Guidelines for Trip Report

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Some suggestions to cover
1. Describe some important lessons you learned from this trip?
2. Describe what “engineering/design/business practices” of your local partners you found most useful for your project.
3. What were some of the challenges they faced?
4. Give some basic “ground truths” i.e., how people actually live as distinguished from how you thought they lived, that will help you make informed decisions during the design process.
5. In terms of gathering these product design ground truths during the trip, what would you have done differently?
6. In terms of ethnographic type research (the nature of the Mayan culture), what would you have done differently?
7. Tell us what relevant information was missing about this trip.
8. What was the meaning of the trip for you?
9. As a whole, what did you love or hate most in this trip?
10. Give some ideas to improve this experience.

The best reports are those that tell a story and not written under 1-10 subtitles. Subtitles should serve as ideas to guide your work. Have fun!
1) I’ve learned many things from the trip we made. First of all I had the chance to know and to get more familiar with a part of my country that I didn’t know that well. I was able to know some people from the rural area of Guatemala, how they live, their way of thinking and some working techniques. Discovered some needs they had I didn’t know about, and realize that they didn’t need some things I thought they would.

2 In my local partners I’ve found several features that will help the development of our projects. These features are: They have the knowledge and experience in the job that they perform, they have the will to improve in any way, they are hard workers, and they would do anything and with the effort required to do it. They are honest people, they would tell us what they think about anything we ask, and they would collaborate with us in any way they can.

3. Some challenges our local partners may have or encounter would be basically, their lack of education. That could be a problem when it comes to communicate with them, they could get the wrong idea of what we would want to transmit, or they may not understand some things. And of course, the economic situation of our local partners. They probably won’t be able to invest much due to lack of funds.

4. I had worked in the past in similar projects of the current one; I have had the chance to travel around Guatemala and to know the way of living, thinking, customs, etc., of the people in Guatemala. So what I saw in this trip wasn’t far from what I already knew, however there are always new things to learn, and I did learn new things from this trip.

5. Maybe if we had some more time I would have liked to visit an industrial fabric of bricks like INMACO so we could see the differences between the craft way to do it and de modern, industrial way to produce bricks. I think that could have helped
us start thinking in practical and innovative solutions to our project.

6. Actually, we did visit an archaeological Maya site, but if we had organized the trip so that we could have gone to Petén that would have been better to learn about Maya culture and civilization.

7. Maybe just the thing I’ve mentioned behind about visiting an industrial factory, a modern and technological way to compare it with the ones we visited. And also I would have liked to listen and to learn from more students of previous years, so we could know which are common problems, barriers, etc.

8. I’ve loved the experience and meeting the people from Caltech and Art Center, students and teachers. I think they are all great people, very smart, capable, cooperative, thoughtful, good people, kind, funny, etc.
The only thing I regret is that the people of Caltech and Art Center weren’t able to know some great places in Guatemala. There are a lot of beautiful places in Guatemala, I just wish you could have seen them all, but I know that is not possible.

9. As I’ve said, I think it would be better to organize a trip that could cover a variety of places in Guatemala (Sololá, Las Verapaces, Petén, Izabal, and Oriente) I know from experience that those places can be covered in 8 days, and they offer a variety of crafts, work shops, landscapes, cultures, climates, etc.