

# OFFICE *US*

January 13, 2014

Dear Professor Alexander,

As curators of the US Pavilion at the 2014 International Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy, we are researching the history of the American architecture office and its international work. As part of this process, we are soliciting your help in learning about your office and collecting projects that might be of particular value and importance in this history.

The **OfficeUS** exhibition is an interactive and evolving installation that reframes the history of American architecture through the topic of building abroad in two interrelated constructs: The Office and The Repository. The **Repository** documents 1000 projects from the last 100 years, designed by US offices working abroad and 200 architecture offices that have been key in the making of this legacy. Collectively these projects tell multiple, imbricated stories of America's firms, typologies, and technologies, as well as a broader narrative of American modernization and its global reach. The **Office**, an experimental on-site working model, engages a selection of these projects remaking them over the course of the Venice Biennale. It functions as a laboratory staffed by a diverse cast of individuals including resident design fellows collaborating with outpost offices and an ever-changing cast of expert critic-consultants. Together, these two halves of **OfficeUS** create both a historical record of the American contribution to global architectural thought, and a petri dish in which the legacy of that contribution can be evaluated today.

**Center for Environmental Structure is among the firms we are planning to exhibit as key participants in this exhibition.** We have identified one of your projects already and we welcome your input regarding the most important and the most representative projects that your firm was involved in constructing abroad. We also seek to identify the first project produced by your office outside of the United States.

We look forward to working with you on identifying projects and, eventually, visual pieces and other material that best represent your work abroad. The highlights will be included in the US Pavilion in Venice this summer and in a publication published by Lars Muller in the fall of 2014.

Center for Environmental Structure project we selected for potential inclusion:

PREVI Experimental Housing Project, Lima, Peru, 1969

Please reply to me before Jan 15<sup>th</sup> expressing your interest to contribute to the **Repository**. We will be collecting material immediately.

If you are interested in other ways to support and be part of the project please contact Irina Chernyakova at [ic@storefrontnews.org](mailto:ic@storefrontnews.org).

We hope you will participate in the making of this history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of three names: 'Eva Franch i Gilibert', 'Ana Miljački', and 'Ashley Schafer'. The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style. To the left of the names is a horizontal line with a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

Eva Franch i Gilibert, Ana Miljački, Ashley Schafer  
Curators, US Pavilion, 2014 International Architecture Biennale