Jose M Alvarez

Landscape Architecture

Portfolio

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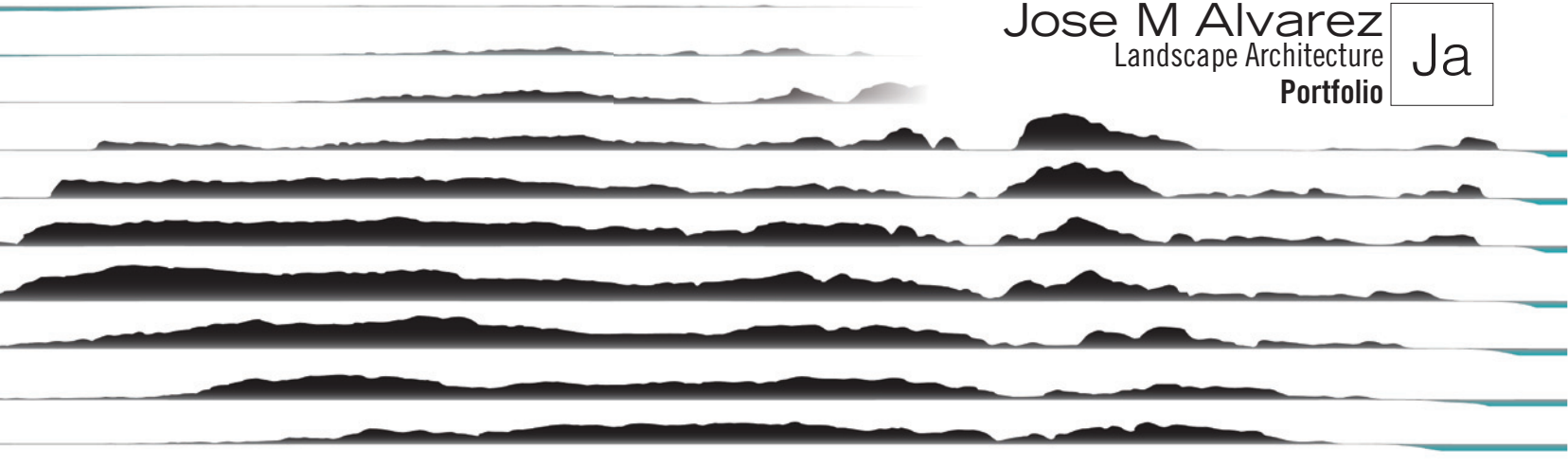

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B Biography

JOSE MANUEL ALVAREZ received his Masters of Landscape Architecture degree from Florida International University. While at FIU, he refined a unique understanding of tropical and subtropical landscapes in areas including South Florida, the Caribbean, and South America. He had the opportunity to work for Studio Roberto Rovira in a wide variety of projects ranging from Miami, Seattle, Jordan and Colombia. Jose is proud to have been recognized with Awards of Merit in 2011 and 2012 by the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His work has strongly focused on the Latin American context, and in using landscape architecture as a catalyst for urban and cultural regeneration. In 2012 he was awarded the EDSA Minority Scholarship for his focus on Latin culture, with projects featuring designs in Miami and the Dominican Republic. He was elected as the 2012-2013 National Student Representative for the American Society of Landscape Architects, where he serves as a liaison voicing concerns and the best interest of the national student body of the profession. In his final year at FIU he was recognized as a one of three National Olmsted Scholars Finalist. He has also contributed and collaborated in design projects for the National Park Service, the city of South Miami, the city of Miami and several projects renovating open spaces at Florida International University.

Mp

Master's Project

Location **Aguirre, Puerto Rico**
Date **Spring 2013**
Project Credits **Roberto Rovira (Faculty Advisor) + Gianno Feoli (Faculty Advisor) + Scott Bishop (Faculty Advisor)**

At the foothills of the Cordillera Central, the alluvial plain unfolds into a rich landscape of wetlands, agricultural fields, and industrial legacies that mark the story of the land. Economic regimes have come and gone, yet they each have left a deep imprint on the landscape that surrounds one of the islands most pristine bays, la Bahia de Jobos.

