1st. FORUM OF TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE AND CONFORMATION OF THE TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE-WORKING GROUP

REPORT

March 8 and 9, 2018 Organization of the 1st Forum of Temporary Architecture in America of the IIWC and Formation of the Working Group of Temporary Architecture in the city of Merida, Yucatan.

Organizers

The forum, the technical visit and the constitution of the Temporary Architecture Working Group were organized by the ICOMOS International Wood Committee IIWC represented by Marìa de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez IIWC-Vicepresident for America and Graciela Aurora Mota Botello ICOMOS-Mexico NatCom president, Autonomous University of Yucatán UADY represented by Dr. Aurelio Suárez Sánchez, National Institute of Anthropology and History INAH, represented by Yucatan INAH Center.

Hosts

The Autonomous University of Yucatan UADY, represented by the Faculty of Architecture and the Coordination of the Social Sciences Unit, ICOMOS Mexico Wood Scientific Committee and the National Institute of Anthropology and History – INAH represented by the Yucatan INAH-Center

Participants

Doug Evans. ICOMOS-IWC Vice-President for Europe

María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez. ICOMOS-IWC Vice-President for America

INAH-Researcher

Graciela Aurora Mota Botello. President of ICOMOS México

Aurelio Suárez Sánchez. Coordinator of the Social Sciences Unit of the CIR “Hideyo Noguchi”- Active member of the ICOMOS -IIWC.

Josefina Campos Gutiérrez. Vice-President of the South Region of ICOMOS MEXICO

Arch. Alfredo José Alonzo Aguilar M.C., Director of the Faculty of Architecture of the Autonomous University of Yucatan UADY.

Arch. Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado. Member of ICOMOS México
The activities began on March 8 with a tour, and technical visit to the locations of Yucatan where temporary vernacular wooden architecture, "tablados" are tied and build in the months of March and April, it is to be noted that around 170 tablados are built in the state of Yucatan throughout the year. The county of Izamal, in the town of Cuauthemoc and Kimbila were visited, where we found two tablados one built and in use, and the other in process of construction.

PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, PhD. Aurelio Suárez Sánchez and the Arch. Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado took part in this visit.

The tablados of Yucatan are wooden temporary constructions of roundwood, planks, and guano. Tablados are wooden architectural constructions that are round bullrings with around 70 meters of diameter, and they can be up to 6 meters high. They are built in sections called "palcos" that have a triangular section form. The tablados are built by people from the community called palqueros, who know the traditional constructive system that represents an ancestral knowledge that has been transmitted from generation to generation for over 150 years. These tablados of Yucatan are used to carry out many

---

**Fig.1** Inside of the Tablados in Cuanthemoc town in Yucatán, in the picture Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado taking notes and children playing in the ground of the tablados. Picture María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martinez. 8/03/2018
social and cultural activities, such as bullfights, concerts, weddings, baptisms and they can keep standing for two months. The *tablados* have capacity for 5000 spectators.

The *tablados* use hard and flexible wood in their construction; hard woods are used for the poles that are buried in the ground and resist the weight of crawl spaces and covers, and flexible woods are used to tie the structure that gives support and balance, and guano, a palm leaf characteristic of the region, is used to cover walls and roofs.

A photographic and videotaped record was carried out as well as a sampling of the materials and wood used in the construction.

![Fig. 2](image) Main entrance of the tablado in Cuauthemoc town, can be seen the “guano” (palm leaves) used as fibers walls in the tablado and children playing. Picture María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez.

