

Despiou Associates
Consulting Geotechnical Engineers

COMPANY BROCHURE

“Serving Puerto Rico and the Caribbean since 1986”

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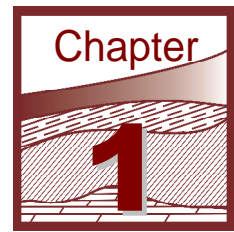
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COMPANY OVERVIEW

Despiou Associates (DA) - Consulting Geotechnical Engineers and Despiou Associates Corp. were founded in 1986. Our primary purpose is to provide consulting engineering services in all phases of the geotechnical and related civil engineering fields while providing our clients with quality services that exceed their expectations to satisfy their project goals.

Since 1986, we have been setting the industry standard for performance and technical innovation in geotechnical engineering field. Since the beginning, we have been directly involved in the supervision, analysis, and design of foundation solutions for over 3,200 projects in Puerto Rico, including Vieques and Culebra. Our experience in the Field of Geotechnical Engineering includes private and public projects dealing with roads; bridges; schools; parking facilities; residential, industrial, and multi-story buildings; and pharmaceutical plants, among others.

Overall, our personnel with 40+ years of experience in the Construction Industry have provided geotechnical consulting services, testing materials, and inspection services in over 6,500 projects in the public and private sector. Some of the industries we provide services to are pharmaceutical, commercial, waste management, manufacturing, and retail companies. Our clients also include state, federal, and municipal governments.

Mission

Despiou Associates Corp. is committed to deliver excellent and innovative professional and geotechnical engineering services to public and private clients by staying current with new technologies and codes of practice. Our staff provides value to each of our clients by being responsive, proactively working with the project team to solve problems.

Customer Satisfaction

We have built our reputation by performing the highest quality work and providing the most innovative solutions on the widest range of demanding and high profile projects.

Client-received value is the true measure of the worth of our services. We strive to provide the highest quality and level of work that our clients value like personalized attention, cost-effective solutions, and extensive client involvement in decision-making processes. We try to exceed customer expectations through continuous improvement in quality, service, productivity and punctuality.

Integrity

Operating with integrity is fundamental to DA's philosophy. We are committed to conducting all aspects of our practice with integrity. This includes internal operations with employees, as well as external operations with our clients. To our employees, clients, and vendors, we strive to bestow honesty, reliability, and respect. Honesty and fairness are essentials to the way we do business. We do what we say we will do, and we will conduct ourselves in accordance with our code of ethics.

Insurance Capabilities

Despiau Associates Corp. insurance capabilities are as follows:

- General Liability: \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate
- Automobile Liability: \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit
- Professional Liability: \$1,000,000 Per Claim and Aggregate
- Worker's Compensation:

If additional coverage or increased limits of liability are required, we will endeavor to obtain the requested insurance and charge separately for cost associated with additional coverage or increased limits.

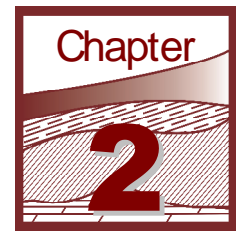
Our Employees

Despiau Associates Corp. values focuses first on its people. We understand that by tailoring growth paths to meet each person's professional and lifestyle objectives, we develop a strong foundation for building solutions that will bring our company success.

We provide employees with tools, training and support to achieve excellence in customer satisfaction. We seek improvement and innovation in every element of our business. We strived to give my employees and co-workers a working environment focused on good ethics, integrity, health and safety.

Affirmative Action Statement

Despiau Associates Corp. is a small, service-oriented business. Our objective is to employ qualified, competent persons regardless of their age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.



SERVICES

Geotechnical Engineering Services

Despiau Associates Corp. (DAC) specializes in performing geotechnical investigations and analyzes valuable information to provide structural engineers, project developers, planners, and architects with the pertinent engineering assessments and recommendations needed to meet their project requirements

Our experienced team of professional engineers evaluates the proposed projects with respect to the site conditions and provides recommendations to optimize project development. Among others, we provide recommendations for: site selection and preparation, foundation design, pavement design, slope construction, erosion control, and general site grading.

