March 12 fly into Miami for late afternoon program to discuss Cuba and planning issues. You will need to sleep over night in Miami since the March 13 AA (American Airlines) plane from Miami to Havana is a direct flight with check in around 9:30 a.m. We recommend that folks stay at the Red Roof Inn or another airport Hotel with shuttle service near the Miami International airport for group taxi or shuttles to where we will check in.

March 13 to 20th—fly directly on AA Charter from Miami to Havana 24 folks will depart on:
March 13 AA 9478 MIA/HAV 12:45PM-1:45PM

9 folks will depart on:

March 13 SWQ 307 MIA/HAV 1:00pm-2:00pm (thus there is only a 15 minute difference).

Trip Bonus: March 12 will include an orientation at the Miami with special guest speakers!

Where you’ll stay: Hotel Habana Libre http://www.hotelhabanalibre.com
Havana Libre is the Old Hilton Hotel in the center of town in Old Havana.

Over 1,000 people, including Professors Harvey Molotch, Douglas Kelbaugh, Dietrich Neumann, Dennis Judd, Peter Marcuse, Terry Singer, Cliff Staten, and Michael Brazely, along with community leaders like Sam Watkins and playwright Larry Muhammad have gone to Cuba with Professor John I. Gilderbloom, Director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods: http://sun.louisville.edu

We have been taking study groups from the United States since 1997 with 32 different programs and have spent a total of 480 days there. Several travel magazines and books, including Holiday Travel, Travel Smart, and Budget Travel, have praised our Cuba travel programs. “Time Out: Havana and the Best of Cuba” ranked it as the best “educational option” and “the least bureaucratic way” for a U.S. passport holder to travel to Cuba.” These travel programs have also produced published scholarly articles on Cuba and travelers have testified to the U.S. Senate and State Department (private meeting) on lifting the embargo.

Dr. Gilderbloom has been featured on CNN for his work in Cuba, served as a technical advisor to National Geographic on issues in Old Havana, and won an honorary Architecture Diploma from Cuba’s Union of National Architects and
Engineers. He has written about Cuba in numerous books, articles and journals including an edited chapter that was ranked as one the best planning books.

This Spring Break trip is a "people to people exchange" program during which Cubans and Americans share ideas on transportation, preservation, community development, housing, sun harvesting, ecology, environment, planning, architecture, community gardens, and green planning. We are working to either meet at the top Planning School in Havana or State Architecture School for participants to present their research (UAA/APA style presentation of 15 minutes). We are providing this afternoon of exchange of ideas so that students and faculty in academia and professional practice can qualify for additional travel funds to offset any costs. We are also providing continuing education credit for AIA, CNU, and APA members. Up to $500 of the trip counts to a Tax Deductible Donation to the University of Louisville. Finally, the deadline has been extended to December 15. Below you will find the cost breakdown and itinerary.

It's a trip of a lifetime.

John I. Gilderbloom Ph.D.
2013 Presidential Medal: Distinguished Faculty Award for Research and Creative Activity
Urban and Public Affairs, Professor
Home of the Top Ranked (#14) Planning Program in the Country
Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods
Email: jigild01@louisville.edu
http://sun.louisville.edu
502-852-8557

ITINERARY

Please note this itinerary is subject to change because of time constraints, closures and unavailability of speakers. This is a “suggested itinerary” that includes
the restaurants listed. We make no guarantees and we will not be meeting with Raul or Fidel Castro on this trip.

March 12 fly into Miami for late afternoon program to discuss Cuba and planning issues. You will need to sleep over night in Miami since the March 13 AA (American Airlines) plane from Miami to Havana is a direct flight with check in around 9:30 a.m. We recommend that folks stay at the Red Roof Inn or another airport hotel with shuttle service near the Miami International airport for group taxi or shuttles to where we will check in on March 13.

Miami—4pm orientation talk with Dr. Gilderbloom at a selected Hotel with special guest speakers! We are trying to arrange for the most important urban thinkers, Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, along with several other CNU leaders, to give a talk to our group at their studio. We will also speak with Cuban dissidents opposed to lifting the U.S.A. embargo. Perhaps a meeting at the University of Miami?
March 13, Sunday

9:00 a.m. Arrive at Miami for Check in!

to Havana

24 folks will depart on:

March 13 AA 9478 MIA/HAV 12:45PM-1:45PM

9 folks will depart on:

March 13 SWQ 307 MIA/HAV 1:00pm-2:00pm (thus there is only a 15 minute difference).

