

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico**  
**Interim Progress Report for Year Three**

November 30, 2021

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# 1. INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE GUIDELINES

## Purpose

Continuing accreditation is subject to the submission of interim progress reports at defined intervals after an eight-year or four-year term of continuing accreditation is approved.

This narrative report, supported by documentation, covers three areas:

1. The program's correction of not-met Conditions or Student Performance Criteria from the most recent Visiting Team Report.
2. Significant changes to the program or the institution since the last visit.
3. Summary of Preparations for Adapting to 2020 NAAB Conditions.

## Supporting Documentation

1. The narrative should describe in detail all changes in the program made in response to not-met Conditions and Student Performance Criteria.
2. Provide information regarding changes in leadership or faculty membership. Identify the anticipated contribution to the program for new hires and include either a narrative biography or one-page CV.
3. Provide detailed descriptions of changes to the curriculum that have been made in response to not-met Student Performance Criteria. Identify any specific outcomes expected to student performance. Attach new or revised syllabi of required courses that address unmet SPC.
4. Provide additional information that may be of interest to the NAAB team at the next accreditation visit.

## Outcomes

IPRs are reviewed by a panel of three: one current NAAB director, one former NAAB director, and one experienced team chair.<sup>1</sup> The panel may make one of three recommendations to the Board regarding the interim report:

1. Accept the 3-Year Interim Progress Report as having demonstrated satisfactory progress toward addressing deficiencies identified in the most recent VTR. If the Board approves the recommendation no further reporting is necessary. The Annual Statistical Report (See Section 9 of the 2015 Procedures) is still required.
2. Accept the 3-Year Interim Progress Report as having demonstrated progress toward addressing deficiencies identified in the most recent VTR; the fifth-year report must include additional materials or address additional sections. The Annual Statistical Report is still required.
3. Reject the 3-Year Interim Progress Report as having not demonstrated sufficient progress toward addressing deficiencies and advance the next accreditation sequence by at least one calendar year but not more than three years, thereby shortening the term of accreditation. In such cases, the chief academic officer of the institution will be notified, and a copy sent to the program administrator. A schedule will be determined so that the program has at least six months to prepare an Architecture Program Report. The Annual Statistical Report is still required.

## Deadline and Contacts

IPRs are due on November 30. They shall be submitted through the NAAB's Annual Report System (ARS). As described in Section 10 of the 2015 NAAB Procedures for Accreditation "...the program will be assessed a fine of \$100.00 per calendar day until the IPR is submitted." If the IPR is not received by January 15 the program will automatically receive Outcome 3 described above. Email questions to [accreditation@naab.org](mailto:accreditation@naab.org).

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<sup>1</sup> The team chair will not have participated in the visiting team during the year in which the original decision on a term of accreditation was made.

## **Instructions**

- 1. Reports shall be succinct and are limited to 40 pages/20 MBs, including supporting documentation.**
2. Type all responses in the designated text areas.
3. Reports must be submitted as a single PDF following the template format. Pages should be numbered.
4. Supporting documentation should be included in the body of the report.
5. Student work is not to be submitted as documentation for a 3-Year IPR.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2018 NAAB VISIT

### CONDITIONS NOT MET

<b>2018 VTR</b>
None

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE CRITERIA NOT MET

<b>2018 VTR</b>
None

### 3. TEMPLATE

**Interim Progress Report**  
**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico**  
**School of Architecture**  
**B. Arch. [181 semester credit hours]**  
*Year of the previous visit: 2018*

**Chief administrator for the academic unit in which the program is located:**

**Name:** Luis V. Badillo-Lozano  
**Title:** Dean  
**Email Address:** luis\_badillo@pucpr.edu  
**Physical Address:** 9237 Marina St., Ponce, PR 00730

**Any questions pertaining to this submission will be directed to the chief administrator for the academic unit in which the program is located.**

**Chief academic officer for the Institution:**

**Name:** Dr. Leandro A. Colón-Alicea  
**Title:** Provost  
**Email Address:** leandro\_colon@pucpr.edu  
**Physical Address:** 2250 Luis A. Ferre-Aguayo Blvd, Suite 546, Ponce, PR 00717-9967

## I. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Conditions and Student Performance Criteria

### a. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Conditions

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2021 Response:** Does not Apply.

### b. Progress in Addressing Not-Met Student Performance Criteria

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2021 Response:** Does not Apply.

