

"Preservation and reuse of reinforced concrete shells in Guatemala"

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Reinforced concrete shells were first introduced in Guatemala during the 1950s by Guatemalan engineer Mauricio Castillo Contoux. Together with his brother Pierre, they signed an alliance agreement of technical consultancy with the Mexican firm "Cubiertas Ala" led by Spanish architect Félix Candela.

"Cubiertas Ala de Guatemala" carried out the design, planning and construction of over forty projects of shell structures in Guatemala and other countries of Central America, among which stand out temples, auditorium, banks, factories, residential houses, an acoustic shell, gas stations, among others. Some have become reference points in Guatemala's modern architecture.

Our commitment, as a research team, working for the past 5 years, has been to identify, document and promote the preservation of each of these constructions. We have found that, fifty years later, most of the structures are in good condition and are being used as they were originally planned for. Additionally, we have been able to present the results of our studies in different universities in Guatemala and abroad.

This document records the most important and best preserved structures in Guatemala and our experience in the process of documentation, which we believe will help create and promote awareness of the cultural heritage of reinforced concrete shells in our region.

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