

**DR. FERNANDO ABRUÑA, FAIA**  
ABRUÑA & MUSGRAVE, ARCHITECTS



Known as the “Father of The Green Building Movement in Puerto Rico”, Dr Abruña is a licensed, practicing architect, a tenured professor at the School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico, and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is also the Founding Past President of the US Green Building Council, Caribbean Chapter, and the publicly recognized authority in Sustainable Design and Construction in Puerto Rico.

**EDUCATION:**

He holds a Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and Pratt Institute of Technology respectively and completed a non-traditional Doctor of Design Science Degree in 1977 at the age of 25 as an apprentice to Richard Buckminster Fuller from the International College in California.

**AFFILIATIONS:**

Abruña is a founding member of the Puerto Rico Architects and Landscape Architects Association of Puerto Rico and a member of The American Institute of Architects, The Association of Energy Engineers, The US Green Building Council, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is a Registered Architect, Certified Preservationist and Listed Energy Auditor. In 1979 he offered the 1<sup>st</sup> Certification Course for Energy Auditors at the U. of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus, making him a pioneer in this field.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

He is the author of local bestseller Green Design and Energy Conservation Construction Books including “*Fresco Gratis*” (Passive Cooling Systems, 1980, 82), ¡CASAS! (1988) published by the Institute of PR Culture, “*A Ojo de Buen Cubero*” (1993-Design and Construction Rules of Thumb), “*Materiales y Procedimientos de Construcción*” (Materials and Methods of Construction-1989,2000, 2007) and “*Casa Ausente*” (The Absent House: Designing, Building and Living an EcoHouse, 2005). In the past three years he has also published 100 *Estrategias Sustentables de Poco o Ningún Costo*” (100 Low or No Cost Sustainable Design Strategies) and “30 Green Construction Details”. Many of his publications are used as textbooks in all local architecture schools and many engineering academic programs in Puerto Rico and Latin America. He has lectured on sustainability, green buildings and energy conservation in the United States, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Colombia, Peru, Panamá and Russia among other countries

## **PROJECTS AND AWARDS:**

Our award winning research, publications and built work have been featured in various TV Documentaries in the USA, Latin America, and the Caribbean. A&M is the designer of the Absent House, the 1<sup>st</sup> Eco House of Puerto Rico, featured in HGTV Extreme Homes Program, Univisión and in all local newspapers, TV and radio stations. The house has become a national icon with more than 3,500 visitors since it's opening to the public. We are also the architect of the 1<sup>st</sup> Private Eco School of PR in Caguas (2003 EPA Environmental Quality Award), the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Eco School of PR in the island of Culebra (2007 EPA Environmental Quality Award, 2008 Cemex Design Awards, 2007 Energy Alliance Design Award, PR Assoc of Engineers and Surveyors) ) and "Solaria" the 1<sup>st</sup> Predesigned Ecohouse of PR (2009) for Villas Miantojo enterprises recently built as part of the Puerto Rico Renewable Energy Research Center. Abruña was the Architecture Team Director of the 1<sup>st</sup> Solar Decathlon Competition in Washington DC (2001 AIA Award) where the UPR House won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Design and Livability contest judged by Architecture Pritzker laureate Glenn Murcutt and Edward Mazria (Architecture 2030) among others and considered by all as the most important contest in the competition. He was the founder and Director of the Sustainable Design Studio at the School of Architecture, University of Puerto Rico until his retirement in 2010. Abruña has been quoted in the Architectural Record Magazine and the Environmental Design News. In the summer of 2007, the Studio finished the design and construction of Puerto Rico's 1<sup>st</sup> MicroEco House, which won an International Green Dot Award in 2009. The Sustainable Design Studio was also blessed with an Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects in 2009 for it's educational projects and public outreach. In January of 2008, A&M completed the Sustainability Plan for Plaza Las Américas, the largest shopping mall in the Caribbean. For his lifetime work in sustainable design Abruña was awarded the "Merck Health Innovation Award, 2009 and the Henry Klumb Award, the highest honor bestowed on an Architect by the PR Architects and Landscape Architects Association.

Abruña & Musgrave is also the author of the Design Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of the rural area of the Municipality of Carolina (2001) and the Design Guidelines for Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Facilities for the PR Tourism Company (2004). From 2006 to 2008 A&M was an essential member of an Ecotourism Team responsible for the development of sustainable practices, including energy conservation and renewable sources for twelve small inns across the island.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ecopark of PR dedicated to Moonlight as an ecotourism resource was also designed by A&M and is in the process of being contracted for construction. Abruña is also developing Urbano Green Works, a company that will develop and sell micro electric solar vehicles for urban areas. In the year 2006 he was awarded the "Citizen of the Year-Environmental Quality Award, the highest award conferred by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He is also the recipient of the highest honor conferred to an Architect by the Environmental Quality Board of PR. In the year 2008 he was also awarded the prestigious Top Management Award for his pioneering work as "The Father

of Sustainable Architecture in Puerto Rico". In the year 2008 the Caribbean Chapter of the US Green Building Council dedicated their annual Convention to Abruña and initiated a Sustainability Scholarship in his name for his pioneering work in this field. In June 2010, he was awarded the Henry Klumb Award, the highest honor bestowed on an Architect by the Puerto Rico Architects and Landscape Architects Association.

**SERVICES:**

Abruña & Musgrave's expertise includes Sustainable Design and Consulting, Energy Audits, Renewable Energy Systems, Sustainable Lighting Design, Economic feasibility studies of ecological technologies, natural ventilation systems and passive cooling, Solar Hot Water heating and Photovoltaic Systems consulting, Rain Water Harvesting and Gray Water reuse systems, Composting Toilets, Sustainable Siting, Luminocultural pollution prevention studies and sustainable materials consulting among others. A&M, also teams up with several of his past students, now practicing architects and LEED accredited professionals to provide LEED consulting services to different institutional clients and to pursue LEED certification for two of their current projects which at this time include: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Eco-School in the Municipality of Dorado for the Department of Education and the Full Moon Park for the PR National Parks Company.

Abruña & Musgrave has developed within the Sustainable framework numerous historic restorations in the Old City of San Juan, including, among others, The Hard Rock Café Restaurant (1991), The Manuel G Tavaréz Historic House (AIA Award, 1979), The Crown and Anchor Club (PR Biannual Award), 100 Cruz Street (1993 AIA Award). The office is also responsible for the DB Office Building (1996, Urbe Design Awards) and the AT&T Operations Center at Santurce, PR. (2000).

Abruña & Musgrave practices the Art and Science of Architecture in a two hundred year old building located at 107 San Sebastián Street in the Historic District of San Juan.