**Temporary Architecture First Forum**

On March 9 at 10:00 began the 1st Forum of Temporary Architecture in America, in the auditorium of the Faculty of Architecture of the UADY. The inauguration was in charge of the director of the Faculty of Architecture, Arch. Alfredo José Alonzo Aguilar M.C.
The First Keynote Presentation was in charge of PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, INAH Researcher and IIWC Vice-President for America, who presented the topic of the Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage recently adopted at the ICOMOS International General Assembly and Symposium held in New Delhi on December 15, 2017. The expert explained how the need to regulate the intervention of the cultural heritage in Europe gave origin to ICOMOS International in 1964; then she explained how the first wood committee was organized in 1974 and the first principles were drafted and these were adopted until 1999 in the city Morelia, Mexico. She also explained how the process of updating the principles began in 2012 during a symposium organized for that purpose, and the revision process continued in Himeji in 2013, and in Falun Sweden in 2016. The last part of the revision in 2016 was completed by a committee of experts appointed for this end: Ian Mac Gillivray (Canada), María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez (México), Eleftheria Tsakanika (Greece), Mikel Landa (Spain), Tina Wik (Sweden), Yasuhio Watanabe (Japan), Helen Wasalek (United Kingdom) David Yeomans (United Kingdom). The principles included: Motivation for the Updating, and the updated text, and
were presented in Istanbul, Turkey at the Meeting of the ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL Advisory Committee of Scientific Committees, where the document submitted by Ian Mac Gillivray and Mikel Landa was approved at the meeting held in October of that year. This work of almost five years of updating and revision of the principles allowed including parts of the Principles that gave clarity to the articles and increased their protection coverage: Definitions of the wooden built heritage included new categories such as temporary architecture and movable architecture, as well as a glossary of terms at the end of the text to unify technical terms. With a very simple graphic image she explained how the Principles widened their protection coverage of the wooden built heritage. She also made a posthumous recognition mentioning those participants in the updating of the Principles whose work contributed to the current Principles: Dr. Nobuo Ito (Japan), Professore Gennaro Tampone (Italy), and Engineer Luis Alejandrino Torres Montes (México). The presenter asked to offer a round of applause for them.

Fig. 4 Landscape Plaza de toros la Petatera de Villa de Alvarez, and the Colimas’ voulcano and Nevado de Colima. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez presentation.

Among the assistants were distributed copies in the Spanish version of the Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage, adopted on December 15, 2017 in the city of New Delhi, India. With the document in hand the expert said that further reflection on the theoretical and conceptual aspects of the temporary architecture was necessary, not only through the principles but through other doctrinal documents such as the Nara Document.
The second keynote presentation was in charge of Arch. Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado who presented the case of the Petatera of Villa de Alvarez, Colima.

Arch. Christian Zamora, presented an overview of La Petatera of Villa de Alvarez, its history, its formal description, its organizational construction system and profiles of the tabladeros that are the constructors of the colossus and finally exposed briefly the experience of Falun Sweden, Symposium in which it was proposed to include the category of temporary architecture in the Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage. In the first part of his paper, he spoke about the festivities of St. Philip of Jesus, Mexican saint who is venerated on February 7 and who is the patron saint of Villa de Alvarez in Colima. He made reference to the charro and bullfighting festivities (fiestas charrotaurinas) and to the different locations that La Petatera has had in its construction. In the second part he presented the different constructive stages, with explanatory and descriptive sketches; in the third part he explained how the different constructive elements are tied and which the functions of each part are. Finally he spoke about the different tabladeros that each year are essential part of the construction of La Petatera of Villa de Alvarez.

![Image](image.jpg)

**Fig. 5.** Arch. Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado, Arq. Alfredo José Alonso Aguilar, Architecture UADY Faculty director, Dra. Graciela Aurora Mota Botello, Dra. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, Arch. Doug Evans, Dr. Aurelio Suárez Sánchez, IIWC member, ICOMOS MEXICANO A.C. Wood Committee.
The third keynote presentation was in charge of Aurelio Suárez Sánchez, who presented the case of the *tablados* of Yucatan. PhD. Suárez mentioned that there are over 170 *tablados* that are temporary architecture which are built in different towns and municipalities of Yucatan throughout the year. The *tablados* are round bullrings of 70 meters diameter, it is a canvas around which the boxes are built in the radial sections of the great round surface. He said that the construction method is an ancestral knowledge that has been transmitted orally from generation to generation. Those who build the *tablados* call themselves *palqueros*, because they tie the sections of the boxes. The bullring has two levels, the ground level, to watch the show paying less than in the first level box. The wood used is the Xiul that is a very strong but very flexible wood that is tied with henequen rope and the walls are recovered with guano that is the leaf of a palm from the region. He emphasized that these materials begin to be scare in the region, so the covers or roofs of the boxes are grooved sheets, of asbestos or glass fiber that are no longer part of the traditional materials.

