

Mary Comerio

Professor of architecture and chair of UC Berkeley's architecture department

Office: (510) 642-4942

E-mail: mcomerio@berkeley.edu

Media Relations contact: Kathleen Maclay, (510) 643-5651 or kmaclay@berkeley.edu

Expertise: Comerio is an internationally recognized expert on disaster recovery and reconstruction. She is the author of "Disaster Hits Home: New Policy for Urban Housing Recovery," a 1998 book examining the post-disaster recovery of cities around the world. Her specializations include seismic rehabilitation, loss modeling, disaster recovery and reconstruction, and affordable housing.

Comerio was the principal investigator on a pilot study for the Disaster Resistant University Initiative, which was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and UC Berkeley in 1998. The research on the economic impacts of disaster losses on the UC Berkeley campus was published in 2000 along with a strategic plan for risk management. The program was named one of the top U.S. seismic projects of the 20th century by the Applied Technology Council and Engineering News-Record in April 2006.