12:50 pm: Charter departs Miami for Havana
9 must arrive for Visa and passport control by 10:00 a.m.

2:30 p.m. Arrive Havana Airport go through customs

After clearing customs, we will proceed by private motor coach to the Havana Libre, our accommodation Upon arrival, we will enjoy a welcome cocktail reception at the hotel.

3:30 p.m. arrive at Hotel Libre!

4:00 p.m. Dr. Gilderbloom provides a brief tour of the Neighborhood and where to find things so you can find your way back to the Hotel, we will also note some historic places as well as pointing out convenient mini-marts for toiletries, water and snacks.

5:00 p.m. Art Deco in Cuba—visiting the Bacardi Building and other examples of Havana Art Deco led by Dr. Gilderbloom. We will also visit Ilderfonsa Someillan between Espada and Hospital Centro Habana

7:00 p.m. Evening: Dinner at Dinner at El Aljibe Included

March 14 Monday
9:00 am – Noon: Program Session: Havana’s Historic Preservation and Walking Tour of the Capitolo Area (new city)
Departures: Hotel Lobby
Walking tour of Habana Vieja (Old Havana)/Obisbo Street.
Part I We will become acquainted with Havana, one of the most architecturally alluring cities in the Western Hemisphere. View examples of colonial architecture around Havana’s handsome main squares starting with the historic forts/castles at the port and then up Obisbo Street where they sell art. Part 2 is a visit to the Convent of Santa Clara, which is a striking example of how this historically important building has been restored with attention to both historic preservation and present-day needs. Anais Nin once lived and wrote here. This is led by Dr. Gilderbloom along with Havanatur guide.

Speaker: Isabella Rigol (Invited)
Formerly Director of Restoration and Preservation for Old Havana
Professor of Planning, University of Havana
Prof. Rigol was in charge of unprecedented historic preservation effort in historic Old Havana.

Noon – 2:30 pm: Lunch Included /Free Time to Explore Havana either on your own to conduct research on urban planning, preservation or art.

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Program Session: Model City of Havana
Departures: Hotel Lobby
We will meet back at the hotel and proceed to the “Maqueta de la Havana.” The Model City shows every building, street, and tree in Havana and is a wonderful planning guide. Here, the group will take part in a workshop with Miguel Coyulla and exchange ideas on planning issues in Havana concerning buildings, transportation, commercial development, tourist development, and recreational uses.

Speaker: Miguel Coyulla (to be confirmed / invited)
Development Expert, Urban Planner

Evening: Dinner at the Hotel Nacional included
Departures: Hotel Lobby. We will likely walk there since it is a nice stroll and lots of music too. Its very good place to eat.

March 15 Tuesday
9:00 am – 11:30 a.m. Medical Care/ Farming in Cuba:

We will visit Cuban hospital and dentist office to exchange ideas on health care. We will also visit an urban community garden.

Lunch on your own noon to 2:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Bus Leaves Hotel for Hemingway Museum and Home where he wrote the Nobel Prize Winning Novel: “The Old Man and the Sea” Location: Finca de la Vigia Villa in San Francisco de Paula. Hemingway wrote and lived there from 1939 to 1960. His wife built him a “writing tower” but he never used it choosing to write in their bedroom standing up from the pain of war wounds.”

**Bus will drop off folks after this visit to Santa Maria Beach which is nearby for a short swim.**

Afternoon:

Free Afternoon – Time to Explore on Own
Suggestions:
- Plaza de Armas Art Fair
- Cigar Factory Tour
- Santa Maria Beach (departures at 12:00nn)

Historic Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro (El Morro)
Sunset Cannon Ceremony

Evening: Dinner at Paladar Havana Included
Departures: at 5:30 p.m. Hotel Lobby

*La Cocina de Lilliam***** (Calle 48 No. 1311, between 13 and 15 Playa in Miramar, (29-6514; lunch is noon to 3:00 p.m. and dinner 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; closed on Saturdays) *Washington Post* claims that this is the best restaurant in Cuba. They are right. I think the lamb (not on the menu) and Cuban string beef are best. My friends also thought the fish was great. The food is inexpensive -- about $15 per person with drink Dining is outdoors in a beautiful
garden but the wait is not long any more since they only take reservations. We would suggest ordering family style, which allows you to try a variety of plates. I also thought the bread served was the best I have had in Cuba and perhaps some of the best bread I have ever tasted. Bread and pastry in Cuba is not very good but this is fabulous. Thank you Washington Post! I have been turned away twice when I did not have reservations. Very frustrating! You need to make reservations two days in advance. Taxi ride back and forth from La Rampa area should come to around $12 and they can get you a cab on the way back. I give this place two 10’s for food and atmosphere! The house is also notable for its architecture and if you ask they will give you a tour. I love this place. This is also the favorite of our tour groups beating out the others listed on this guide. The place has several well-known out of uniform Cuban leaders as patrons. This is a very popular restaurant with Italian tourists.

