



San José Nueva Esperanza Urban Center
Community of San José Nueva Esperanza
Montana Exploradora de Guatemala, S. A.

History

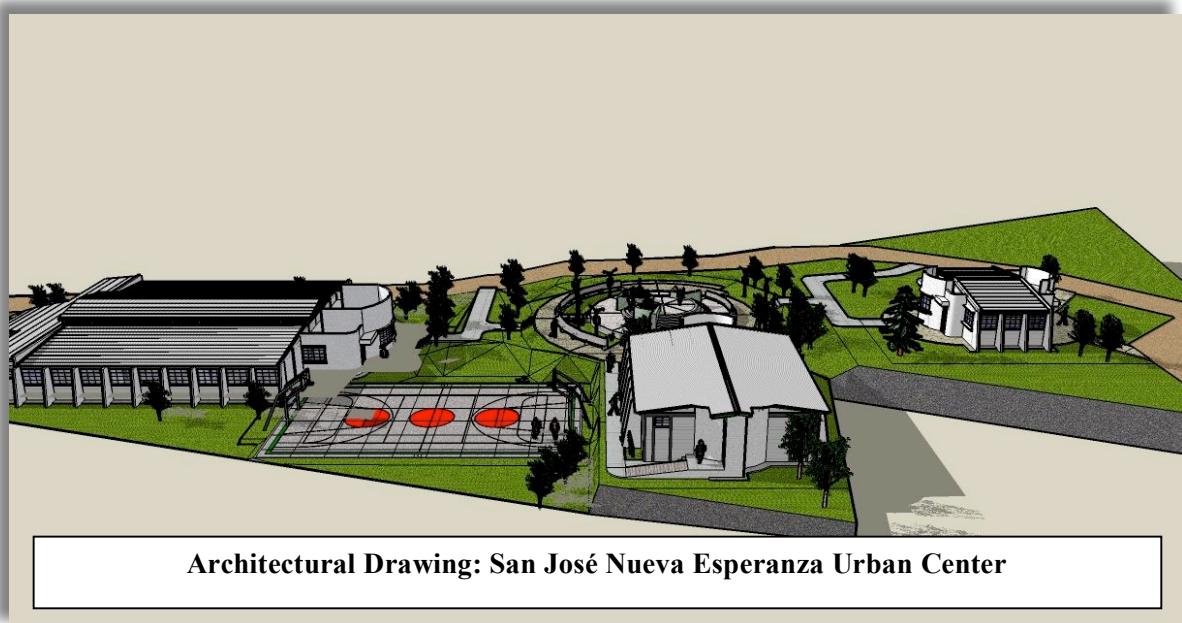
As the Marlin Mine neared the construction phase, Montana Exploradora de Guatemala, S. A. (Montana) management, in consultation with the community of San José Nueva Esperanza (Nueva Esperanza), determined that the town and the mine would be best served by relocating the municipal buildings (Auxiliary Mayor's office, town meeting hall and school), which were located near the boundary of the mine property. Nueva Esperanza ceded the property and buildings to Montana, who in turn committed to building a new Urban Center at a convenient site along the road that passes through the center of town.

Design

Over the next two years, Nueva Esperanza community leaders and Marlin Mine Sustainable Development Department staff worked on a design for the Auxiliary Mayor's Office, including a room for immunizations and other health care services, a community meeting hall and a school, along with a new playground and community park. The design included water, electrical and a septic system for wastewater. A free-standing kitchen was added to the design after construction began.



Original San José Nueva Esperanza Municipal Buildings



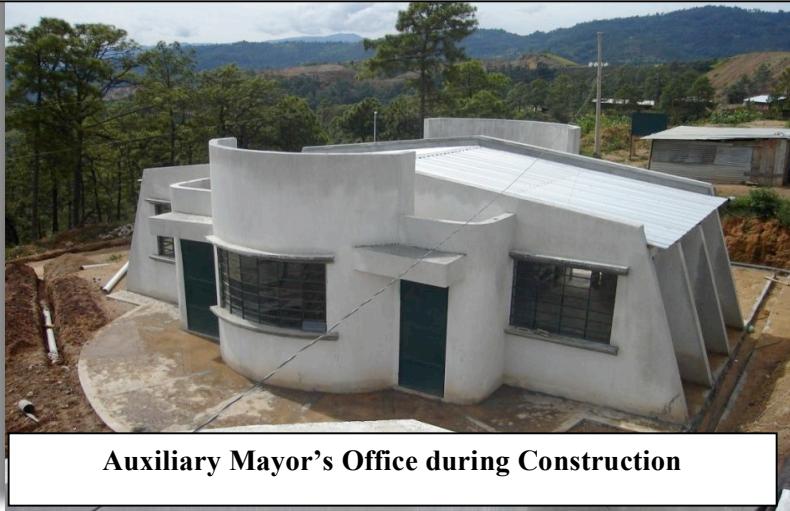
Architectural Drawing: San José Nueva Esperanza Urban Center

Construction

In December of 2007, San José Nueva Esperanza and Marlin Mine officials broke ground on the new urban center. Construction proceeded over the next 12 months and on December 10, 2008; the urban center was completed and transferred to the community. The Guatemalan Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) Vice Minister for Sustainable Development and the MEM Mining Director attended the transfer ceremony and celebration along with community leaders and the Mayor of San Miguel Ixtahuacán.



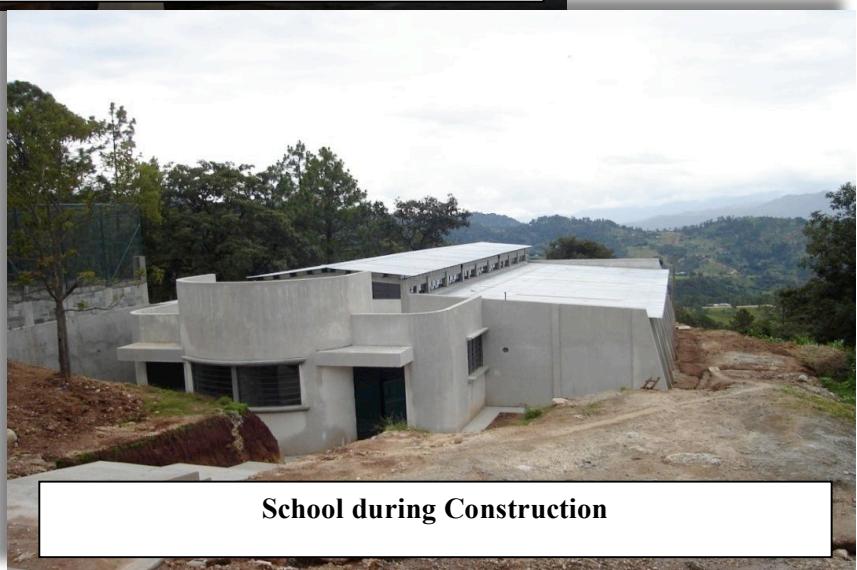
San José Nueva Esperanza and Marlin Mine Officials at Groundbreaking



Auxiliary Mayor's Office during Construction



Community Meeting Hall during Construction



School during Construction



Community Park during Construction



Playground



San José Nueva Esperanza Urban Center



San Miguel Ixtahuacán Mayor, San José Nueva Esperanza Official and Marlin Mine Manager at Urban Center Transfer Ceremony