## II. Changes or Planned Changes in the Program

*Please report such changes as the following: faculty retirement/succession planning; administration changes (dean, department chair, provost); changes in enrollment (increases, decreases, new external pressures); new opportunities for collaboration; changes in financial resources (increases, decreases, external pressures); significant changes in educational approach or philosophy; changes in physical resources (e.g., deferred maintenance, new building planned, cancellation of plans for new building).*

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2021 Response:** The PCUPR School of Architecture's 2018 Continuing Accreditation Visit was held one-year after Hurricane Maria. To better prepare for the Visit, the Architecture Program was provided with a one-semester extension until the Fall of 2018. Notwithstanding, while still in the midst of recuperation, and with the help of a committed staff, faculty and student body, the 2018 Continuing Accreditation Visit took place with outstanding evaluation results. All conditions were MET, seven of which were Met with Distinction as communicated in the Visiting Team Report, and the Program was awarded an 8-YR Continued Accreditation term. On January 7th, 2020, Puerto Rico's southern region was struck by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter 15 miles southwest of the city of Ponce, where the PCUPR School of Architecture is located. While the nearly 100-year old Forteza Building survived with moderate non-structural damage, many other buildings in the immediate Ponce Historic District and the PCUPR Main Campus did not share the same fate. Aftershocks numbered in the hundreds well into the end of January, thus delaying the start of the Spring semester. After structural evaluations were completed in Forteza and other key structures in the main PCUPR campus, approval was given to reinstate academic and administrative operations. On March 16th, 2020, a government mandated island-wide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic forced the already delayed Spring Semester to come to a halt once again. All administrative and academic units within the Institution were forced into a one-week transition deadline to coordinate and resume remote operations and teaching. [ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES] After a ten-year run as Architecture Program Director, Prof. Pedro Rosario-Torres stepped down to pursue a full-time Instructor position. Juan Emmanuelli-Benvenuti, former Operations Manager, was named Program Director for an initial three-year term. A new Dean's Assistant position was created to handle operational and infrastructure matters. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and diminished workload, several Service positions within the Library, IT, Print/Multimedia & Fabrication Lab were put on part-time schedules or temporary work suspension. The PCUPR School of Architecture officially changed its name to the "RHC School of Architecture and Design" to commemorate Hon. Rafael Hernandez-Colon, ex-governor of Puerto Rico and "godfather" to the PCUPR School of Architecture, who passed away in May 2019, and to acknowledge the official opening of an Associate Degree in Digital Graphic Design that had been in the works since late 2018. This new program, although academically independent from the NAAB accredited Architecture Program, was designed to enhance the Schools interdisciplinary experience as well as to provide a more efficient use of staff, services and facilities within the School, thus sharing some of the financial and operational burden previously and exclusively held by the Architecture Program. [FACULTY] One full time Instructor appointment for former Program Director Pedro Rosario-Torres and one full time Assistant Professor promotion for Magda Bardina-Garcia were confirmed in August of 2020. Adjunct faculty Benjamin Vargas-Lopez, FAIA, unexpectedly passed on during the summer of 2020. His legacy as a mentor, seasoned architect and loved academic will be missed. Adjunct

