



# DENI LOPEZ LOPEZ

deni@mit.edu

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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denilopez.com

## EDUCATION

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**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Planning  
*Area:* City Design and Development  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

2020  
AUG-PRES

**Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México**  
Bachelor of Architecture (Merit Diploma)  
Taller Jorge Gonzalez Reyna  
Facultad de Arquitectura

2009-2014  
AUG-JUL

**Harvard University**  
Master in Design Studies (Risk and Resilience)  
Master of Architecture in Urban Design  
Graduate School of Design

2016-2019  
AUG-MAY

**Czech Technical University in Prague**  
Academic Exchange  
Bachelor of Architecture  
Faculty of Architecture

2012-2013  
AUG-JUL

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction Technical Advisor

#### United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction | Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean

Assistant Consultant to Irasema Alcántara Ayala | <https://eird.org/americas/index-eng.html>

Provide support to structure a research agenda for disaster risk reduction (DRR) for the region.

Organize meetings of the Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG).

Support the implementation of a Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group (RSTAG) action plan.

Provide technical support for the dissemination of the findings of the Regional Risk Assessment Report.

2021  
MAY-PRES

### Research Assistant | MIT Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism | Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Equitable Resilience Framework (w/ Janelle Knox-Hayes) | <https://lcau.mit.edu/news/equitable-resilience-framework>

*Pillar 3: Climate Change Communications (w/ Sarah Williams)*

Developed a transmedia, data-action oriented framework to systematically study climate change communications.

Set research priorities for the ERF Pillar 3 proposal for the MIT Climate Grand Challenges Initiative.

*Cross-Cutting Pillars: Design (w/ Janelle Knox-Hayes)*

Designed overall report, diagrams, and graphic style for the Equitable Resilience Framework.

2021  
JUN-AUG

### Research/Teaching Assistant | Harvard University + IADB | Cambridge, Massachusetts

Public Space Agency in Informal Settlements (mentor: Balinda Tato) | <https://www.gsd.harvard.edu/person/belinda-tato/>

Established a framework for discerning social and spatial patterns in public spaces of Argentinian informal settlements.

Co-designed *Public Space as a Catalyst for Change in Informal Settlements: The Case of Argentina*, a Spring 2019 seminar.

Created graphic analyses of worldwide case studies to be included in an upcoming publication by the IADB.

2019-2020  
OCT-JUL

### Co-Lead Researcher | Pasa La Voz + Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Oaxaca, Mexico

Post-Earthquake Recovery (mentors: Diane E. Davis, Lorena Bello, Michael Hooper) | <https://www.bichechediidxa.com/>

Founded student-led research initiative to co-produce information in five disaster-prone communities in Oaxaca.

Developed a participatory methodology including surveys, interviews, workshops, and cartographic analyses.

Designed a traveling exhibition with open information forums to raise awareness and share results in each community.

Created an online information repository, and participated in publications and presentations to share research findings.

2017-2020  
NOV-JUL

### Research Assistant | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts

Publication and Graphics (mentor: Ann Forsyth) | <https://research.gsd.harvard.edu/new-towns/>

Managed graphic production and organization for "Toward 21<sup>st</sup> Century New Towns: Past, Present, Prospects", a Penn Press book edited by professors Ann Forsyth and Richard Peiser.

2017-2018  
SEP-MAY

### Research Associate | Reality Gives + International Travel Community Service Fellowship | Mumbai, India

Community Needs Survey Design (Volunteer) | <http://www.realitygives.org/>

Designed cross-sectional survey focused on understanding educational and urban design needs in Dharavi using Qualtrics.

2017  
JUN-AUG

**Design Researcher | National Autonomous University of Mexico + Solar Decathlon Europe | Versailles, France**  
Housing and Urbanization Research Project (mentor: Honorato Carrasco) | <https://arquitectura.unam.mx/casa.html>  
*Team Mex (CASA UNAM): Contest Captain (Competition Coordinator) and Architectural Design Co-Director*  
Designed housing prototype and competition pavilion that reflected extensive social and urban research results.  
Collaborated with multiple engineering disciplines to implement low-energy consumption strategies in the prototype.  
Managed all team activities during the competition stage held in Versailles, France.  
Directed the creation, drafting, and translation of the six reports presented to each jury before their visit to the prototype.

