

VOLUME 30, JULY, 2021
VOLUMEN 30, JULIO, 2021

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The Lake Chapala Society

Mission & Vision

— Our mission is to promote the active participation of Lakeside's inhabitants to improve their quality of life lakeside.

— Our vision is a future where all Lakeside residents continually have a role in enriching the community's quality of life, vitality and prosperity through the exchange of knowledge, expertise, culture, heritage & language.

— *Nuestra Misión es promover la activa participación de los residentes de la Ribera de Chapala, para mejorar la calidad de vida en la comunidad.*

— *Nuestra Visión es un futuro donde todos los residentes de La Ribera participen continuamente en mejorar la calidad de vida, vitalidad y prosperidad de la comunidad a través del intercambio de conocimiento, experiencia, cultura, patrimonio y lenguaje.*

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The magazine's name, Conecciones — Connections in English — reflects its purpose, which is to enable the Lake Chapala Society to connect with its community. / *El nombre de la revista Conecciones refleja su propósito, favorecer la conexión de The Lake Chapala Society con la comunidad.*

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The Lake Chapala Society

Mensaje del Presidente

June has certainly been a big month for us here at Lake Chapala Society. As part of our community collaboration, which is a major part of our LCS 2.0 long-range plan, we held an empowering fundraiser for Cruz Roja. I was proud to use my birthday as the motivation for producing this special benefit concert. We worked closely with Cruz Roja President Yolanda Martínez and LCS supporters, to raise over \$750,000 pesos for the building fund of the Cruz Roja Chapala.

Since the last Conecciones release, we also hosted a Back to Broadway review with Michael Reason and the talents of Amara Santos, Laura Medina and Doug Voet.

Open Circle was also happy to host CREM a local music program to support talented local musicians and develop their skills. There were also other weekly Open Circle presentations, and these videos are available through our website.

We are also happy to announce the restart of the LCS Bridge program as well as other table games. Please look through the LCS Program center pull-out section for details of the many programs which are taking place at LCS.

Our Children's Art Program has always been one of LCS's premier programs. This program often engages 50-80 local children, but because of Covid, we needed to put a hold on it because of the many factors involved with so many children, parents, and volunteers. With public schools preparing to reopen, we are now moving plans forward for restarting the Saturday morning LCS Children's Art Program. More details will be announced soon.



(If you are reading this before July 2-3, please join us for the ASA/LCS Children's Art Program, Art Fair in the gardens of LCS.)

Concerts in the Park — we hope you will join us on July 25 for a concert with Roy Cruz who does an amazing tribute to Freddie Mercury. If you enjoy the musics of Queen and Freddie Mercury, don't miss this one!

A final point I would like to share with you, is our efforts to acquire the one house that is surrounded by LCS on three sides. Acquiring this house will allow us to move some programs from the over-crowded Wilkes Center onto our main campus, bringing our communities closer together. We are

thrilled to announce that we have received two anonymous gifts, each of \$100,000 US dollars. They each have a condition that they can only be used to acquire this particular property. We now need to quickly raise the final \$80,000 US dollars to purchase and prepare this property. Time is of the essence. We need these funds now. We are making this plea to our supporters in the community. If you can help with any size gift toward this project, please contact our Executive Director, Luis Pacheco or myself. We will be happy to discuss in more detail why this effort is so important to our future service to the community. Can we count on you?

Thanks ever so much for your tremendous support!

Steve Balfour
President
Lake Chapala Society

The Lake Chapala Society

Mensaje del Presidente

Junio ha sido ciertamente un gran mes para nosotros aquí en Lake Chapala Society. Como parte de nuestra colaboración con la comunidad, que es una parte importante de LCS 2.0, nuestro plan de largo alcance, organizamos una recaudación de fondos para Cruz Roja. Me sentí orgulloso de usar mi cumpleaños como motivación para producir este especial concierto benéfico. Trabajamos estrechamente con la presidenta de Cruz Roja, Yolanda Martínez, y con los simpatizantes de LCS para recaudar más de \$750,000 pesos para el fondo de construcción de la Cruz Roja Chapala. Desde el último lanzamiento de Conexiones también tuvimos el concierto de Back to Broadway con Michael Reason y los talentos de Amaranta Santos, Laura Medina y Doug Voet. Open Circle tuvo el placer de acoger el CREM, un programa para apoyar a los músicos locales con talento y desarrollar sus habilidades. También hubo otras presentaciones semanales que pueden ser de su interés, los videos están disponibles a través de nuestro sitio web.

También estamos contentos de anunciar el reinicio del programa LCS Bridge, así como otros juegos de mesa. Por favor, busque en la sección central de la revista la lista de actividades de LCS para obtener detalles de los muchos programas que se están llevando a cabo.

Nuestro Programa de Arte para Niños siempre ha sido uno de los principales programas de LCS. Este programa a menudo involucra a 50-80 niños de la localidad, pero debido a Covid tuvimos que suspenderlo debido a los muchos factores involucrados con tantos niños, padres y voluntarios. Ahora que las escuelas públicas se preparan para reabrir, estamos avanzando en los planes para reiniciar el Programa de Arte Infantil de LCS los sábados por la mañana. Pronto se anunciarán más detalles. (Si está leyendo



esto antes del 2 y 3 de julio, por favor venga al evento del Programa de Arte Infantil de ASA/LCS, en los jardines de LCS).

Conciertos en el Parque - esperamos que nos acompañen el 25 de julio para un concierto con Roy Cruz que hace un increíble tributo a Freddie Mercury. Si te gusta la música de Queen y Freddie Mercury, ¡no te lo pierdas!

Un último punto que me gustaría compartir con ustedes es nuestro esfuerzo por adquirir la única casa que está rodeada por LCS en tres lados. La adquisición de esta casa nos permitirá trasladar algunos programas del abarrotado Wilkes Center a nuestro campus principal, acercando a nuestras comunidades. Estamos encantados de anunciar que hemos recibido dos donaciones anónimas, cada una de 100,000 dólares. Cada una de ellas tiene la condición de que sólo pueden utilizarse para adquirir esta propiedad en particular. Ahora necesitamos recaudar rápidamente los 80,000 dólares restantes para comprar y preparar esta propiedad. El tiempo es esencial. Necesitamos estos fondos ahora. Hacemos esta petición a nuestros partidarios en la comunidad. Si usted puede ayudar con una donación de cualquier tamaño para este proyecto, por favor póngase en contacto con nuestro Director Ejecutivo, Luis Pacheco o conmigo. Estaremos encantados de explicar con más detalle por qué este esfuerzo es tan importante para nuestro futuro servicio a la comunidad. ¿Podemos contar con usted?

Muchas gracias por su gran apoyo.

Steve Balfour
Presidente
Lake Chapala Society

WRITINGS FROM WILKES

These writings are from the LCS Wilkes Center, or Biblioteca, a beehive of activity, Galeana 18 in Ajijic, two blocks from the LCS main campus. For 20 years, a cadre of volunteers have taught ESL to the Mexican Community, gratis. There are several levels of study. Volunteer teacher and author Carol Bowman recently asked her Level 4 students to try their hands at creative writing. We are proud to announce that Writings from the Wilkes will become a regular feature of this magazine. We will not edit these pieces as a way of demonstrating how much progress these talented, hard working students have made.

Atequiza Know Its History, Live Its Splendor

By Isabel Solis

Atequiza is a municipality of Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos in the state of Jalisco. To get there from Federal Highway 23S, you can take the same road that leads to Ocotlán and Poncitlán (Federal Highway 35) exactly at km 39. Traveling north from Chapala, there is an alternate route, which can be taken, next to the handicraft market in front of the entrance to Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos; this hilly road leads you through a beautiful rural area before you reach Atequiza.

Atequiza is a place of culture and history known for its emblematic scenes full of tradition. The civic square is the ideal place to start the tour. It was rebuilt three years ago, and features a mixture of *Porfirian* and modern architecture. On the east side is what is known as *La Casa Grande*, which used to house the offices of a bank. In fact, inside you could see some old photographs of the same building, in which the evolution this population has experienced, can be appreciated. Across the street is the small chapel with its beautiful tower. A few steps away, you can see the arches that once functioned as a granary. Opposite this building is an old mill.

To one side, the theater building welcomes you with its majestic, sober, and elegant countenance, constructed in the European style of the time. It is considered the second most beautiful theater in the state of Jalisco after the Degallado Theater. It is called “Centennial Theater” because its construction dates from the year 1886. Today, different types of performances have been presented such as symphony orchestra, dance groups, theater productions, among others. Being present is like traveling back in time to the Porfirian era due to its imposing architecture.

The theater was part of the *Atequiza Hacienda* called *La Florida*, built in a period of splendor in the second half of the 19th Century. The façade of the theater is made of

grey *cantera* on two levels. Its interior structure features a central nave and two lateral naves. The Centennial Theater qualified as the first private theater in Mexico. After the Mexican Revolution, it was left abandoned, in ruins, until in the early 90s when a group of residents of Atequiza began to work for its restoration.

The history of *La Florida* dates back to the arrival of the first Spaniards to the *Nueva Galicia* area, where in 1556 King Felipe II granted 25 *caballeros* and two large cattle ranches in *Ortiz de Urbina*, registering thus the foundation of *Santa Ana de Atequiza*.

The structure is two stories, built around a central



courtyard. It was an elegant estate that was made with imported equipment and materials, such as Czechoslovakian glass, French flooring, and Austrian crystals. The *Hacienda* had paintings and murals done by European artists. Currently, the building, invaded by weeds and corroded by the inclement weather, has deteriorated as the current owners have not seen the wisdom of preserving it.

Today, Atequiza has a population of approximately 8,000 inhabitants; professionals, merchants and ranchers who are honored to belong to the beautiful town, welcoming you at any time.

The Spanish word *Malecón* literally means, “a stone-built embankment or esplanade along a waterfront.” But then, almost everyone living along the shores of Lake Chapala could probably guess this because we use the word with regularity, even if we are unsure of the translation. Although each Chapala Lakeside community has a plaza central that is technically the community’s heart, it is our *malecónes* that beat with life, particularly each Sunday afternoon.

Ambulatory florists sell hand held bouquets to young men courting a lovely *senorita*, and older romantics leisurely stroll along the pavement, occasionally stopping to absorb the view or sit together holding hands. The Chapala lakeside *malecónes* have always been active social attractions particularly on Sundays. My Guadalajara friends regale me about Sunday family outings to Chapala. They say that although the *malecón* is more attractive and busier today, they think the highway from Guadalajara remains as crowded and dangerous as always, especially when returning Sunday evening.

When I first moved to Lakeside, the *malecónes* of Chapala and Ajijic were a bit run down with broken benches, uneven pavement. They lacked lights for after dark strolling and the vendors in Chapala were not housed in stalls as they are today. There were no skate parks and only well used, broken apparatus for young people to use for exercise. The *malecón* in Jocotepec was about one third its current length and mostly an elevated dirt pathway; nothing like today’s beautiful and heavily used area for Sunday family outings with soccer fields, skate park, basketball and picnic areas. There are also some excellent sculptures that grace their *malecón*.

Approximately 12 years ago, the Jalisco State Government invested in restructuring and rebuilding the Lakeside community *malecónes*. Although much of the artwork and sculptures that grace the Ajijic *malecon* have been installed with private funds, there is a history of using our *malecónes* as venues for creativity such as the seasonal *Catrina* exhibits along the Chapala *malecón* during late October and early November. There is a fine old mural that graces the ceiling of the “light house” at the end of the Chapala quay. The painting is a pictorial of the history of Chapala.

The *malecónes* continue to be the social attractions they were designed for by attracting not only young courting cou-

ples, families out for an excursion, but also vendors of everything from cotton candy (*algadón*), caramel apples, hand churned ice cream, BBQ shrimp on a stick, but also that unique Lake Chapala delicacy, *charrales*. Now, if you have never tried these dried fish with *chili*, you should, at least once. After all, Mexico’s longest serving President Díaz, sent some as a gift to the king of England. My favorite food to eat while walking is a cup of *elote* (corn) with *crema y chile*. Some weekend vendors use the money they earn to send their children to school, another reason to treat yourself to an ice cream, or a souve-

nir. But whatever you get, the local merchants will appreciate your business and eating while walking defies every eating rule of etiquette we learned growing up.