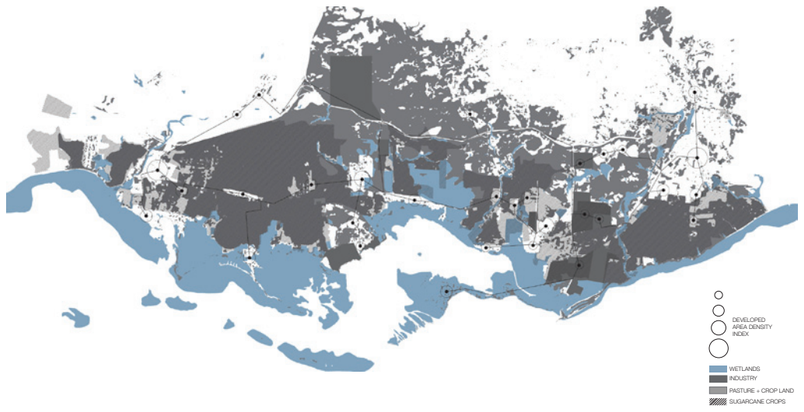
The hydrological system that recharged the South Coast Aquifer was redirected by the canal system put in place in the early 1900's, a century later, the few remaining agriculture fields switched to drip irrigation completely eliminating the main source of water for the aquifer. Furthermore, public and industrial uses have placed a high demand on fresh water, one that the aquifer in no longer able to meet and has led to salt water intrusion. This strategy seeks to reintroduce the wetland systems that once dominated the landscape.

However, the proposed hydrologic system inserts a series of water based typologies that serve as infrastrcuture for industry, research and recreation. By emphasizing techonology and research, sociocultural attitudes towards agricultural are transformed and new incentives to reconnect with the land are generated.

A new green network of open spaces, trails, and active transportation routes it implemented to connect the adjacent communities into a cohesive region. Ultimately the regional approach interjects an engenieerd natural system that seeks to challenge the industrial paradigms that have dominated the area, and provides a binding tissue for this historically fragmented landscape.