At the end of the third paper, PhD. Graciela Aurora Mota Botello, gave acknowledgements from ICOMOS Mexico, the National Institute of Anthropology and History and the LXIII Legislature of the Deputy Chamber, to the Speakers, PhD. Aurelio Suárez Sánchez, and PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, to the IIWC Vice-President for Europe Arch. Doug Evans, to the Regional Vice-President of ICOMOS Mexico, PhD. Josefina Campos Gutiérrez, to the President of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee IIWC, Arch. Mikel Landa, for having coordinated the participation of the first ICOMOS International Scientific Committee that solidarityed with Mexico to disseminate the Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage and to intervene in the training of specialists involved in the restoration of the damages caused by the earthquakes of September 2017 in 11 states of the Mexican Republic.

![Fig. 6 Dra. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, Arch.Alfredo José Alonso Aguilar, Arch Doug Evans, and Dra. Graciel Aurora Mota Botello with diplomas.](image-url)
Arch. Mikel Landa, President of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee, gave the following message to the assistants of the Forum:

Dear authorities, President of ICOMOS Mexico, organizers, speakers, ladies and gentlemen:

During the process of revision of the “Principles” of the ICOMOS Wood Committee, document finally approved in Delhi last December, one of the objectives of the multinational team that took part in the discussions was to widen the scope and coverage of these principles to all wooden built heritage. In this debate process Mexico had an outstanding participation, and it was in fact at the request of the Mexican representative, María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez that the concept “temporary” was debated, approved and included in this document.

I want to thank PhD. Graciela Aurora Mota Botello, President of ICOMOS Mexico, for her constant support to the work of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee. I also thank PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, IIWC Vice-President for America for her enthusiasm and constant contribution to the committee and to Arch. Doug Evans for his attendance to the 1st Forum, and for the organization of the 21st Annual Meeting and Wood Symposium “New Horizons” to be held in September in York, United Kingdom. I take this opportunity to encourage those present to participate.

I thank PhD. José de Jesús Williams, Rector of the Autonomous University of Yucatan, to the M. Alfredo José Alonzo Aguilar, Director of the Faculty of Architecture of the UADY, as well as to the National Institute of Anthropology and History, for their support to this event.

Afterwards, the pronouncement for the defense and protection of the temporary architecture of the tablados of Yucatan, the Mayan houses and La Petatera of Villa of Alvarez Colima was made.

Message from PhD. Josefina Campos Gutiérrez.

The Regional Vice-President Josefina Campos Gutiérrez took the floor to communicate to the Forum assistants as following:

“First Forum about Temporary Architecture of America
Both the Yucatan State Committee and the Scientific Committee of Historic Cities and Towns and others that make up the ICOMOS Mexicano AC, made a statement on August 25, 2017, addressed to authorities and institutions, to manage the preservation and necessary protection of Mayan constructive knowledge, in order to guarantee the continuity of the existence of this intangible heritage, of which we are proud, but which is currently in danger of disappearing due to the risks of the contemporary world. Unfortunately, in the case of the state of Yucatán, there has not yet been any progress in the implementation of a declaration that protects this intangible heritage.

On that occasion, we spoke about one of the vernacular architectural expressions product of this constructive knowledge: the Mayan house, a reflection of our millenary identity and
that has maintained over the years its socio-spatial configuration, related to the habitat
where it is inserted, but it has also been transformed in relation to the social and cultural
changes that have taken place.

In the event of today, we have been mentioned another product of this ancestral
construction knowledge: the platform in the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Bullring Petaterna
in the case of Colima. Both Temporary constructions, which have been adapted to the
changing needs of society, and are an example of community participation, without which
it would be impossible to realize them. They have survived over the years, replicating year
after year, thanks to the fact that the communities have kept this constructive tradition
alive, and in some cases not allowing it to be replaced by permanent constructions, which
probably would not have frequent use throughout the year.