DAC offers comprehensive geotechnical support, including site reconnaissance, field and laboratory testing, and construction quality control. DAC engineers work as a team with our clients since the pre-design stages to project completion.

Also, as part of the team of Despiau Associates Corp. we have experienced drilling crews. Each drilling crew is composed of a Foreman and laborers. Among others, the fully owned drilling equipment of Despiau Associates Corp. consists of the following:

- 2 CME-45
- 2 Acker Drill N5-C Core Drill
- 2 Acker Model 1200 PM Pipe Mounted Core Drill
- 3 Motorized Cathead Tripods

We have the added advantage of being able to replace drilling equipment entirely with similar equipment should mechanical failure impair the equipment beyond a normal repair by our mechanic. The replacement of equipment shall be made within 24 hours.

The Geotechnical Services offered by DAC include:

- Subsurface Drilling, Sampling, and Field Testing
- Preliminary Geotechnical Investigations

Additional Geotechnical Services offered by DAC:

- Fill and Debris Area / Volume Assessments
- Foundation Design Assessments and Recommendations
 - Shallow Foundation Design
 - Bearing capacity of soil and rock
 - Deep Foundation Design and Construction
 - Pre-Cast Concrete Piles
 - Drilled Piers
 - Driven Piles
 - Axial and Lateral Pile Capacity Evaluation
 - Sheet and Soldier Piles
 - Retaining Walls
 - Earth Retention Design.
 - Cantilever System
 - Tieback System
 - Gravity Retaining Structures
 - Retaining Structures Stability
- Soil Movement Monitoring
- Geologic Studies
- Geotechnical Feasibility Studies
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Foundation Investigations
- Slope Stability Investigations
 - Inclinerometers Installation
- Fault Investigations
- Liquefaction Analysis
- Seismic Analysis
- Settlement Analysis
 - Piezometers Installation
- Consolidation Analysis
- Underground Utilities
 - Trench Safety
 - Earth Pressures
 - Groundwater/Seepage Control
 - Backfilling
- Percolation Feasibility Studies
- Pavement Design
- Grading Observations
- Geophysical Investigations

Laboratory and Field Technical Services

Despiou Associates Corp. (DAC) operates a construction materials testing laboratory under the pertinent quality controls and assurances. To provide adequate quality assurance from the pre-design stages to project completion, we also provide quality control testing and inspection services during grading and construction operations.

Behind every field technician the support of professional engineers are available to provide timely on-site solutions to construction problems if they arise. Our professional engineers and laboratory technicians are certified under the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and American Concrete Institute.

The Laboratory and Field Technical Services provided by DAC include:

- Plasticity Indices
- Unconfined Compression Tests
- Triaxial Tests
- Consolidation Tests
- Hydrometer Analysis
- Sieve Analysis
- Permeability Tests
- Grain Size Analysis
- Organic Content
- Soils Classification
- Non-destructive Testing and Evaluations.
- Laboratory Compaction (Standard and Modified Proctor Tests)
- On-site Earth-fill Construction Supervision.
 - Site Grading Control
 - Prof-Rolling Inspection
 - Compaction Testing Services
 - Monitoring by Nuclear Gauge
- On-site Concrete Construction Inspection.
- On-site Pile Load Test Supervision.
- On-site Grouting Inspection and Control.
- Mix Designs and Reviews
- Field Testing of Fresh Concrete, Air Content, Unit Weight and Slump
- Compressive Strength of Concrete Specimen Cured in Lab
- Lab and Field CBR Tests

Environmental Services

Despiau Associates Corp. can also perform soil and groundwater sampling and monitoring programs to characterize the potential of contamination at project site.

