

ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

SECOND QUARTER 2000



PANTEÓN NACIONAL

Iglesia de los Jesuitas

Santo Domingo, Republica de Dominica

The National Pantheon of the Dominican Republic was originally built as the main Jesuit church between 1714 and 1755. The main facade of this issue's limited edition signed print by Ladd P. Ehlinger faces east on Calle de las Damas ("Street of the Dames"), which is very unusual for a Roman Catholic church. Usually the main entrance faces west of Roman Catholic Churches.

This street was named "Street of the Dames" because Señora Maria de Toledo, the wife of the Viceroy, Don Diego Colón, used to take long slow walks with the young ladies that she had imported as her 'ladies in waiting' to this first Spanish colony in the early 1500's. It had originally been named "King's Street" because the palace of the Viceroy also faces on it.

Santo Domingo was settled originally by Christopher Columbus (Cristobal Colón in Spanish) himself, and is the oldest city of European descendants in the Americas. The Viceroy was his brother. The city was founded on the Ozama River, at first on the west side,

but a year or two later it was moved to the east bank which was not as vulnerable to hurricane damage.

The style of this Jesuit Church is of Renaissance neo classic, which is characterized by severe and sparse lines and form. The plan is a Latin cross, typical of a Jesuit church. The superstructure is of groin vaults with a dome at the crossing, constructed in both brick and stone and plastered. The doors are spare with no decoration but an ogee arch over the main door. The pilasters are also spare, with the two center ones being narrower than the others but having an additional molding on the plinth of their bases.

The Jesuits were an adjunct to the Spanish Conquistadors, helping to colonize the new world. Yet when the Reformation happened, there was a backlash against the Jesuits even in Spain. They were expelled from all of the Spanish territories and their churches were converted to theaters, warehouses, offices - whatever was practicable and needed at the time. This facility was finally converted to the National Pantheon, where the heroes of the country are buried, in 1956. General Pedro Santana, a five

term President of the Dominican Republic, is buried here.

LA ARENA GALLERA

Although absolutely illegal in the United States except in Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma, the second most popular sport in the Dominican Republic is cock fighting. Baseball, of course, is the first sport and a national obsession.

In almost every village can be found a small round, arena shaped building called the Gallera. The photo was taken in the town of La Romana (not far from San Pedro which is the home of Sammy Sosa).

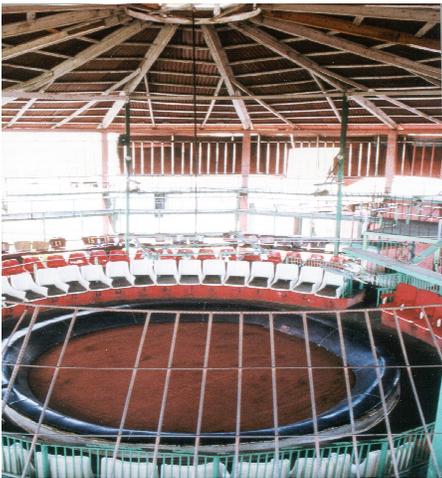
These buildings are very specialized in their function and the design reflects the typical needs with few variations. They are arenas in style and shape, with compression rings at the top, conical roofs (some covered with thatch, others with metal) and tension rings at the bottom. They hold about 50 seated in cushioned seats in three tiers and another 150 standing in 3 upper tiered galleries which are separated from the paid seating by a screen of rebar, to keep these free patrons from usurping the paid for seats below.



The cock fighting trainers and owners are very intense about their business. It is said... "that some men love their roosters more than their wives".

Payment of over \$10,000 for a good fighting rooster is not unheard of. The feathers are plucked from the birds and the bare skin is rubbed with cayenne pepper to make the bird brave with a nasty disposition and to keep its skin tough. Only the head, tail and wing feathers are left unplucked.

For the fight, factory made (and strictly regulated) plastic spurs are tied on the legs over the stub of the natural



spurs (which are cut off) with a small cloth band 1-1/2 inch long. The spurs are serially numbered and can only be used once by law.

The fights are to the death. The looser is eaten. It is cooked in a special way, boiled in water with various local spices and then shredded and called "Gallo Ripiao". Bon Appetite!

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Ladd and Dana wish to express a special "Thank You" to Arturo and Wilfredo Vasquez of Miami, Florida for their kind invitation to visit their beautiful and interesting homeland island, and their wonderful hospitality.

Both brothers worked for Ehlinger & Associates in the early 1980's as one of the first architects in the South to draw and design completely on CAD. This was a daring venture in those days as most architects were reluctant to move to the new technology and thought Ehlinger was crazy for being the 1st to do so.



The Vasquez's are both Architects and Developers. They are Principals in Constructadora Construction Company in Santo Domingo, which is currently building a subdivision (60 homes) and an condominium apartment complex (100 units) near the capital city.

IN LOUISIANA

The Legislature passed a law that said that fighting of animals was illegal, but that roosters were not animals. The rooster is declared to be a fowl, and not an animal. This is very similar to the contortion to get around the constitutional prohibition against gambling: we now have gaming, not gambling!

Even though cock-fighting is supposedly legal in Louisiana, we have looked for the equivalent to the Dominican cock pit. We can't seem to find one, or even anyone who has been to a cock fight. Everyone seems to have heard of it, knows someone who might participate (until you check it out) and heard that the fights take place in old barns, but no one will admit to ever having seen one or where one will be held.

Can it be that we have finally found an activity that Louisianians are ashamed of, that is participated in furtively, or is it that the whole cock fight scenario is a myth?

A LOUISIANA COCK FIGHT

The Sheriff in a rural Louisiana town in Cajun country went up to Boudreaux, who had a reputation as a burglar, and said: "Boudreaux, where was y'all at las' night? Y'all know the Bank was robbed, and y'all better be able to 'count for y'all whereabouts.

Boudreaux answered: "Sheriff, Ah was at the cockfights!

Sheriff: "How do Ah know y'all was dere? Did anyone see y'all?"

Boudreaux: "Ah seen dat dumb ole Placide dat went to Texas A&M."

Sheriff: "Boudreaux, how do Ah know y'all not lying? Did y'all talk to him?"

Boudreaux: "No, but dat Aggie brung him a duck to fight at dat cock fight, yea!"

Sheriff: "Boudreaux, dat's not good enuf, you gots to have mo' pruf dan dat! Did y'all talk to anyone else?"

Boudreaux: "No, but Ah seen dat dum' idiot Etienne, too."

Sheriff: "Boudreaux, did y'all talk to him? Did he talk to y'all?"

Boudreaux: "No, but Etienne bet on dat duck, yea!"

Sheriff: "Boudreaux, Ah'm real close to puttin' y'all in jail for robbin' dat bank, yea - now, who all else did y'all talk to?"

Boudreaux: "Sheriff, Ah seen Edwin Edwards at dat cock fight also!"

Sheriff: "Boudreaux, did y'all talk to him? Did he talk to y'all? How do Ah know y'all not lyin' again? How do Ah know it were Edwin Edwards?"

Boudreaux: " 'Cause dat duck won!"