Mexican families often make excellent use of the limited number of fixed BBQ and picnic areas, but at my age, I now prefer to relax and enjoy a good meal at one of the restaurants that line the Chapala *malecón* and let the families enjoy their picnic while they create lasting family memories. Actually, I wish

there were a couple of restaurant options along the Ajijic walk.

Walking along any of the Lakeside *malecónes* is usually a relaxing experience; weekday mornings and evenings are particularly quiet times for a stroll, or jogging. Both the Chapala and Ajijic *malecónes* also have small amphitheatres that are sometimes employed for school graduations or political rallies if the appropriate city delegation gives a permit to gather. Sunday afternoons are normally bustling with crowds of lovers, families and visitors as well as vendors. During the winter the wind can be brisk as it passes over the water and buffets the walker invigorating one to hustle a bit faster. During the warm weather, we tend to stroll at a more leisurely pace and during the rainy season we can watch the clouds form a *sombrero* around the crown of Mount García on the western side of the lake, a sure indication that we should pick up our pace before the rains arrive and we get soaked.

Each season, time of day or personal mood, a stroll, walk or jog along the Lake Chapala *malecónes* is sure to be good for both the body and the soul. We are fortunate to live where we have such incredible views and no matter what time of year, or day, the view seems to change with the season, light and, in fact, a good walk along the *malecón* can change your mood as well as provide exercise.



La palabra Malecón significa literalmente, “un terraplén o explanada construida en piedra a lo largo de un paseo marítimo”. Pero probablemente casi todos los que viven a orillas del Lago de Chapala podrían adivinar esto porque usamos la palabra con regularidad, aunque no estemos seguros de la traducción. Aunque cada comunidad de la Ribera de Chapala tiene una plaza central que es técnicamente el corazón de la comunidad, son nuestros malecones los que laten con vida, particularmente cada domingo por la tarde.

Los floristas ambulantes venden ramos de mano a los jóvenes que cortejan a una encantadora señorita, y los románticos mayores pasean tranquilamente por la acera, deteniéndose ocasionalmente para deleitar la vista o sentarse juntos tomados de la mano. Los malecones de la orilla del lago de Chapala siempre han sido atracciones sociales activas, especialmente los domingos. Mis amigos de Guadalajara me cuentan sobre las salidas familiares. Dicen que, aunque el malecón es más

atractivo y concurrido hoy en día, creen que la carretera desde Guadalajara sigue tan concurrida y peligrosa como siempre, sobre todo cuando se regresan el domingo por la noche.

Cuando me mudé por primera vez a la Ribera, los malecones de Chapala y Ajijic estaban un poco deteriorados, las bancas rotas y pavimento irregular. Carecían de luces para pasear al anochecer y los vendedores de Chapala no estaban alojados en puestos como hoy. No había parques de patinaje y sólo había aparatos para hacer ejercicio, rotos y gastados. El Malecón de Jocotepec tenía una tercera parte de su longitud actual y era en su mayoría un camino de tierra elevado; nada que ver con la hermosa y muy utilizada zona de hoy para los paseos familiares de los domingos con campos de fútbol, parque de patinaje, baloncesto y áreas de picnic. También hay algunas excelentes esculturas que adornan su malecón.

Hace aproximadamente doce años el Gobierno de Jalisco invirtió en la reestructuración y reconstrucción de los malecones de la zona. Aunque muchas de las obras de arte y esculturas que adornan el malecón de Ajijic se han instalado con fondos privados, hay una historia de uso de nuestros malecones como lugares para la creatividad, como las exhibiciones estacionales de Katrina a lo largo del malecón de Chapala a finales de octubre y principios de noviembre. Hay un bonito y antiguo mural que adorna el techo del “faro” al final del muelle de Chapala. El cuadro es una representación pictórica de la historia de Chapala.

Los malecones siguen siendo las atracciones sociales para las que fueron diseñados, atrayendo no sólo a jóvenes parejas de novios, familias que salen de excursión, sino también a vendedores

de todo tipo de productos, desde algodón de azúcar, manzanas acarameladas, helados batidos a mano, camarones a la barbacoa en un palo, pero también ese manjar único del lago de Chapala, los charrales. Ahora bien, si nunca ha probado estos pescados secos con chile, debería hacerlo, al menos una vez. Después de todo, el presidente más longevo de México, Díaz, envió algunos como regalo al rey de Inglaterra. Mi comida preferida para comer mientras se pasea son los esquites (elote en grano en un vaso con limón y chile). Algunos vendedores de fin de semana utilizan el dinero que ganan para enviar a sus hijos a la escuela, otra

razón para regalarse un helado o un recuerdo. Pero sea lo que sea, los comerciantes locales apreciarán su negocio y comer mientras se camina desafía todas las reglas de etiqueta que aprendimos al crecer.

Las familias mexicanas suelen hacer un excelente uso del limitado número de parrillas y zonas de picnic fijas, pero a mi edad ahora prefiero relajarme y disfrutar de una buena comida en uno de los restaurantes que bordean el malecón de Chapala

y dejar que las familias disfruten de su picnic mientras crean recuerdos familiares duraderos. En realidad, me gustaría que hubiera un par de opciones de restaurantes a lo largo del paseo de Ajijic.

Caminar por cualquiera de los malecones de la Ribera suele ser una experiencia relajante; las mañanas y las tardes de los días laborables son momentos especialmente tranquilos para pasear o hacer footing. Tanto el malecón de Chapala como el de Ajijic cuentan con pequeños anfiteatros que a veces se emplean para graduaciones escolares o mítines políticos si la delegación municipal correspondiente da el permiso para reunirse. Los domingos por la tarde suelen estar repletos de amantes, familias y visitantes, así como de vendedores. Durante el invierno, el viento puede ser enérgico al pasar por encima del agua y estimular al caminante para que se apresure un poco más. Cuando hace calor, tendemos a pasear a un ritmo más pausado, y durante la temporada de lluvias podemos ver cómo las nubes forman un sombrero alrededor de la corona del monte García, en la parte occidental del lago, una indicación segura de que debemos acelerar el paso antes de que lleguen las lluvias y nos empapemos.

Sea cual sea la estación del año, la hora del día o el estado de ánimo personal, un paseo, una caminata o un trote por los malecones del lago de Chapala seguro que es bueno para el cuerpo y el alma. Tenemos la suerte de vivir donde tenemos unas vistas tan increíbles y no importa la época del año, ni el día, la vista parece cambiar con la estación, la luz y, de hecho, un buen paseo por el malecón puede cambiar tu estado de ánimo además de proporcionarte ejercicio.



Jocotepec Malecón



Wheelchair Accessibility: It Makes Sense

By Harriet Hart

I worked for 17-years as a rehabilitation counselor with the Canadian Paraplegic Association, and although my job was not assessing homes for wheelchair users, I often accompanied the fellow whose job it was on home visits. I learned not only can wheelchair houses be attractive, but also functional and can greatly enhance an individual's independence.

Recently, I toured the new home of an old friend named Geoff. The living space was all on one level, with a lower floor for parking and a higher floor for storage, solar panels, etc.

We accessed the house from an exterior stairway, so imagine my surprise when he asked if I wanted to ride on the elevator.

"What elevator?"

Sure enough, tucked behind a door and completely unobtrusive, there was a glass and steel domestic and very attractive elevator. "Neither of you uses a wheelchair," I said, impressed but confused.

"Not yet, but we're not getting any younger." Geoff said the device cost half of what it would have in the US, and was readily available in Guadalajara.

If you are planning on building a new home, or renovating on older one, why not make it wheelchair accessible? The following are some simple guidelines:

1. Ramps. It's preferable to eliminate steps altogether, but if you cannot, have a ramp built at the correct angle, so a wheelchair user can push themselves up it. The maximum slope for hand-propelled wheelchair ramps should be 1 inch of rise to every 12 inches of length (4.8° angle; 8.3% grade). The maximum slope for power chairs should be 1.5 inch rise to 12 inches length (7.1° angle; 12.5% grade).

2. Make doorways and hallways as wide as you can. Wheelchairs require space, and most doors are only 23 to 27 inches; make yours at least 32 inches.

3. Bathrooms are crucial. Wheel in showers are ideal, and now they manufacture shower chairs so no transfers are necessary. Toilets require raised toilet seats so the individual can transfer from wheelchair to toilet easily and independently. There needs to be space under the sink, which should be high enough to allow the wheelchair user access to the faucets. Mirrors need to be lowered so the people can see themselves.

4. Kitchens are tricky. Again, the counter levels need to be lower than usual (28-34 inches from the floor) with space beneath them so the wheelchair cook can wheel in. Storage of everyday items is also important – open, low shelving is ideal. Remember, an individual using a wheelchair wants to be as independent as possible, and that in-

cludes cooking and clean up.

5. The floor plan should be open with 5 feet of turn-around space.

6. Outdoor spaces can be smooth and accessible, and if the individual is an avid gardener, raised garden beds are an idea.

While architects and construction crews may not be accustomed to building for wheelchair accessibility, they can accommodate your needs. Geoff said his worst problem was a step into bathrooms; it's easier to build a single step than dig down — but it can be done. And his contractor did it. Think ahead if you're planning renovations. It's easier to make wheelchair accommodations before they're needed, not after.

Wheelchair accessibility needs to extend beyond an individual's home to the community at large. Marianne Carlson requires a motorized scooter to get around Chapala, and offers a few observations.

"Chapala has been pro-active in changing all downtown street corners into ramps. When the city upgraded utilities on Ave. Morales, they replaced the cobblestones with stamped concrete and sidewalks on both. Morelos and Madero were paved, giving me accessibility to all businesses on those streets. However, often there is a step (or more) up into a business, and I cannot enter with my cart. However, business owners are great about assisting me from just outside their door.

Another welcome change in Chapala is the female traffic police. One day, as I was crossing the plaza, I noticed her giving a ticket for parking in handicap parking (the fine can be up to \$3502 pesos). I approached and thanked her.

I went on my way heading toward Juárez to do some shopping and found the corner ramp blocked by a parked car. I turned my trusty cart around and headed back to see if the police woman was still in sight; she was. I told her about my encounter with the parked vehicle and she headed for the corner. I was forced to drive on the street to get to Juárez, and as I passed the corner, she was writing out another ticket. Yippee!

All too often, I go places where unauthorized cars are parked in a handicap space. Yes, Chapala has made some of the streets and sidewalks accessible, but more often than not, it is not enforced. On the streets, handicap spaces are marked with the universal "blue", and even if there is no sign, that is handicap parking. Handicap cards for your vehicle can be obtained from DIF in Chapala."

Designing houses, public buildings, streets and shops that are accessible to persons in wheelchairs and scooters makes good sense for us all.

Accesibilidad para silla de ruedas: tiene sentido

Por
Harriet Hart



Trabajé durante 17 años como asesora de rehabilitación en la Asociación Canadiense de Paraplégicos, y aunque mi trabajo no consistía en evaluar las casas de los usuarios de sillas de ruedas, a menudo acudía a visitar las casas. Aprendí que las casas para personas en silla de ruedas no sólo pueden ser atractivas, sino también funcionales, y que pueden mejorar enormemente la independencia de la persona.

Hace poco, visité la nueva casa de un viejo amigo llamado Geoff. La vivienda de una sola planta, con un piso inferior para el estacionamiento y un piso superior para el almacenamiento, los paneles solares, etc.

Accedimos a la casa por una escalera exterior, así que imagínate mi sorpresa cuando me preguntó si quería montar en el ascensor.

“¿Qué ascensor?”

Efectivamente, escondido detrás de una puerta y completamente discreto, había un ascensor doméstico de cristal y acero muy atractivo. “Ninguno de los dos usa silla de ruedas”, dije, impresionada pero confundido.

“Todavía no, pero no nos hacemos más jóvenes”. Geoff dijo que el aparato costaba la mitad de lo que costaría en EE.UU., y que era fácil de conseguir en Guadalajara.