The Environmental Services provided by DAC include:

- Soil Contaminant Investigation
- Soil and Groundwater Sampling and Analysis
- Ground Water Control, Depth
- Observation Wells Installation
- Percolation Tests
- Seepage Analysis
- Environmental Site Assessments
- Underground Storage Tank Investigations and Closures
- Groundwater Monitoring Systems

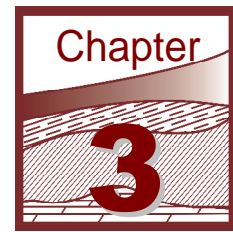
Forensic Engineering and Expert Witness Services

Despiau Associates Corp. personnel have conducted a vast amount of Forensic Engineering investigations providing substantial experience in the Forensic Engineering Field related to the Geotechnical Engineering. Along with such investigations we have also provided our services as Expert Witness helping financial institutions, insurance companies, attorneys, and developers in many cases, gaining a reputation for being responsive to client's needs while providing strong technical expertise. Problems that DAC has addressed include:

- Foundation Settlement Problems
- Slope Stability / Failures
- Pavement Problems
- Floor Slab Moisture Problems
- Floor Slab Cracks
- Floor Slab Shrinkage and Curling
- Catastrophic Building Failures
- Other Infrastructure Failures

The Forensic Engineering and Expert Witness Services provided by DAC include:

- Forensic Studies
- Deposition Appearance
- Court Hearing Appearances
- Technical Training to Attorneys



MANAGEMENT AND KEY PERSONNEL

Benigno R. Despiau-Rivera, PE, F. NSPE, F. ASCE
Principal – Consulting Engineer – Senior Geotechnical Engineer

Benigno R. Despiau, principal of Despiau Associates – Consulting Geotechnical Engineers has over 40 years in the Geotechnical Engineering field. He has been directly involved in the supervision, analysis, and design of foundation solutions in private and public projects dealing with roads; bridges; schools; parking facilities; residential, industrial, and multi-story buildings; and pharmaceutical plants, among others. Also, Mr. Despiau-Rivera has substantial experience in Forensic Engineering providing services as expert witness helping financial institutions, insurance companies, attorneys, and developers in many cases, gaining a reputation for providing strong technical expertise.

He is also president of Despiau Associates Corp. – Soil / Geotechnical Engineering Laboratories, which offers comprehensive geotechnical support, including site reconnaissance, field and laboratory testing, as well as construction quality control.

Mr. Despiau-Rivera holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, College of Agriculture and Mechanics Arts, Mayagüez Campus in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Puerto Rico. Mr. Despiau is a Fellow member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Benigno believes in continuing education and has completed all the required courses for a Master Degree in Civil Engineering in Structural Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In addition, Mr. Despiau-Rivera has instructed Soils Technology courses at University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón Campus. Also, he continuously provides continuing education courses and seminars in the Geotechnical Engineering Field in the “Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico” (CIAPR).

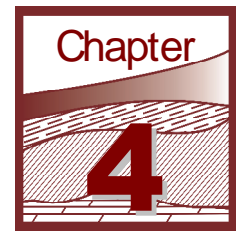
Jose R. Despiau-Ramírez, PE

Partner – Geotechnical Engineer & Laboratory Manager

Jose R. Despiau, partner of Despiau Associates – Consulting Geotechnical Engineers has 10+ years in the Geotechnical Engineering field. He directs Despiau Associates Corp. - Soil / Geotechnical Engineering Laboratories operations and is also experienced in all aspects of geotechnical investigations, grading control, construction inspection and geotechnical engineering offering comprehensive geotechnical support, including site reconnaissance, field and laboratory testing, as well as construction quality control. He have been involved in all phases of geotechnical projects, ranging from initial site investigations to inspection and testing of soils/ materials within the field and laboratory during construction. His experience includes: foundation design, evaluation of liquefaction potential, assessment of seismic-induced settlement, slope stability analysis, percolation feasibility testing, and evaluation of expansive/ collapsible soils.

