



**International Project  
& Research Workshop**  
**Puerto Rico Re\_Start 3 E** ©  
*Under Emergency*

March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2020  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL

**Executive Summary  
& Project Development**  
**Edited by**

**Prof. Martha Kohen**  
Workshop Director  
**Maria E. Barrios**  
Workshop Assoc. Director

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Program Preparatory Activity for:



ARQ POLI



UF UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

UF | CHU  
Center for Hydro-generated Urbanism

## **41. Guayanilla, Alternative Scenarios for the Future** Guayanilla Bay Region

Participants: Aya Mohanna - Ph.D. Candidate, La Sapienza University of Rome  
Shane Ah-Siong - University of Florida Alum

# Special Participation

## 41. Alternative Scenarios for the Future

### *Guayanilla Bay Region*

Aya Mohanna + Shane Ah-Siong

Faculty Advisors: Prof. Pedro M. Cardona Roig & Prof. Edmundo Colon

As foreigner contributors, the authors of this project attempted to reorganize a set of interventions and ideas presented by several students who underwent a quantitative study and have created an accurate database for the region. The documents suggest a story-line; a strategic series of interventions that would potentially lift the situation of the studied region into a more positive stance, through the implementation of some multi-disciplinary programs. The creation of the documents was possible following several discussions and sessions on-line with the professors and the students, where insights and remarks were shared.

As a scope, the design lab gathers many students from several fields and experience backgrounds to come up with a wholesome plan for the region, including fields of architecture, agriculture, landscape design, and others. The mission is to establish a strong database that would be helpful for the design process and would serve future planners and local governments in their preliminary work.

The Guanica/Guayanilla lab targets the area and studies thoroughly its infrastructure and history, and assesses the risks that hinder the urban life in it. The Guayanilla Bay has been prominent historically due to its proximity to exportation lanes and its agricultural produce. However, the region has been witnessing a regression in the past 50 years due to the recurrence of climatic crises and to the progressive expatriation of its inhabitants. This is naturally due to the economic and environmental factors that weaken opportunities in the area.

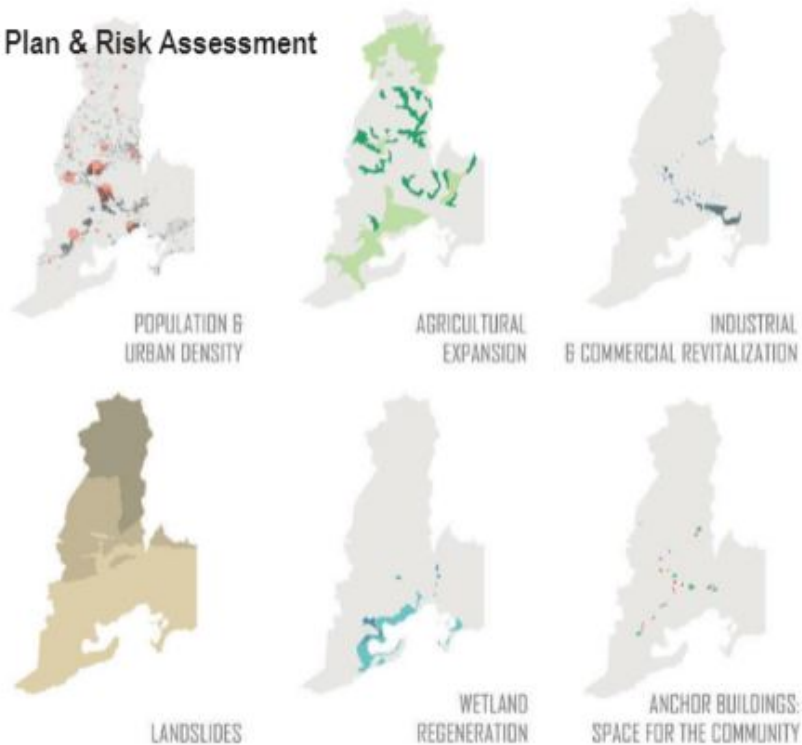
The area also is heavily contaminated; some aquatic bodies cannot be accessed for recreational purposes. This situation called for a study of the pollution sources, notably poor or inexistent septic systems, industrial discharge, and agricultural pollutants. The quantitative project attempts to tackle these issues; it presents plans,

later thoroughly and individually described by their respective planners, targeting issues of water contamination, wetland restoration, agricultural, industrial and economic regeneration, community preservation, and other proposals targeting an increased sense of resilience such as community relocation and emergency centers.

Key features in the project: solar panels, communal housing, public spaces, commercial markets, and bazaars encouraging local trade, reuse of abandoned industrial sites, and the expansion and revitalization of the agricultural aspect of the area.

Through all this, community involvement is vital and crucial. Through local activism and learning from the history of the people, the design outcome would have a higher success rate. Learning the priorities of the local societies, their demands, wishes, emotional attachments, career and commute patterns, and their general preferences, would help the designer to get familiarized with the area and would provide him with significant tools to tackle issues of urban life and resilience. Vulnerable communities are to be implicated in the process, and their fragmented and now-established social bonds and neighborhoods are to be preserved and replicated in their potential new areas.

## Strategic Plan & Risk Assessment



## Intervention Graphic

