



CA·UK·IN

studio

Join CAUKIN Studio this summer to design and build a playground at Colegio Mesoamericano in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

CHIMALTENANGO

GUATEMALA 2024

Application Release Document



MESOAMERICANO PLAYGROUND PROJECT

In summer 2024, CAUKIN Studio will be heading to Guatemala to design and build a playground at Colegio Mesoamerican in partnership with the Meso Foundation who have been running the school for 25 years. The non-profit foundation is on a mission to empower the native people of Guatemala with opportunities. The school aims to create the right environment, tools, and connections to transform their students into tomorrow's leaders.

"Poverty lies at the heart of our challenges, Guatemala has a poverty rate of approximately 48.4%, with rural areas experiencing even higher rates (World Bank, 2021). However, to break the cycle of poverty for a child, education alone is insufficient. The child needs to be in an environment where various factors, such as social and psychological elements, do not perpetuate the cycle. This ensures that the child does not follow the same path." - Meso Foundation

The school's playground fell into disrepair and has subsequently been taken down, leaving the students without a dedicated space to explore their full range of sensory and motor skills. We hope to create at least two play structures, catering to different ages groups and abilities.



PACKAGE INFORMATION

Dates

Your choice of either 4 or 8 weeks:

First 4 | July 12 - August 9

Last 4 | August 11 - September 8

Full 8 | July 12 - September 8

Eligibility

All those over the age of 18 at the time of arrival are welcome to apply. Construction experience is not required, but a passion for design is encouraged.

Cost

4 weeks

Registration Fee £195

Participation Costs £850

Minimum Fundraising Cost £650

Total 4 Weeks - £1,695

8 weeks

Registration Fee £195

Participation Costs £1400

Minimum Fundraising Cost £900

Total 8 Weeks - £2,495

Cost Continued

This includes:

- Education and experience in construction, including:
 - A range of construction techniques
 - Structural principles
 - Power tool and hand tool usage
- Education and experience in architectural design, including:
 - Collaborative design work
 - Design for structural stability
 - Design for community and public use
- Accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- 24 hour support whilst on project
- Trip T-shirt
- Off-site activities arranged by CAUKIN may include hiking and exploring, group BBQs, sports and learning how to cook traditional dishes.

This does not include:

- Flights (between £650 - £950)
- Vaccinations (£0 - £150)
- Visa (£0 for most citizens, but it depends on your nationality)
- Travel insurance (~£70 - £150 depending on your length of stay)
- Any additional excursions (optional) or personal spending money

Fundraising

We suggest that our participants fundraise towards the minimum fundraising cost. Previously, our participants have managed to fundraise above and beyond the minimum cost, enabling us to add additional features and facilities to the site.

Fundraising can be done through crowdfunding platforms such as GoFundMe, cake sales, sponsored runs or activities and so on. Many participants have applied for and successfully received funding through their **university's grant schemes** that encourage students to gain experience abroad. Our team offer full fundraising support!



Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided at the school and there will be plenty of opportunity to immerse ourselves within the local culture and lifestyle, whilst making some invaluable friendships along the way. We always ensure that participants stay as a minimum group of 2, but for this project we'll most likely stay as one large group.

Flights and Transportation

You are responsible for arranging your travel to Chimaltenango in time for project commencement on the 12th July or 11th August - an exact meeting point will be released in a later document, but it will most likely be at the accommodation. You will be able to get a taxi directly from La Aurora International Airport (1hr 20min), or from wherever you are staying if you plan on arriving in Guatemala earlier than the start date. Our team will be able to advise on travel options.

Food

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served at the accommodation / school each day. If you have any special dietary requirements, we will ensure that these are catered for.

Free Time

Participants will have time off each week to relax and reflect on the week's building. Days off can be spent in whichever way you chose. There are opportunities to participate in various activities in the area at your own cost. Examples include trips to Antigua, Lake Atitlan, hiking up Volcan de Acatenango and Fuego, visits to local markets, and more!





Insurance

We require all our participants to provide proof of travel insurance, which includes cover for **light construction work and use of light power tools**. CAUKIN Studio offers a tailored policy which provides the correct level of cover through a partner provider. Details will be provided upon acceptance to the project.