Mr. Despiau-Ramírez holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Puerto Rico and a registered Engineer-in-Training in the State of Illinois. Mr. Despiau-Ramírez acknowledges the importance of continuing education for which he has completed all the required courses for a Master Degree in Civil Engineering in Structural Engineering and Geotechnical Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

At the age of 33, Despiau-Ramírez became the youngest State President (at the time) of the National Society of Professional Engineers for the Puerto Rico Chapter, after having served as Secretary, Treasurer, and President Elect. He is also a member of “El Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico” (CIAPR), the Institute of Civil Engineers of the CIAPR, Order of the Engineer, National Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the American Society for Testing and Materials. Last year, he was recognized as a young outstanding leader (“Líder Emergente”) by the Institute of Civil Engineers of the CIAPR.



Representative List of Projects

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY PROJECTS		
Reference No.	Project Identification	Sponsor Group
86A0215	Second Unit School, Santa Isabel	PBA Design Department
86N0997	Margarita Janer School, Gurabo	PBA Design Department / Arch. Eduardo Molinary Associates
87F0346	Access Road Therapeutic Institution Project at Guerrero Ward, Aguadilla	PBA Design Department
87U0369	Sanitary Sewer Off Site Margarita Janer School, Gurabo	PBA Design Department
88F0422	Police Academy Improvements (Phase V), Gurabo	PBA Design Department / Arch. Istra Hernández AIA.
88M0429	Playita Cortada 2 nd . Unit School , Santa Isabel	PBA Design Department
88A0433	Caracoles Community Elementary School, Peñuelas	PBA Design Department/ Arch. Heriberto Carbia AIA.
89J0491	Police Academy Police Academy (Phase II)	PBA Design Department / Arch. Istra Hernández AIA..
89J0492	Police Academy Police Academy – Pueblito (Phase IV)	PBA Design Department / Arch. Istra Hernández AIA.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY PROJECTS
(CONTINUATION)**

90J0563	La Parguera Polica Station, Lajas	PBA Design Department
95G1025	Expansión al Albergue de Testigos del Departamento de Justicia, San Juan	PBA Design Department – Taller Borinquen
95G1052	Antonio R. Barceló Engineering Services, Barrio Nuevo, Bayamón	PBA Design Department
01F1601	Luis Muñoz Marín Intermediate School, Arecibo	PBA Design Department
02L1721	Improvements to René Marqués School, Jardines de Country Club Urb., Carolina	PBA Design Department
02L1722	Improvements to Monte Brisas elementary School, Fajardo	PBA Design Department
02L1732	Improvements to University Gardens High School, Hato Rey Central Ward, San Juan	PBA Design Department
02L1748	Jayuya Fire Station (AEP # 6040), Jayuya	PBA Design Department
03L1760	New Elevator Shaft for Luquillo Government Center, Luquillo	PBA Design Department
03L1814	Improvements to Almirante Norte School. Vega Baja	PBA Design Department
03L1857	New Guayanilla Fire Station, Guayanilla	PBA Design Department
04F1886	Sanitary Sewer Offsite for Emilia Bonilla School, Villalba	PBA Design Department
04F1900	September 20 th Intermediate School, Vieques	PBA Design Department
05M1995	Improvements to Jose D. Zayas School at Montones Ward, Las Piedras	PBA Design Department
06J2080	Rio Lajas Elementary School (Marshy Area Boardwalk), Dorado	PBA Design Department

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY PROJECTS
(CONTINUATION)

