

Escuela Tecnico Maya Construction+Design Update:

January 18-31, 2010

- Workshop patio columns laid out and footings poured (3'x3'x3')
- Considered different options for columns - a. stack dirt-packed small tires with center cut out and filled with concrete to create columns inside b. pour concrete column and thread cut tire sidewalls over concrete column c. concrete arches and flat lintel between columns
- Arched door forms were taken out, concrete at doors was scored to be ready for stucco finish
- Looked at options for glass bottle fill at facade and window; investigated different places for obtaining glass bottles. Collected and sorted approx. 100 bottles.
- Poured workshop patio floor. When it has fully hardened we can proceed with the columns and roof.
- Patio roof materials priced and ordered
- Meeting with Israel Mota - Guatemalan Architect and Engineer who provides periodic input on project. Postponed, rescheduled for February.
- Tecnico Maya Manual begun - feb 5: outline, march 1: rough draft, april 1: final draft
- Interior stucco finish being applied to ceilings of workshops.
- Testing of "glass brick" strategy at park; we found that the taped together "glass brick" works great, and were pleased with how it looked. We used a mix of 10 dirt, 4 sifted sand, 1/2 lime, 1/2 cement, with no pine needles. It seemed strong enough but not quite sticky enough. The cob has hardened with only a few visible cracks. We now have a clearer idea about sorting, laying out, cutting and installing the glass bricks. The final mix is yet to be determined but will likely be a standard mortar mix.
- Neil Saunders' solar design was reviewed and approved. All solar information was passed onto Alex Hull for completion of his funding proposal. Investigating other options for soliciting funding for system, which will cost \$10,800 for all 8 primary school classrooms, or \$1,350 per classroom.
- Spoke with structural engineer Carmen Diaz, in Dallas, to further explain project and discussed different options for her to be involved. She will offer advice and suggestions remotely and ideally visit the site in May and complete a structural report of the project thus far, for documentation, liability and further collaboration with professionals.
- A layout and plan for a sign was created. The 3'x7' sign will stand at the entrance of the site showing the basics of the school design for public information, and explain that a school for the benefit of comalapa is under construction and asking for the general public's cooperation in respecting the site and materials.

L-R: 1 Workshop and patio floor; 2 Applying stucco finish to workshop ceiling;
3,4 Glass Brick mock-up at park



Plans for the next two weeks . . .

- Workshop walls will be prepped and stuccoed.
- Will continue on upper retaining wall.
- Glass bottles will be collected for facade arcs, glass bottle wall and window to be constructed.
- Workshop rooms will be livable for LWH staff by March, begin next vocational workshops.
- Excavation of upper terrace complete by April (or sooner), begin first earth-bag classroom.