faculty members contracted after the 2018 NAAB Continued Accreditation Visit include Jesus Melendez-Vazquez, a RISD Graduate and PCUPR Architecture Program alumni, Javier Bonnin-Orozco, AIA, who returned to Puerto Rico after serving as Instructor within the University of Oregon's Architecture Department, and two former PCUPR Architecture graduates in adjunct and administrative capacities. [EDUCATIONAL APPROACH] Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Architecture Program adopted synchronous remote learning as the exclusive delivery method for all its courses. Faculty member training was provided in-house within the Program and the PCUPR Virtual Learning Center, which serves as the institutional office for online course management and training. Two main remote platforms were institutionally approved for use: Google Classroom and Moodle, while Google Meet and ZOOM were approved for synchronous teaching. Decisions on which platforms to use was left to individual Colleges and Departments depending on their specific needs and teaching culture. Administrators, staff, and faculty held regular work sessions to research, discuss, evaluate and recommend other alternate platforms as secondary instruments. Most challenging and critical was selecting the right tools for Design Studio courses, so Whiteboard and design collaboration tools were tested. Design faculty gravitated towards free online based tools like Conceptboard, Jam Board and Miro as complimentary to AutoCad, Revit, Sketchup and Twin Motion which were readily available through free student and faculty licenses. During the Fall semester of 2021, the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico officially implemented two new instructional methods: REMOT (for Remote) and REMTR (for Traditional Remote). The first, which was institutionally mandated at the beginning of lock-down, utilizes remote synchronous teaching where both faculty and students engage remotely on a preset schedule. The second is defined as a flexible remote instructional method with in-person capabilities. The "flexibility" of REMTR is exclusive for students, whereas faculty are required to be present in classroom or studio. Students choose if they will be present or remote on a daily basis, and Faculty are required to engage both groups simultaneously using traditional and virtual modalities. While departments are given the latitude to choose which instructional methods will be used, they must be clearly specified in pre-enrollment course reservation and must remain in the specified instructional method during the duration of the semester. While remote instructional methods are considered alternate to traditional in-person learning environments, some of its benefits and opportunities have become evident. It is unlikely that remote learning will be discarded in its entirety if and when COVID-19 restrictions subside, most likely becoming permanently available in some capacity into the future. International collaborations have also proven to be highly successful through the virtual realm. While the PCUPR Architecture Program has had significant collaborations with international programs in the past, remote collaboration tools have increased access for potential alliances, academic collaborations, mirrored design studios, lectures and student enrollment in inter-institutional courses. Mirrored Design Studios between the PCUPR Architecture Program and international architecture programs were held in the 2020 Fall semester (Escuela Politécnica Superior, CEU San Pablo, Madrid) and the 2021 Spring Semester (Universidad Católica Boliviana, Bolivia), both in a remote virtual setting and yielding great results. In keeping with already ongoing academic alliances, the PCUPR Architecture Program and CEU San Pablo (Madrid) have continued to work diligently to collaborate in student exchange for individual courses (remote) and plan for semester abroad (on site) in the near future once again. Other international alliances have also become available through the Latin American and Caribbean Catholic University Organization, or ODUCAL for its Spanish acronym. It was conceived in 2019 to promote educational alliances between faith-based higher education institutions for the advancement of academic enrichment. The "Americarum Mobilitas" program was created within ODUCAL to promote and facilitate, both administrative and academically, in-person and virtual student exchanges, as well as temporary mobility for faculty and researchers. The PCUPR, as a member institution, has recently started to promote and facilitate these exchanges, and student participation has been steadily increasing. [ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT] At the end of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Architecture Program had a total of 271 students enrolled, 69 of which were new entering students. The 2018-2019 academic year saw a 1.4% increase in new enrollment, yet a 3.3% decrease in total student population, suggesting a slight decrease in student retention for the year. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the number of entering students increased once again by 9.2% over the previous year, and total student enrollment in the program rebounded with an increase of 13.7% as compared to the previous year. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of Architecture entering students fell by almost 16% compared to

the previous year. While the reasons for a decreased entering student population are still being analyzed, total student population for the year increased by 3% from the previous year which would be indicative of more favorable student retention conditions. In the 2017-2018 academic year, a total of 42 degrees were awarded. In the 2018-2019 academic year, that number dropped by 50%, and has remained between 20 and 23 degrees awarded in the past two years. These figures, as well as an observed decrease in enrolled credits during the last semesters, may also explain the increase in total student enrollment. [FINANCIAL & PHYSICAL RESOURCES] In August 2020, a new Associate of Digital Graphic Design program was introduced within the RHC School of Architecture and Design offer. While academically independent from the Architecture Program, the new Digital Graphic Design program shares facilities, staff, and services within the School of Architecture and Design. While still in its initial stages, the new Digital Graphic Design program is providing its share of revenue, thus lowering the Architecture Programs responsibility for infrastructural and operational expenditures. During the last year, significant financial relief through federal CARES Act investment has also provided the School of Architecture and Design with permanent infrastructural and technological upgrades such as increased broadband capabilities, classroom retrofitting (Hybrid Classrooms) for Flexible Remote instruction, and student access to laptops, tablets and other technologies through direct student disbursements and institutional funding.

### III. Summary of Preparations for Adapting to [2020 NAAB Conditions](#)

*Please provide a brief description of actions taken or plans for adapting your curriculum/ classes to engage the 2020 Conditions.*

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2021 Response:** Informal discussions towards the transition to the 2020 Conditions for Accreditation started in late 2019 at an Administrative level. Although no specific or significant changes have been made during the past years, formal strategic planning sessions shall reconvene in the Spring semester of 2022. Program Director Juan Emmanuelli participated in the May 2021 NAAB "In-Depth Review of the Program and Student Criteria" session with respect to the 2020 Conditions and Procedures. A timeline towards the 2020 Conditions for Accreditation transition is currently on the works, and informal invitations to collaborate have been issued to key Staff, Faculty and Unit Coordinators in order to examine the alignment of the current SPC matrix with the new Student and Program Criteria structure. The Institutional Assessment Office (Oficina de Avaluo Institucional) will also be instrumental in delineating assessment strategies and effective alignment of Student Criteria and Program Criteria with institutional assessment criteria and goals. While the 2018 NAAB VTR shed no Conditions Not Met or Causes for Concern, the Architecture Program has already identified two areas of improvement: Architectural Theory and, as of late, the implication and incorporation of virtual environments in Learning & Teaching Culture. Another key aspect for meeting 2020 Conditions is extracurricular conferences and the Lecture Series. The School of Architecture and Design became a Continuing Education Provider for the CAAPPR (local equivalent of the AIA), giving the Program not only the ability to design and organize conferences, but also to do so free of charge faculty and students in order to expand knowledge on HSW, Technology, Design and Practice related topics.

