Design and Development in Guatemala

Oscar Arce
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Oscar Arce, was born and raised in San José, Costa Rica. Has a Bachelor degree in Industrial Design from Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR), and a Master in Product Design, from North Carolina State University. He was a professor in the School of Design at ITCR for three years.

Moved to Guatemala where he assembled the Bachelor´s academic program for the Faculty of Architecture at the Jesuit University Rafael Landívar (URL). He was director of the Industrial Design Department there, between 1996 and 2003; where he currently teaches courses in industrial design, design philosophy and methodology. Now he is director of the Instituto de Investigación en Diseño (INDIS, Design Research Institute) at URL.
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Instituto de Investigación de la Facultad de Arquitectura y Diseño

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The Institute’s main goal is to develop several social projection programs on design, architecture and urban planning, which allow designers and architects to reflect on their responsibilities and possibilities to contribute to Guatemala’s society.

The Institute has partnerships with several organizations in Guatemala, Germany, Taiwan, Italy and Norway. Since 2001, he is coordinator of Norsk Form’s (Norwegian Center for Design and Architecture) Design without Borders Program in Guatemala and has been part of the Steering Committee for the Advisory Council of the Fredskorpset (the Norwegian Peace Corps).
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Maya Traditional Costumes Research

Point of Concept!
Keep original behavior → Value of culture

Enlace intercambio  Formulación proyectos  Organización

Desarrollo de proyecto  Presentación Final  Seguimiento

processo
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His research and academic practice is complemented with industrial design work as a consultant from his private office Arquímides Diseño. Right now he is finishing postgraduate work at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala in the Master’s program on Development, in the Faculty of Sociology. His dissertation deals with the topic of participatory design with artisan groups and its contribution to establish sustainable productive innovations in rural communities.

… The Caltech collaboration – this is the third year we are doing it – is also part of our institutional network which allow us designers in Guatemala, together with American partners, to do projects that have the potential to contribute to Guatemala’s development.
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