

Escuela Tecnico Maya Construction+Design Update:

February 15-28, 2010

- The parents committee of the Tecnico Maya school visited the site for a tour and presentation of the master plan. The main elements of the design and plan were explained using a large master plan printout and members asked questions and made comments.
- A project sign was painted and installed at the site entrance. The purpose of the sign is to inform the community about the purpose of our project and publicize that we are primarily using recycled materials. Having an information sign at a construction site is typical practice and adds a level of legitimacy and formality to the project in the eyes of the community. People passing by stop to read it and have taken the time to look at the project or ask questions - it seems to already have generated more interested and engaged our potential beneficiaries. The sign reads: "Welcome! We are building a school for the benefit of the community, please help us keep the site safe. You're welcome to take a closer look and ask us questions. Thank you! As the project evolves we will change the sign to communicate more specific information as needed."
- The initial design for the buttress was completed. Because too much dirt was dug out more courses of tires are necessary to be able to transition into the retaining wall. More tires in the buttress will only provide more support for the wall.
- Backhoe came on Thursday Feb. 18 and excavated a small platform at 96.25M to produce enough dirt to continue with the buttress and retaining wall. Additionally the area for the second phase of the vocational workshops was cleared. We rented the machinery and operator from a private Comalapa company for Q250/hour. We are working on finding additional excavation at a reduced price.
- Dirt volume calculations were completed - the primary school platform will slope from 96.25M to 97.25, from West to East. This will be sufficient dirt to build all classrooms, fill dirt bottles, volunteer housing, gardens and vivero and backfill for recreation area.
- Finish work continues on the interior of the workshops. As soon as the finish has been applied to the door frames the door fabricator can make measurements for the metal doors.
- Glass bottles collected and sorted
- Schedule change: build entire upper retaining wall and related drainage by rainy season before beginning domed classrooms. Possibility of starting classroom foundations before wall is complete. Art classroom will be completed before the standard classrooms as a test of the domed earthbags and will be built simultaneously with upper retaining wall.

L-R: 1 Sign @ entry; 2 Buttress; 3 Bulldozer excavating; 4 Stucco finish on doors using radial arm



Plans for the next two weeks . . .

- Continue on buttress and upper retaining wall - hire new crew
- Make glass bricks and install glass brick wall and window
- Workshop rooms will be livable for LWH staff by March 12
- Begin next vocational workshops in March
- Start Art classroom with earthbags while building upper retaining wall