

Ponce Creole: Architecture and Modernity in a Puerto Rican Sugar Capital, 1850-1930

- Thesis: The adaptation of late imperial reforms in the Spanish world to the Hispanic Caribbean reveals the local assimilation of a rationalist seeing manifested in spatial strategies, aesthetic ideologies, design regulations, and mandates in the living of everyday life.
- Results (summer 2013): archival research and fieldwork in Ponce, Puerto Rico. The archives produced numerous sets of 19th century urban regulations, architectural plans and elevations, and discourses about the reform of space.
- Interesting findings to support future research: The development of civil societies in both Ponce and San Juan suggest the need to consider the two cities in comparison for a broader study of architecture and reform in 19th century Puerto Rico. I now view the post-1902, United States colonial period as beyond the scope of this study.



Asilo de Damas ["Asylum of Ladies"], Ponce, Puerto Rico, c. 1866



Architectural study of a street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, c. 1860s

Next steps:

- Apply for funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society to continue archival and field research in San Juan and Ponce, Puerto Rico
- Begin to outline an article for development and submission to the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*

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