



## Housing Prototypes

Panamá

Client: Penn State University Research

Completion: 2006

Role: Principal Investigator

As an extension of the El Chorrillo Plan, Mr. Peters serves as principal investigator for research projects developing affordable/sustainable housing prototype for hot/humid climates. The decision to design regenerative neighborhood in west El Chorrillo emerged from the exploration of issues of environmental and political sustainability. Preliminary design research provides affordable housing designs that present alternatives to the limited types of housing present and put forth four designs: three housing prototypes and one specific building. The buildings have several features in common; they employ a composite structural system of a solid core, typically of concrete, combined with lighter systems such as wood or steel which allow for a flexible system of spaces. This creates the opportunity to design several different apartment types to address a variety of occupants. Conditions of the location facilitate application of sustainable systems. Passive features such as large balconies, overhangs for shading, and slatted doorways and vents aid in varying the buildings visually while referencing Panama's vernacular style with a sensibility that addresses modern sustainable concerns. Orientation and thickness of buildings, for example, can take advantage of natural cross ventilation by responding to the cool breezes alternatively come down from the Ancon Hill or up from the water.



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