Juan Pablo Aschner

Architect, full professor, and founding dean of the Faculty of Creative Studies at Universidad del Rosario, established in 2020, where he also conceptualized and structured its academic programs with a Global South perspective. The faculty offers an innovative and interdisciplinary educational approach that integrates the arts, crafts, artisanal knowledge, design, architecture, and the cultural and creative industries. Since its foundation, it has grown into a dynamic academic center with over 1,000 students, six academic programs, a musical theater company, and an arts school for children and youth with 400+ kids and teens enrolled. With 25+ years of academic and professional experience, he has published ten books, co-directed an award-winning film, and led architectural, cultural, and participatory design projects. His research bridges architecture, the arts, and decolonial creative education. He has received national and international recognition, including the Intercultural Achievement Award (Austria, 2024) and prizes at the Colombian and Pan-American Architecture Biennials

Personal Information

Email: juan.aschner@urosario.edu.co
Birth Date: 11/07/1977
Nationalities: Colombian, Austrian, Italian
Languages: Spanish-Native, English-Fluent, French-Basic, Italian-Basic, Portuguese-Basic

Keywords

Academic Leadership and Faculty Development
Curriculum Design, Implementation, and Accreditation
Practical & Theoretical Teaching – Arts & Architecture
Interdisciplinary Research and Creative Practice
Award-winning Publications, Films, and Exhibitions
Architectural Projects – Cultural, Residential, Educational
Participatory & Community-engaged Design
Cross-disciplinary Project Leadership

Academic Positions

Founding Dean, Full Professor Faculty of Creative Studies, U. del Rosario.
2020 – Present

Founded and led an interdisciplinary faculty with a Global South focus, uniting arts, crafts, design, architecture, and creative industries under a cohesive academic vision. Within three years, delivered consistent operating surpluses exceeding 20%, enabling rapid expansion to 1,000+ students across six academic programs, a musical theater company, and a youth arts school with 400+ students. Built an international profile with over 100 strategic partnerships in 32 countries and active participation in leading networks such as CUMULUS and ELIA

Full-time Associate Professor Faculty of Architecture and Design, U. de los Andes
2009 – 2019

Directed Dearq Journal of Architecture and coordinated the International Architecture Workshop in Cartagena. Served on committees, taught courses, advanced research, and led faculty initiatives.

Associate Professor Arts Faculty, U. Nacional de Colombia
2008-2009

Coordinated the History & Theory Area, taught advanced courses, supervised thesis projects.

Education

PhD Architecture (Doctorate in Art and Architecture) Universidad Nacional de Colombia
MBA in Arts Innovation The Global Leaders Institute
Postgraduate Masters in architecture (Laureate Thesis) Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Undergraduate Licensed Architect Universidad de los Andes
International Dean's Course Latin America 2021-22 DAAD, HKE Germany
Bachelor Colegio Los Nogales

Books (selection)

Composition and experience in Rogelio Salmona’s architecture
Book: Aschner J: U. del Rosario, U. Nacional de Colombia. 2024

Counterpoint and Confluence in the Architectural Concert: Virgilio Barco Library

Book: Aschner J, Bogotá: U. Nacional de Colombia, 2010

Q1 Articles (selection)

Decolonizing creative education in the global south
Authors: Aschner J, Forero M, Sarmiento A. In: Design Studies. 2025

Architectures, spaces, territories of illicit drug trafficking in Colombia and Mexico
Authors: Aschner J, Montero J. In: Crime, Media, Culture: An International Journal. 2016

A politics that wants to be form, a form that wants to be politics.
Article in Revista De Estudios Sociales v.471. 2010

Courses tought (selection)

Contemporary Latin American Architecture MOOC EdX + URosario, 2022
Rural Architecture Studio Universidad de los Andes, 2009 – 2014
Architecture Core Studio Universidad de los Andes, 2016 - 2018
Contemporary Architecture Theory Universidad de los Andes, 2011 - 2019
Classical Architecture Theory Universidad de los Andes, 2008 - 2019

Lectures and Conferences

ConferenceArts and the Law, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA2017
Poetical, Political, Polite Architecture in Latin America
LectureThe 4th International Conference on Architecture S.ARCH, Hong Kong 2017
Deconstruction of Contemporary Architecture in Seven Trends
LectureELIA Academy 2025, Life-Integrated Learning, Oslo2025
Traditional Craftsmanship of Colombia
ConferenceUFR Arts, philosophie, esthétique, Université Paris VIII. France2015
Archi-objets du désir
LectureCumulus Mumbai, IDC, IIT Bombay, India2015
Water and architecture for social and environmental reconciliation
LectureFUGITIVE GEOGRAPHIES Symposium, Yale School of Architecture2011
NARCHITECTURE and drug depredation of rural and urban space in Colombia

