RIO 2014-2016: BEYOND OLYMPIC MODE

Prof. Jorge Colón

12:00-1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
801 Yale Blvd NE (LAII Conference Room)

Join us for a special presentation with Jorge Colón, Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture + Planning and a faculty affiliate with the Latin American and Iberian Institute (LAII) at UNM. He currently teaches design studios and seminars that focus on research-based design methodologies within rapidly urbanizing cities and regions. His research centers on the social and economic networks, transportation systems, and infrastructure that inform urban development and public space, and places a special interest in housing patterns within the Global South.

The presentation will offer current preparations for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil as demonstration projects of familiar decision-making processes addressing urban conditions, within the urgent timetables and politics associated with these mega-events. Recently, urban centers in Brazil have experienced massive demonstrations protesting planning and government investment that favors the immediate game-mode over the long-term legacy of these events. Residents have expressed their frustration with the public funding of stadiums and transportation systems that cater to the anticipated influx (and departure) of tourists, rather than long-term investment in education, health care, and infrastructure within urban slums.

The immediate convergence of these two mega-events in Brazil creates a laboratory of accelerated change - offering an opportunity to study the changing roles of actors within contemporary Latin American urban conditions. Further, the shortcomings of current planning efforts and the social inequities that will result from these projects will further demonstrate the need for disciplinary reorientation in order to more effectively view and shape contemporary urban conditions.

This event is sponsored by the LAII. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the LAII at (505) 277-2961 or visit us online at http://laii.unm.edu/events.