March 16 Wednesday

9:00 am – 1015 a.m.: Centro Habana San Lazaro and Animas Solimar Building & the artist Salvador

*We will visit his studio and outdoor sculpture garden. He is the subject of a PBS documentary.*

10:30 a.m.: Meeting and Reception at the U.S. Interests Section (arranged by Dr. Gilderbloom; we are working with Congressman Yarmuth’s office to arrange this.) Here is the information you will need for your upcoming Embassy visit:

1. Please plan to arrive at the main entrance (near the plaza with many flagpoles) 20 minutes before your briefing appointment to pass through the security process.
2. Each participant must present his/her passport for entry.
3. Notepads are permitted in the meeting room; bags and electronics will be checked in the lobby with our security guards.
4. The briefing officer will present a general overview of topics of interest to most groups (usually 20-30 minutes), then will take questions from the group (also 20-30 minutes, for a total of an hour).
5. Briefings are informative and candid, with time for unscripted questions. In order to be able to offer this courtesy, all briefings are completely off the record.

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Late Afternoon:* Museum of the Revolution Near the Capitolo by Avenue of de las Missionies and Tejadillo
(Learn why and how the revolution happened up close.) and Contemporary Arts Museum of Wifred Lam

Speaker: Isabella Leone (to be confirmed)
Sra. Leone has helped build houses for poor people under the sponsorship of the Lutheran Church; previously she was a Professor of Planning at the University of Havana. We will also visit newer hotels in Miramar.

Evening: Dinner La Ferminia (Miramar this is a change from lunch time to dinner time!)

This is an outdoor luncheon with a beautiful garden and musicians.

La Ferminia**** (No. 18107 5ta Avenue entre 182 y 184, Miramar, Playa. Telephone: 33-6786) This restaurant is one of the best in all of Cuba. The fried prawns were excellent. The service, ambiance, and food all rank as a ten. The best deal is the all you can eat luncheon which goes for $12.95 (you must sit outside in the garden to get this bargain; otherwise, they will try to charge you $29.95. Go with an empty stomach. The barbecue was not only some of the best meat I have been served in Cuba but would rank up with any top quality Houston or Kansas City rib restaurant. I also enjoy the breaded prawns which are light and flavorful. I can't wait to go back and eat there again! Of some note is that the restaurant is located in a spectacular mansion with beautiful gardens. The musical groups have improved tremendously with several recording artists playing for one dollar tips. This is the restaurant that Castro often eats at and where top foreign diplomats eat. I would rank this a ten for food, ambiance and service. Perhaps my favorite restaurant on the island! Go here as your backup restaurant when the wait for the other small family restaurants is too long. This place claims it can serve 300 folks at a time. Later at night they have a fashion show. Since my last review the musical group which I was critical of is gone and a new group is now here -- a tremendous improvement.

March 17, Thursday: Rural Cuba Farming land and water Las Terrazas (bring your swim suit) This is a good example of doing aqua farming on water.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Las Terrazas , Lunch Included and swim after in the Hawaiian like waterfalls.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Alamar—This is a Soviet Designed Housing Community designed to the inch how housing looks like in Siberia, Samara, Moscow and its located in the suburbs of Havana. We will also visit garden of junk of things that appliances provided by old Soviet Union.
Evening on Your Own Paladar We suggested:

**La Chansonnier** (J % 13 y 15, Telephone: 32-1576. Within walking distance of La Rampa and Gringo Viejo). Cigar Aficionado called La Chansonnier one of the nine best restaurants in Cuba. This time, they are right! We finally agree. With the move to a historic mansion, La Chansonnier ambiance, food, and setting make this a "10." Even better news, you never have to wait to get a table. Interestingly, the restaurant was started by a French chef who came here on a vacation, fell in love and never returned to France. The best news is that it is inexpensive which means you can get a meal for two for around $35 including beer or wine. We thought the roasted rabbit and grilled lamb were very good. It is a place where powerful people often go to eat -- especially from the news media. This continues to be a favorite of mine and I rank it among the top five in Cuba. This place is gay friendly.