Si estás pensando en construir una casa nueva, o en reformar una más antigua, ¿por qué no hacerla accesible a las sillas de ruedas? A continuación, se exponen algunas pautas sencillas:

1. Rampas. Es preferible eliminar por completo los escalones, pero si no puedes, haz que se construya una rampa con el ángulo correcto, para que un usuario de silla de ruedas pueda empujarse por ella. La pendiente máxima de las rampas para sillas de ruedas impulsadas a mano debe ser de 2,5 cm de subida por cada 30 cm de longitud (ángulo de 4,8°; pendiente del 8,3%). La pendiente máxima para las sillas eléctricas debe ser de 1,5 pulgadas de subida por cada 12 pulgadas de longitud (ángulo de 7,1°; grado del 12,5%).

2. Haga las puertas y los pasillos tan amplios como pueda. Las sillas de ruedas requieren espacio, y la mayoría de las puertas son de sólo 23 a 27 pulgadas; haga la suya de al menos 32 pulgadas.

3. Los baños son cruciales. Las duchas con sillas son ideales, y ahora se fabrican sillas para baño, evitando las transferencias. Los baños requieren asientos elevados para que la persona pueda pasar de la silla de ruedas al inodoro de forma fácil e independiente. Tiene que haber espacio bajo el lavabo, que debe ser lo suficientemente alto para que el usuario de la silla de ruedas pueda acceder a los grifos. Los espejos deben estar abajo para que las personas puedan verse.

4. Las cocinas son complicadas. De nuevo, los niveles de los mostradores deben ser más bajos de lo habitual (28-34 pulgadas desde el suelo) con espacio debajo para que el cocinero en silla de ruedas pueda entrar. El almacenamiento de los artículos de uso cotidiano también es importante: lo ideal son las estanterías abiertas y bajas. Recuerde que una persona que utiliza una silla de ruedas quiere ser lo más independiente posible, y eso incluye cocinar y limpiar.

5. La planta debe ser abierta con 1,5 metros de espacio para girar.

6. Los espacios exteriores pueden ser suaves y accesibles, y si el individuo es un ávido jardinero, las jardineras elevadas son ideales.

Aunque los arquitectos y los equipos de construcción no estén acostumbrados a construir para la accesibilidad de las sillas de ruedas, pueden adaptarse a sus necesidades. Geoff dijo que su peor problema era un escalón para entrar en el baño; es más fácil construir un solo escalón que cavar hacia abajo, pero se puede hacer. Y su contratista lo hizo. Piensa con antelación si estás planeando una reforma. Es más fácil hacer las adaptaciones para sillas de ruedas antes de que sean necesarias, no después.

La accesibilidad de la silla de ruedas debe extenderse más allá de la casa de un individuo a la comunidad en general. Marianne Carlson necesita un scooter motorizado para desplazarse por Chapala, y ofrece algunas observaciones.

“Chapala ha sido proactiva en el cambio de todas las esquinas de las calles del centro en rampas. Cuando la ciudad mejoró los servicios públicos en Av. Morelos, reemplazaron los adoquines con hormigón estampado y aceras en ambos. Morelos y Madero fueron pavimentadas, dándome accesibilidad a todos los negocios en esas calles. Sin embargo, a menudo hay un paso (o más) hasta un negocio, y no puedo entrar con mi scooter. Sin embargo, los dueños de los negocios son geniales para atenderme desde la puerta.

Otro cambio bienvenido en Chapala son los agentes de tráfico femeninos. Un día, mientras cruzaba la plaza, me di cuenta de que estaba poniendo una multa por aparcar en un estacionamiento para discapacitados (la multa puede ser de hasta \$3,502 pesos). Me acerqué y le di las gracias.

Seguí mi camino en dirección a Juárez para hacer algunas compras y encontré la rampa de la esquina bloqueada por un auto estacionado. Di la vuelta a mi fiel carro y me dirigí de nuevo a ver si la mujer agente de tráfico seguía a la vista; lo estaba. Le conté mi encuentro con el vehículo estacionado y se dirigió a la esquina. Me vi obligada a conducir por la calle para llegar a Juárez y, al pasar por la esquina, ella estaba poniendo otra multa. ¡Yupi!

Con demasiada frecuencia, voy a lugares donde los coches no autorizados están estacionados en un espacio para discapacitados. Sí, Chapala ha hecho accesibles algunas de las calles y banquetas, pero la mayoría de las veces no se hace cumplir. En las calles, los espacios para discapacitados están marcados con el universal “azul”, e incluso si no hay ninguna señal, eso es estacionamiento para discapacitados. Las tarjetas de minusválido para su vehículo se pueden obtener en el DIF de Chapala”.

Diseñar casas, edificios públicos, calles y comercios accesibles para personas en sillas de ruedas y scooters tiene sentido para todos nosotros.

You Say Tiki Hut, and I Say Palapa

By Marianne Carlson

There seems to be differing views of where the word *palapa* originated. In the Spanish language, it means “pulpy leaf”. You may also read that it is said to have its origin in the *Náhuatl* language, being a combination of words meaning, “butterfly in the water”.

A *palapa* is a traditional Mexican open-sided shelter with a roof thatched with palm leaves or branches. Most are round, not very tall, and have a center support; larger palapas usually have more supports. The material to cover the roof typically consists of dried and woven palm-tree leaves.

It is common to see palapas on beaches in the Caribbean, Mexico, Tahiti and elsewhere, shielding vacationers who revel in warm weather but want to avoid sunburn. As good as a palapa is at shielding you from the sun, they also make a wonderful nesting environment for mice, snakes, scorpions and a variety of insects, plus depending on the construction, if it rains, you could get wet. And while you are relaxing under one, remember the thatching is flammable.

As with most things, the *palapa* has gone through an evolution of construction and aesthetics. Today, modern *palapa* builders try to use material that is harvested in a sustainable way, and create sensible designs that minimize waste.

The thatch roof is the defining characteristic of the *palapa*. Thatch material varies, but the best is considered to be the leaves of the *Palma Real* (Royal Palm). For generations it has been known to be the most durable and effective thatch for a *palapa* roof, and when woven properly is waterproof and provides maximum protection against the heat of the tropical sun. Other types of palm leaves and even bundled long grasses have also been used in certain areas, but generally are considered inferior in one way or another to the *Palma Real*, however, today this palm is endangered and is a prohibited species in Mexico.

The most valuable quality associated with the *Palma Real* is probably the durability. It is common knowledge that *Palma Real* fronds must be harvested on the advent of a full moon for them to be at their best, and if not, they will deteriorate prematurely. The science of this belief has been debated, but the experience of builders leaves no room for doubt. A good *Palma Real* thatch, beginning with proper harvesting, can last as long as 20 years.

The support structure of the *palapa* is traditionally wooden poles, using vertical poles to hold up the entire roof structure, and cross-hatched poles to form a peaked roof on which the thatch is

woven and held in place.

Before nails were available, the vertical and horizontal poles were lashed together with *bejuco* vines. The fibrous strength and flexibility of these readily available plants made them the most desired material for structural binding in this part of the world for many years. Through the millennia many palapas have been built, and many very practical methods have evolved according to the imagination of the builders. Essentially the point of the structure is to be strong enough to hold up the thatch with a pleasing appearance, and withstand extreme weather conditions.

The wood of the *ocotillo* tree is considered one of the best for the structural poles. It is very strong, dense and insect resistant, and above all has a unique beauty to its grain. The *ocotillo* has been preferred and harvested for many years, and that steady demand has threatened the species, causing the Mexican government to prohibit its harvest and use.

Palapas represent part of Mexico’s history, developed because the Maya of old would farm one area of the jungle for several years and then move to another area. Everything was renewable. The trees they cut for *palapas* would over a 20-30 year period grow back and the Maya would not return to an area for that period of time so the jungle could actually rejuvenate. In today’s Mexico, palapa building continues using the *Palma Royal* and *ocotillo* despite the efforts of the environmentalists and some design professionals. As in many other aspects of society in Mexico, practicality, fueled by demand, finds a way.

A hurricane will blow the roof off a well-constructed building due to the vacuum inside that lifts the roof off. Not so with palapas. In a bad hurricane, the roof will lift up until the outside and inside pressures equalize and it will bend but not break.

Today’s modern *palapas* have simple cement floors, but in the old days the Maya would build a floor out of limestone rock and then crush more limestone and put it on top to form a smooth surface. After several months of walking on it, the floor would become smooth and as hard as rock.

Wikipedia says the *palapa* is of Philippine origin and after it was brought to Mexico, the people of the region loved them for their heat resistance and the fresh air that flows through. I choose to believe historians that say the *palapa* has evolved from the indigenous architecture of the Maya and may have been influenced by the Philippines at some point in time. Either way, they are a popular and interesting edifice in homes and for commercial endeavors.





Felipe González Attorney at Law



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"Architecture is the learned, correct and magnificent interplay of forms assembled in light" — Le Corbusier

Historical context

Throughout the world, the architectural heritage built in the 20th century has been the subject of study and concern for the devastation it has suffered. From the beginning of the 20th century, a process of accelerated transformation began in most European countries, which had already suffered two devastating wars. This acceleration would be replicated in America with the Industrial Revolution, where the continent experienced an economic and transformation boom. Mexico experienced this transformation from a rural to an urban country from 1946 to 1952.

During the presidency of Miguel Alemán, Mexico entered an accelerated transformation process. A concept of modernity was established based basically on the acceptance of a culture and an economy different from those that had existed up to that time. Cities were transformed into complex urban spaces (Razura, 2015, p. 58).

In Jalisco during the mandates of the governor Jesús González Gallo and the municipal president, Miguel Ángel Martínez Gutiérrez (1947-1952), the Law for the Urban Improvement of Guadalajara, Tlaquepaque and Chapala proposed the formation and application of a regulatory plan with the opening of public roads, creation of squares, gardens, parks and sports fields. In this period the architectural devastation of Guadalajara's historic center was immense; the centennial streets were transformed into Juárez, 16 de Septiembre and Alcalde avenues, and stately homes, palaces (Palacio del Arzobispado) and churches (Templo de la Soledad), were demolished for the creation of the Cruz de Plazas. A city that had spent more than 400 years building an architectural heritage lost its physiognomy in a short period of time.

On the other hand, Chapala in 1890 was a small fishing village, but at the beginning of 1900 it was transformed into an international tourist center thanks to the presence of characters such as President Porfirio Díaz, the writer D.H. Lawrence, the cultural promoter Paul Christian Schjetnan, the architect Luis Barragán and the engineers Birger Winsnes and Guillermo de Alba. All of the above names would attract families of Guadalajara's elite to build their retirement homes on the beautiful waterfront. In less than twenty years, 25 estates with patrimonial, architectural and artistic value were built in Chapala.

Subsequently Chapala became the ideal place for North American retirees, artists and writers and nowadays it is a place of rest and recreation on weekends for locals



Casa Mi Pullman. Fotografía: Rosalind Chenery

and visitors to Guadalajara.

1. Villa Mi Pullman: Architect: Guillermo de Alba (1874 - 1935). Aquiles Serdán 27-27A. Chapala Center. Mi Pullman was built in 1906 by architect Guillermo de Alba for his family along the newly opened Porfirio Díaz Street (now Aquiles Serdán) facing Chapala's *malecon*. The architect De Alba's great passion for trains gave the name Mi Pullman to the Art Nouveau house built on an unusually narrow lot and the estate belonged to the family until 1926. After being occupied by different owners, the house fell into disrepair and was eventually abandoned. In 2004 it was bought and renovated in its splendor by the Englishwoman Rosalind Chenery, who comments:

"De Alba loved Chapala and was responsible for some of the town's most beautiful buildings. Walking through Chapala his legacy remains to this day and although the use of the buildings has changed, their style and elegance



Casa Braniff, 2012. Photograph: Alberto Paz

4. Villa Tlalocan: Architect: Guillermo de Alba (1852-1912). Av. Hidalgo 250, Chapala Centro. Villa designed and built for the British Consul Lionel Carden (1851-1915) and his wife Ane Eliza Lefferts. Carden was responsible for re-establishing commercial relations between the United Kingdom and Mexico in 1884. Villa Tlalocan, circa 1945. Photograph: J. González

5. Villa Niza: Architect: Guillermo de Alba (1874-1935). Hidalgo Avenue 250, Chapala Center. Built

remain. The most famous building is probably the Old Railroad Station, but look for the Tlalocan, Josefina, Adriana and Niza Villas and the Arazapalo and Palmera hotels. Chapala's charm owes a great debt to De Alba for the richness of its architecture. Therefore, it was very important to me that the restoration work be of the highest standard for such a distinguished man and such an elegant home". My Pullman House. Photo: Rosalind Chenery

2. Braniff House: Architect: Luis Pérez Verdia y Villaseñor (1857-1914), with additional work by British architect George Edward King (1852-1912). Construction 1903. Ramón Corona 18, Chapala Centro. The owner of this house was Alberto Braniff Ricard (1885-1966) who was born in Mexico City, son of Thomas Braniff, an American who participated in the construction of the Mexico-Veracruz railroad. Brannif House. Credit: Trip Advisor

3. Villa Ferrara: Architect: Pedro Castellanos Lambley (1902-1961). Hidalgo Av. 240, Chapala Centro. Commission for Lupe Gallardo González Rubio (1897-1964) heiress of Tequila Cuervo. Excellent example of the *Escuela Tapatía de Arquitectura*. Villa Ferrara. Postcard J. Gonzalez

for Andrés Somellera, a businessman of Spanish descent. Construction 1919. Villa Niza and Villa Elena. Photograph: Guillermo de Alba 1919.

