

In the first two years that we were creating the Latin American Housing Network we decided to begin data collection in a range of irregular settlements in three cities (Mexico City, Bogotá, and Guatemala where two of us (Peter Ward and Bryan Roberts) had conducted household surveys in the late 1960s and early/mid 1970s. The idea was to try to return to the exact same dwellings and lots in which we had interviewed owners some thirty years ago when these *colonias* were incipient or just beginning to consolidate physically. Locating these exact same dwellings was no easy task of course; new streets had been created, street names had changed; and lot numbers had changed often several times over. But we were interested to know: 1) If a large proportion of the lots were still occupied by the same families (usually the [now] adult children); 2) how densities had changed and whether multiple lot sharing existed; 3) how adult children were inheriting the patrimony; and 4) current value of consolidated housing.

In 2008, working with FLACSO in Guatemala City, a resurvey was undertaken of two settlements in which Bryan Roberts had worked in 1969. La Limonada (also called El Esfuerzo) is located close to the city center and was a shantytown now consolidated. But the lots are very small, and the physical fabric is very similar to the “Villas” in Buenos Aires with small narrow streets and multiple *pasillos*.

La Florida, on the other hand is very much larger with large lots (300m²) some of which have been divided in two. Located at the former periphery in the surrounding municipality of Mixco, it petitioned successfully to secede and join Guatemala municipality. It is fully consolidated with larger numbers of small commerce and talleres. Renting (rooms) is also very common in the settlement.

Preliminary findings suggest that in both settlements there has been little turnover: 60% and 50% have been living in El Esfuerzo and La Florida for more than 40 years; and a further 38% and 30% respectively between 20-39 years. More data and the databases will be forthcoming in the near future. A follow up study is underway in June and July 2009.

See also the 2007 Restudy for Bogotá and Mexico City (Methodology).

t the Guatemala study, please see the Case Study Cities – Guatemala – 2008 Restudy.