

Contemporary
Architecture in
Arquitectura
Contemporánea en
Puerto Rico

1993 | 2010

Francisco Javier Rodríguez, AIA
with Darwin J. Marrero

Foreword by Lars Lerup

Valle Escondido #30

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Equipo de Diseño / Design Team

Víctor Díaz, Wilfredo Boria

Jorge Nieves

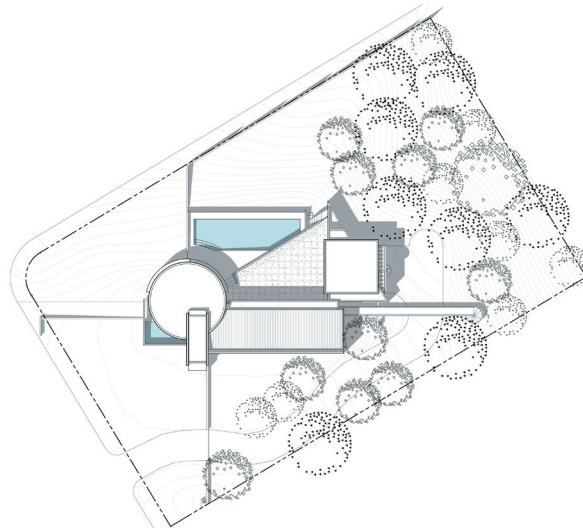
Consultores / Consultants

Roberto Agramonte

Cliente / Client

Familia Díaz Díez

Díaz Paunetto Arquitectos



Site / Sitio



2004



Descripción de Proyecto / Project Description

La residencia se desarrolla para una familia de cinco miembros. El solar de 2,030 m² cuadrados se encuentra en un desarrollo suburbano al sur del pueblo de Guaynabo, con una densa vegetación y vistas espectaculares de las montañas. Entre los objetivos principales se encuentra el responder a las visuales, tomar ventaja de la topografía así como maximizar la ventilación cruzada y orientación solar para minimizar el consumo energético. Por ello, se desarrolló un esquema de patio orientado al norte alrededor del cual ubican diferentes volúmenes geométricos, atados a una “espina” de circulación y reaccionando a su relación inmediata y distante con el exterior. Se invirtió un gran esfuerzo por mantener la continuidad espacial y la apertura entre los espacios, enfatizando su condición moderna tropical.

This residence, for a family of five, sits in a 2,030 square meter lot located in a small valley south of Guaynabo City. The suburban development in which the house is constructed exhibits dense vegetation with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. The main design objectives were to respond to these views, take the most advantage of the topography and maximize cross ventilation and solar orientation to minimize energy consumption. With this in mind, a north-oriented courtyard scheme was developed. The house was fragmented into different geometric volumes connected to each other, which react to the distant and immediate relationship with the exterior. A strong effort was made to maintain the spatial continuity and openness between spaces emphasizing its modern tropical condition.



When scanning the images in Francisco Javier Rodríguez' book on contemporary architecture in Puerto Rico, the architectural ontology is not exactly obscure, but strangely in and out of sync with its milieu [...] The sturdy, if in the new highly articulated white box is at home on this Island; its heritage is fundamentally Spanish and maybe more deeply Arab, rediscovered by Le Corbusier in cities like Algiers.

Lars Lerup, author: After the City, former Dean at Rice University School of Architecture

In all conventional histories, we have been led to understand how modernism has been transformed with its arrival in the Caribbean, essentially subservient to some ideal from some far off land. It is a rare case where we witness how architecture in the Caribbean transformed the culture of modernism and injected an ethos of speculation, invention and experimentation into modern life. Lerup's reading of architecture in Puerto Rico and its protagonists gives light to the latter interpretation, and opens up new avenues for re-reading modernism.

Nader Tehrani, principal at Office dA, Professor and Head of Department, Architectural Design at MIT

Puerto Rico has one of the oldest urban traditions of the Western Hemisphere and because of its unique history, it is the place where the various contemporary architecture cultures of the Americas collide most dramatically. This book provides evidence of the island's significant contribution to tropical modernism.

Rafael Longoria, ACSA Distinguished Professor at University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture

The combined volumes of Contemporary Architecture in Puerto Rico 1976 | 1992 & 1993 | 2010, along with its predecessor, Architecture in Puerto Rico, by José Fernández, constitute an indispensable reference and research tool for architects, scholars, and students of architecture. For the general public it will open a window into the world of architecture in our Caribbean island.

Andrés Mignucci, FAIA, editor: Contemporary Architecture in Puerto Rico 1976 | 1992

That focus on the quality and importance of design is magnificently captured in this volume celebrating the honor award designs of the architects of Puerto Rico. The special qualities of the island and its peoples have inspired Puerto Rican architects to deliver the exceptional architecture that is celebrated in this publication.

George Miller, 2010 President: American Institute of Architects

Architectural practice in the 1990's and 2000's shifted from the earlier obsession with theory and representation to an emphasis on performance - be it tectonic, digital, urban, or environmental. There is much to learn from the ways the designers shown here have manifested these diverse interests. The skillful articulation of responses to climate and landscape in particular refreshingly reveal continuity of the Puerto Rican legacy of intelligent placemaking.

Ellen Dunham-Jones, author: Retrofitting Suburbia, Professor and former Chair at Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture

