



MÓNICA MARTÍN GRAU

BArq; MArq (Hons); MDev (Hons), PhD applicant

URBAN PLANNER + DESIGNER



Monica studied Architecture (BArch and MArch) as well as a Masters in Development Cooperation at Valencia's Technic University (Spain). Her experience to date is multicultural and crosscutting, focussing at the meeting point of pioneering urban practice and social science research, with experience in different countries (Spain, Mexico, Bolivia or Kenya); within Universities (UCB, UNAM and the ETSAV); and national and international institutions (Spanish Cooperation Agency and United Nations).

In 2014, she was awarded a Santander Bank Scholarship to develop her Final Masters Project, at Mexico's National University (UNAM), within the research group Architecture-Design-Complexity-Participation. She combined her architecture degree with part-time internships at the Urban Studies Institute (UNAM, Mexico) and the Urban Planning Department of Valencia's regional Administration. She also co-founded a College Group (Arquitectura Se Mueve) and volunteered at Architects Without Borders - Spain.

In 2015, Monica was selected by the Spanish Cooperation Agency to work at La Paz Spanish Cultural Centre where she carried out cultural projects with other international associations such as ICOMOS. During 2016 and 2017, she stayed in La Paz developing urban heritage capacity building sessions at the Workshop School Programme, teaching urban planning at the Catholic University, and designing urban Teleferico (cable car) interchanges for Doppelmayr. In addition, she collaborated with David Estal (currently the Mayor's Urban Planning Advisor), Paisaje Transversal (a Spanish award-winning enterprise) and Valencia Municipality carrying out socially-engaged and sustainable urban planning projects.

Subsequently she joined the UN-Habitat Urban LAB in Nairobi, where she took part in a series of UN paper publications in collaboration with UK-FCO Global Future Cities Programme, around Public Space and Urban Regeneration in emerging economies. In addition, she also worked on Sustainable Development Goal Tools, Participative Methodologies and Child-friendly City Guidelines. Currently, Monica is pursuing a PhD alongside her project work, investigating Urban Experiments and System Change through city infrastructure, which has been accepted at the UCL-DPU.

CHILD-FRIENDLY CITIES GUIDELINES

Whilst working at UN-Habitat, Monica collaborated with UNICEF and undertook research and design work as part of an ambitious programme to develop a series of interventions to encourage and enable children and young people to take part in city life. The project identified economic, social, and environmental design strategies that needed to be addressed in order to open up cities for young people and ensure that children are included in city planning and urban design going forwards to foster truly sustainable urbanisation.



LEARNING FROM RECYCLING

Working with Mexican Universities and alongside architect Gustavo Romero (2015 Biennale special guest), Monica worked on this project aiming to alleviate social, environmental and ecological problems in the Popocatepetl Park area. This area is one of the most contaminated areas in Mexico with polluted water flowing down the volcano and into surrounding valleys. Monica identified the challenges facing local people and worked with them to establish solutions that would reduce pollution and set about an urban system of environmental recovery.



GROW GREEN BENICALAP

Working with Paisaje Transversal and Valencia City Council, Monica developed nature-based solutions to complex urban infrastructure challenges. She designed and undertook an extensive participatory planning strategy to work with local people in developing proposals as well as through implementation. As part of this project Monica designed and undertook street surveys, urban mapping, school workshops, sessions with women's associations and care home residents, as well as establishing community workshops and stakeholder sessions.



CAREER

- 2021
Urban Planner + Designer.
Urban Movement, UK.
- 2020
Sustainable Mobility Strategist.
CUBE International, UK.
- 2019
Urban Planner + Designer.
UN-Habitat, Kenya.
- 2017
Urban Planner + Designer.
PRAYU, Spain.
- 2015
Urban Culture + Heritage Officer.
AECID, Bolivia.
- 2013
Urban Research Assistant.
UNAM, Mexico.
- 2011
Urban Planner + Designer.
Valencia's Municipality, Spain.

OTHER RECENT PROJECTS

- Global Future Cities Programme, UK-FCO & UN- Habitat.
- Block by Block reports, UN-Habitat Global Public Space Programme.
- Valencia's Sustainable Mobility Guide, Local Council & Arquitectura.
- Grow Green Neighbourhood, EU Horizon 2020 & Paisaje Transversal.
- School Walking Routes Design, Xabia's Local Council.
- Benito Juarez Public Space Assessment, PUEC-UNAM.
- Albalat de la Rivera Master Planning, PRAYU & Albalat Council.
- 'The Cityzen's Caravan' - Public Space Event Series, EU Alternatives.