Focus

Education Prevails

S I WALKED through the cobblestone streets of San Jose, Costa Rica, I came across are large yellow building, the Bellavista Fortress. Originally it was used as a military barrack, and at first glance the building was a nondescript "old building" with crenulations along the top. As I turned the corner, the building transformed from being nondescript, into a being a powerful reminder of Costa Rica's turbulent past.

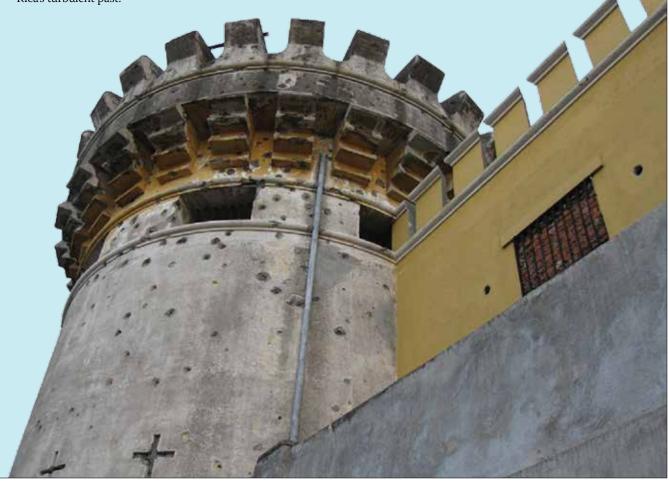
The front of the building has been refurbished, but at the back corner of the building you can still see bullet holes from the Costa Rican Civil War. After the National Liberation Army won the civil war, it abolished the military, and to this day, Costa Rica still does not have a military.

As a visitor to this Central American nation, one cannot pass by this bullet filled turret on the corner

without thinking of how a building which was used for war is now used for education. The corner turret on the Bellavista Fortress serves as a reminder to all who will listen, of what can happen when forces of oppression try to overpower forces of education.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at **elainal@nafsa.org.**

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