

LANDSCAPES OF MEMORY: HISTORY, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN CUBA

May 9-23, 2012

Mollie Bogle, Narrative
Richard Laub, Photographs

Georgia State University's Heritage Preservation program's Landscapes of Memory: History, Culture and Historic Preservation study abroad program traveled to Cuba, May 9-23, 2012. Provinces and cities visited include Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santa Clara and Pinar del Rio.

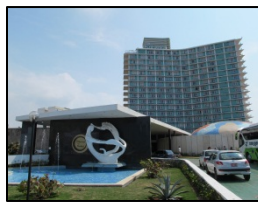


HAVANA

Havana, capital city of Cuba, was founded by the Spanish in the sixteenth century. Sites visited include the Plaza de la Revolución, dominated by the José Martí Memorial, Vedado's Hotel Riviera Havana and Miramar's scale model of Havana—an invaluable preservation planning tool. A gracious welcome was given by residents of Our Lady of Belén Convent and Church singing a traditional Cuban song. The Belén convent displays superb baroque, neoclassical and eclectic expressions tracing its two century physical expansion. Today, the Belén convent has become a world-renowned community center and social service facility—a hallmark of sensitive sustainable urban development and rehabilitation. A lecture was given by faculty of the San Gerónimo de La Habana University College highlighting preservation efforts throughout Cuba. San Geronimo College reopened in 2005 to teach specialties related to the conservation of historic and cultural heritage. The final day in Havana was spent at the Francisco Pérez Germán factory, still responsible for much of the annual production of the Partagás cigar brand.



Plaza de la Revolución, dominated by the José Martí Memorial



Vedado's Hotel Riviera Havana



Miramar's scale model of Havana



Our Lady of Belén Convent and Church



San Gerónimo de La Habana University College

CIENFUEGOS

Cienfuegos, capital of Cienfuegos Province, was settled by French immigrants in 1819. Sites visited include the city of Cienfuegos, Teatro Tomás Terry, Punta Gorda and the Casa de le Cultura Benjamin Duarte. The final day in Cienfuegos was spent at the Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, a center for tropical plant research in the early 1900s. It is now run by the Cuban government and is both a National Monument and a popular tourist destination.



Teatro Tomás Terry



Punta Gorda



Cienfuegos Botanical Garden

TRINIDAD

Trinidad, in the province of Sancti Spíritus, has been one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites since 1988. Sites visited include the city of Trinidad, Museum of Architecture and Plaza Santa Ana. An introduction to the city was given by Victor Echenagusia Peña. The final day in Trinidad was spent at the Valley of the Sugar Mills with lunch at the Manaca Iznaga.



Museum of Architecture with Peña



Manaca Iznaga

SANTA CLARA

Santa Clara, capital city of the Cuban province of Villa Clara, was the site of the last battle in the Cuban Revolution in late 1958. Sites visited include the city of Santa Clara and the Ernesto Guevara Sculptural Complex, housing the remains of executed Marxist revolutionary Ernesto

“Che” Guevara and twenty-nine of his fellow combatants killed in 1967 during Guevara’s attempt to spur an armed uprising in Bolivia.



Santa Clara



Ernesto Guevara Sculptural Complex

PINAR DEL RIO

Pinar del Rio, is Cuba's westernmost province and contains one of Cuba's three main mountain ranges, the Cordillera de Guaniguanico. Sites visited include the cities of Viñales and Pinar del Rio and Las Terrazas in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere, a unique model village located 12 kilometer northeast of Soroa. Surrounded by mountains, the village was founded in 1971 as part of rural development and reforestation project which spans 12,355 acres.



Viñales



Las Terrazas