



DR. FERNANDO ABRUÑA, FAIA
ABRUÑA & MUSGRAVE, ARCHITECTS

Fernando Abruña holds a Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and Pratt Institute of Technology respectively. He completed a non-traditional Doctor of Design Science Degree in 1977 at the age of 25 as an apprentice to Richard Buckminster Fuller from the International College in California. Dr. Abruña is a licensed, practicing architect, a retired professor of the School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico, and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is also the Founding and Past President of the US Green Building Council, Caribbean Chapter, and the publicly recognized authority in Sustainable Design in Puerto Rico.

Abruña is the author of local bestseller Green Design and Construction Books including *"Fresco Gratis"* (Passive Cooling Systems), ¡CASAS! published by the Institute of PR Culture, *"A Ojo de Buen Cubero"* (Design and Construction Rules of Thumb), *"Materiales y Procedimientos de Construcción"* (Materials and Methods of Construction) and *"Casa Ausente"* (The Absent House: Designing, Building and Living an Eco House), many of them used as textbooks in all local architecture schools and many engineering academic programs in Puerto Rico and Latin America. He has lectured on sustainability and green buildings in the US, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe.

His award winning research, publications and built work have been featured in various TV Documentaries in the USA, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He is the designer of the Absent House (2006 AIA Award) the 1st Eco House of Puerto Rico, featured in the HGTV Network, Univision and in all local newspapers, TV and radio stations. The house has become a national icon with more than 5,000 visitors since its opening to the public. He is also the architect of the 1st Private Eco School of PR in Caguas (2003 EPA Environmental Quality Award), the 1st Public Eco School of PR in the island of Culebra (2007 EPA Environmental Quality Award) and "Solaria" the 1st Predesigned Eco house of PR for Villas Miantojo enterprises (2011 Green Builder Best affordable Integration Award). Abruña is also the designer of the Elementary Eco School of Dorado, the 1st registered Public School with a LEED Gold Certification.

Abruña was the Architecture Team Director of the 2001-02, 1st Solar Decathlon Competition in Washington DC where the UPR House won 2nd Place in the Design and Livability contest judged by Architecture Pritzker Prize laureate, Glenn Murcutt and Edward Mazria among others and considered by all as the most important contest in the competition. The house also won 2nd Place in the People's Choice Award. In 2010 Abruña was awarded the Henry Klumb award, the highest honor conferred to an architect by the Puerto Rico Architects and Landscape Architects association, for his pioneering and continued contributions to Sustainable Architecture in PR and the Caribbean.

He is the founder and 1st Director of the Sustainable Design Studio at the School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico. His work has been quoted and/or featured in the Architectural Record Magazine the Environmental Design News and the Green Builder Magazine. In the summer of 2007, the Studio finished the design and construction of “eCoqui”, Puerto Rico’s 1st Micro Eco House, (2009 International Green Dot Award). The Sustainable Design Studio was also blessed with an Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects in 2008 for it’s educational projects and public outreach. In January of that year, Abruña completed the Sustainability Plan for Plaza Las Americas, the largest shopping mall in the Caribbean.

He is the author of the Design Guidelines and the Operations and Maintenance Guidelines for Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Facilities for the PR Tourism Company. These are used as the 1st certification system for Eco lodges in the island. Abruña is also responsible for the Design Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of the rural area of the Municipality of Carolina.

The 1st Eco park of PR dedicated to Moonlight as an ecotourism resource was also designed by Abruña. In the year 2006 he was awarded the “Citizen of the Year- “Environmental Quality Award, the highest honor conferred by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He is also the recipient of the highest honor conferred to an Architect by the Environmental Quality Board of PR.

In the year 2008 Abruña was awarded the prestigious Top Management Award for his pioneering work as “The Father of Sustainable Architecture in Puerto Rico”. In the year 2008 the Caribbean Chapter of the US Green Building Council dedicated their annual Convention and initiated a Sustainability Scholarship in his name for his pioneering work in sustainability.

In 2012 Abruña completed the design and construction of the initial Prototype of “Campus Rider”, the 1st Urban Eco car of Puerto Rico for Urbano Green Works, a company that will develop and sell micro electric solar vehicles for urban areas. BrightShade is the newly developed Eco Window invented and patented by Dr. Abruña, which is currently being manufactured by Valcor/Samcor Doors and Windows Corporation in Gurabo, PR

In 2012, Dr. Abruña was appointed to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC. The Council is composed of a select group of 20 experts across the nation. He is also a member of the Advisory Council on Energy Autonomy and the Advisory Council on Sustainability for the Governor of PR. Abruña is a member of the Advisory Board of the PR Land Trust and of the Governing Board of the US Green Building Council, Caribbean Chapter.

His most recent achievement includes the Design and Construction of EcoHab: two experimental Affordable Green Homes for the Municipality of San Juan HOME program through HUD. These are the 1st Energy Star homes certified in the Caribbean with a HERS

Index of 27. These two houses also earned the prestigious LEED for Homes Gold Certification.

Abruña has a regular column on Sustainability in the Construction Supplement of El Nuevo Día Newspaper and is the Editorial assistant of Corriente Verde, the preeminent Environmental and Sustainability magazine of Puerto Rico.

His expertise includes Sustainable Architectural Design Services and Consulting, Renewable Energy Systems, Passive Cooling, Natural Illumination and ventilation, gray water reuse and rain water-harvesting systems, composting toilet systems and sustainable siting and materials. Abruña, also teams up with Cristina Algaze, LEED AP to provide LEED consulting services to different institutional clients.

The Office is currently working on a predesigned/prebuilt easily deployable ecotourism module for mass fabrication in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Abruña practices his profession with his wife, Architect Margaret Musgrave, a Color Consultant and a licensed Green Realtor in charge of Interior Architecture for the firm.

Abruña & Musgrave, Architects is located in a two hundred year old building in the Historic City of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Additional information on our services and projects is available through our website:
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You can also make a Google search under “Fernando Abruna” for additional information.