

Research in Progress Abstract - Construction Practice (Non-Pedagogical Content)

Restavec Refuge Center

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Hundreds of former Restavecs, Haitian slave children, live on the streets of Port Au Prince, after escaping or being kicked out of their captor's homes. These poor children are barely surviving with their limited skill-sets and need a place to go. This project, Restavec Refuge Center, combines both of these dire needs into one multi-faceted solution, by providing a school, home, and community center in Aubrey, Haiti, to be utilized by those living in the area and former Restavecs traveling in from Port Au Prince. I have worked with architecture, architectural engineering, and business majors to design and provide construction documentation for the Restavec Refuge Center in Aubrey, Haiti. The architecture and architectural engineering majors were responsible for both the aesthetic and structural design of the project while the business major were responsible for the submittals of grant applications and other funding for the project along with the long-term operation of the center. My role in this project included providing production rates of native labor, comparing price differentials of imported labor to the native labor, analyzing the existing site conditions and how to properly prepare for construction, scheduling the steps of the on-site construction process, providing detailed quantity take-offs of the materials as well as price estimates, and depicting safer and more sustainable construction practices. I wanted to be part of this project in order to make a difference in the lives of these Haitian children by delivering a place for them to live and go to school. The rehab center will offer a place for the children to heal from their traumatic pasts and regain their childhood. This is established by integrating the school, cafeteria, counseling offices, kitchen, and dorms into one center. I have been collaborating with the architect and architectural engineers to ensure that the designs are compatible with available building materials. I have also been researching Haitian construction processes and the skill level of the laborers in order to mitigate any constructability issues. I met with other students and professors that have worked in Haiti so that I could gain an even more accurate analysis of the working conditions. I have worked to produce a design and construction package that could be implemented by any group that wishes to construct this project or one similar to it in Haiti. Each element can be constructed on their own to be built as funding comes in. The research on building materials and best construction practices can be applied to any new construction or renovation in the area. It will be able to serve as a guide to improve the safety and lives of those in Haiti by way of construction.

Keywords: Haiti, Restavec, Interdisciplinary, Best Practices, Construction Documents