Conclusion:

This article only shows 5 of a total of 25 historic estates protected by INBAL in Chapala as of 2019. This article is part of an exhaustive and extensive investigation of these properties that will be published later. As citizens we must make visible and protect our built architectural heritage and preserve it for future generations.



Templo de San Francisco de Asís
Fotografía: Alberto Paz Bustamante

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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Pull Out

Office & Library Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Grounds open: Lakeside Gate: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Main Gate: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. | Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.

LESSONS (M)

Basic Principles of Drawing/Painting T 9-11 Email
jorge.garcia003@gmail.com

Chair Yoga & Strength Training W 11-12

Exercise M+W+F 9-9:50

Exploring Spanish Zoom, *sambrit10@gmail.com* T+TH+SAT 12-1:30

Hurachess Club* SAT 12-1*

Intermediate Hatha Yoga T+TH 2-3:30

Introduction to Lakeside zoom 9 July, 9-12

Introduction to Lakeside on campus 12 July 9-12

Introduction to Spanish (S) T July 6, 13, 20, Cost

Line Dancing, *redheadinmexico@gmail* T + TH 10-11:15

Low Impact Aerobics M+W 10-11

Mudlarks Pottery Introduction to Ceramics (S) M+F 11-1
Cost + registration

Mudlarks Pottery Open Studios (S) M+F 10-2

NIA Fitness F 10-11

PEP & Prueba Mexico Series (S) See the LCS website + Cost

Portraiture for Beginners (S) TH 12-1:30
zoearmiger@gmail.com to register

Scottish Country Dancing TH 11:30-1:30

Stretch & Balance, *harry_bertram@hotmail.com* T+TH 8:45-9:45

Spanish in Action classes See LCS website or in
(español en acción) the office for more info

Spanish a la carta Online program, See LCS website for more info.

Tai Chi Chih M+W+F 9-10

Tech Help via Email *lcs.tech.training@gmail.com*

Write to a Prompt Writers' Group TH 10-12

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

Becerra Immigration TH 10:30-12:30

Gonzalez Attorney at Law 3rd W 10-1

Hearing Aid Services (S) M+ 2nd+4th SAT 10:30-4
Call for appointment 331-511-4088

Intercam Banking Services M-F 10-1

Optometrist Claravision (S) TH 9-4
Call for appointment 331-411-1178

Skin Cancer Screening (S) 2nd+4th W 10-12:30
Sign up at LCS office

SkyMed 1st F 10-1

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS *

Al-Anon (Spanish) M 6-7:30, W 5:30-7:30

ASA Board Meeting Last W, 10:30-12

Dementia Support Group T 11:30-1:30

Diabetes Support Group Zoom, 1st F 11:00
welchk4diabetes@gmail.com

Information Desk M-Sat 10-1:30

Lakeside AA M+TH 4:30-5:30

Needle Pushers T 10-11:45

Open Circle Sun 10:30-11:30

Toastmasters M 7-9

LIBRARIES (M)

Book Library M-Sat 10-1:30

DVD, Books on Tape & Library of Congress Talking Books

Library. To order books on-line, you must use a computer or a tablet/iPad. It is not possible to order using a cell phone. Go to lakechapalasociety.com & select libraries/English.

RETURNING ACTIVITIES TO LCS:

- Intermediate Hatha Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, 6 July 2021. 2-3:30 pm on the Back Lawn or SC patio.
- Game Group: Thursdays, 1-4pm on the art mural patio or gazebo.
- Bridge4Fun: Tuesdays and Fridays, 1-4:30pm on the Veranda and NJ patio.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (M)

Bridge4Fun T+F 1-4:30

Discussion Group W 12-1:30

English/Spanish Conversation* Open to public Sat 12-1:30*

Everyday Mindfulness Zoom, *barbarahildt@gmail.com* M 10:00

Game Group TH 1-4

HOT Science Zoom, *hotsciencelcs@gmail.com* T 1:45

Scrabble F 11:30-1:30

Tournament Scrabble T 12-1:50

NEW ACTIVITIES:

- NIA/Joy of Movement: Fridays on 2 July 2021 from 10-11am on the SC Patio. Nia is a non-impact cardio-dance class. Nia incorporates elements of modern dance, jazz, yoga, and chi gong. Susan Michie, *sgm150@ymail.com*, 376-766-3861
- Chair Yoga with Strength Training: Wednesdays 7 July 2021 from 11am-12pm on the SC patio. Chair exercise for the whole body and weight training. Participants need to bring weights 1 to 5 pounds. Dean Niles, 376-766-3349, *deannile@gmail.com*.
- Dementia Support Group: Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30, Maestro patio (old smoking patio). Join our caregiver's support group. The goal is to offer caring support for those dealing with spouses who have dementia. We will get acquainted; share stories and offer positive examples of things we have found to be helpful. Contact Cathey Merrill, 713-253-3537, *mexamigos@att.net*

HEALTH INSURANCE*

Hospital San Antonio TH 10-12

IMSS & Immigration Services M+T 10-1
Call for Appointment 333-157-9472 No sign up

Lakeside Insurance T+TH 11-2

*Open to the Public ** US Citizens (S) Sign up (C) Member card
(M) LCS members only (s) sign-up group limited to 15 or less

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ADULT PASSPORTS FOR RENEWAL AT LCS

Form DS-82 for renewal fee \$110 USD, get it at Lake Chapala Society office or ww.LakeChapalaSociety.com

Drop off 2ND MONDAY at LCS, 10 am-12 pm with the following:

1. Completed form using black ink
2. Proper 2"X2" color passport photos (NO GLASSES) Genesis Digital photography is located at Ocampo #34 in Ajijic.
3. Your current passport and a copy.
4. A pre-paid Fed Ex envelope purchased at IShop in San Antonio (short block East from Super Lake) Originating address: US Consulate calle Progreso 175, Col Americana, Americana, 44100 Guadalajara, Jal.
5. Payment in CASH ONLY either US dollars or Mexican pesos at the Consulate's current monthly rate. EXACT CHANGE ONLY

• Of special note question #8 is your US address or mail forwarding address and question #18 is your local Mexico address.

• For current monthly rate inquire at email address below.

Questions to Norm Pifer at pifernr@gmail.com

MEXICAN MANNERS

ALFREDO PÉREZ Thursday, Jul 08
Fee: \$350 from 1 - 3:30 pm

Cultural shock is a normal part of life when you move to another country. Learn why the behaviour of your new neighbors differs from your own. Our intention it help you understand cultural differences and promote real and positive coexistence.

AGUAS FRESCAS

ANA MORENO Friday, Jul 30
Fee: \$360 from 10 to 1:30 pm

The hot season has arrived and with it, delicious fruits that in Mexico are used to create fantastic drinks known as "Aguas Frescas". We will learn what ingredients we need and how to prepare the recipes.

HOLY MOLE!

ANA MORENO Wednesday, Jul 28
Fee: \$490 from 1 to 3 pm

This dish was to offer to the gods and also to entertain in celebrations. Join in this celebration, let's learn about the origins of mole and their variants. Let's prepare 3 types of mole you can make at home and celebrate.

Enrollment at LCS Office or LakeChapalaSociety.com

MEMBERS ONLY. Registration requires payment. There is no refund.

We will follow COVID protocols with no exception.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

ALFREDO PÉREZ

Fee: \$400 Monday, from 3 to 4:30 pm

We will provide you with the necessary knowledge to obtain a new license or to renew it. Material will be sent over email previous to the class.

Jul 12 class & 22 visit
Aug 09 class & 18 visit
Sept 13 class & 22 visit

INTRODUCTION TO LAKESIDE

RACHEL MCMILLEN

Online Class \$400 Friday Jul 9 or Aug 13
From 9 am to 12 pm

In person Class \$600 Monday, Jul 12 or Aug 9
From 9 am to 12 pm

Where exactly is Lakeside, Lakeside Communities, Ajijic Village, Fiestas and LCS. Health & Medical, Eating Out - Eating In, Money - Banks & ATM's, Churches, Entertainment & Recreation, Transportation, Accommodation & Utilities. There's always a world to know.

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MARÍA DE LAS NIEVES & DIEGO SOLBES

Fee: \$400 Friday, Jul 9 & 16
from 12 to 1:30 pm

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INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

INEZ DYER Tuesday, Jul 06, 13 & 20
Fee: \$350 or Aug 03, 10 & 17
From 12 noon to 1:30 pm

3-sessions class. The instructor will introduce learners to Spanish pronunciation, some vocabulary and social protocols.

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MEMBERS ONLY. Registration requires payment. There is no refund.

We will follow COVID protocols with no exception.



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Por la Profa. Dolores Alicia Ordóñez Pinter

1A JUL 26TH TO SEPT 09TH
Monday and Thursday - 9:00 to 11:00 am. Gazebo

1B JUL 26TH TO SEPT 09TH
Monday and Thursday - 11:15 to 1:15 pm. Gazebo

2A JUL 27TH TO SEPT 10TH
Tuesday and Friday - 9:00 to 11:00 am. Wilkes

3A JUL 28TH TO SEPT 10TH
Wednesday - 9:00 to 11:30 am.
and Friday - 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Gazebo

3B JUL 26TH TO SEPT 08TH
Monday - 1:30 to 3:00 pm. and
Wednesday - 12:00 to 2:30 pm. Gazebo

We will follow Covid protocols.

ATTENTION BIBLIOPHILES

By Cate Howell

The last year and a half has given many of us who thought we were retired a glimpse of what real retirement could look like, with much more time on our hands than we thought we'd ever have to fill. Like other businesses, LCS was shut down for six full months last year and again earlier this year for a month. Many of us found that it was a great time to catch up on reading books we never quite got around to in high school and college. We broke records for the number of books you can read in a month.

If you have never visited the LCS English language library, this would be a good time to start a new habit in your life. We have two full rooms of fiction, everything from legal courtroom dramas, murder mysteries, science fiction, romance, family relationships, anti-war novels, historical fiction, and espionage to classics from high-school and college English classes. Our non-fiction collection includes travel adventures, geography, psychology and self-help, art history, religion and spirituality, paranormal, current events, history, biographies, and a large Mexico collection.

We are open for indoor book browsing. Members can take out books for 2-weeks at a time, and can renew books twice for 2-week periods for a total of 6 weeks. Our collection is available to browse online at the LCS website www.lakechapalasociety.com, and you can search before you come to see if we have particular titles or authors. Our library volunteers are trained to help you find what you want.

The library has been in operation for over 60 years, providing entertainment and information to the expat community of lakeside. It was started by Neill James in 1955 as a book swap, and in the following decades has grown into the great small library that we all enjoy today. Lakeside has always enjoyed a well-educated, literate and artistic expat community and our library is proof of that. Nearly all of our books have been donated and we continue to receive new books every month from generous and kind-hearted friends of the library. If you are a reader and love the feel of holding a book, you need to come in to the LCS library. Look for us in future issues of *Conecciones* under the "Attention Bibliophiles" heading.