Or

**Gringo Viejo** (Calle 21 No 454 e/E y F, Vedado. Telephone: 32-6150 -- open from noon until 11:00 p.m.). This is my latest discovery and I love this place. The food is great, affordable, and the staff quick to meet your needs. The owner is warm and friendly. This restaurant has a Western/Cowboy theme, which seems a bit bizarre when you are in Cuba. The food was so good I came here three nights in a row after being turned away at my other favorite restaurants -- La Cocina de Lilliam and Pizzeria El Farallon. I had rabbit one night, which was great and matched the quality of a French restaurant in Paris -- seriously. Another night, I had their famous lamb dish that was awesome. Finally, I had the roasted chicken, which is rare in Cuba, since almost every restaurant likes to fry everything. For a great Paladar, I did not have to wait in two of my visits and the third visit required a 45-minute wait. This restaurant is a popular place for gays, Americans, and Mexicans. This is not listed in your guidebooks. I give this restaurant a ten for food and atmosphere a nine. The owners played the Beatles and Rolling Stones that kept the place rocking. This place continues to be a big favorite among participants. This is a small family run restaurant with only 12 seats.

March 18 Friday

9:00 am – 10:15 a.m.
Visit the City Historian Leal in Old Havana. They are involved in preservation work
Here is the information you requested:

Leal Spengler . (fre 020898)
PRESIDENTE DE HONOR.

Office of the Havana Historian Office led by Leal

HISTORIADOR DE LA CIUDAD.
Calle San Pedro esq. a Obra Pía
Habana Vieja. CP. 10100
Telephone number for the Institution: (53-7) 7863 9862 / 7862 6522
Fax: (53-7) 7866 8075
His Email: historiador@ohc.cu / ohc@ohc.cu
Miguel Antonio Padrón Lotti.
Institución: Instituto de Planificación Física
Institution of Physical Planning (Urban Planning)
Email Address: padron123@gmail.com

10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: Visit the University of Habana School of Engineer, Planning, Architecture and Urban Studies (CUJAE) (presentation of gifts to Architecture School)

Speaker: Meet with the Dean of Engineering, Planning, Architecture and Urban Studies University of Havana (to be confirmed) Also we will try to meet with the former Dean Ruben Bancroft

Presentation of Planning, Architecture, Preservation, Housing and Transportation Ideas by U.S. Citizens Havana Libre or University of Havana sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods and Cuban National Architects. (to be confirmed)

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (people are dropped off at both locations

☐ Plaza de Armas Art Fair/ Obisbo Art District (find your way back to Hotel

☐ Santa Maria Beach (bus returns at 5:00 p.m.)

6:00 p.m. Meet in front of Hotel: Historic Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro (El Morro) Sunset Cannon Ceremony (bus drop off and return)

March 19, Saturday

Morning: Visit Jaimanitis and Jose Fuster outdoor art enterprise
Lunch at Fuster’s Included. Jose Fuster is considered one of the five greatest living artists in Cuba. See how the neighborhood has been revitalized by his artworks. Stop by Nautical Club Max Broges at ERminus of 152, Nautica, Playa

Afternoon: National Arts School / Escuelas Nacionales—Please read the Revolution of Forms by John A. Loomis

Evening: Dinner at El Aljibe Included followed by Tropicana Night Club Show, Included as well.

**March 20 Sunday**

**Morning Free:**

Bus departure from Havana Libre to airport at 7:30 a.m.: All 33 participants will be arriving via:

SWQ 310 HAV/MIA 10:00am-11:00am

Recommendation: I would try to find a flight after 6:00 p.m.

Please note: Some events might be cancelled or changed which is sometimes out of my control.

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**COST DETAIL**

Below are the costs with 10 rooms confirmed at the Havana Libre (formerly Hilton Hotel). It is rated a four star Hotel in the heart of Havana. Upon confirmation of the arrangements, I will immediately send you application forms which each participant must complete.

Costs are divided into three parts:

**AIR** $499 via American Airlines roundtrip from Miami to Havana
**VISA** $75 price includes Visa, departure taxes and health insurance card

**LAND ARRANGEMENTS** we now qualify for the special rate of $2,043 because we have 16 people registered for the program, if you are enrolled in my Special Topics or Historic Preservation class this is a great deal. Land arrangements also include daily breakfast and numerous lunches and dinners listed in the itinerary; buses, airfare, VISA, departure taxes, and lectures in English.

