

Fortino Acosta

Designing Resilient Futures

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering, University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Thesis advisors: Drs. Steffen Lehmann and Sajjad Ahmad.

Interdisciplinary research: A landscape approach for a water-energy-food nexus decision-making process.

M.A. Landscape Architecture (with merit)

The University of Sheffield, Yorkshire, United Kingdom

B.S. Industrial Engineering (with honor)

Universidad Iberoamericana Santa Fe, Mexico

Study Abroad | Instituto Químico de Sarriá Barcelona, Spain

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fortino Acosta & Partners | Design and consulting services (U.S.A. 2018- present)

Landscape design, project management, and budget planning. Projects up to 17 million dollars.

- Ferromex linear park. Naturalistic agave prairie. Guadalajara, Jalisco. First naturalistic design using an industrial site can be transformed into an asset for a community.
- Islas Marías Botanical Garden' design. Coastal and dry forest gardens promoting Mexican insular biodiversity.
- Advise the city of Guayaquil on implementing green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and heat island cooling strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment consultant for coastal infrastructure.
- Advisory board member for Queretaro for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation, New Urban Agenda Q500.
- Provide communication support for implementing the Invasive Species National Strategy in Mexico.

Reforestamos | Green Cities Coordinator (Mexico City, 2017)

- I coordinated a national urban green space strategy based on the SDGs, the IUCN Nature Based Solutions program, and the national biodiversity strategy.

Nosotros Tierra | Founder and CEO, Environmental Planning and Landscape Design Studio (Mexico & Canada, 2010-2017)

- Luis Barragán's Strategic Plan 2035 for Colonia Jardines del Pedregal protects the cultural and environmental heritage of the neighborhood.
- Basins management in Mexico and South America diversifying land uses.

- Urban regeneration and parks for existing and new neighborhoods.
- Sustainable landscape guidelines for residential, commercial, and hospitality projects protecting existing relevant vegetation patches in tropical forests.
- Artificial wetlands, stormwater pond parks, sustainable urban drainage systems projects.

Ashoka International | Assessment Consultant (Mexico, 2011)

- I evaluated the sustainability criteria of 56 community projects across Mexico.

Oaxaca State Institute of Ecology / World Wild Fund | Natural Protected Areas analyst (Mexico, 2008)

- I collaborated on the first management program published for a state natural protected area.
- Environmental Consultant for the Atoyac River conservation project.

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Vermont | College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (U.S.A., 2023- Present)

- CDAE 1010, 3D Modelling, Lecturer.
- PSS 2371, Landscape Design Studio, Lecturer.

Escola Britânica de Artes Criativas e Tecnologia (EBAC) (Online, 2021-Present).

Pre-recorded lessons related to naturalistic landscape design. Over 1500 students registered in the last year.

UNLV School of Architecture (U.S.A., 2020-2022)

- AAE 482 Architectural Design Studio IV, Associate Professor.
- AAD 401 Global Design Studio Mexico, City Associate Professor.
- AAE 660 Issues and Solutions for Cities, Teaching Assistant.
- AAE 770 Environmental Research Methods, Teaching Assistant.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture – IICA (2014-2017)

- Regional planning course for sustainable tourism in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Mexico

PERSONAL INITIATIVES

- La Realidad México, Digital democracy, and circular economy | Co-Founder (2018-present)
The first platform for a country intertwining digital democracy and circular economy assessment.
- PlantID, Native plant searcher | Founder (2015-present)
The first platform to promote native plant species propagation in collaboration with the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity.

VOLUNTEERING

- Fundación La Iguana, Ecuador (Honorific member) (Ecuador, 2018- present)
- UNLV Sustainability Student Council, Graduate Representative (U.S.A., 2018-2021)
Solve Climate by 2030, Bard Power Dialogues Nevada chapter, Coordinator.
- CRUNCH Food-Energy-Water Nexus project with the participation of another six universities and funded by the European Union, Collaborator (2018-2021)
- Wetlands Parks Initiative, Designing wetlands for cities (2017).
ASiS International Essay Writing Competition leader judge organized by Wetlands International, Sains Alam Shah School, and the Ministry of Education in Malaysia.
- PaisajeMx, First Mexican Digital Landscape Magazine, Member of the Editorial Board and journalist (2011-2014).

PUBLICATIONS

- Acosta, F. (2022). Linking Nevada to Doughnut Economics. Sustainability Journal, 14(22), 15294; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142215294>
- Acosta, F. & Haroon, S. (2021). Memorial Parking Trees: Resilient Modular Design with Nature-Based Solutions in Vulnerable Urban Areas. Land Journal, 10(3), 298. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10030298>
- Landscape Design for Biodiverse Cities, FONCA (Coauthor, 2021).
- The Waters of Orion (2018), Children's book (Author).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- First place winner in Chapultepec's Ethnobotanical Garden International Competition (2021).
- First place winner for Parking Trees in 10 Urban Proposals National Competition (2018).
- Second place for Parque Ciudadano in Monterrey (2017).
- First place winner for Hydro-urban Interventions in Iztapalapa Perennial Pilgrimage Park (2014).
- National Fund for Cultures and Arts scholarship (FONCA) (2008-2009).

HARD SKILLS

- Microsoft Office suite, Adobe Creative suite, SketchUp, Stella Architects, AutoCAD, VectorWorks, ArcGIS, QGIS. Languages: English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

SOFT SKILLS

- Analytical and creative thinking, data management, problem-solving, environmental planning, project manager, and proactive.