

ALTOS DE CHAVÓN LA ESCUELA DE DISEÑO  
*Afiliada a Parsons The New School for Design*



25  
AÑOS

THE  
CHAVON  
CIRCLE

## THE CHAVON CIRCLE

Early in 2009 the Altos de Chavón School of Design realized the need for a formal organization to represent the more than 2,000 graduates living in various parts of the world.

On September 21, 2009, twelve Chavón graduates; Stephen Kaplan and Carmen Lorente, representing The School; Patricia Rambasek, a consultant; and Rik Laird, a volunteer, met in New York and held an initial conversation on their vision of what an Altos de Chavón Alumni Association should be and do. It was a lively and promising discussion, and some very useful and insightful suggestions were made.

### Among them:

- An Alumni Association would help unite the Chavón alumni “family” internationally. Chapters could be established in New York, Santo Domingo, San Juan, Spain, and elsewhere.
- Alumni of Chavón are interested in “giving back” but need a formal way to do so, and the Alumni Association could provide the structure to achieve this objective.
- The Alumni Association could develop public relations for the purpose of recognizing and promoting the work of Chavón graduates.
- Communications across the generations could help keep members of the Alumni Association up to date as to what graduates are doing and inform them of opportunities that may be available.
- Vignettes documenting the journey of many Dominican artists from their time in Altos de Chavón to their current, successful positions could be documented by the Alumni Association. These vignettes could be used to inform Casa de Campo villa owners and others of the impact of The School, in an effort to solicit new scholarship and sponsorship funds.

**On November 13, a group of 35 alumni, from the earliest to the most recent graduating classes, met at Casa de Chavón, The School of Design's satellite center in Santo Domingo, with the aim of opening the same dialogue that began in New York. They unanimously expressed enthusiasm toward an official Alumni Association. Many said that being a graduate of The School gives them a sense of family and that the time they spent at Altos still echoes in their personal and professional lives. Being a Chavonero has become a calling card, a brand, they said, and they voiced serious interest in helping to ensure that The School of Design continues to be available for current and future generations.**

Positive results have followed both these meetings. Some alumni have helped the administrative offices get in touch with Chavoneros with whom they had lost touch. Some have gotten together to work on projects, while others have forwarded news of employment opportunities at the places they work.

As a way of ending this year we want to send this mini-newsletter to all the graduates who have agreed to be actively involved in this endeavor. We thank you for your enthusiasm, availability, and eagerness to make the Alumni Association real and to participate in its development. If you'd like to have a role in the planning and coordination of this alumni network, please feel free to contact us either in New York or in the Dominican Republic.

**We will forge ahead with activity planning, new meetings, and news next year. In the meantime, we wish you a festive holiday season and a prosperous new year!**

• Interim 2010

The School of Design is currently promoting Interim 2010. Interim is part of The School of Design's Special Programs, which take place twice a year at Altos de Chavón and throughout the year, as Continuing Education, at Casa de Chavón, in Santo Domingo.

Interim is an intensive program offering one- and two-week courses to increase creativity and improve techniques in the arts and design. Workshops aim to complement the knowledge of professionals and advanced students in various areas and provide them with the tools to treat specific themes in their specialty. Among the workshops

being offered during Interim 2010 are typography, fashion illustration, jewelry design, photography, drawing, and painting. You can find a complete listing with details at [http://altosdeChavón.com/interim10/index\\_en.html](http://altosdeChavón.com/interim10/index_en.html)

**Sign up—Chavón graduates receive a 10% discount—and spread the word; these are ways you can start to help the school.**



CURSOS DE ARTE Y DISEÑO

# interín

DEL 4 AL 22 DE ENERO

**2010**

<p><b>enero 4 -15</b> DIBUJO Mark Lineweaver</p> <p><b>enero 4 -8</b> PLURO TIPO Elias Rosedin FOTOGRAFIA NOCTURNA Felipe Alvarez Orozco GUIÓN AVANZADO José Ignacio Valdemarcello JOYAS TRABAJANDO CON POLYMER CLAY Edgar López</p> <p><b>enero 11 - 15</b> FOTOGRAFIA DE LA MODA Michael Robinson PINTURA Raúl Myar BRANDING José Guillermo Díaz</p>	<p>CREACIÓN DE PERSONAJES PARA ANIMACIÓN Matthew Stoddart PRODUCCIÓN DE CORTOS Y DOCUMENTALES Jacqueline Bello JOYAS TRABAJANDO CON RESINA Edgar López</p> <p><b>enero 18 - 22</b> FOTOGRAFIA AVANZADA Jorge Alberto Pérez ESCULTURA Mark Lineweaver IDENTIDAD CORPORATIVA Michael Robinson ANIMACIÓN DIGITAL Victor Álvarez ILUSTRACIÓN DE MODAS Alfredo Cabrera DISEÑO DE CARTERAS Y ACCESORIOS Anthony Luciano</p>
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ALTOS DE CHAVÓN LA ESCUELA DE DISEÑO **25** años  
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## CURRENT NEWS

- Fashion designer Kay Unger donates fabric

Fashion designer Kay Unger, of Kay Unger New York, recently donated 300 rolls of fabric to the fashion design students at The School of Design. The donation—a variety of fabrics, from satin, brocade, and crepe to organza and lace—is a true bonanza. Stephen Kaplan carried a travel bag full of these valuable fabrics down to Chavón, and our students were immediately delighted by their good fortune. The remaining rolls are being meticulously folded and readied for shipping.

- DominicanaModa 2009

In honor of The School of Design's 25-year history of fashion education and influence in the Dominican fashion industry, last October, Sócrates McKinney and Mirka Morales, the organizers of DominicanaModa, invited The School to participate in the 2009 event. Chavón's presence was felt in the myriad young and seasoned fashion designers who held runway shows, as well as in an exhibit of work by other graduates in the Hotel Embajador. We want to thank the graduates who collaborated by sending their garments, illustrations, photos, and texts.



You can visit

<http://www.dominicanamoda.com/>  
for details on the designers and their runway shows.

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- **Broadening the Network**

We continue to develop relationships with other institutions in our efforts to create new student-exchange agreements and broaden the options available to Chavoneros who wish to continue their studies after they leave The School of Design. Last fall we visited the École Supérieure d'Art de Martinique, where we participated in a dialogue about Caribbean schools of art and design.

Also, we made a trip to Centro, a school in Mexico City specializing in design, film, and television, to meet the school's director and learn about their academic program.

We were also invited by Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, New York, to meet with the Chairs of the Fashion, Fine Arts, Graphics, and Creative Arts Therapy departments to introduce The School of Design, and most importantly our graduates' work, to further a mutual interest in establishing a formal relationship.

## ALUMNI CONTACTS

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