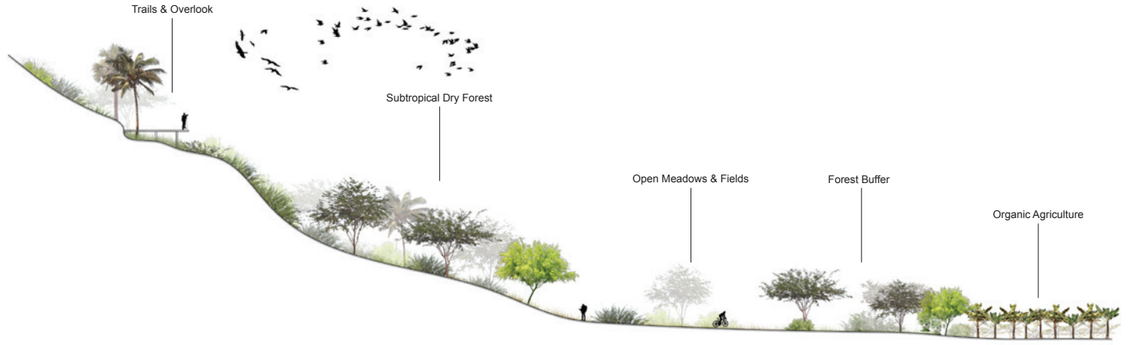
Productive Wetland

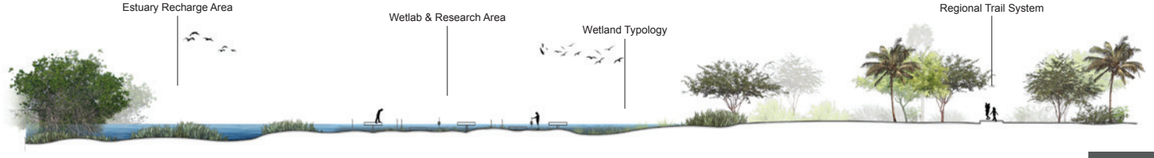
Regional Site Plan

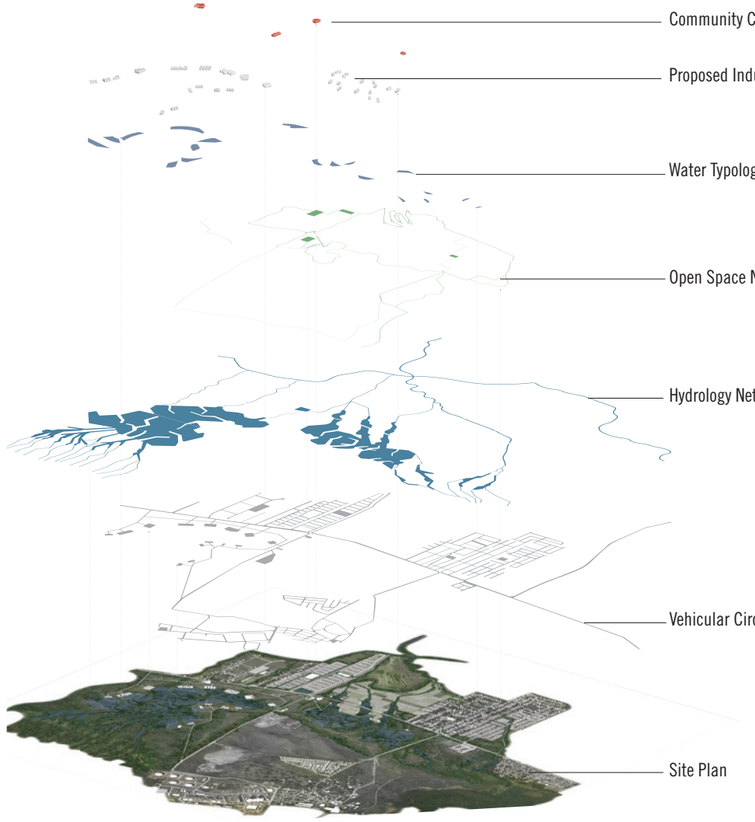


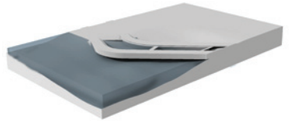
Urbanization & Development Patterns

Colonial Patterns of Land Utilization

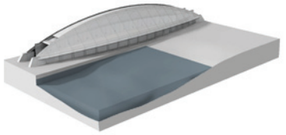




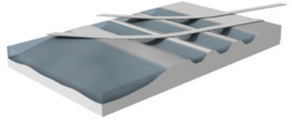




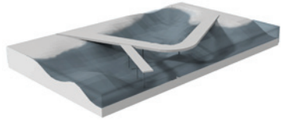
Research + Wetlab



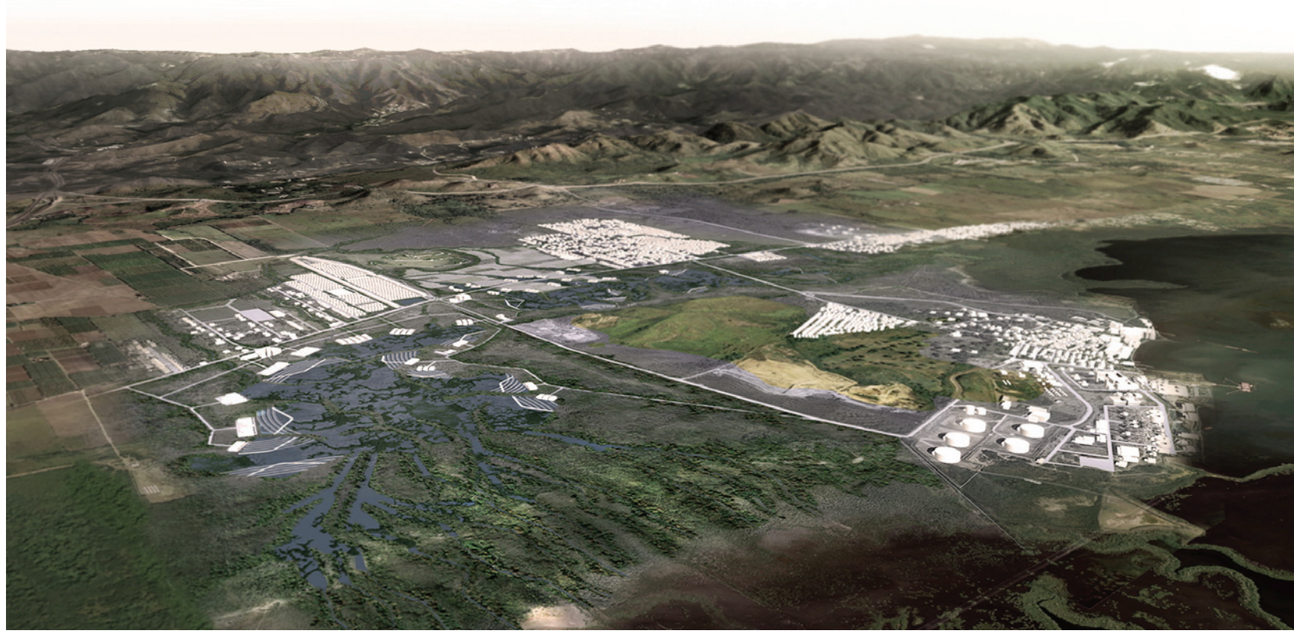
Hydroponic Unit



Biofuel / Aquaculture



Wetland System



Pf

Parque de las Flores

Location **Fusagasuga, Colombia**
Date **Spring 2012**
Project Credits **Studio Roberto Rovira (Project Lead) + Lopez / Jaimes Design Studio Architectural Consultants**

Client: **Alcaldia de Fusagasuga, Cudinamarca**
Project Type: **Public**
Project Role: **Concept Development | Presentation Drawings | RFP / RFQ Preparation**