### IV. Appendix (include revised curricula, syllabi, and one-page CVs or bios of new administrators and faculty members; syllabi should reference which NAAB SPC a course addresses)

**Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, 2021 Update:** Faculty Resumes for Juan Emmanuelli-Benvenuto (Program Director, Adjunct) and Adjunct Faculty Javier Bonnin-Orozco, Jesus Melendez-Vazquez, David Santiago-Bonilla, Suheidy Sepulveda-Orengo and Job Bonilla-Rosas are included herein.

**Name:** Juan Emmanuelli Benvenuti, M.Arch, NCARB (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught:**

ARAD 101 Architectural Design Fundamentals I  
ARAD 102 Architectural Design Fundamentals II  
ARAD 201 Analytical Design Studio I  
ARAD 301 Experimental Design Studio I  
ARAD 402 Contextual Design Studio II  
ARAD 410 Developmental Design Studio I (Capstone Part I)  
ARAD 420 Developmental Design Studio I (Capstone Part II)  
ARST 201 Introduction to Mechanical and Electrical Systems  
ARST 301 Building Acoustics, Illumination and Special Systems

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Architecture, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1996-1999  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1992-1996

**Teaching Experience:**

Adjunct, PCUPR School of Architecture and Design, 2009-present

**Professional Experience:**

Architecture Program Director, PCUPR School of Architecture (Ponce, PR) 2020-Present  
Operations Manager, PCUPR School of Architecture (Ponce, PR) 2016-2020  
Operations Coordinator, PCUPR School of Architecture (Ponce, PR) 2009-2016  
Designer, CMA Architects and Engineers (Guaynabo, Puerto Rico) 2007-2008  
Designer, AESC/Anima (Ponce, Puerto Rico) 2005-2007  
Designer, Marmon Mok, LLP (San Antonio, Texas) 2001-2005  
Intern, Kahler Slater Architects (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) 1999-2001

**Licenses/Registration:**

Puerto Rico Licensed Architect #21702  
NCARB Certificate #95352

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

*NAAB APR-CA* (PCUPR School of Architecture), Co-Editor  
*NAAB APR-IA* (PCUPR School of Architecture), Co-Editor  
*NAAB APR-CC* (PCUPR School of Architecture), Co-Editor  
*NAAB APR-IC* (PCUPR School of Architecture), Co-Editor

**Professional Memberships:**

Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR)  
National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB)

**Name:** Javier L. Bonnin Orozco, AIA, LEED AP (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught** (Spring 2019 to Spring 2021):

ARAD 402-Contextual Design Studio II (Spring 2021)

ARAD 401-Contextual Design Studio I (Fall 2021)

ARUS 301-Territorial Planning Strategies on Infrastructure and Communities (Fall 2021)

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Architecture-Georgia Institute of Technology, 1986

Bachelor of Science (in Architecture)-Georgia Institute of Technology, 1981

**Teaching Experience:**

Adjunct, PCUPR School of Architecture, 2010-2016, 2021

Career Instructor, University of Oregon School of Architecture and Environment, 2016-2021

Adjunct, University of Puerto Rico School of Architecture, 2000-2001

**Professional Experience:**

2016-present: Independent architectural practice

1998-2016: Bonnin Orozco Arquitectos, PSC, Ponce, PR

1993-1998: Autonomous Municipality of Ponce Territorial Planning director, Ponce, PR

1991-1993: Municipality of Ponce, Master Plan director, Ponce, PR

1988-1990: Ponce's Historic Center director, Ponce, PR

1987-88: Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, Ponce, PR

1986-87: Lombardo Pérez, PE Ingenieros y Arquitectos, Ponce, PR

1983-1986: Nix, Mann and Associates (later Perkins + Wills), Atlanta, GA

1981-1983: Taylor and Williams Architects, Atlanta, GA

**Licenses/Registration:**

Puerto Rico ARchitect License #12518

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

- Articles in UPR magazine **(In)Forma**, CAAPPR magazine **Entorno**
- **AR Coastal Resilience Case Study Project: Parque del Litoral, Mayaguez, PR**