2013-2014  
AUG-JUL

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Teaching Assistant | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, DUSP | Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
Course 11.THG - Thesis Clinics for Master of City Planning Students | [dusp.mit.edu/subject/fall-2021-11thg](http://dusp.mit.edu/subject/fall-2021-11thg)  
Designed course curriculum alongside Prof Brent D. Ryan and Bridget Burns.  
Co-taught research design workshops centered on question development, methods, and related topics.  
Coordinated faculty participation during introductory modules.

2021  
JUN-PRES

**Teaching Assistant | Massachusetts Institute of Technology, DUSP + CoLab | Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
Course 11.237 - Participatory Action Research (PAR) 2: Methods | [dusp.mit.edu/subject/spring-2021-11237](http://dusp.mit.edu/subject/spring-2021-11237)  
Managed overall logistics and helped solidify syllabus for the course led by Dayna Cunningham and Katrin Kaeufer.  
Co-taught the module on *Narratives* along with Xiomara Alvarez (co-teaching assistant).  
Assisted and graded students in Spanish as they collaborated with Colombian partners.

2021  
FEB-APR

**UPD Instructor | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
Design Discovery - Urban Planning and Design | <http://designdiscovery.gsd.harvard.edu/>  
Co-designed a six-week course on urban planning and design, coordinated by Stephen Gray, Asst. Prof. of Urban Design.  
Taught daily studio lessons to a group of 11 students from a broad range of ages, lifestyles, and training.  
Led lectures and discussions on urban resilience, research methods, graphic representation, and communication skills.

2019  
JUN-AUG

**Teaching Assistant | Harvard University, T.H. Chan School of Public Health | Boston, Massachusetts**  
Course EH251 - Public Health in Megacities: The Environmental Dimension | [publichealthinmegacities.wordpress.com/](http://publichealthinmegacities.wordpress.com/)  
Managed overall logistics for winter travel course to Mexico City taught by Enrique Cifuentes and Douglas Dockery.  
Designed and produced Student Travel Guide, including syllabus, maps, contacts, and travel recommendations.

2017-2018  
AUG-FEB

**Project Architect | JSa (Javier Sánchez) | Mexico City, Mexico**  
Residential Complex Design | <http://www.jsa.com.mx/proyectos>  
*Antigua Cementería & Juan de la Barrera 25-27 | Housing Developments | Puebla, Mexico & Mexico City, Mexico*  
Led final design stages, developed construction details, and managed consulting experts in building components.  
Managed the construction documentation development, architecture, and engineering teams.

2016  
FEB-JUL

**Architectural Designer | Estudio Lamela | Mexico City, Mexico**  
Airport and Residential Design | <https://www.lamela.com/en/>  
*Tijuana International Airport | Expansion and Refurbishing | Tijuana, Mexico | September, 2015 - February, 2016*  
*Nomad Living Polanco | Mixed-use LEED Certified Complex | Mexico City, Mexico | February - August 2015*  
Assistant project architect during schematic design and design development stages.  
Developed construction plans and sections related to architectural design and structural details using a CAD platform.

2015-2016  
FEB-FEB

**Junior Architect | PuntoSur Estudio Multimedia | Mexico City, Mexico**  
Construction Documentation Development | <https://www.facebook.com/puntosurmexico/>  
*El Bajío Restaurant | Sordo Madaleno Architects (Interior Design) | Los Cabos, Mexico | December - January, 2015*  
*Hotel Solaz Los Cabos | Sordo Madaleno Architects (Interior Design) | Los Cabos, Mexico | August - November, 2014*  
Created a CAD drawing platform for organization, printing quality, and proper use of layers and software tools.  
Coordinated meetings with clients, as well as project planning and document delivery.  
Developed construction plans related to architectural and structural design using a CAD platform.