The Lake Chapala Society

AJIJIC SOCIETY
OF THE ARTS

Art Show



Presenting

Ana Luisa Capistran
Ana Romo Gameros
Benjamin
Bernice Mount
Blanca Casanova
Bobby Lancaster
Ceci Renteria
Colin Glenn
Cynde Iverson
Diana Hunt

Diane Lea
Dick Stromberg
Ernesto Barba Zepeda
Gail Heinze
Garry Musgrave
Gérard Latulippe
Guillermo Gil González Jr.
Gwynne Lott
Ivanka Smith
Jack Irish
Jaime Barbiery

Jesús López Vega
Joie Wessendorf
Jorge García Viramontes
Juan Ramón Soto
Kathie Karancz
Ken Gosh
Luci Williams
Marica Mlynek
Marion Leith
Mia Pratt
Nancy Jordan-Zanot

Noel Chalez
Norm Tihor
Richard Royce
Rigoberto Navarro
Robina Nicol
Roy Quiriconi
Sacha Phariss
Shannon Kilkenny
Stephany Andrews
Victor Alcazar
Zoe Armiger

and More
local artists from
the Ajiic Society of the Arts
& LCS Children's Art Program

Fri & Sat
July 2 & 3
from 2 to 6 pm

Cash Wine Bar

\$150 p/p
kids under 12 yrs are free

Tickets available at the Lake Chapala Society
Office 10:00 am - 1:30 pm Monday through Saturday
Online at www.LakeChapalaSociety.com | Available at the door

Thanks to a generous donation from Rosalind Robinson

Rosalind wanted the two computer systems to be given to deserving children. After Rosalind died, it was her best friend that carried out those wishes. Carol Westbrook, a past president of CASA, saw that two families in Programa Niños Incapacitados were able to receive these systems at a particularly crucial time when children are receiving a substantial portion of their schooling via the internet.



One family includes mom Eugenia, 10-year-old Izel Guadalupe (Lupita) and 11-year-old Kyra. Both girls have been in the Program since shortly after birth and continue to receive support that enables them to function at an optimal level despite their conditions.

The tablet was given to Romina. She lives in Ajijic and when she came to us in October 2020, she could not speak. Romina is going through intensive speech therapy. Her therapist will be able to upload different programs to the tablet. This will be a tremendous tool to improve her ability to speak.



Access to a dedicated computer system and tablet at their home will greatly facilitate the children's ability to improve. The families have expressed their gratitude to the donors, Rosalind Robinson, Carol Westbrook and Niños Incapacitados for this donation.

[DONATE >](#)

“La arquitectura es el juego aprendido, correcto y magnífico de las formas ensambladas en la luz” — Le Corbusier

Contexto histórico

En todo el mundo el patrimonio arquitectónico construido del Siglo XX ha sido tema de estudio y de preocupación por la devastación que ha sufrido. A partir de los inicios del siglo XX inicia un proceso de transformación acelerado en la mayoría de los países de Europa, que además ya había sufrido dos guerras devastadoras, esta aceleración se replicaría en América con la Revolución Industrial donde el continente vivió un auge económico y de transformación. México vivió este impulso de transformación de país rural a país urbano de 1946 a 1952.

Durante la presidencia de Miguel Alemán, México entró en un acelerado proceso de transformación. Se estableció un concepto de modernidad fundamentado básicamente en la aceptación de una cultura y una economía diferente a las que se tenían hasta entonces. Las ciudades se transformaron en espacios urbanos complejos ¹ (Razura, 2015, p. 58)

En Jalisco durante los mandatos del gobernador Jesús González Gallo y del presidente municipal, Miguel Ángel Martínez Gutiérrez (1947-1952), se conformó la Ley para el Mejoramiento Urbano de Guadalajara, Tlaquepaque y Chapala la cual proponía la formación y aplicación de un plano regulador con apertura de vías públicas, creación de plazas, jardines, parques y campos deportivos. En este periodo la devastación arquitectónica del centro histórico de Guadalajara fue inmensa, las centenarias calles se transformaron en las avenidas Juárez, 16 de Septiembre y Alcalde, casas señoriales, palacios (Palacio del Arzobispado) e iglesias (Templo de la Soledad), se derrumbaron para la creación de la Cruz de Plazas. Una ciudad que empeño más de 400 años en edificar un patrimonio arquitectónico perdió su fisonomía en un breve periodo.

Por su parte, Chapala en 1890 era una pequeña aldea pesquera, pero al iniciar 1900 se transforma en un centro turístico internacional gracias a la presencia

de personajes como el presidente Porfirio Díaz, el escritor D.H. Lawrence, el promotor cultural Paul Christian Schjetnan, el arquitecto Luis Barragán y los ingenieros Birger Winsnes y Guillermo de Alba. Todos los nombres anteriores atraerían a familias de la élite de Guadalajara a fincar sus residencias de descanso en la hermosa ribera. En menos de veinte años en Chapala se construyeron las 25 fincas con valor patrimonial, arquitectónico y artístico.

Posteriormente Chapala se convierte en el lugar idóneo para retirados norteamericanos, artistas y escritores y actualmente es un lugar de descanso y esparcimiento de fines de semana para locales y visitantes de Guadalajara.

1. **Villa Mi Pullman:** Arquitecto: Guillermo de Alba (1874 - 1935). Ubicación: Aquiles Serdán 27-27A. Chapala Centro. Mi Pullman fue construida en 1906 por el arquitecto Guillermo de Alba para su familia por la recién abierta calle Porfirio Díaz (ahora Aquiles Serdán) que da al malecón de Chapala. La gran pasión del arquitecto De Alba por los trenes dio el nombre de Mi Pullman a la casa de estilo Art Nouveau construida en un lote inusualmente angosto, la finca perteneció a la familia hasta 1926 ². Después de ser ocupada por diferentes propietarios, la casa fue cayendo en el descuido y finalmente abandonada. En 2004 que fue comprada y renovada en su esplendor por la inglesa Rosalind Chenery, quien comenta:

De Alba amaba Chapala y fue responsable de algunos



Villa Casa Ferrera: Postal J. González

1 Razura, A. R. “La opinión pública en torno a la devastación arquitectónica de Guadalajara”. *Arquitectónico*.

2 Burton, T. (2020) “If Walls Could Talk: Chapala’s historic buildings and their former occupants”. Sombrero Books, Canada

de los edificios más hermosos de la ciudad. Caminando por Chapala su legado permanece hasta el día de hoy y aunque el uso de los edificios ha cambiado, su estilo y elegancia permanecen. El edificio más famoso es probablemente la Antigua Estación de Ferrocarril, pero busque también las Villas Tlalocan, Josefina, Adriana y Niza y los hoteles Arazápalo y Palmera. El encanto de Chapala tiene una gran deuda con De Alba por la riqueza de su arquitectura. Por lo tanto, era muy importante para mí que el trabajo de restauración fuera del más alto nivel para un hombre tan distinguido y una casa tan elegante. 3³



Nizay Elena

2. **Casa Braniff:** Arquitecto: Luis Pérez Verdia y Villaseñor (1857-1914), con obra adicional del arquitecto Británico George Edward King (1852-1912). Construcción 1903. Ramón Corona 18, Chapala Centro. El propietario de esta casa era Alberto Braniff Ricard (1885-1966) quien nació en Ciudad de México hijo de Thomas Braniff norteamericano que participó en la construcción del ferrocarril México-Veracruz.

3. **Villa Ferrara:** Arquitecto: Pedro Castellanos Lambley (1902-1961). Av. Hidalgo 240, Chapala Centro. Comisión para Lupe Gallardo González Rubio (1897-1964) heredera de Tequila Cuervo. Excelente ejemplo de la Escuela Tapatía de Arquitectura.

4. **Villa Tlalocan:** Arquitecto: Guillermo de Alba (1852-1912). Av. Hidalgo 250, Chapala Centro. Chalet diseñada y construida para el cónsul Británico Lionel Carden (1851-1915) y su esposa Ane Eliza Lefferts. Carden fue el responsable de re establecer las relaciones comerciales entre Reino Unido y México en 1884.

5. **Villa Niza:** Arquitecto: Guillermo de Alba (1874-1935). Av. Hidalgo 250, Chapala Centro. Construida para Andrés Somellera empresario de ascendencia española. Construcción 1919. Villa Niza y Villa Elena. Fotografía: Guillermo de Alba 1919



Villa Niza

Conclusión:

En este artículo solamente se muestran 5 de un total de 25 fincas históricas protegidas por el INBAL en Chapala al año 2019. Este artículo es parte de una investigación exhaustiva y amplia de dichos inmuebles que se dará a conocer más adelante. Como ciudadanos debemos de visibilizar y de proteger nuestro patrimonio arquitectónico construido y preservarlo para las generaciones futuras.

3 Chenery, R. (2010). "My Pullman: remodeling a Mexican Art Nouveau townhouse III" <https://www.mexconnect.com/articles/3650-mi-pullman-remodeling-a-mexican-art-nouveau-townhouse-iii/> Consultado: 30 de mayo, 2021.

Sailing School in Chapala

By Diana Ayala

At the end of Chapala's *malecón* is the Yacht Club, a beautiful space where the members have a large garden, tennis courts, restaurant and the yacht area; it is a very peaceful place where people, mainly from Guadalajara, spend the weekend with their families.

In the 80s, Mr. Lorenzo Villaseñor had the initiative to start a sailing school, for which he recruited young people and looked for a coach. Like everything else, it was a process that gradually bore fruit. But it was not until 2001 that Noel Guerra arrived, who has experience as a coach at the Olympic Games, the Central American Games, the Pan American Games and the National Olympics, who together with Beatriz González increased the number of students and the quality of teaching, thus generating the golden generation, from which came Elena Oetling Ramírez, who will participate for Mexico in the next summer Olympics.

The day I went to visit them, I met Elena who was preparing for her training that day, and she told me that she started in this sport when she was nine-years old and now she trains every day from 4 to 6 hours. I asked her about the Olympics and how the whole situation with the pandemic had affected her and she told me that this has allowed her to continue with her training not only in Chapala, but in other parts of the world, where she also participated in competitions with very good results, so she is happy and very motivated to go to the next Olympics.

On July 12, Elena leaves with the Mexican delegation participating in the Olympics. We are sure she will do a great job and we hope she will bring home a medal. Let's go Elena!

The school currently has about 36 students, with groups for adults and another one for children and youth. It actively participates in various national and international competitions and is run by

Luis Vázquez González and Carlos Camarena, who every Saturday go out on the lake with the coach to train the new generations.

Escuela de Vela en Chapala.

Por Diana Ayala

Al final del malecón de Chapala, se encuentra el Club de Yates, un bello espacio donde los socios de ese lugar cuentan con un gran jardín, canchas de tenis, restaurant y el área de los yates; es un lugar muy apacible donde gente, principalmente de Guadalajara, pasa el fin de semana con su familia.

En la década de los 80's el Ing. Lorenzo Villaseñor tuvo la iniciativa de empezar una escuela de Vela, para lo cual reclutó jóvenes y buscó un entrenador. Como todo fue un proceso que poco a poco fue dando frutos. Pero fue hasta 2001 que llegó Noel Guerra, quien tiene experiencia como entrenador de juegos olímpicos, juegos centroamericanos, panamericanos y olimpiadas nacionales que junto con Beatriz González incrementaron la cantidad de alumnos y la calidad de la enseñanza, generando así la generación dorada, de donde salió Elena Oetling Ramírez, quien participará en las próximas olimpiadas.

El día que fui a visitarlos, me encontré con Elena que se estaba preparando para su entrenamiento de ese día, me comentó que desde los 9 años empezó con este deporte y que ahora entrena todos los días de 4 a 6 horas. Le pregunté sobre las olimpiadas y como había pasado toda la situación con la pandemia y me dijo que esto le permitió continuar con su entrenamiento no nada más en Chapala, sino en otras partes del mundo, donde además participó en competencias con muy buenos resultados, así que está contenta y muy motivada por ir a la próxima olimpiada.

El 12 de julio Elena parte con la delegación mexicana participante de las olimpiadas, estamos seguros hará un magnífico papel y esperamos nos traiga una medalla. ¡Vamos Elena!

La escuela actualmente cuenta con unos 36 alumnos, con grupos para adultos y otro más de niños y jóvenes. Participa activamente en distintas competencias nacionales e internacionales y está a cargo de Luis Vázquez González y Carlos Camarena quienes

todos los sábados se meten al agua junto con el entrenador buscando formar a las nuevas generaciones.



