

APT LATIN AMERICA CHAPTER

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Biography



Danae Peguero Bueno is a preservation architect with ten years of experience working on architectural and urban projects for the regeneration of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, a World Heritage Site in the Dominican Republic, as a Heritage Specialist in a Project Management firm that oversees rehabilitation properties plans for the first-generation colonial houses in Santo Domingo.

TEMPORARY USE

A Conservation Strategy for Historic Buildings in Vacancy In the Colonial City of Santo Domingo The Dominican Republic

A Dissertation submitted for MSc in Architectural Conservation, The University of Edinburgh



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The Colonial City of Santo Domingo was the place where the European colonization of the Americas began over 500 years ago. The City grew beyond its own walls and people migrated along with it. Hence, the old city center ceased to be a desirable living place. Although now becoming as a vibrant locality, 22.8% of its historic buildings remain uninhabited.

An empty building constitutes an open invitation to the detriment of the character of the built fabric. Vacancy is the first step for a building toward its decay; therefore, the best way to protect a building is to keep it occupied. However, when permanent solutions for safeguarding the historic fabric are not immediately viable, the role of conservation should shift from dogmatic practices to embrace initiatives that can spark innovative thoughts.

She is currently a Ph.D. student in Media, Culture and Heritage at Newcastle University. Her Ph.D. research, funded by the Newcastle University Overseas Research Award, focuses on how the social value attached to the built heritage is transformed by contemporary conservation projects, through the analysis of the participatory discourse in social media. Danae holds a degree in Architecture, summa cum laude, from the National University Pedro Henríquez Ureña and an MSc in Architectural Conservation with merit from The University of Edinburgh, funded by the British Chevening scholarship. Danae is a UNESCO -MASHAV fellow (2017) and member of the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT).

Academic and Professional Activities





Fig 01. Collage of Empty Buildings in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo

This study propose the concept of temporary use as a potential conservation tool to safeguard the built heritage placed at risk for an extended vacancy period. When no budget or a formal conservation program exists, but there is a demand for free and affordable spaces, temporary uses come to be the more viable solution.

A platform for temporary uses of vacant buildings within the Colonial City of Santo Domingo is proposed as a result of this investigation. The platform selects and compiles a list of the vacant properties in the World Heritage Site and subsequently, it establishes specific management plans, through which it offers advice on many aspects of temporary use. Through this conservation scheme, a longstanding and fruitful connection between all the parties involved, and primarily between the community and their historic site, will be established. And most importantly, the historic buildings will be reinserted both into the urban fabric and in the memory of the community.



