

# Regnier Traveling Fellowship

Monthly Report: December, 2006

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## SUMMARY

This month I spent most of my time updating the website and writing case studies. I also made it out to Bilbao to spend Christmas with my sister and some family friends there. For New Year's Eve, I met up with friends in Geneva.

## GREEN BUILDING WORLDWIDE

I completed translations of the case studies I have for Mexico and posted them on the Spanish site. Six of the main website pages are being translated into Italian and Swedish and should be posted by the end of January.

I've been realizing all month just how much is involved in website design. The site is considerably advanced and my backlog of case study writing is getting smaller with each website update. I now have pages up for projects in Holland and Germany. I'm currently writing case studies that are left and researching background information that I wasn't able to get during building visits.

I'm also looking for buildings to visit here in Spain. I plan on making a tour around Southern Spain during the first two weeks in February. I'm excited to get to see the Metropol Parasol project in Seville, as well as a few interesting projects happening in Madrid.

A contact from the National Center of Renewable Energies here in Spain sent me a list of sustainable projects being constructed or already built. I received the go ahead to use data from the list in my case study writing. Now I'm setting up project visits for January in Catalunya.

## OTHER NEWS

I wrote two articles about projects and cities I've seen. The first article is written about Freiburg, Germany and the solar projects that are happening there. I'm currently talking to the editor at *eco-structure* about publishing the article in the April edition of the sustainable construction magazine.

The second article is on the H2PIA project happening in Denmark. This will be a pilot project for a city run entirely on hydrogen. Some houses will produce their own hydrogen through solar and wind power on their roofs and facades, and other houses will pull energy off the grid that is produced from clean, renewable sources and use this to create hydrogen to power and heat the house as well as cars. This is a project architect Peter Qvist Lorentsen has been working on for the last few years and is slated to begin construction late in 2007. I'm hoping to publish this article soon, but for now, it can be accessed at:  
[http://www.greenbuildingworldwide.com/index\\_files/page0034.htm](http://www.greenbuildingworldwide.com/index_files/page0034.htm)

I am putting together a session proposal to present the findings of this fellowship at GreenBuild 2007 in L.A. There is a focus on Global Sustainability, so I think this project will be a good fit for that session track. It will also be a valuable way to disseminate the findings of this study to industry.

There is a new Spanish building code regarding the use of renewable energies in all new construction and building renovation projects, public and private. The code requires that 30-40% of the energy consumed by the building be met with solar power. Like the Million Solar Roof initiative in California, this promises to boost the market for solar modules, spurring competition and ultimately improving solar power efficiency and bringing down prices on the units. Some people have commented that the current boom in construction is an effort to skip out on the requirement. We'll see how this plays out in the construction market in 2007.

## CHRISTMAS IN BILBAO

I finally got the chance this holiday season to visit my friends in Bilbao. My sister met up with me in Barcelona and together we took the train to Bilbao. We stayed for about a week and I got the chance to show Sarah around Bilbao and Las Arenas, the town outside Bilbao where I lived four years ago.



The Puente Colgante in Las Arenas



Sarah and me with Ama & Aita in Bilbao



The beach at Bakio

## NEW YEAR'S IN GENEVA

I headed back to Geneva to meet up again with two old friends. I stayed with Juan Gonzalez, my old roommate in Bilbao, and there visiting was Ola, a friend of ours from Sweden (who I stayed with in Lund). From hiking, to snowboarding in the Alps, to street festivities for New Year's, we had an excellent visit, made delicious meals, and got a bunch of exercise... a great way to start 2007.



Icicles on a hike up a mountain outside of Geneva



Juan, me, Lotte, and Ola out on New Year's Eve