2014-2015  
AUG-JAN

**Intern | DMP Arquitectura | Mexico City, Mexico**  
Conceptualization and Production of International Design Competition Entries | <http://www.dmp.com.mx/>  
*Plaza Pedro Moreno | CoARQ Open International Ideas Competition (1<sup>st</sup> Place) | Guadalajara, Mexico*  
*New Contemporary Art Museum | [AC-CA] Open International Competition | Buenos Aires, Argentina*  
Participated in initial design and urban research stages to generate a solid architectural and urban design approach.  
Created competition layout, led overall graphic and image design, and produced conceptual 2D and 3D diagrams.

2012  
JUN-JUL

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### **Presidential Graduate Fellowship**

Ph.D in Urban Studies and Planning  
MIT, DUSP | Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2020

### **Beyond Reconstruction (J-Term Grant)**

Traveling exhibition on post-disaster reconstruction in Oaxaca  
Diane E. Davis, Harvard University, GSD | Oaxaca, Mexico, 2019

### **Penny White Project Fund (Summer Research Grant)**

“Alternatives for Rubble Management along the *Los Perros* River”  
Harvard University, GSD | Oaxaca, Mexico, 2018

### **David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (Grant)**

“Alternatives for Rubble Management along the *Los Perros* River”  
Harvard University | Oaxaca, Mexico, 2018

### **International Travel Community Service Fellowship**

Research volunteer for Reality Gives, NGO  
Harvard University, GSD | Dharavi, Mumbai, India, 2017

### **Dean’s Merit Scholarship**

Master of Architecture in Urban Design  
Harvard University, GSD | Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2017-2019

### **UNAM-Fundacion Mexico en Harvard Scholarship**

MDes Risk and Resilience/Master of Architecture in Urban Design  
Harvard University, GSD | Mexico City, Mexico, 2016-2019

### **CONACyT-FONCA Scholarship**

MDes Risk and Resilience  
Harvard University, GSD | Mexico City, Mexico, 2016-2018

### **Academic Achievement Diploma (2) | 2012-2013 & 2013-2014**

Given to top 3/~1,000 GPAs in the Architecture cohort  
UNAM, School of Architecture | Mexico City, Mexico, 2015-2016

### **Merit Diploma for Bachelor of Architecture Thesis**

*CASA UNAM*: Sustainable urbanization in informal settlements  
UNAM, School of Architecture | Mexico City, Mexico, 2015

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place in Engineering and Construction**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Urban Design, Transportation, and Affordability**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Sustainability**

Solar Decathlon Europe | *CASA UNAM* | Versailles, France, 2014

### **PAPIIT Research Fellowship, Team Mex (CASA UNAM)**

Research and Technological Innovation Project Support Program  
UNAM | Mexico City, Mexico, 2014

### **Faculty of Architecture Award (2)**

Oustanding Professional Practice and Social Service Performance  
UNAM, School of Architecture | Mexico City, Mexico, 2014

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place, Open International Ideas Competition**

CoARQ | Plaza Pedro Moreno, Guadalajara | Mexico, 2012

## PRESENTATIONS

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### **Student Panelist | UPenn, MIT, Harvard University, & Columbia University | Virtual Event**

2021

Resilience Untangled: Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean  
*Bicheeche Diidxa'*; Post-Disaster Recovery in Oaxaca, Mexico - *Panel*: Student Work and Research (*with Betzabe Valdes*)  
Co-led by LatinX organizations in each participating institution | April 22

### **Panelist and Poster Presenter | Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies | New Haven, Connecticut**

2019

Global Environmental Justice Conference: Emerging Scholars | Cultural Assets for Disaster Recovery - *Panel*: Risk, Resilience, and Climate Change and Disaster Planning Across Scales - *Poster Theme*: Urban Environments (*with Betzabe Valdes*)  
Supported by the Graciela Chichilnisky Environmental Fund | November 15

### **Student Presenter | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts**

2019

“Beyond Reconstruction: Environmental, social, and infrastructural challenges for long-term recovery after major earthquakes in Mexico and Chile” Symposium | Alternatives for Rubble Management along the *Los Perros* River in Oaxaca  
Sponsored by the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Adams House, and Recupera Chile | April 17-18