Designing a City

By Diana Ayala

Current cities are growing so fast they have been absorbing communities or towns, so it is not surprising to find that territorial divisions are lost and streets widen or shrink. This is certainly the case in Guadalajara whose Metropolitan Zone now combines ten municipalities, where former streets now converted into avenues leave us with some curiosities.

Vallarta Avenue

This great avenue that starts at Javier Mina in the east of the city, passes through Guadalajara Downtown under the name of Juárez Avenue and becomes Vallarta Avenue until it gets lost in the highway towards Puerto Vallarta.

At the end of 1947 it was decided to transform Juárez Street and turn it into an Avenue, and for this it was necessary to negotiate with the farms in the area in order to demolish them, but the owners of the building of the then Telefónica Mexicana located on the corner of Donato Guerra and Juárez took legal action and did not allow the demolition of their building. Moving implied the loss of service and a considerable investment.

Jorge Matute Remus, then rector of the University of Guadalajara, found a solution: to move the 1,700 ton building 12 meters and he convinced everyone with his calculations. In May 1950, the process began and took 6 months, during which time the new location of the building was adapted and the new foundations laid, the building freed from its old foundations and for more than four days, supported by mechanical jacks, it moved little by little, a few millimeters at a time.



The levers of the twelve mechanical jacks moved in unison to push the 1,700-ton Telefonica Mexicana (now Telmex) building eight tenths of a millimeter at a time.

Photo: Rafael Sánchez Alonso

The stories tell that the people who worked in the building were afraid, so Mr. Matute asked his wife and his young son to accompany them to give them confidence. During the whole time the telephone service was not interrupted.



Almost on its new position on day 4.

Photo: Rafael Sánchez Alonso

The next time you drive along Juárez Avenue, look on the corner of Donato Guerra for the statue outside the building, which commemorates the feat accomplished by this great engineer.



Photo: Secretary of Tourism Jalisco.

Source: <https://economicon.mx/2010/10/24/reubicacion-del-edificio-de-telmex-en-guadalajara-la-haza-na-del-ingeniero-jorge-matute-remus-de-1950/>

There is a fascinating development project taking place in Chiquilistlán, located about a 2-hour drive west of Ajijic. This project is the dream and the passion of Guadalajara Architect Roman López Carlos.

His vision is to operate an eco-sustainable company, giving a benefit his clients in both the medium and the long term, respecting the elements that nature itself offers while developing projects of architectural transcendence in a framework of synergy intended to transform the professional practice of architecture and teach this technique through a hands-on workshop. His mission is to raise awareness with his projects and construction about the importance of the environment and how to better care for it. Promoting eco-engineering techniques leading towards sustainable construction is his company's greatest commitment.

The general manager, Arq. Roman López Carlos, has more than 20 years experience, having major projects in both the U.S. and Mexico. In Mexico, he is a registered architect (C#459316) and holds a DRO Edificación (2021) certificate at the Jalisco level. In this question and answer session, Roman shares with us some of his thoughts.

How Did Your Interest In Sustainable Architecture Come About?

More than 10 years ago, I had the opportunity to travel to the Amazon with natives and being an architect, I was shocked to see the simplicity and respect for nature of these communities. Some time later, I encountered a construction system based on land. That's how I came to the CalEarth Institute and started my learning within sustainable architecture. Based on this experience, I like to involve customers not only in aesthetics, but also in the importance of caring for the environment, applying various types of ecotechnics to preserve and restore the balance between nature and human needs.

What Motivates You to Continue Doing Sustainable Architecture Projects?

I see more and more young people participating and getting involved with proposals for the next generations. Although many of them are not architects, they give me hope that the quality of life for anyone can be improved, regardless of their socioeconomic status. I'm starting to see more communities preparing to apply ecotechnologies like bioconstruction, self-construction, and eco-villages, among many others. If I manage to change a person's consciousness and the person in turn conveys the message, I will have achieved my goal.

What Message Do You Have for Future Generations?

Sustainable models must be applied in any construction, with environmental rules and regulations. Also architects, engineers or self-makers must be trained in the subject of renewable energies and environmentally sustainable projects. Sustainable architecture aims to raise awareness collectively to



the importance of respect for nature and its conservation, There is no turning back: climate change is already here. As our *Wixarika* ancestors would say, "We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us". For us it is important to help and we dedicate everything necessary to achieve this to each project and each client. That is why at Roman y A2 we offer the advice and procedures that are required. We care about the environment. In our sustainable architecture we execute: Super adobe technique, water capture, renewable energy, eco-technology.

As you can see in the photos that are part of this article, Roman's Dome development in Chiquilistán is certainly an exciting development to explore. If there is enough interest, we can organize a tour of this project. Please send an email to me at SB4LCS@gmail.com

Hay un fascinante proyecto de desarrollo que se está llevando a cabo en Chiquilistlán, situado a unas 2 horas en coche al oeste de Ajijic. Este proyecto es el sueño y la pasión del arquitecto de Guadalajara Román López Carlos.

Su visión es operar una empresa eco-sustentable, dando un beneficio a sus clientes tanto a mediano como a largo plazo, respetando los elementos que la misma naturaleza ofrece proyectos de trascendencia arquitectónica en un marco de sinergia que pretende transformar la práctica profesional de la arquitectura y enseñar esta técnica a través de un taller práctico. Su misión es generar conciencia con sus proyectos y construcciones sobre la importancia del medio ambiente y cómo cuidarlo mejor. Promover las técnicas de ecoingeniería que conducen a la construcción sostenible es el mayor compromiso de su empresa.

El director general, Arq. Román López Carlos, tiene más de 20 años de experiencia, con proyectos importantes tanto en Estados Unidos como en México. En México es arquitecto colegiado (C#459316) y cuenta con el certificado DRO Edificación (2021) a nivel Jalisco. En esta entrevista, Román comparte con nosotros algunas de sus reflexiones.

¿CÓMO SURGIÓ TU INTERÉS POR LA ARQUITECTURA SOSTENIBLE?

Hace más de 10 años tuve la oportunidad de viajar al Amazonas con nativos y siendo arquitecto, me impactó ver la sencillez y el respeto a la naturaleza de estas comunidades. Tiempo después me encontré con un sistema de construcción basado en la tierra. Así fue como llegué al Instituto CalEarth y comencé mi aprendizaje dentro de la arquitectura sostenible. A partir de esta experiencia, me gusta involucrar a los clientes no sólo en la estética, sino también en la importancia del cuidado del medio ambiente, aplicando diversos tipos de ecotecnias para preservar y restaurar el equilibrio entre la naturaleza y las necesidades humanas.

¿QUÉ TE MOTIVA A SEGUIR HACIENDO PROYECTOS DE ARQUITECTURA SOSTENIBLE?

Veo que cada vez más jóvenes participan y se involucran en propuestas para las próximas generaciones. Aunque muchos de ellos no son arquitectos, me dan la esperanza de que se puede mejorar la calidad de vida de cualquier persona, independientemente de su situación socioeconómica. Empiezo a ver más comunidades que se preparan para aplicar ecotecnologías como la bioconstrucción, la autoconstrucción y las ecoaldeas, entre muchas otras. Si consigo cambiar la conciencia de una persona y ésta a su vez transmite el mensaje, habré conseguido mi objetivo.

¿QUÉ MENSAJE TIENES PARA LAS GENERACIONES FUTURAS?

Hay que aplicar modelos sostenibles en cualquier construcción, con normas y reglamentos medioambientales. También los arquitectos, ingenieros o autoconstructores deben formarse en el tema de las energías renovables y los proyectos ambientalmente



sostenibles. La arquitectura sostenible pretende concienciar colectivamente de la importancia del respeto a la naturaleza y su conservación, No hay vuelta atrás: el cambio climático ya está aquí. Como dirían nuestros antepasados wixarika: “Somos parte de la tierra y la tierra es parte de nosotros”. Para nosotros es importante ayudar y dedicamos todo lo necesario para conseguirlo en cada proyecto y con cada cliente. Por eso en Román y A2 ofrecemos el asesoramiento y los trámites que se requieran. Nos preocupamos por el medio ambiente. En nuestra arquitectura sostenible ejecutamos: Técnica de super adobe, captación de agua, energías renovables, ecotecnología.

Como se puede ver en las fotos que forman parte de este artículo, el desarrollo de Román's Dome en Chiquilistán es sin duda un desarrollo emocionante para explorar. Si hay suficiente interés, podemos organizar una visita a este proyecto. Por favor, envíenme un correo electrónico a SB4LCS@gmail.com

The beauty of a Mexican traditional home begins with the façade. Usually the house is an L or U shape, designed around patios delineated by arcades, columns or pillars. Tile roofs are normally flat and may include parapets or *cantera* stone trims. In cities like San Miguel de Allende, the houses are located behind fortress-style walls, but here at Lakeside, they are often visible from the cobblestone streets, adding to curb appeal.

Central courtyards are popular along with outdoor living rooms. Especially in summer, these make perfect spots to sip *margaritas* and enjoy the views. *Portales* need to be supported by columns, pillars or posts, which can be made of brick, wood, concrete, *cantera* stone or a combination and may be simple or ornately carved. Gardens, swimming pools and fountains are all features of many homes as well.

Mexican cedar, *rosa morado* and *parota*, which is nearly termite proof, are local woods used for exteriors and interiors. Doorways are thought to signal the owner's hospitality. My own home came equipped with several carved doors from Michoacán decorated with flowers, the sun and moon, and seashells that add to the house's charm.

I contacted local architectural designer Gene Fortun for his thoughts on what typifies a Mexican home. Gene arrived at Lakeside 26 years ago with a wealth of architectural experience, but none in designing Mexican houses specifically. Since then, he has designed so many he can't remember them all, and attributes his success to the good luck of meeting Maestro Leopoldo Vázquez when he first arrived.

"He was a wonderful man; I followed him around for months and watched what he did very closely." Today, Polo has passed away, but Gene still works with his son, architect Mauricio, whom he describes as another very talented individual.

Gene believes the significant elements of a Mexican home are *cantera* stonework, ironwork, tiles and arches. *Cantera* is a quarry stone that comes in a variety of colors and is used for trim, fountains, garden pots, exterior stair railings and statuary. The nearest town where it's quarried and carved is Degollado about a 2½-hour drive away.

"When you drive into that town, all you hear is the tapping of hammers and chisels," he says. Jesús Fuente is Gene's preferred *maestro* in stone.

Gene says the thing to remember is that for these artists and their men nothing is impossible. He laughed at the memory of ordering four giant heavy stone planters for an Ajijic customer and wondering how Jesús' men would ever transport and deliver them. "They arrived with a pick-up truck, some planks, and a bag of *nopal*. They greased the planks with the *nopal* and slid the planters onto the truck. No problem."

He spoke of how fortunate we are to have such a wealth of talent here at Lakeside to work on our home projects, in particular David Vázquez from Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos for carpentry and cabinetmaking and Alfredo Márquez in Ajijic for his ironwork. "I don't even need to make a drawing for Alfredo anymore . . . I just make patterns in the air and he knows what to do."

Gene explained that how "Mexican" a home looks depends on the client. "Today,

most Mexican clients want contemporary homes, while expats are more inclined to prefer the traditional features." He said today's lines are "clean" and straight", and the preferred color is grey, but "this will change like it always does."

"There is no shortage of skilled architects' craftsmen. Choosing them is a matter of recommendation, recommendation, and recommendation. How the crew works is crucial. Are they efficient and productive? Do they arrive on time?"

There is a lot of construction going on at Lakeside at the moment. The COVID pandemic hasn't seemed to have a negative impact at all. Our little *pueblita* is disappearing, and the infrastructure is "saturated." Not only that, the costs of materials is rising rapidly. For example, a piece of steel for a door has gone up 100% over the last year.

If, like me, you have fallen in love with Mexican domestic architecture and the materials used, it is tempting to build a new home, but perhaps renovating an existing house is a better idea. Either way, you have a wealth of talent and materials right here at your doorstep.



La belleza de una casa tradicional mexicana comienza con la fachada. Normalmente la casa tiene forma de L o de U, diseñada en torno a patios delineados por arcadas, columnas o pilares. Los tejados son normalmente planos y pueden incluir parapetos o remates de cantera. En ciudades como San Miguel, las casas se sitúan detrás de muros de estilo fortaleza, pero aquí en la Rivera de Chapala, suelen ser visibles desde las calles adoquinadas, lo que añade atractivo a la acera.

