

Assignment 5:
Fortifications

We are looking at the early centuries of Spanish colonization. A topic of interest is the work of the Spanish to fortify San Juan - which was done with other ports in the Caribbean, too. These occurrences have left a long-lasting impact. In the case of fortifications, it is the massiveness and Renaissance sense of order and reason put to the task of defense.

Here are three URL's that illustrate the fortifications. They lead to other sites with more imagery.

<http://www.nps.gov/saju/photosmultimedia/>

http://www.flickr.com/photos/professor_p/collections/72157624723230411/

http://www.flickr.com/photos/professor_p/sets/72157594154438123/

This site, in Italian and Spanish chronicles the lives and works of the Antonelli's, the military architects of Spain's American Empire. These illustrations and two 3D reconstructions are worthy of study:

<http://www.provincia.fc.it/cultura/antonelli/index.html>

Your assignment is to reflect on Fortifications. After having taken another look at this, and other reference material you might find on your own, create some piece of art - sculpture, collage, drawing, slide show, video - that expresses your feelings about fortifications and living on both sides of walls. You could create something which speaks about ballistics, fields of fire, Renaissance geometry, gunpowder, mass, masonry. Something that expresses the place where European powers confront each other far from their home. A place of stone in a land that was of palms and bohios.