08/04-9/05 **Project Architect/Designer** *JRDV.*

- **Value Retail LLC, Shopping Centers in Belgium and Germany.**
As part of a large group effort, my design responsibilities include design of streetscapes and retail facilities with particular attention to European sustainability practices. Management responsibilities included: client relations, construction reviews, coordination of local architects and contractors. Projects represent over 2,500,000 sq. ft. of GLA and an investment of over \$150,000,000.

11/03-08/04 **Project Architect, Designer.** *Greenberg Farrow*

- **GATX Master Plan, Staten Island, New York.** Headed a team responsible for the planning, programming, and site development for a NASCAR Racetrack, adjacent Retail Center and Commercial/ Industrial Development on Staten Island, NY. 637 acres. (In conjunction with HNTB).
- **Bronx Terminal Retail Center (BTM), New York.** Part of the design team responsible for a 2,000,000 sq. ft. "brownfield" waterfront redevelopment project. Involved in GLA programming, SD and advanced DD phases.
- **City Hall East, Atlanta, Georgia.** Managed a design team in the development of multi-disciplinary proposal to reuse and renovate a 1920's Sears Regional Distribution center and adjacent lots to create a large mixed-use complex. Important aspects of the proposal included urban oriented "big-box" retailers, an ample mix of housing product, and the integration of the site into Atlanta's greenbelt and public transportation network. Collaborated with developers, engineers, and other architecture offices to create RFP submittal.

07/03-10/03 **Job Captain/Designer,** *Cook + Fox.*

- **One Bryant Park, Bank of America NY Headquarters.** Responsibilities included working with senior associates supervising six production staff members, task management, and product revision for a 2,100,000 sq. ft. skyscraper in mid-town Manhattan. Concurrently performed planning and design tasks.

10/01-06/03 **Job Captain/Designer.** *KMD Architects*

- **Value Retail LLC, shopping centers in Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Spain** As part of a large group effort, my responsibilities included design, client relations, construction reviews and coordination of local architects and contractors for over five projects, representing over 3,000,000 sq. ft. and an investment of over \$320,000,000.
- **Wellness Center in Crescent City, California.** *Job Captain/ Lead Designer.*
Under supervision of senior associates, responsible for master planning, conceptual and schematic design of a 54,000 sq. ft., (\$11,000,000) Wellness facility conceived to serve the local seaside community.
- **Campus and Facility Master Plan for The Head Royce School, Oakland, CA.** *Job Captain/Designer.*
Developed pre-schematic design, facility planning and construction phasing studies for 64,000 sq. ft. of new and renovated academic space (\$18,000,000).
- **Juvenile Detention Facility for Fresno County, California** *Designer.*
Team member involved in the schematic design of 484,000 sq. ft. of program, including commitment and detention housing, mental health, school and court facilities (\$130,000,000 budget).
- **Punta Cancun, Designer.** Two residential towers in Cancun, Quintana Roo in Mexico City for the Danhos Group. 31,000 m2 of Construction. 104 three bedroom units with an area of 220 m2 each.
- **FBI headquarters in Woodlawn, Maryland.** Developed for a Hammes Co. competitive bid. Participated in all aspects of team effort for schematic design and design development phases.
- **IRS regional office in Fresno California.**
This GSA Excellence in Design submission was created for the Hammes Co. Involved in all aspects of team effort for schematic design and design development phases (180,000 sq. ft.).

- **Women's Medical Center in Gastonia, North Carolina. Designer.**
Involved in a team effort with all aspects of schematic design and design development phases. The 185,00 sq. ft. program included newborn intensive care units (NICU), surgery and patient suites, lobbies and support spaces (\$48,000,000).

01/01-09/01 **Project Manager/Designer** *Desarrollos Constructivos Bronce S.A. de C.V*

- **Mexico City Residence, Mexico City, Mexico.** In charge of team responsible for an 11,700 sq.ft. residential project, including site planning, all aspects of architectural design, permit acquisition and filing. Estimated cost of construction \$2,750,000+.

09/97-09/98 **Project Manager/ Designer.** *Planigrupo S.A de C.V.*

- **Lomas de Bezares Housing Complex, Mexico City, Mexico.** Worked directly with the senior staff to develop a seven story apartment complex. Facilities included social hall, pool, gym, and parking facilities. Typical apartment unit area 4,200 sq. ft. Penthouse: 6,000 sq.ft.
- **San Lorenzo Residential Master Plan, Cuajimalpa, Mexico City. Designer.**
Created urban design and model homes for a fourteen home residential development.

07/97-12/97 **Technical Assessor and Advisor.** *Department Of Housing And Urban Development, Mexico City.*

- **Mexico City Zoning and Ordinances** Oversaw the revision of new Urban Development laws' legality and feasibility. Conducted legal and fiscal experimental models from a housing and commercial developers point of view under new laws (supervised directly by Head City Planner). Studied with land use team possible zoning for urban mass transit transition points in Mexico City. Researched Urban Socio-economic renewal tools to be applied in Mexico City.

5/96-6/97 **Junior Designer/CM.** *Bourdier Walton & Froelich, San Francisco Bay Area*

- **Six Houses, including the Snider/Lou Residence.** Part of a team that produced design, construction, architectural and engineering drawing sets for several projects. Participated in construction as laborer and on-site supervision.

Languages:

Native use of Spanish and English.