Known as “La Ciudad de las Flores,” Fusagasuga (Colombia), is geographically located in a temperate region of the country. Its location boasts an exotic array of vegetation that has become the symbol of the town. Based in the unique collection of vegetative species, the project proposed a series of experience-based transects which transverse and connect the park. These prescribed paths, convey the transformation of elements such as bamboo, water, and coffee from their natural states to a more architecturally defined iteration. The project site proposes a series of active trails, zip-line trajectories and educational gardens.

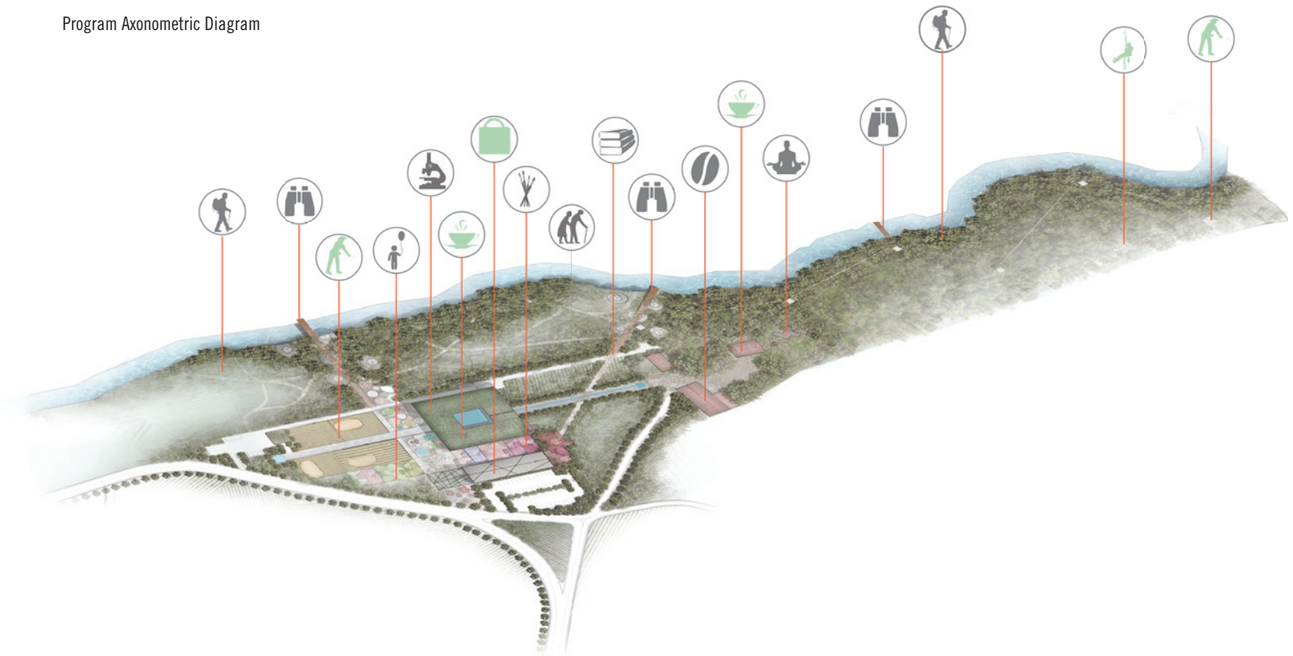
Partnering with local organizations, the central complex of the site will serve as an open laboratory were plant-based research can be conducted.

