

Architecture/Construction Design Internship – Green Building with CRACYP for Progreso Verde (“Green Progress”)



2013

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Internship Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/internship.html

In order to expand the local economy and help stem rural-urban migration in the region, CRACYP is developing an eco-tourism project. Infrastructure will consist of several cabins constructed near the little village of Jilimbí, which is a farming community at the edge of forested Andean foothills. Two of the main attractions will be exploring the ecosystem via guided hikes, and experiencing the local culture through visits to sugarcane cultivators who make organic, fair trade alcohol. CRACYP will provide education and job training for members of the local community so that they can eventually assume control of all levels of the business.

Objectives

We need architecture or construction design interns with experience in building to plan and execute the construction of ecotourism cabins. These cabins will accommodate tourists, likely from the United States, Europe, and Australia. Practical considerations will need to be taken when designing these buildings. Financial resources and materials are limited. Most buildings in the area are made from cinder blocks with some wood. For much of the year, the climate is very hot and humid, and heavy rains for days at a time are common. Buildings should be resistant to decomposition. Efforts should be made to use local materials (bamboo is readily accessible and reasonably inexpensive). Depending on the length of the internship, in addition to designing these cabins, interns may also work with a local maestro (contractor) to find materials, and organize community members in the construction of the cabins.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbí in Bolívar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. Your work will be almost exclusively in Jilimbí, but you may also travel to other villages and towns if you need to use the internet or do research on other ecotourism cabins or lodges that could be used as models.

Requirements

Interns will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to advice by email from their university or other sources (e.g. former employer), if needed. Classwork and/or work experience with green design and building is essential. Knowledge of Spanish is also beneficial, however CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator can offer support with translation and community contacts. You should also be physically fit, especially if you plan to be involved in the construction of the cabins.

How to Apply

Read the Internship Information Pack for details of how to apply.

