

**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EARTH-BASED ARCHITECTURE**  
**Barichara – Colombia - South America**  
**3 – 8 October 2006**

‘Innovation and Development as a Strategy for Social Acceptance’



The host village

Barichara, Santander-Colombia

***Fundación Tierra Viva***

In 1998, the Fundación Tierra Viva was created in response to the need for an organization to work towards the social acceptance of earth-based architecture. Our institution has shown through practice that the use of earth as local material, coupled with the know-how of the region, opens the way to developing an architectural language that remains coherent with the surroundings, respectful of tradition and validating local identity. With this outlook, Tierra Viva wishes to contribute to the solution of habitat in Colombia. In order to reach these goals, the Tierra Viva Foundation works in the areas of *Training, Research and Application*, and from them promotes the values of *Preservation, Innovation, and Development of Earth-Based Architecture*.

We firmly believe that Earth-Based Architecture in Latin America is possible if it is incorporated by the formal building sector. This is only possible after much research, after the training of professionals and technicians, after the correct and practical application of the results of these processes, and after the necessary lobbying for favorable State policies.

***The Congress***

From October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and within the principle of ***“Innovation and Development as a strategy for social acceptance”***, we will be presenting Colombian and International references who reinforce our vision thanks to their experience and attitude. We will be joined by professional individuals and teams who have included earth as a building material in their daily practice. *Earth as a material; earth as structure; earth as generating habitat,*

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Fundación para la Preservación, Innovación y Desarrollo de la Arquitectura en Tierra

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*cultural identity and social cohesion* ... different positions which, based on well-sustained realities, confirm that earth is a material of the present and of the future.

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UNAC University Restaurant, Medellín-Colombia. Fundación Tierra Viva 2005. Architect: Jesús Antonio Moreno C.

***Our aim***

With the examples of presented work and invited speakers, we seek to illustrate the good use of raw earth as a building material, thus making it easier for institutions and professionals to make decisions for the social acceptance of the material. We wish to underline the importance of involving academic and research professions and community in this process.

***Themes***

The social acceptance of Earth-Based Architecture in contemporary buildings within the following themes:

- Contemporary Architecture.
- Material and Structural Engineering.
- Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Vision.
- Training
- Project Management
- Interior Architecture

***Events***

Workshops. Invited speakers will share their experience through practical workshops.

Conferences. Each one, from a different approach, seeks to underline the contemporary aspects and the potential of earth as a material.

Presentations. A selection of relevant work presented by either individuals or groups.

Roundtables. Discussions of specific topics.

Visit to projects. Guided visit to projects developed in the area.

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Casa Peña, Piedecuesta - Santander - Colombia. Fundación Tierra Viva, Architect: Jesús Antonio Moreno C., 2004

***What will happen ( continued)***

Exhibits. During the event, we will host the International Exhibit of Contemporary Earth-Based Architecture. After the Congress, the Exhibit will rotate amongst the organizations which apply for it.

Tourist Activities. Barichara and its surroundings hold many attractions such as adventure sports and cultural tourism ( gastronomy, arts and crafts, music)

***Conference speakers***

The Fundación Tierra Viva will extend invitations to contemporary Architects and Engineers such as: Gernot Minke - Germany; Eli Moyal - Morocco; Rick Joy - U.S.A; Martin Rauch - Germany; Shin Hoo - Corea; Sergio Sabbadini - Italy; Mark Jane Imas - Colombia, Satprem Maini - Auroville, India, Marcelo Cortez – Chile; Daniel Duchert - Germany; and to institutions such as CRATerre - France; Icomos – Colombia; Getty Institute – U.S.A.

***Aimed at***

Architects, building professionals , state institutions, universities, private enterprise, students.

***Barichara and its surroundings***

The mountain village of Barichara lies 5 hours north of Bogotá and 2.5 hours south of Bucaramanga by paved roads. Up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it was an important point on the grid of the stone paths which led the commercial routes joining the western region of Colombia with the Magdalena River. When the main road from Bogotá to Bucaramanga was paved in the 1930's, it by-passed Barichara, thus isolating it from the new commercial routes. This situation, together with the characteristics of its inhabitants, ensured that Barichara stayed frozen in time. Its traditions were maintained intact, reason for which the village was declared a 'National Monument' in 1978 and is named 'the prettiest village in Colombia'.

The houses in Barichara are built entirely from rammed earth and not a day passes without the percussion of the *pisón*. Nowadays, the new buildings are raised with rammed-earth techniques, like before, like it always was, like it should be. The builders and craftsmen make these houses for the natives and for the new settlers

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who increasingly value living in a house built with raw earth. Barichara is a unique case where the tradition of earth-based architecture has survived with dignity.

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Popular contemporary housing, Barichara-Colombia. Fundación Tierra Viva, Architect: Jesús Antonio Moreno C.

***Organizers***

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***This event is supported by :***

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Convenio Andrés Bello CAB - ???  
Banco de la República - Colombia  
Sociedad Colombiana de Arquitectos SCA – Colombia  
CRATerre – Grenoble, France

***To be confirmed:***

Icomos - Colombia  
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Asociación de Ingeniería Sísmica AIS - Colombia

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