Costs do not include $20 charge per checked bag plus overweight charges. All students enrolled in UofL Arts and Sciences and taking my graduate course
Historic Preservation or Special Topics in Cuba are also eligible for a share of $8,000 scholarship. UofL students taking the course can also apply for travel funds from International Center and their respective Department Chair’s. We are also providing an opportunity to present a scholarly “conference presentation sponsored by the University of Louisville and Havana University” which will enable students to apply for funds to give a conference presentation.

Schedule:

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<th>Course</th>
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VISA
$75 per person
AND this also includes payment for medical insurance.

If you are UofL faculty, staff or student and are not taking my course at the University of Louisville or are not an A&S Student we request an extra $200 to for the University of Louisville Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods program [http://sun.louisville.edu](http://sun.louisville.edu) to cover our costs and effort. Note these prices are double room occupancy and if you insist on your own single room that is an extra $700.

Cost for People who are not UofL Student, Faculty or Staff members $2,989 or we hope less.:

If you have read the program and like what you see, please consider our program for its known quality and comparable low cost. We have been able to reduce the original cost by $200 because we now have 16 people enrolled. This is what we estimate is the cost for a sharing a room for land costs (transfers, hotel room, daily breakfast, lectures, buses and boats to get around) comes to $2,415 plus $499 airfare and $75 for visa, departure taxes and medical insurance cost comes to $2,989. This is $2,000 below several other commercial agencies including groups that I once led for non-profits. It is $700 for a single room. There is a $20 baggage fee for each piece of luggage. Depending on the final number of people in attendance, you might be able to get a tax write off for a significant donation to the University of Louisville Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods—please check your tax accountant.

University of Louisville. Hotel Habana Libre
[http://www.hotelhabanalibre.com](http://www.hotelhabanalibre.com)
This is a four start hotel in the heart of Havana. The price covers Hotels, transfers, breakfast, lectures, bus, airfare from Miami to Havana roundtrip, several high quality dinners and lunches, VISA, departure taxes, English speaking presentations by Cubans and Americans involved in rebuilding Havana. Single room is $700 extra.
IMPORTANT:

DEPOSIT OF $200 PER PARTICIPANT IS DUE NO LATER THAN January 7, 2016 made out to UofL Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods, 426 West Bloom Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40208. Full payment will be due on or before February 2, 2016.

FINAL PAYMENT VIA BANK TRANSFER IS DUE by January 15, 2016

INDIVIDUAL FEDEX DELIVERY OF TRAVEL PACKETS (WITH VISA, TICKETS, AND OTHER INFORMATION) WILL BE CHARGED $25 PER PACKET.

Here are some restaurants to consider on your free time:

La Casa**** (Calle 30 No.865 entre 26 y 41, Nuevo Vedado Plaza; phone 817000) I liked the food here very much, but even more important was the house itself -- really worth seeing! It has an indoor waterfall which includes a large pond filled with turtles. This would rank as one of the best examples of neo-fifties architecture. My architecture friends believe this is a wonderful example of the new "Cuban architecture." This neighborhood is also interesting because of its large collection of fifties modern houses. This restaurant also made the Cigar Aficionado top nine restaurants in Cuba. This magazine claims that prawns, chicken cordon bleu, and roasted pork are notable. I especially liked the appetizer dish and so did my friend. My chicken cordon bleu was the best I have ever tasted, but my friend was disappointed with her fish selection. The food is inexpensive -- it cost us only $36. I give the food an 8, but the house gets a 10. The indoor/outdoor patio with large sharp rectangular pond for turtles and fish is impressive.

La Chansonnier (J% 13 y 15, Telephone: 32-1576. Within walking distance of La Rampa and Gringo Viejo). Cigar Aficionado called La Chansonnier one of the nine best restaurants in Cuba. This time, they are right! We finally agree. With the move to a historic mansion, La Chansonnier ambiance, food, and setting make this a "10." Even better news, you never have to wait to get a table. Interestingly, the restaurant was started by a French chef who came here on a vacation, fell in love and never returned to France. The best news is that it is inexpensive which means you can get a meal for two for around $35 including beer or wine. We thought the roasted rabbit and grilled lamb were very good. It is a place where powerful people often go to eat -- especially from the news media. This continues to be a favorite of mine and I rank it among the top five in Cuba. This place is gay friendly.

