

RESEARCH REPORT

From early March to the end of May, 2022, I traveled to Mexico City to conduct preliminary fieldwork for my dissertation project titled *Landscapes of Domestic Labor: An Architectural History of Asymmetric Relations in Mexico City* thanks to the funds provided by the Center of Latin American Studies through the Tinker Field Research Grant. During this time, I was able to develop relationships with activists and researchers as well as become familiar with certain domestic workers' organizations such as Centro de Apoyo y Capacitación para Empleadas del Hogar (CACEH). However, I dedicated most of my time to visiting different archives such as the Archivo General de la Nación, the Archivo Histórico de la Ciudad de México, and most importantly, the Archivo de Arquitectos Mexicanos at UNAM, which contains the most extensive collection of documents related to 24 outstanding Mexican architects from the twentieth century.

At UNAM's Archivo de Arquitectos Mexicanos, I was able to explore the catalog of modernist architects such as Augusto Pérez Palacios, Enrique de la Mora y Palomar, Mario Pani, Enrique Yáñez de la Fuente, Ramón Torres Martín, José Villagrán García, Augusto H. Álvarez, and Francisco Serrano. By looking at hundreds of architectural floorplans, cross-sections, elevations, handwritten notes, sketches, and photographs I was able to find sufficient evidence of the relationship between architectural design and domestic labor. Key architectural components such as the so-called *cuartos de criadas* and other spatial characteristics that demonstrate the normalcy of discriminatory practices in residential architectural design were overwhelmingly present. Thus, my visits to this archive were crucial to assessing the relevance of such documents and creating a broader frame of the potential material that will become part of my dissertation. More specifically, the information collected will help me select the most relevant case studies of modernist domestic architecture and Mexico City neighborhoods that will give shape to my dissertation. Additionally, this archive guided me into relevant literature, magazines, and publications about residential architecture and urban development in Mexico City that were unknown to me, as well as into other collections such as the personal archives of architect Francisco Artigas and architect Max Cetto at UAM, or the Hemeroteca Nacional at UNAM, all of which I plan to explore in the next phase of my research.

Throughout these months, I was also able to develop relationships with architects, researchers, and activists with similar research projects, advocating for domestic workers' interests, and making visible the value of reproductive work. For example, I was able to reconnect with

Mexican architect Frida Escobedo, whose published work documents the relationship between domestic architecture and domestic work in Mexico City. This Spring semester, I was able to contribute to her class “Extended Domesticity, Spatial Divisions of Gender in the Post COVID World,” which she taught at the Yale School of Architecture. Another key facilitator during my time in Mexico City was the writer and domestic labor activist Mauricio Patrón. His familiarity with the subject and domestic labor activists helped me approach one of the most important leaders of the domestic workers’ movement and the president of the non-profit organization Centro de Apoyo y Capacitación para Empleadas del Hogar (CACEH), Marcelina Bautista. Together, Marcelina, Mauricio, and I are now planning to collaborate on a workshop for architects that will help create awareness of how architectural design affects the lives and work of domestic employees. This workshop is aimed to take place in the next phase of my research, in which I plan to explore domestic workers’ concerns, everyday activities, working relations, histories, and experiences of space and spatial relations.

Without the help of the Tinker Field Research Grant, however, I could not have achieved these preliminary research goals. Because I have already been able to establish key relationships, explored the archives, learned about the relevance and location of key information, and developed a method to collect and process information, I will be capable to work more efficiently during the next phases of my fieldwork and my efforts will be directed towards more concrete research goals.