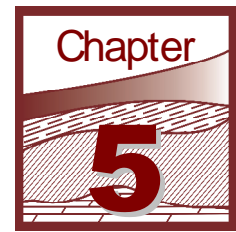
06M2098	New Classroom Units at Felipe Zayas School, Las Piedras	PBA Design Department
06Y3010	Rafael López Intermediate School (Settlement Problems Review), Guayama	PBA Design Department
06Y3011	Manuel Gonz[alez New Indoor Athletic Court Additions, Ponce	PBA Design Department
06Y3012	Improvements to Alejandro J. Cruz Intermediate School School (Settlement Problems Review), Toa Alta	PBA Design Department
06U3014	Improvements to Domingo Pietri School (Slope Stability Problems Review and Construction Laboratory Services), Adjuntas	PBA Design Department
06O3038	New Police Station at Sabana Abajo Ward, Carolina	PBA Design Department
06O3044	Installation and Monitoring Devices for Improvements to Jose D. Zayas School, Las Piedras	PBA Design Department
06D3052	Improvements to Antonio A. Corretjer Secondary and Vocational School (Slope Stability Problems Review), AEP-8197, Ciales	PBA Design Department
07G3060	Improvements to Felipe Rivera Centeno School (Settlement Problems Review), Caguas	PBA Design Department
07G3076	Improvements to Aguada Government Center (Settlement Problems Review), Aguada	PBA Design Department
07G3099	Proposed Access Road at Luis Muñoz Rivera Vocational School, Utuado	PBA Design Department
07G3101	Tie-back Wall System Design Parameters for Jose D. Zayas School, Las Piedras	PBA Design Department
08G3150	Improvements to Luis Muñoz Marín School, Comerio	PBA Design Department
08G3151	Improvements to Josefina Muñoz Bernier School, Patillas	PBA Design Department
08G3152	Improvements to Andrés Valcarsel School, Trujillo Alto	PBA Design Department

OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Improvements to Mercedita Airport - Relocation of Access Road for the Parallel Taxiway Project	Puerto Rico Ports Authority
Improvements to Dewey Airport New Aircraft Apron and Expansion of Parking - Culebra	Puerto Rico Ports Authority
Improvements to the Juncos Waste Water Treatment Plant	Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority
Replacement Bridge - Access to Ponderosa Community	Caguas Municipal Government
PRIDCO Office Building First level Office Space Settlement Evaluations and Repair Alternatives	Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO)
Rock Fall at Los Rosales II Urbanization	Manatí Municipal Government
Improvements to Mayaguez Thermoelectric Station	Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority
Carolina's Golf Course	Carolina Autonomous Municipal Government
José Gautier Benitez Ave. Improvements - Extending from Georgetti (PR-183) to Cristobal Colón Street, Caguas	Caguas Municipal Government
Proposed Arecibo City Hall Building - (10-story Office Building & 3 -Underground Levels)	Arecibo Municipal Government
Río Abajo Urban Elementary School (AEP-8200) and Facilities	Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority
Replacement of Bridge No. 138 Over Guamaní River, Guayama	Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority
Geometric Improvements and Expansion Facilities to State Road PR-135, Adjuntas	Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority
Proposed Loading Bridges for the Mercedita Airport Facilities, Ponce.	Puerto Rico Port Authority
Bridge Over Río Coco River, Sabana Grande.	Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority
Jose Gautier Benitez Public Residential Improvements Project, Caguas.	Caguas Municipal Government

PRIVATE AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

Proposed Improvements to Cordis, LLC Plant - Battery Free Rotatory UPS Building, Chilled Water Unit, Formulation Room Corridor, 0.5 MG Water Tank, Pipe Rack and Pedestal Footings for Feeder Installation Cordis, LLC Facilities. – San German.	Cordis LLC, Division of Johnson & Johnson
Eight-story 1420 Wilson Residential Condominium, at Condado Sector, San Juan.	Arq. O.J. Rivera Otero C.S.P.
Self Support Communication Tower	Sprint, PCS
Los Caminos Single Family Development, San Lorenzo	Alicante, S.E., Developers
Administration Building Expansions for Lilly Del Caribe, Inc. Facilities (PR06 Project)	Lilly Del Caribe, Inc.
Bosques de Cidra Development (Complex 250 Cdas. Tract of Land at State Road PR-172), Cidra.	Bosques de Cidra, Inc.,
“Funeraria Capillas La Gloria y Farmacia” Project	Design & Development Consulting Group, P.S.C.
New Parking Building Additions for CIAPR Two- and Six-Story Parking Building, San Juan.	Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico (CIAPR)
Phillips-Aguirre Fuel Pipeline	for Phillips Petroleum Company Aguirre
Honeywell Parking Additions PRIDCO Industrial Lot, Aguadilla.	Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO)
EL Block Hotel” at State Road PR-993, Vieques.	BLOKBUILDERS, Inc.



REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF CLIENTS

Developers

- Alicante, S.E.
- Alpha Realty Corp.
- Block Builders, Inc.
- Brighton Homes Caribbean, Inc.
- DDD Group, Inc.
- IB Homes Construction Corp.
- MAC Development, S.E.

Agencies/Institutions/Private Entities

- Arecibo Municipal Government
- Carolina Municipal Government
- Cayey Municipal Government
- Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico (CIAPR)
- Eli Lilly - Lilly del Caribe, Inc.
- Goya de Puerto Rico Inc
- Hipodromo Camarero - Camarero Racetrack
- Humacao Municipal Government
- Interamerican University of Puerto Rico
- La Hacienda Meat Center
- Liberty Cablevision of PR, Ltd
- Manati Municipal Government
- ODV Appraisal Group
- Public Building Authority of Puerto Rico
- Puerto Rico Health Department
- Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority
- Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO)
- Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority
- Puerto Rico Telephone Company
- Texaco of Puerto Rico, Inc.
- Thames Water Puerto Rico, Inc.
- Wyeth Pharmaceutical - IMPRA Engineers, PSC

Contractors

- Aireko Construction Corp.
- Aireko Services & Installation
- Alpha Engineering Group, PSC
- Alproem Engineering
- Avance Construction
- Beta Corporation
- Beyley Construction Group
- Cesar A. Masó, Inc.
- Construction Solutions Group
- Continental Lord, Inc.
- CRM Contractors, Inc.
- DDD Group, Inc.
- F & R Construction Group
- FRAMA Construction
- HBA Contractors, Inc.
- Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc
- Jafer Construction, S.E.
- JH Monroig Construction
- Juan F. Garcia, Inc.
- Lord Electric Company of Puerto Rico
- Mega Builders Group
- Rivero Construction (RIVCON)
- Riaux Contractors Corporation
- Space Builders Corp.
- Stateco of Puerto Rico, Inc.

Engineers/Architects

- AAROTEC Infrastructure Group
- Arq. O.J. Rivera Otero, C.S.P.
- Babilonia Engineering Group
- Baralt-Masini Arquitectos
- CDM Caribbean Engineers, PSC
- Cividanes & Rosa – Architects Consultant / E. Cividanes-Freiría & Assoc
- CMA Architects & Engineers LLP
- CPM-MPPR Infrastructure Management
- CSA Group, LLP
- DDD Group, Inc.
- Design and Development Consulting Group, P.S.C.
- EBP Design Group Consulting Engineers
- ERA - Enrique Ruiz & Associates
- FUSTER + Partners - Architects, P.S.C
- GMG Engineering Consultants, P.S.C.
- H2A Engineers, PSC
- Heriberto Carbia - Architects
- Hooker Cockram P.R. Inc.
- Huyke Colón & Associates
- Iglesia-Vazques & Associates
- Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc
- Jorge Torres Scandali-Consulting Engineers
- José L. Mediavilla Engineering
- Juan Ayguabibas & Associates
- Juan Rueda Cortijo, P.E.
- Lazaro-Gandia Consulting Eng.
- Marvel Marchand & Arquitectos
- MEC Engineering Design Group
- Mediavilla Engineering PSC
- MP Engineers of Puerto Rico
- Porticus - José M. Izquierdo, P.E.
- Rene Acosta – Arquitectos
- SCF –Sierra Cardona Ferrer, SRL – Architects
- Taller de Arquitectura Margarita Fullana
- The Office of Jaime Torres Gaztambide, PSC
- URS Caribe, LLP
- Washington Group International
- WMR Group