Visa

Participants are advised to seek visa advice based on their nationality and the passport they hold.

Visa guidelines are to be confirmed in a following document.

Health & Safety

Participants should be aware of essential vaccinations specific to Guatemala. Please check the links below for advice on vaccinations:

<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/central-america/guatemala>

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/96/guatemala>

It is a **requirement** that all participants bring a pair of steel toe capped boots for working on site. Full inductions to site safety and the safe use of equipment will be provided on site.

Registration Fee

If you are successful in your application, you will be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of £195 upon project acceptance which will then be deducted from the total amount payable.

Applications are reviewed on the second and last Friday of every month. Earlier applications are favored, as spaces on projects fill up quickly!

CAUKIN STUDIO WHO ARE WE?

CAUKIN Studio is a design and build organisation that brings teams of international participants to work on socially, economically and environmentally impactful projects around the world.

The premise of our design group is to use creativity to drive and inspire collaborative design. We work alongside the community in which we are building, exchanging skills and knowledge in the process.

Our projects focus on both the design and construction process. We strive to push client's briefs, to best accommodate their needs through good quality design. This empowers the local people to continue being creative after we complete the project, by developing their knowledge and skills in the field of architecture.

We care deeply about making a difference to the lives of whom we work with, live with and build with, and do so by providing valuable spaces and exchanging lifelong skills and relationships during the course of our projects.





2024 WHAT'S NEW?

Over the past eight years, we have completed over 60 community projects around the world, working with over 800 community members and international participants in the process. This year we are building upon our experience with multiple projects over spring and summer 2024 in Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, and the UK, where we will be pushing our design-builds further in brief, complexity and scale. This will be our first project in Central America, and marks the beginning of a new adventure and hopefully long-lasting collaboration with the Meso Foundation.

We invite you to join us this summer in both designing and constructing this project!

THE PROJECTS WHAT TO EXPECT?

In the early years, learning through play is absolutely key in helping young children develop their problem solving skills, as well as many other physical, social and emotional skills. Creating a playful and challenging space will enable the students to test out their creativity and build their confidence.

The project will encourage us to think sustainably and economically, as resources in the area are limited. Working closely with local people and materials is of critical importance. It will be crucial to keep this in mind whilst we design in the UK. This ensures that we create a structure that is in the best interests of those that will use it.

As a participant, we expect you to be hard working, responsible, respectful and most of all - enthusiastic, enabling you to enjoy this opportunity, to design and build first hand, to its full potential. We are looking for capable participants who have a strong desire to learn new skills whilst working well with others, teamwork is a big part of what we do - so this is a must!





PAST PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIALS

Dima Al-Bayati Shiyala Kindergarten

"I genuinely don't have a favourite moment as I found the whole experience incredible. The people, the place, the building were all perfect and I couldn't have asked for a more rewarding and enjoyable 4 weeks."

Eno Akpan Bogor Musholla

"A-MAZ-ING! Fantastic! Rewarding!"

Myria Xenofontos Naweni Kindergarten II

"Living with the locals was amazing! Everything was perfect, from the little house, to the food we were eating, to the outdoor kitchen - I got to experience a totally different culture which I very much enjoyed. Living under different circumstances than what I'm used to, was something challenging but changed the way I experience and see the world. I have to say, it was once the best things I have ever experienced!."

Tracy Kong Urata Lookout Cafe

"One of my favourite moments on site would probably have to be the tea party that we had in the last week of us being there. I felt it was really rewarding to watch the locals use the café that one day will also be serving tea and cakes once completed. It was almost as if we were having a sneak preview into what the future could be like."

Amanda Selormey Ranwas School

"Sometimes you forget it's a design and build project, and I like how the project leaders encourage you to make design decisions. I like the fact we could have a say. I like the fact that everyone on the team worked well together on and off site"



APPLY HOW DO I APPLY?

We are excited to receive your applications and hope that you are looking forward to joining our team for an unforgettable experience! If you are interested in applying, please follow the URL below to our 'Join Us' page and online application form. If you have any questions, then do not hesitate to send us an email!

Link: www.caukinstudio.com/joinus
Email: workshops@caukinstudio.com