The loss of constructive knowledge, together with the availability of the materials used in
them, today represent a threat to the preservation of the aforementioned architectural
manifestations. To these threats we must add, in the case of the Mayan house, the
stigmatization that the government itself makes them label them as poor houses, to which
it is necessary to provide floors, ceilings, but also to replace them completely with others,
in many cases unhabitable and without the spatial and environmental characteristics that
the old houses offer their inhabitants. In the case of planks, the threat they face is changes
in urban configurations, which modify the spaces destined for this purpose, putting at risk
their permanence and significance within the socio-cultural context that gives them life.

On this occasion, Dr. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, coordinator of the wooden
committee of ICOMOS MEXICANO A.C. Vice President for America of the ICOMOS
International Wood Committee and INAH Principal Investigator, Dr. Aurelio Sánchez
Suárez, Coordinator of the Social Sciences Unit of the Regional Research Center of the
UADY, representing his Institution and the corresponding instances of ICOMOS
International and Mexican, will make a pronouncement for the protection of the learning
scenarios of the temporary architecture in wood; hoping that on this occasion, both
authorities and agencies will echo what has been pointed out, and contribute to the
protection of such an important cultural heritage.

Then the official pronouncement was made as follows:

Pronouncement for the protection of the learning scenarios of the wooden
temporary architecture.

The Autonomous University of Yucatan UADY,

The Mexican Chapter of the International Council of Monuments and Sites, “A” organism
of UNESCO ICOMOS MEXICANO A.C. and

The ICOMOS International Wood Committee IIWC,
"We declare that the wooden built heritage has an outstanding meaning for the cultures of the world. Wood, as one of the first and current building materials, has enshrined the genesis of the architectural expression of the cultures; likewise, wood continues being the reflection of ancestral knowledge in the construction of permanent and temporary architectural expressions.

These temporary architectural expressions are at higher risk of loss or deterioration, because they are subject to the conservation of the open spaces where they are periodically recreated. Transparent, multi-functional spaces, linked to the built heritage and the local uses and customs, especially of the Mayan towns of the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Villa de Alvarez in Colima; open spaces that at an urban glance would seem not to have a significant use, but that preserve the cultural landscape that gathers rites, sociocultural dynamics and the celebration of the culture of the native peoples.

Wooden temporary architecture depends so much of the open space in which it is built, as of the nature, basic source of its raw material. In cases of the Mayan towns and the communities of the State of Colima, the forest is not only a supplier of the material item, it is also the first learning stage to know the diversity of the biocultural heritage, knowledge that do not fit into the logic of the school education, reason why its process is deeply rooted to ancestral practices that today are in risk of getting lost.

Knowledge that is deposited in the eyes and the memory of the Ka'ax naj Architects (Architects that tie houses) and of the palqueros. Mayan houses and tablados are tied by these professionals that have been undervalued when being called palaperos, minimizing and excluding the heritage value of their knowledge. In the case of La Petatera of Villa de Alvarez in Colima, the tabladeros are the essence of the continuity of its construction and they must be supported and their fundamental participation in the conservation of this wooden built cultural heritage must be recognized.

The Autonomous University of Yucatan, ICOMOS Mexico and the International Wood Committee make a call to the authorities, communities, academics, specialists and to the society to respect, to promote and to reassess this biocultural heritage created and recreated annually by the native peoples. We also make a special call to the architects and landscapers to look beyond the transparent space, to glimpse a scenario in which
ancestral knowledge has been transmitted for centuries; to listen to the *palqueros* that denounce the reality they face.

We finalize reminding the pronouncement made on August 25, 2017 for the declaration of the constructive knowledge of the Mayan and the existing debt in the protection of this intangible heritage; we also emphasize that the loss of these learning scenarios is an immeasurable loss.

**PhD. Aurelio Sánchez Suárez**, Coordinator of the Social Sciences Unit of the Regional Research Center of the UADY

**PhD. Graciela Aurora Mota Botello**, President of ICOMOS Mexico

**PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez**, IIWC Vice-President for America

**PhD. Josefina del C. Campos Gutiérrez**, Vice-President of the South Region of ICOMOS Mexico

Mérida, Yucatán. March 9, 2018

A recess was made during which the assistants were invited to join as founding members of the Temporary Architecture Working Group.

