

Trip Report

Sept 6-8 2019

Anne Ruch, Jonathan Zee

Purpose of trip was for Jonathan to see our land and interview our staff with the intention of doing the architectural plans for our new education building.

We arrived on Friday evening and when we walked in, the entire staff jumped out with a **big surprise party** (including firecrackers) and had made a big dinner with Tres Leches cake for us! The atmosphere and collegiality among the staff was so heartwarming!

Staff made it clear that they are definitely hoping that we will ultimately have a **licensed school for Parvulos and Primaria**

We **visited a private in San Francisco** that was started by a local couple. She was a retired Parvulos teacher and he is an engineer. The school has been open for 2 years. It took them 2-3 years to get the building done and the school open.

We had a chance to hear about their challenges and see their enthusiasm at creating a school that was offering an education far superior than the government run schools.

Jonathan was delighted to see the buildings he designed.

He was extremely impressed with the work that Camilo and his team did. Fito had done the engineering work for all the buildings and Jonathan felt that Fito's work was outstanding and comparable to a top level engineer here.

He noted that the plans for the hostel had been changed quite a bit and did not follow the plans Jonathan had drawn and of course, we did not have the engineering plans for the revisions. The roof is much different than the original planned roof. The walls in the hostel did not extend to the roof. Camilo said that was because Ismael told him not to. Apparently, Ismael thought it was not necessary and it would save money if the walls were a few feet short of the roof. As we know, this caused a problem with sound between the rooms and we ultimately put false ceilings on 2 of the bedrooms. This led to less air flow and somewhat defeated the purpose of having a high ceiling.

At Jonathan's request, I asked Camillo to extend the wall between the kitchen and the roof. If it doesn't cost too much, we might have Camillo also extend the wall between the dining area and the bedroom.

After realizing all this, I feel that we definitely need to have clear engineering drawings done after the architectural work that Jonathan does. I will Fito if he can do these also. Jonathan said the drawings that Fito did were probably worth tens of thousands of dollars!

We spent a lot of time walking around the property and **discussed best place to put the building.** The staff concluded that to start they would like 5 classrooms, an office, a kitchen area, bathrooms (number to be determined) and a central area that can be used for the children to eat and could also be used for "events".

Jonathan suggested that it might make more sense to **have 2 buildings that are staggered** – one would have the classrooms and the other would have kitchen/ open area/office. He suggested that most of this 2nd building could be open with no walls and a low pitch long roof to avoid rain from getting in. The staff seemed really excited about this. These are obviously just suggestions. We will have lots of opportunities to weigh in on this.

As we had talked about, it would be best **to keep the school in the back of the property** away from the noise of the main road. We talked about both corners and the consensus was to put in the corner farthest from the clinic. Entrance to the school would be off the back “road” that is currently there but has not been mowed.

Camilo felt that **we could “buy” the lien (for potential proposed road) between the clinic and the new property.** He said the municipality typically sells those for Q2 per square meter. We calculated that cost to be just a few hundred dollars. Mayra will go this week to ask.

Also, we could not find a land survey for the new property although we have it for the original property. Mayra will also ask the municipality about this.

We had some discussion about making the new building 2 stories. Jonathan felt it would be best not to because

1. We have sufficient land
2. It is much more complicated and expensive

Fish farms

Pretty amazing!

There are 680 fish – all started from eggs so cost us nothing.

The concrete farms are toward the front of the property near the main road. They have a wire fence around them.

They have an oxygenation system and “nimfa” plants in them for oxygenation.