### **Student Presenter | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts**

2017

Summer Grants + Fellowships | Regarding work with Reality Gives in Dharavi, Mumbai with the ITCSEFP  
Sponsored by Women in Design and Career Services | September 19

## COMPLEMENTARY EXPERIENCE

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### **Product Designer | MIT CoLab | Cambridge, Massachusetts**

2019

Educational tool design for participatory action research lexicon, based on final project for course 11.236 (PAR I)  
w/ Betzabe Valdes (+ Grimaldi, Hodgkins, Sharma, Saona) | Course taught by Dayna Cunningham and Katrin Kaeufer

### **Traveling Exhibition Co-Designer and Manager | Pasa La Voz/Bicheeche Diidxa' | Oaxaca, Mexico**

2019

“Testimonial Debris” | Traveling exhibition and open information forums in Oaxaca, Mexico  
Sponsored by the Beyond Reconstruction Initiative at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design | January 10-18

### **Exhibition Designer | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts**

2019

“enGENDERing Urban Equity: Inclusive Design Strategies in Argentina” | Experiments Wall, Gund Hall  
Product of Chelina Odbert’s Fall 2018 option studio “Gendering Urban Development” | January-March

- Conference Assistant | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts** 2018  
 “Envisioning Future Resilience Scenarios for the Boston Harbor Islands” Conference and Design Charette  
 Convened by the Department of Landscape Architecture of the Graduate School of Design and Boston Harbor Now |  
 Supported by the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation | September 6-7
- Post-Disaster Construction Volunteer | Cooperación Comunitaria, NGO | Ciudad Ixtepec, Oaxaca** 2018  
 Earth wall construction for the Center of Arts and Crafts, created after the 2017 earthquakes  
 Supported by the Comité Ixtepecano en Defensa de la Vida y el Territorio | July 23-27
- Risk & Resilience Representative | Harvard University, Graduate School of Design | Cambridge, Massachusetts** 2017-2019  
 Program liaison and communications manager | Cohort representative with Student Academic Affairs Committee  
 Spring 2017- Spring 2019 | Fall 2018- Spring 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Lopez, D. and B. Valdes, 2019. “The Event” in *Beyond Reconstruction: Reflections on Post-Earthquake Recovery in Oaxaca, Mexico after the 2017 Earthquakes*, editors: Diane E. Davis, Lorena Bello Gomez, and Enrique Aureng Silva Estrada. Harvard University, Graduate School of Design. 2019
- Lopez, D., N. Quiroz, B. Valdes, 2019. “Learning From Debris” in *Beyond Reconstruction: Reflections on Post-Earthquake Recovery in Oaxaca, Mexico after the 2017 Earthquakes*, eds. D. Davis, L. Bello, and E. Silva. Harvard University GSD. 2019





## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- López, D. and M. Hooper. 2020. “Disaster Planning Across Scales: Lessons from Post-Earthquake Rubble Management in Oaxaca, Mexico.” *THE PLAN Journal* 5, no. 1 2019

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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-  **SPANISH**  
Native Speaker
-  **ENGLISH** (*IBT 117 pts.*)  
Bilingual Proficiency
-  **FRENCH** (*DELF A2*)  
Working Proficiency
-  **ITALIAN**  
Working Proficiency

**Software:** Adobe (Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop) AutoCAD, SketchUp, Autodesk 3ds Max, Rhinoceros, ArcGIS, Qualtrics  
**1997-2010:** Practiced and taught Karate-Do Shotokan (1<sup>st</sup> Dan)/3<sup>rd</sup> place (*kumite*) in 2008 Shotokan Kase-Ha World Cup (Reims, France)



**Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design**

May 30, 2019

Dear Dení Lopez,

On behalf of the Master in Design Studies Council we are pleased to write this letter of commendation to you for your outstanding record of achievement at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

The faculty joins me in wishing you continued success in your career.

Sincerely,

**John May  
Assistant Professor of Architecture  
Director, Master in Design Studies Program**

**Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design  
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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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