Los patios centrales son muy populares, junto con las salas de estar al aire libre. Especialmente en verano, son lugares perfectos para tomar margaritas y disfrutar de las vistas. Los portales deben estar sostenidos por columnas, pilares o postes, que pueden ser de ladrillo, madera, hormigón, piedra de cantera o una combinación, y pueden ser sencillos o estar tallados. Los jardines, las piscinas y las fuentes también son características de muchas casas.

El cedro mexicano, la rosa morada y la parota, casi a prueba de termitas, son maderas locales que se utilizan para los exteriores e interiores. Se cree que las puertas señalan la hospitalidad del propietario. Mi propia casa venía equipada con varias puertas talladas de Michoacán, decoradas con flores, el sol y la luna, y conchas marinas, que añaden encanto a la casa.

Me puse en contacto con la diseñadora arquitectónica local Gene Fortun para que me diera su opinión sobre lo que caracteriza a una casa mexicana. Gene llegó a la zona hace veintiséis años con una gran experiencia arquitectónica, pero ninguna en el diseño de casas mexicanas específicamente. Desde entonces ha diseñado tantas que no puede recordarlas todas, y atribuye su éxito a la buena suerte de conocer al maestro Leopoldo Vázquez cuando llegó.

“Era un hombre maravilloso; lo seguí durante meses y observé muy de cerca lo que hacía”. Hoy en día, Polo ha fallecido, pero Gene sigue trabajando con su hijo, el arquitecto Mauricio, al que describe como otro individuo de gran talento.

Gene cree que los elementos significativos de una casa mexicana son la cantera, la herrería, los azulejos y los arcos. La cantera es una piedra que viene en una variedad de colores y se utiliza para adornos, fuentes, macetas de jardín, barandillas de escaleras exteriores y estatuas. El pueblo más cercano donde se extrae y talla es Degollado, a unas dos horas y media

en coche. “Cuando llegas a ese pueblo, lo único que oyes es el golpeteo de martillos y cinceles”, dice. Jesús Fuente es el maestro en piedra preferido de Gene.

Gene dice que lo que hay que recordar es que para estos artistas y sus hombres nada es imposible. Se ríe al recordar que encargó cuatro gigantescas y pesadas jardineras de piedra para un cliente de Ajijic y se preguntó cómo los hombres de Jesús podrían transportarlas y entregarlas. “Llegaron con una

camioneta, unos tablones y una bolsa de nopal. Engrasaron los tablones con el nopal y deslizaron las jardineras en el camión. Sin problemas”.

Habló de lo afortunados que somos de tener tal riqueza de talento aquí en la Rivera de Chapala para trabajar en nuestros proyectos de casa, en particular David Vázquez de Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos para la carpintería y ebanistería y Alfredo Márquez en Ajijic para su trabajo de hierro. “Ya ni siquiera necesito hacer un dibujo para Alfredo... sólo hago patrones en el aire y él sabe qué hacer”.

Gene explicó que el aspecto “mexicano” de una casa depende del cliente. “Hoy en

día la mayoría de los clientes mexicanos quieren casas contemporáneas, mientras que los extranjeros se inclinan más por las características tradicionales”. Dijo que las líneas actuales son “limpias” y rectas”, y el color preferido es el gris, pero “esto cambiará como siempre”.

“No hay escasez de arquitectos artesanos cualificados. Elegirlos es cuestión de recomendación, recomendación y recomendación. La forma de trabajar del equipo es crucial. ¿Son eficientes y productivos? ¿Llegan a tiempo?”.

En estos momentos hay muchas obras en marcha en la zona. La pandemia de COVID no parece haber tenido un impacto negativo en absoluto. Nuestro pequeño pueblito está desapareciendo, y la infraestructura está “saturada”. No sólo eso, los costos de los materiales están aumentando rápidamente. Por ejemplo, una pieza de acero para una puerta ha subido un 100% en el último año.

Si, como yo, te has enamorado de la arquitectura doméstica mexicana y de los materiales utilizados, es tentador construir una nueva casa, pero quizás renovar una casa existente sea una mejor idea. En cualquier caso, hay una gran cantidad de talento y materiales a tu alcance.



Dazzling City of Cantera

By Turismo Zacatecas

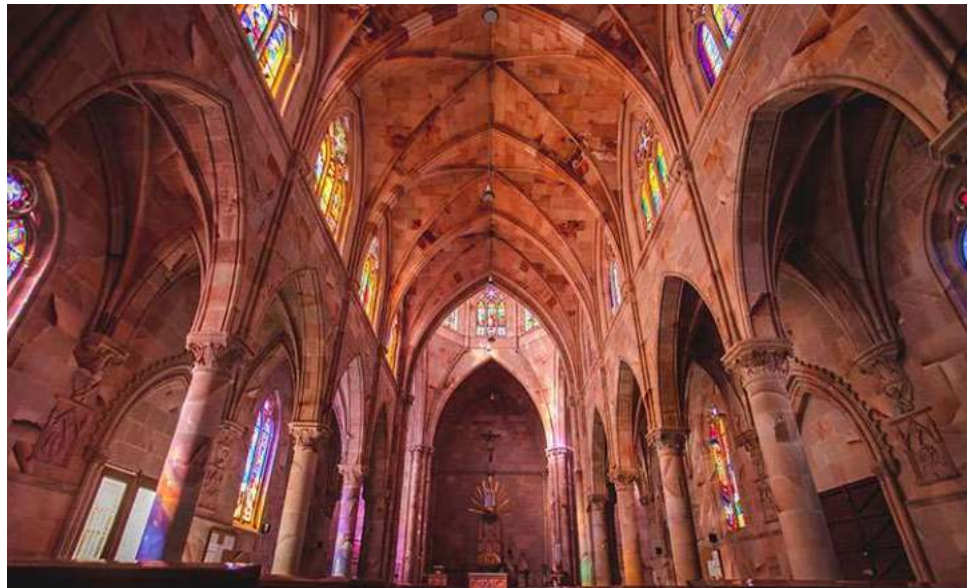
Zacatecas is a state in central Mexico that was named American Capital of Culture in 2021. Its main city, also called Zacatecas, has become one of the most important colonial attractions. This was decided by travelers when they declared it “The Best Colonial / Cultural City of Mexico” for three consecutive years: 2018, 2019 and 2020. In addition, its Historic Downtown has been declared a World Cultural Heritage Site since 1996.

You may wonder what makes this small city so special. Each of the buildings that make up its downtown were built with an extraordinary and unique material: pink *cantera*, a quarried stone in which diverse architectural styles were forged, ranging from colonial, to Gothic, to Parisian. The houses, small squares, alleys, churches and other constructions have this peculiar color, as well as incredible carvings that were created by the stonemasons of this land.

The *cantera*, raw material for the overflowing ornamentation of the baroque and also for the balanced forms of the neoclassical, is the noble stone of which the Zacatecas Cathedral Basilica, recognized as the “Best Cathedral of Mexico” in 2019, is made, as are many of its museums, such as the *Pedro Coronel*, where you will find: a Dalí, a Chagall, a Kandinsky, 15 Picassos, 48 Mirós, 59 Goyas and an original sketch by Caravaggio; its beautiful squares, such as the *Miguel Auza* or the *Moral*; its aqueduct, centennial witness of the development of the people of Zacatecas; its public monuments, its fountains, its gardens.

But there is something more. All that quarried stone multiplies its beauty thanks to the spectacular scenic illumination of each of the buildings. Touring the historic downtown at night becomes an unforgettable experience. The *cantera*, also present in the main municipalities of the state, has been, is, and will be, one more reason that makes Zacatecas Dazzling!

Iglesia de Fátima, Zacatecas



Interior Iglesia de Fátima, Zacatecas

Museo Rafael Coronel,
Zacatecas



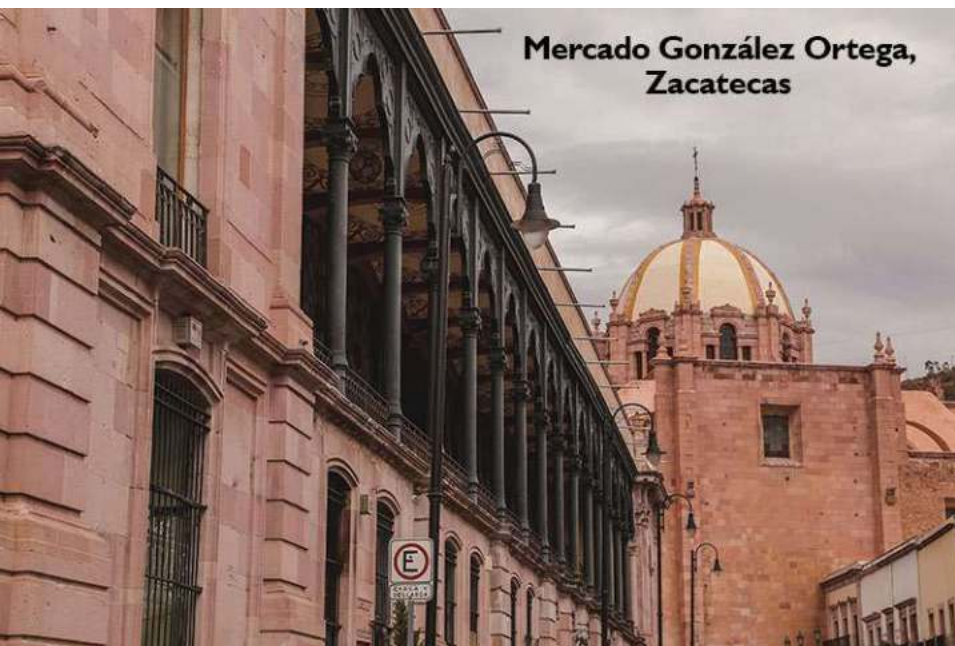
La ciudad de cantera en Zacatecas ¡Deslumbrante!

**Por
Turismo
Zacatecas**

Mercado González Ortega, Zacatecas



Mercado González Ortega,
Zacatecas



Museo Rafael Coronel, Zacatecas

Zacatecas es un estado del centro de México que fue nombrado Capital Americana de la Cultura en este año 2021. Su ciudad principal, llamada también Zacatecas, se ha convertido en uno de los atractivos coloniales más importantes. Así lo decidieron los viajeros al declararla «La Mejor Ciudad Colonial / Cultural de México» por tres años consecutivos: 2018, 2019 y 2020. Además, su Centro Histórico fue declarado Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad desde 1996.

Te preguntarás qué es lo que hace tan especial a esta pequeña ciudad. Cada uno de los edificios que integran su Centro fueron construidos con un material extraordinario y único: la cantera rosa, piedra en la que se forjaron estilos arquitectónicos diversos que van desde lo colonial, pasando por lo gótico, hasta lo parisino. Las casas, las plazuelas, los callejones, las iglesias y más construcciones tienen ese peculiar color, además de increíbles labrados que fueron creados por los canteros de esa tierra.

La cantera, materia prima para la ornamentación desbordada del barroco y también para las equilibradas formas del neoclásico, es la noble piedra de la que está hecha su Catedral Basílica, reconocida como la «Mejor Catedral de México» en el año 2019; sus numerosos museos, como el Pedro Coronel, donde encontrarás: un Dalí, un Chagall, un Kandinsky, 15 Picassos, 48 Mirós, 59 Goyas y un boceto original de Caravaggio; sus preciosas plazas, como la Miguel Auza o la del Moral; su acueducto, testigo centenario del desarrollo de los zacatecanos; sus monumentos públicos, sus fuentes, sus jardines.

Pero hay algo más. Toda esa cantera multiplica su belleza gracias a la espectacular iluminación escénica de cada uno de los edificios. Recorrer el Centro Histórico por la noche se convierte en una experiencia inolvidable. La cantera, presente también en los principales municipios del estado, ha sido, es y será, una razón más que hace a Zacatecas ¡Deslumbrante!

Equipales

By *Montserrat Sandoval*

It is said that Moctezuma, the last Aztec ruler, ordered a special chair to be made for him and it was called icpalli seat for the gods. The word equipal comes from that Náhuatl word icpalli meaning asentadero or seat.