Architecture Design Projects (selection)

Architectural design and construction supervision
House in La Vega, Cundinamarca. 167 m2. 2019"

Direction of Architectural and Technical Studies. 2,500 m2, 2007-2011
San Agustin Archaeological Site Museum, Colombia. UNESCO World Heritage Site

Participatory Design Projects & Master Plans

Participatory architectural and industrial design; 2017 Bogotá and Neiva, Colombia
Cyclosport, Tentmobile and Gardenpark for Social Housing Projects in Bogota and Neiva

Master plan for interventions and academic and administrative building for Liceo Navarra School, Bogotá. 1000 m2.
Winner of a private competition. Project directors: 5inco Arquitectos, G. Campuzano, J. Aschner

Master plan for interventions within the central headquarters of the Ombudpersons's State Office, Bogotá. 15,588 m2.
2001-2004. Associated collaborator: D. Pérez"

Audiovisual, Musical, Multimedia Creative Projects (Selection)

Euritmia, an audiovisual experience
Written and directed E. Mandirola and J.P. Aschner, 2014

Time of Noise, an Audiovisual Experience
An audiovisual piece featuring music, performance, photography, videography.
Authors: JP Aschner, O Beltran, AM Pinzón, S Carrié, E Mandirola, F Sierra, J Hamon, P Peña.

La Paralela, Music Band
Drums, alongside F. Sierra, O. Beltran, A.M. Pinzon, J. Hamon

Awards and recognitions

Award Intercultural Achievement Award 2024
Award presented by the Austrian Government for the dissemination, education,
and research on Colombia's Artisanal Knowledge at the Faculty of Creative Studies.

1st Prize"Colombian Architecture Biennial, publications category, Dearq. Director: JP Aschner"2018

1st prize"Experimental Cinema category: Jahorina Film Fest, Bosnia Herzegovina. Euritmia"2015

1st prize"VIII International Film and Architecture Festival, Istanbul, Turkey, Euritmia"2014

1st Prize"History, Theory, and Criticism Category at the XXII Colombian Architecture Biennial "2010 Book & Exhibit: Le Corbusier's Plan Piloto. Participation as researcher within a team.

2nd prizeÉcole Nationale Supérieure d'architecture et de paysage Bordeaux FIFAAC. Euritmia
2016

Honorable Mention XXI Pan-American Architecture Biennial Quito. Dearq. Director: JP Aschner
2018

Honorable Mention"History, Theory, and Criticism Category, XXIII Colombian Architecture Biennial" 2012 Book: Germán Samper. 2011. Participation as co-author.

Honorable Mention"History, Theory, and Criticism Category, XXI Colombian Architecture Biennial" 2008 "Book & Exhibit: Rogelio Salmona: Open,Collective Spaces. Participation as researcher."

Official selection"Dissemination Category, XXVIII Colombian Architecture Biennial"2022
"Book: Architectures of Universidad del Rosario, Author"

Official selection"UPENN CAMRA Screening. Time of Noise, music and visual experience"2019

Official selection"Film and Architecture Biennale Bordeaux, France. Euritmia "2017

Official selection"Film and Architecture Festival FICARQ, Oviedo, Spain. Euritmia "2015

Official selection"Film and Architecture Ciudades Reveladas, BAs, Argentina. Euritmia "2015

Official selection"Film and Architecture Cinetekton Festival, Puebla, Mexico. Euritmia"2015

Official selectionIbero-American Architecture Biennial. 2012 Book: Germán Samper. 2011. Participation as co-author.

Official selection"Theory, History, and Research Category, XXII Colombian Architecture Biennial" 2010 Book: Counterpoint and Confluence in the Architectural Concert: Virgilio Barco Library. Author

Official selection"Architectural Design Category, XX Colombian Architecture Biennial"2006
Architecture Design: Plaza Imperial Mall. Participation as designer in the Tamayo Montilla firm.

Grants and Scholarships

Laureate thesis"Master's thesis laureate in Architecture, U. Nacional de Colombia"2007
Scholarship "Academic Excellence Scholarship Recipient, U. Nacional de Colombia"2006
Creation grant"Interdisciplinary Creative IDARTES Grant, La Paralela, S. Carrié, and E. Mandirola" 2018

Research grantResearch on Creative Education in the Global South. 2024
"Funding institution OSUN Co-researchers: A. Sarmiento, M. Forero, R. Gerald"

Research grant"Research on Drug Trafficking, Architecture and Territory of Mexico and Colombia " 2015 "Funding institution: CESED. Co-researcher: J.C. Montero, Tec Monterrey"