

## Personal Statement

I took part in a multi-discipline workshop during the Spring 1999 semester. The workshop broke boundaries by bringing planning, civil engineering, and architecture students in one design class, at one table, to discuss, design and develop a project for real people, people who were in need of our help.

The workshop was to design a housing development for Honduran victims of 1998's Hurricane Mitch. Professor Jan Wampler had been inspired by student clothing drives, and asked himself if he could do more to assist these victims, whose entire lives had been washed away. The workshop he developed not only helped those in Tegucigalpa; it opened up many, many doors of thinking for those of us who participated in it. The unique multi-disciplined concept, the teamwork that was successful in accomplishing the design in a very short period of time, the exciting trip to present the project to the Mayor of Tegucigalpa, were all realized.

I experienced a country devastated in terms I can not describe, something I will take with me always. I saw how a project is approached through an architect and planner's eyes – something some civil engineers never experience! Most importantly, I left the workshop with wonderful friends, both at MIT and in Honduras, that I never would have met in my life otherwise.

- Kathryn J. MacLaughlin