Equipales are still hand-manufactured in Mexico today, however, in Zacoalco de Torres, south of Guadalajara, the tradition dates back to Pre-Hispanic times. By the shallow shores of Lake Atotonilco, families have manufactured equipales since legend says that Hueman, the Aztec shaman, taught the 'equipalera' technique of the Gods to the early settlers. Today, equipales are a link to Mexico's mythical past.

Zacoalco has more than 300 families manufacturing equipales — it's a factory town without a factory! Rather, workshops are located on the main approach to town, with the majority being located in the "Barrio de Las Cebollas", the Onion Quarter, across the railroad tracks.

The process of building equipales is not only a matter of carpentry; more exactly, it is truly a form of art. That's why equipales are so unique in design, structure, durability, comfort, and aesthetics and are sought after all over the world.

The wood palo dulce is used for the bottom and for the frame of the equipal, and the crosspieces are made of posa honeycomb, a wood with a beautiful grain. The manufacture of the furniture requires a special skill, since all the wooden elements are carved with a curved machete or cazanga.

Traditionally the frame of the equipal is joined with ixtle, a type of vegetal fiber removed from the maguey cactus. The seat is also tied with this fiber. Reeds and leather are attached to the maguey fiber. Usually pigskin is the favored leather because it is porous, allowing air to circulate — an equipal made from leather can last 20 years or more.

These techniques have been passed on for centuries to present-day artisans without minimizing the original tradition of quality and craftsmanship.

Some of the larger producers have their own looms for weaving the colorful fabrics associated with this rustic furniture, handmade from tree bark, branches, leather and woven palm. The artisans know the choice seasons to cut the wood — they say that it is better to cut the wood during a full moon when the sap is in the plant so the wood lasts longer. If it is cut in the new moon, polilla or moths can cause damage.

I found an article on Alicia Rodríguez, a coordinator of Mexico's Municipal Museums, who believes traditions such as the equipal are part of the cultural identity of Mexico. The idea behind the Municipal Museums is to display all things or objects that give a distinctive identity to Mexico. Several years ago she coordinated an exhibition of traditional equipales in Guadalajara to gain support to protect the collections, "They are collections that, if we do not protect them right now who knows what it is going to happen. The problem with

globalization is that traditions can disappear."

R a m ó n Hernández Moreno of Corporación Equipales in Zacoalco tells me: "Our ancestors used the rose honeycomb wood, which has a very peculiar color of brownish-gray pink called perducoco. This is the same wood we still use today and they harvested during the full moon as did their ancestors.

My grandparents used the long-lasting sweet wood or guásima (cedar) for the cross-pieces and taciste (type of reed) for the seats, which was traditional. Before putting the petate (woven reeds or carrizo) on the chair, we weave some pulque mezcal fibers into the seat to give it strength. Today, that part of the process is completed by others and brought to Zacoalco.

The demand for the equipal was growing and my grandparents decided to form a cooperative: some were dedicated to collecting the rose wood, others the pillars, others brought the taciste, others the carrizo, and others brought the mezcal fibers. There were members of the coop that made the frame, teenagers made the leather straps and then it went to the painters and finishers. A totally cooperative effort."

Ramón started Corporación Equipales years ago. They were invited to Feria Maestros del Arte in 2007 when I met Ramón on the street and we started talking about his equipales. In 2019, he told me that if the Feria wanted to invite someone else, they didn't need assistance any longer — their business was now well established. The coop method of business has changed the livelihood of many Zacoalco families because every member of the cooperative earns a living wage."

The equipal furniture requires little maintenance. Take a day-trip and visit the Zacoalco workshops. Equipales are also sold in furniture stores countrywide and available over the internet. Wherever you live, you, too, can sit like Moctezuma, comfortable upon your equipal.



Equipales

Por Montserrat Sandoval

Se dice que Moctezuma, el último gobernante azteca, mandó a hacer una silla especial para él y se llamó *icpalli* asiento para los dioses. La palabra equipal proviene de la palabra náhuatl *icpalli* que significa asentadero o asiento.

Los equipales se siguen fabricando a mano en México, sin embargo, en Zacoalco de Torres, al sur de Guadalajara, la tradición se remonta a la época prehispánica. A orillas del lago de Atotonilco, las familias han fabricado equipales desde que la leyenda dice que Hueman, el chamán azteca, enseñó la técnica equipalera de los dioses a los primeros pobladores. Hoy, los equipales son un vínculo con el pasado mítico de México.

En Zacoalco hay más de 300 familias que fabrican equipales: ¡es una ciudad fabril sin fábrica! Más bien, los talleres se sitúan en el acceso principal a la ciudad, y la mayoría se encuentra en el “Barrio de Las Cebollas”, al otro lado de las vías del tren.

El proceso de construcción de equipales no es sólo una cuestión de carpintería; más exactamente, es una verdadera forma de arte. Por eso los equipales son tan singulares en cuanto a diseño, estructura, durabilidad, comodidad y estética, y son buscados en todo el mundo.

La madera de palo dulce se utiliza para la parte inferior y para el marco del equipal, y los travesaños son de panal de posa, una madera con una hermosa veta. La fabricación del mueble requiere una habilidad especial, ya que todos los elementos de madera se tallan con un machete curvo o cazanga.

Tradicionalmente el armazón del equipal se une con *ixtle*, un tipo de fibra vegetal que se extrae del cactus maguey. El asiento también se ata con esta fibra. A la fibra de maguey se unen juncos y cuero. Por lo general, la piel de cerdo es la preferida porque es porosa, lo que permite que el aire circule; un equipal hecho de piel puede durar 20 años o más.

Estas técnicas se han transmitido durante siglos a los artesanos actuales sin minimizar la tradición original de calidad y artesanía.

Algunos de los mayores productores tienen sus propios telares para tejer las coloridas telas asociadas a este mobiliario rústico, hechas a mano con corteza de árbol, ramas, cuero y palma tejida. Los artesanos conocen las temporadas para cortar la madera: dicen que es mejor durante la luna llena, cuando la savia está en la planta, para que la madera dure más. Si se corta en luna nueva, la polilla o las polillas pueden causar daños.

Encontré un artículo sobre Alicia Rodríguez, coordinadora de los Museos Municipales de México, que considera que tradiciones como el equipal forman parte de la identidad cultural de México. La idea de los Museos Municipales es exhibir todas las cosas u objetos que dan una identidad distintiva a México. Hace varios años coordinó una exposición de equi-



pales tradicionales en Guadalajara para conseguir apoyo para proteger las colecciones, “son colecciones que, si no las protegemos ahora mismo quién sabe qué va a pasar. El problema de la globalización es que las tradiciones pueden desaparecer”.

Ramón Hernández Moreno, de la Corporación Equipales de Zacoalco, me dice: “Nuestros antepasados utilizaban la madera de panal de rosa, que tiene un color muy peculiar de rosa pardo-grisáceo llamado *perdusco*. Es la misma madera que seguimos utilizando hoy en día y la cosechaban durante la luna llena, como hacían sus antepasados.

Mis abuelos utilizaban la duradera madera dulce o *guásima* (cedro) para los travesaños y el *taciste* (tipo de caña) para los asientos, que era lo tradicional. Antes de poner el *petate* (carrizo o caña tejida) en la silla, tejíamos algunas fibras de *mezcal* de pulque en el asiento para darle fuerza. Hoy en día, esa parte del proceso la completan otros y la traen a Zacoalco.

La demanda del equipal fue creciendo y mis abuelos decidieron formar una cooperativa: unos se dedicaban a recoger el palo de rosa, otros los pilares, otros traían el *taciste*, otros el carrizo y otros las fibras de *mezcal*. Había miembros de la cooperativa que hacían el marco, los adolescentes hacían las correas de cuero y luego iba a los pintores y a los acabados. Un trabajo totalmente cooperativo”.

Ramón puso en marcha Corporación Equipales hace años. Fueron invitados a la Feria Maestros del Arte en 2007, cuando conocí a Ramón en la calle y empezamos a hablar de sus equipales. En 2019, me dijo que la Feria podía invitar a alguien más, ellos ya no necesitaban ayuda, su negocio estaba ya bien establecido. La cooperativa ha cambiado la forma de vida de muchas familias de Zacoalco porque cada miembro gana un salario digno.”

El mobiliario equipal requiere poco mantenimiento. Haz una excursión de un día y visita los talleres de Zacoalco. Los equipales también se venden en tiendas de muebles de todo el país y están disponibles en Internet. Vivas donde vivas, tú también puedes sentarte como Moctezuma, cómodamente sobre tu equipal.

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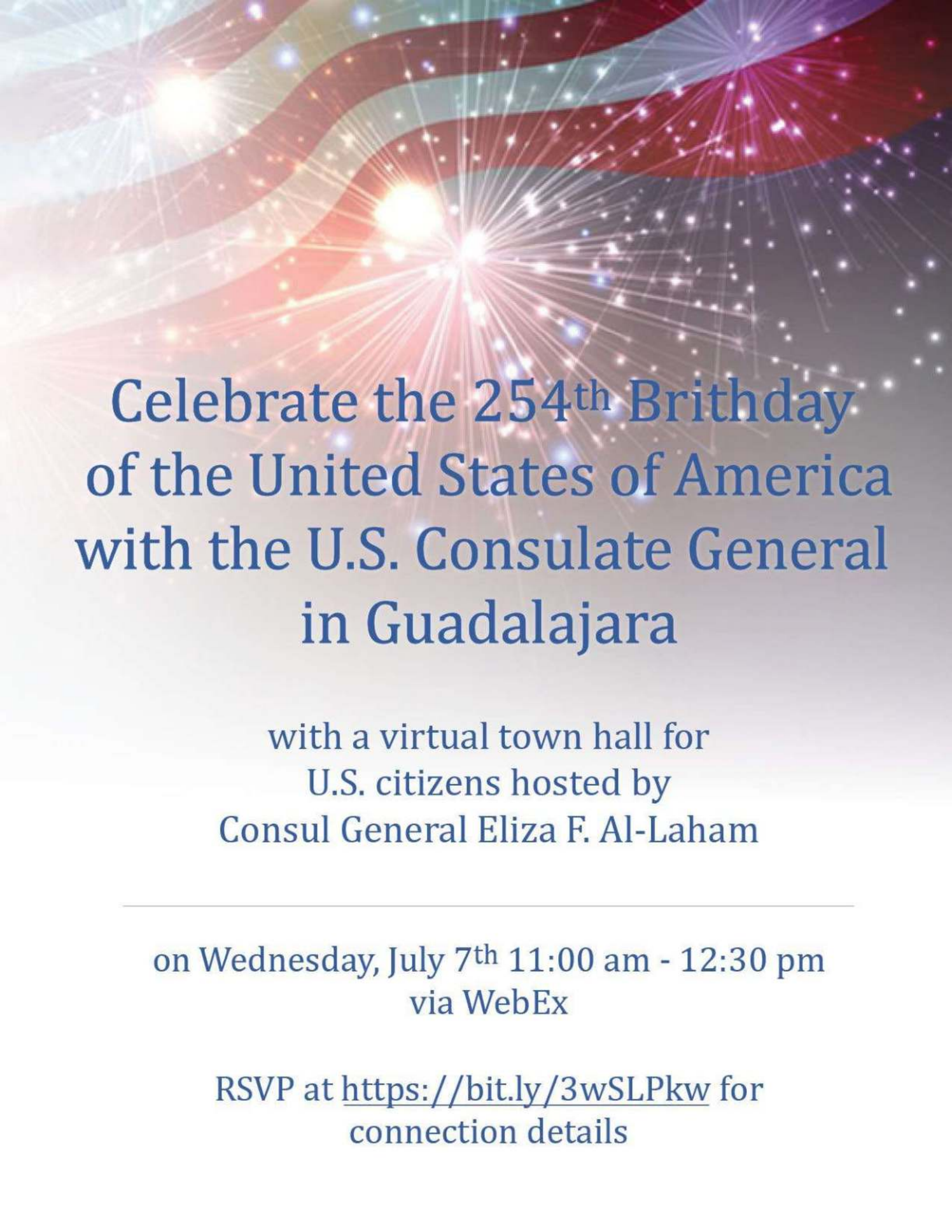
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