A series of art & play gardens are proposed as seasonal elements of the park, allowing local & foreign artists to participate in theme-based installations, thus creating year-round interest in the park.

Water gardens


Site Plan

Program Axonometric Diagram



The overlook of the creek creates a unique narrative that allows visitors to pass through the bromeliariums, experiencing different thresholds through this area of the park.

The art gardens host seasonal exhibits were local and international artists can participate in themed installations. The change in program creates year round interest.

North-South Section

Rr

Rural Reintegration

Location **Miami, FL**
Date **Spring 2011**
Project Credits **Ebru Ozer (Faculty Advisor)**

Project Type: **Academic**
Awards: **-Award of Merit - Florida ASLA 2011**
-7th European Biennal of Landscape Architecture

The intervention of the Ludlam Trail seeks to create a community space by superimposing a transect of south Florida's rural fabric within the urban context. Through a composition of community gardens, members of the adjacent communities are able to interact, learn and reap from the varied functions of the gardens. The roofs of adjacent buildings are used to introduce rooftop garden and cafes, while function as water harvesting units to irrigate the ground level gardens.

Sustainable Approach

Economic: The community gardens provide several economic benefits for the users of the space. Individual members are able to subsidize some of their food costs by growing their own produce. Additionally, it can be a source of income if the harvests are sold at the local farmers markets, restaurants, cafes, etc. The commercial farmlands would be leased out to private businesses generating income for the trail and creating jobs for the local community.

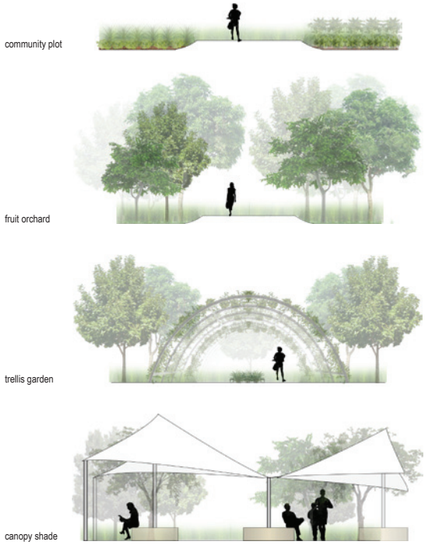
Social: The design provides a wide variety of activities for visitors of all ages. Most importantly the gardens establish a sense of interaction, accountability and reciprocity with the members of the surrounding area. Creating greenhouses for the schools that border the trail provide "living" classrooms where students can learn about agriculture, proper diet and South Florida natives species.

Environmental: Not only does the trail become a five mile long productive green space, but it also reduces storm water runoff which is then used for irrigation. Furthermore, the xeriscape gardens provide a leisure and educational component that raises awareness about water efficient landscapes.

Proposed Bird Road Green Bridge

South Miami Senior High Site Plan

Proposed Path Typologies



Proposed Garden Typologies

Proposed Community Gardens