For the integration of the Temporary Architecture Working Group the Arch. Alfredo José Alonso Aguilar, director of the Faculty of Architecture of the UADY attested the sworn of all those interested to join as founding members, it without undermining those that joined via internet after the invitation made by PhD. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, to all the IIWC members and of ICOMOS Mexico.

Arch. Alfredo José Alonso Aguilar expressed the following:

The Temporary Architecture Working Group is an international committee of multi and transdisciplinary character, that foresees the participation of all the disciplines in focuses pertaining to each one, considering inside its great universe of interest the architectural material property of cultural value, the traditional materials with which it is built, the supply and the natural regions that provide such materials, and the impact of their consumption in the respective cultural landscape. Likewise it is of the interest of this committee the group of constructors of the community, their social organization and their constructive knowledge.
Its objective is to investigate, to register and to promote the actions of protection and dissemination of the wooden Temporary Architecture heritage.

Its performance is transversal, that is to say, that it impacts throughout the scientific committees as that of Vernacular Architecture, Intangible Heritage, and the ICOMOS national committees with this type of heritage.

Nevertheless it is an open committee so that permanently new interested members join.

Today March 9 of 2018 at the Faculty of Architecture of the Autonomous University of Yucatan, in the city of Merida, Yucatan, for the first time is constituted the Temporary Architecture Working Group, as support and depending directly from the ICOMOS International Wood Committee IIWC.

He spoke to all the interested parties mentioning their names, and asked them if they committed to work voluntarily, to achieve the objectives of this working group, to which they responded with a verbal commitment.

To conclude, the director of the faculty remarked that now they have a commitment to which they shall respond with loyalty, and he congratulated them for the constitution of this new working group.

List of founders members of the Temporary Architecture Subcommittee accepted the invitation.

María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez  IIWC Vicepresident América (México)
Doug Evans  IIWC Vicepresident Europe (UK)

Via internet:

Toshikatsu Tsuchimoto  IIWC Vicepresident Asia (Japan)
In-Souk Cho  IIWC member (Korea)
Alejandro Martínez de Arbulo Honda  IIWC member (Japan)
Mats Almlöf  IIWC member (Sweden)
Thierry Descamps  IIWC member (Belgium)
Erika Koshi  IIWC member (Japan)
Paraschos Karavatakis  IIWC member (Greece)
Aurelio Suaréz Sánchez  IIWC member (México)
Luis Ignacio Gómez Arriola  IIWC Member (México)
Graciela Aurora Mota Botello  **ICOMOS Mexicano** A.C.  ICOMOS NatCom president (México)

Josefina del Carmen Campos Gutiérrez  **ICOMOS Mexicano** A.C. Member (México)

Christian Trinidad Zamora Alvarado  **ICOMOS Mexicano** A.C. Member (México)

Iris Marisol Ortiz Llerenas  **ICOMOS Mexicano** A.C. Member (México)

Desiderio Contreras Tene  **ICOMOS Mexicano** A.C. Wood committee Honorary member (México)

Leslie Adame Ramirez (México)

Marisol del Carmen Ordaz Tamayo (México)

Elvia María González Canto (México)

Ivonne del Carmen Calvillo González (México)

Nora Evelia Ríos Silva (México)

Raúl Enrique Rivero Canto (México)

María Elena Torres Pérez (México)

Pablo Antonio Chico Ponce de León (México)

Alfredo J. Alonzo Aguilar (México)

Frida Cristina Torres Cruz (México)

Cyndy Larissa Alvarado Leyva (México)

Mariana Martín Medina (México)

Ileana Guadalupe Góngora Hernández (México)

Irving Rodrigo Rivero Baeza (México)

Rubicel Enrique López Vázquez (México)

Lucía Tello Peón (México)

Blanca Paredes Guerrero (México)

Carlos Alfonso de Jesús Domínguez Vargas (México)

Fernando Carlos Marín Méndez (México)

Yuri Alejandrina Alejos Pech (México)
The Forum was closed by Arch. Alfredo José Alonzo Aguilar, Director of the Faculty of Architecture of the UADY at 14.00 hrs.

Afterwards, big meal was organized with all assistants.

Informed by Dra. María de Guadalupe Zepeda Martínez, IIWC Vicepresident America.16/04/2108