Living in the Américas - Syncretic Architecture

BAC CD102E/CD7102E: Spring 2012
Instructors: Luis Montalvo, John Pilling

Assignment 3: Due at the Third Class

Fortifications

We are looking at the early centuries of Spanish colonization. A tropic of interest is the work of the Spanish to fortify their key ports, such as Santiago de Cuba, La Habana, and San Juan. 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.

- 1. Do the second reading Part Two Spanish Colonial Architecture: and Part Four Cuba, in "Architectural Heritage."
- 2. Study these Here URL's that illustrate fortifications:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/professor_p/sets/72157624847634660/and

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

3. Study the images on this website, in Italian and Spanish, that chronicles the lives and works of the Antonelli's, the military architects of Spain's American Empire. This illustrations and two 3D reconstructions are worthy of study:

http://www.provincia.fc.it/cultura/antonelli/ImmaginiAntonelli/ImmaginiBig/America/Cuba/Gasp22. 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 you 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.