

ELISEO BERRÍOS-ROSADO, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, M.Arch.

Architect · Educator · Author · Cultural Strategist · Design Leadership · Institutional Governance

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Licensed Architect, educator, and cultural strategist with more than twenty years of professional experience leading residential, educational, institutional, commercial, mixed-use, and interior architecture projects throughout Puerto Rico. Founder and Principal Architect of ALMATERIA, with expertise in design, permitting, consultant coordination, construction administration, and project management. His work integrates architecture, interiors, object design, academic engagement, public discourse, and institutional leadership, positioning architecture as both a professional discipline and a cultural practice. Active in architectural education, advocacy, and professional leadership through the American Institute of Architects, where he served as President of AIA Puerto Rico in 2025.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ALMATERIA

Founder & Principal Architect | 2013–Present

San Juan, Puerto Rico

ALMATERIA is an architecture and design practice shaped by material sensitivity, contextual responsibility, and disciplined execution. The studio approaches architecture as spatial authorship embedded within environmental, historical, and regulatory frameworks.

More than twenty years of professional practice directing residential, educational, institutional, commercial, mixed-use, and interior architecture projects from concept through construction.

Areas of Practice

- Residential Architecture
- High-End Residential Interiors
- Multifamily Housing
- Educational Facilities and Academic Environments
- Institutional Facilities
- Corporate Offices and Workplace Interiors
- Commercial, Retail, and Mixed-Use Developments
- Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse
- Old San Juan Interventions

- Floodplain and Environmentally Regulated Developments
- Construction Administration
- Project Management
- Furniture, Object, and Product Design

Professional Responsibilities

- Design leadership and project development
- Programming and space planning
- Regulatory and permitting coordination
- Environmental and floodplain compliance
- Interdisciplinary consultant coordination
- Construction documentation
- Construction administration and field observation
- Client, stakeholder, and contractor coordination
- Project budgeting and implementation oversight

In addition to architectural and interior commissions, the practice designs objects and furniture as part of an ongoing material experimentation process, exploring tectonics, craft, structural expression, and the relationship between scale and inhabitation.

Senior Architect — TuPlano.com / Levis Financial Group

2006–2013

- Managed residential and commercial projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000.
- Served as Installation Manager for nine Home Depot stores throughout Puerto Rico.
- Certified by US Remodelers for the Home Depot Cabinets Program.
- Developed internal cost-estimation systems and construction workflows.

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE & CULTURAL DIRECTION

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Puerto Rico Chapter

Secretary (2023) · President-Elect (2024) · President (2025) · Immediate Past President (2026)

Provided leadership for the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American Institute of Architects through governance, professional development, advocacy, educational programming, and strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening the profession and expanding its public impact.

Selected Contributions

- Led the Chapter's reaccreditation with AIA National for the 2026–2028 cycle.
- Directed the 50th Edition of the AIA Puerto Rico Design & Honor Awards, achieving the highest participation in chapter history and expanding international jury engagement.
- Served as Conference Chair for the 2025 AIA Puerto Rico Conference on Architecture and Design, *Identity, Territory, and Contemporary Practice*.
- Advanced continuing education, leadership development, mentorship, and professional engagement initiatives for architects, emerging professionals, and students.
- Strengthened collaboration with AIA National, AIA Florida, AIA LATAM, government agencies, academic institutions, and allied organizations.
- Recipient of the 2026 AIA College of Fellows Component Grant for *Design Pathways: Mentorship, Education, and the Next Generation*.
- Active participant in national and regional AIA leadership, advocacy, and professional initiatives, including AIA Leadership Summits, AIA Hill Days, AIA Conferences on Architecture & Design, AIA Florida Conventions, and AIA LATAM collaborations, fostering professional engagement and institutional partnerships across the United States and Latin America.
- Invited participant, lecturer, juror, and institutional representative in professional and academic events throughout Puerto Rico, the United States, Mexico, and Latin America.

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Teaching and academic collaboration across several universities complement professional practice through the cultivation of disciplinary literacy, critical thinking, and generational continuity.

Academic Appointments

- University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras and Carolina Campus)
- Universidad Ana G. Méndez
- Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico
- Savannah College of Art and Design

Courses & Academic Roles

Director, Academic Supervisor, Thesis Advisor, Jury Member, and Invited Critic with teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate levels in architectural design studios, interior design, building systems, construction, building codes, design-build, professional practice, and final degree projects.

Participant in NAAB accreditation reviews, institutional assessment processes, curriculum development, and student mentorship.

PRESS, PUBLICATIONS & INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

Publications & Writing

- Invited author for the forthcoming international publication *Out in Architecture Vol. 2*, contributing the original essay *Habitar la Visibilidad*, to be published simultaneously in Spanish and English.
- Featured speaker in the upcoming season of Amazing Speakers México.
- “El renacer de los bloques ornamentales en la arquitectura puertorriqueña” — *Modo de Vida*, 2024.
- “Los espacios y la arquitectura” — *Modo de Vida*, 2024.
- “Renacen los bloques ornamentales” — *Metro Puerto Rico*, 2024.
- “Contemporaneidad en función” — *Versus Puerto Rico Magazine*, 2015.
- Regular contributor to print, radio, television, and digital media on topics related to architecture, historic preservation, design culture, professional advocacy, and the built environment.

Invited Lectures & Cultural Engagements

- Invited Lecture — Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico.
Designing with Material: From the Tectonic to the Sensorial.
- Featured Speaker — Amazing Speakers México.
- Invited Speaker — CODDI Convention, Puerto Rico.
- Collaboration as part of the Elias Group curatorial team for the Italian Design Day in Mexico 2026, organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy.
- Presentation — *Brutalismo en México* Catalog Launch in Puerto Rico.
- Children’s Architecture Talk — Fundación por la Arquitectura.
- Invited Lecture — Colegio de Decoradores y Diseñadores de Interiores de Puerto Rico Convention 2025.

- Invited Lectures — Colegio de Arquitectos y Arquitectos Paisajistas de Puerto Rico (CAAPPR).
- Professional conferences, institutional panels, and public conversations throughout Puerto Rico and abroad.

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

- AIA Florida Design Award — Merit Award of Excellence for Interiors (2026).
- Recipient, AIA College of Fellows Component Grant (2026).
- Interdisciplinary recognition for material-centered and culturally responsive design practice.

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture

University of Puerto Rico

Bachelor in Environmental Design

University of Puerto Rico

Advanced Design Seminar

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Seminars in Architecture and Urbanism

Polytechnic University of Catalunya

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

- Licensed Real Estate Broker
- AIA Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Evaluator
- EPA Lead-Safe Renovator

LANGUAGES

Spanish · English · Portuguese