**Professional Memberships:**

Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR)

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

U.S Green Building Council (USGBC)

**Name:** Jesus Melendez-Vazquez, M.Arch, AIT (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught:**

ARAD 101 Architectural Design Fundamentals I (Spring 2020)  
ARAD 102 Architectural Design Fundamentals II (Spring 2020)  
ARAD 201 Analytical Design Studio I: History and Theory (Fall 2019)  
ARLA 201 Ethics and Professional Practice (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)  
ARHT 301 Architectural History III: Latin America and Puerto Rico (Spring 2021, Fall 2021)  
ARAD 410 Developmental Design Studio I (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)  
ARAR 410 (Laboratory) Independent Research I (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020)  
ARAR 420 (Laboratory) Independent Research II (Fall 2020)

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Architecture (Advanced Standing Program) – Rhode Island School of Design (2019)  
Bachelor of Architecture – Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (2016)

**Teaching Experience:**

Adjunct, PUCPR School of Architecture and Design (2019-Present)  
Adjunct, Rhode Island School of Design, 2019  
Teaching Assistant, Rhode Island School of Design, 2017-2018

**Professional Experience:**

2018-2019: Mendez, Brunner, Badillo & Assoc., San Juan, PR  
2012-2015: TagD3, Ponce, PR

**Licenses/Registration:**

Architect in Training (AIT) - Florida

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

- *Architecture the Infinite* (2019), RISD.edu
- *Vida y Obra de Thomas S. Marvel* (2014), academia.edu

**Professional Memberships:**

Associate, American Institute of Architects (AIA)

**Name:** David Santiago-Bonilla, M.L.Arch, EIT (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught:**

ARLE 201 Environmental Constr. Processes, Materials and Techniques (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Landscape Architecture - Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, 2018

Bachelor in Sciences in Civil Engineering - University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, 2012

**Teaching Experience:**

Adjunct, PCUPR School of Architecture and Design (2020-Present)

**Professional Experience:**

2017-present: CSA Architects & Engineers, LLC, San Juan, PR

2015-2016: Puerto Rico Aqueduct & Sewer Authority

**Licenses/Registration:**

Engineer in Training (EIT) #26924

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

- *From the obsolescence to the potential: The resurgence of the sugarcane fields as contemporary cultural landscapes* (2017) Research and design thesis for the fulfillment of the master's in landscape architecture.
- *Public transportation systems: Implementation for new communities* (2011) Undergraduate research in transportation engineering, public transportation systems, and densely populated areas.

**Professional Memberships:**

Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico (CIAPR)

Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR)

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

**Name:** Suheidy Sepulveda-Orengo, MGA, B.Arch (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught:**

ARAD 102 Architectural Design Fundamentals II (Spring 2020)

ARAR 301 (Laboratory) Parametric Modeling (Fall 2019)

ARAR 302 (Laboratory) Parametric Detailing (Spring 2020)

ARAR 406 (ARCH elective) Graphic Design Concepts and Techniques

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Graphic Arts in Digital Graphic Design – Atlantic University College (2018)

Bachelor of Architecture – Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (2016)

**Teaching Experience:**

Adjunct, PUCPR School of Architecture (2019-Present)

**Professional Experience:**

2018-present: founder, Hellou Design Studio

2018-2019: Mendez, Brunner, Badillo & Assoc., San Juan, PR

**Licenses/Registration:**

Architect in Training (AIT)

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

**Professional Memberships:**

Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR)

American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA)

**Name:** Job Bonilla-Rosas, MGA, B.Arch (Adjunct)

**Courses Taught** (within *Digital Graphic Design* program):

GDES 100 Critical Thinking in Design (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

GDES 120 Graphic Design Fundamentals I (Spring 2021)

GDES 210 Graphic Design Fundamentals II (Fall 2021)

**Educational Credentials:**

Master of Graphic Arts in Digital Graphic Design – Atlantic University College (2018)

Bachelor of Architecture – Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (2016)

**Teaching Experience:**

PUCPR School of Architecture and Design (2020-Present)

**Professional Experience:**

2020-present: Assistant to the Dean, School of Architecture and Design, PCUPR

2018-present: founder, Hellou Design Studio

2016-2019: Coord. for Student Affairs, Events and Promotions, School of Architecture, PCUPR

**Licenses/Registration:**

Architect in Training (AIT)

**Selected Publications and Recent Research:**

**Professional Memberships:**

Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR)

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA)