

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Alamedas as a Model for Structuring Linear Urban Networks

- **Format:**

Written paper and verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

In spread out densely settled contemporary cities, where neighborhoods may be isolated by physical obstacles as well as invisible barriers of race, ethnicity and economic status, networks of linear spaces can provide the connective tissue necessary to facilitate social and cultural exchange. Inspiration for the design of these outdoor environments is to be found in the *alamedas* which became popular in 16th century Spain and eventually throughout Latin America, refreshing urban amenities featuring promenades, fountains, seating, and avenues of poplar trees (*alamos*) irrigated by narrow canals known as *ascequias*, providing spaces for socializing and relaxation while serving as public thoroughfares. Many of the older *alamedas* have disappeared but new ones in Bogota are the foundations for urban continuums that often include fragile watersheds and endangered ecosystems. This paper analyzes selected *alamedas* located in Spain and Latin America including to demonstrate that tree-lined networks of public spaces

adjacent to rivers, creeks, shorelines, or other natural features can mitigate the effects of haphazard urban sprawl, introverted master planning, and insular layouts of suburban enclaves.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

René Davids was educated at the Universidad de Chile and the Royal College of Art, UK and is a Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California at Berkeley, a founding principal of [Davids Killory Architecture](#) and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The work has been widely published and recognized with three AIA National Honor Awards for Architecture, two Presidential Design Awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, and three Progressive Architecture Awards, among many other local, regional, national, and international awards. The work of Davids Killory Architecture has been shown in international exhibitions, included in one hundred sixty books, journals and newspapers; Davids has lectured on the work of the firm at over fifty professional, academic, and arts institutions worldwide.

Professor Davids co-edits the [AsBuilt series](#) published by Princeton Architectural Press and has also edited and substantially contributed to *Shaping Terrain: City Building in Latin America* published by University Press of Florida, Spring 2016 a book of essays exploring the impact of landscapes which have influenced built form since pre-Columbian times on post-colonial architecture and urbanism. Research for *Shaping Terrain* was supported in part by a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the Fulbright Specialist Program.