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**La Guarida**** (Calle Concordia No. 418 e/Gervasio y Escobar, Centro Havana; Telephone: 624940) This is considered one of the best restaurants in Cuba. Cigar Aficionado lists this as one of the nine best restaurants in Cuba. This was where the Oscar nominated film Fresca and Chocolate was filmed. It is where the hip often go -- known for fish dishes. The best part about the restaurant is the building: the floor to ceiling is about 30 feet high. Truly spectacular old style building. Here is an opportunity to get behind the walls of these great Spanish buildings and see what is inside. The walk up the three flights of stairs is illuminating. I was expecting a spectacular meal and got only what I thought was a meal worthy of an 8 -- others felt similarly. Again, just seeing the house and
building is worth the price of the meal. A must visit restaurant! Some worry that the quality has slipped in the past two years.

La Paella**** (Oficios at Obrapia -- in the heart of Old Havana-62-3801) Wow! This has the whole package -- great food, atmosphere, and design. It feels like a Spanish Cafe off of State Street in Santa Barbara. The best news is that this restaurant won international competition for best Paella outside of Spain! Moreover, it has won this award twice. It was an awesome meal! More good news: a meal for two of Paella runs as low as $15. A great deal. This restaurant should be on your "must go to" list. El Aljibe (Miramar, Avenue 7ma entre 24 y 26; Telephone: 241584 or 241583) This is also recommended by the Washington Post and just about every other Cuban restaurant guide. The restaurant is one of the few that existed before the revolution and survived! The owners represent three generations of Cuban family. Their success is in the secret "garlic roast chicken sauce" recipe which no other restaurant seems to have. They are known for garlic roast chicken, plantains, and ice cream. I love this place and we come here every time we visit Cuba and we have our goodbye dinner here. It's great! Lots of tables, great service, great food, and probably the most attractive people in Cuba. Oddly, no live music here. This comes close to the quality of food at the La Cocina de Lilliam. Average cost for two people if you get the special is $30. Unlike other Cuban restaurants, the service is very fast from ordering to eating. For the quality of food this is a bargain!

El Rapido (everywhere on the island) Avoid these fast food restaurants at whatever cost -- starve if you must; eat rocks and weeds before you eat here! You might end up on a toilet for the rest of your stay. The only thing safe to eat is the ham and cheese sandwich. Insist on soft drink from a can and not the fountain. I give this place a 0 for food quality and 2 for atmosphere. A funny Cuban joke is that the name "El Rapido" is because customers "must run home to sit on the toilet." Don't let the exterior fool you, it looks like a modern North American fast food restaurant resembling Rally's.

Fernando Amor Brennna (Salvador Allende No. 1103 e/ Lucces y Montano Plaza, Telephone: 53-7-79-1893) I ate here and it was the best home cooked meal I have had! It was like eating at El Aljibe -- great chicken, rice, beans, and desert. The food is similar to El Aljibe. A very nice place. The owner is a collector of baseball cards, so bring him some and maybe you can get a good discount. The house is about 200 years old with very high ceilings. The view is nice of Salvador Allende Boulevard. Give this place a look. Have them call for a taxi before you leave since taxis are hard to find at night on your own.

Gringo Viejo (Calle 21 No 454 e/E y F, Vedado. Telephone: 32-6150 -- open from noon until 11:00 p.m.). This is my latest discovery and I love this place. The food is great, affordable, and the staff quick to meet your needs. The owner is warm and friendly. This restaurant has a Western/Cowboy theme, which seems a bit bizarre when you are in Cuba. The food was so good I came here three nights
in a row after being turned away at my other favorite restaurants -- La Cocina de Lilliam and Pizzeria El Farallon. I had rabbit one night, which was great and matched the quality of a French restaurant in Paris -- seriously. Another night, I had their famous lamb dish that was awesome. Finally, I had the roasted chicken, which is rare in Cuba, since almost every restaurant likes to fry everything. For a great paladar, I did not have to wait in two of my visits and the third visit required a 45-minute wait. This restaurant is a popular place for gays, Americans, and Mexicans. This is not listed in your guidebooks. I give this restaurant a ten for food and atmosphere a nine. The owners played the Beatles and Rolling Stones that kept the place rocking. This place continues to be a big favorite among participants. This is a small family run restaurant with only 12 seats.