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HCDE 510

## Descendent Tree

For the visualization project I decided to represent a family tree that shows the different generations that carry the Marin last name in order to demonstrate a unique way of passing on last names. I am originally from Spain where the composition of the family name consists of two last names. For example, my family name is Marin Burgos, which is composed of two last names. First is "Marin", which is carried by my father's family and second is "Burgos" whose origins are on my mother's side. The first of my last names is only passed to the next generation after marriage. This type of name composition is not usual in other parts of the world, including the United States. As a result, I thought that it would be interesting to show the rest of the class a visualization of how the last name of Marin is passed from generation to generation with the mother's name eventually lost in the third generation.

I think that the choice of using circular shapes to display a family tree helps to visualize the different generations in the family. In this case, we are focusing on one side of the ancestors. Each concentric ring represents a different generation of the Marin family, thus providing an easy to follow map of the generations. Even though the spouses' names are omitted, the spouses' family name is represented as the second last name in the children's last name. In addition, the lines illustrate the connection between generations, such as between father and children.

My visualization starts from the center of the diagram, which represents my grandfather Francisco Marin Carrasco. I decided to start with my grandfather because it is the first generation that I have known personally. The descendants of my grandfather are represented in the next ring as your eye travels outwards. Each of my grandfather's six descendants is connected to him with a line, thus connecting the innermost circle to the next outlying ring. This pattern is repeated through four generations, representing respectively my grandfather's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in each successive ring. Each descendant is titled by her/his first and two last names. I think that showing this format helps the spectator to visualize when the Marin last name is lost in the fourth generation due to a female descendent in the second generation. For example, the second generation Lola Marin Casaus has grandchildren that do not carry the Marin last name. As mentioned before, in order to show the different generations and who carries the Marin last name, the spouse's side of the family is omitted. The representation of the spouses in the diagram is shown just as a white ring without any title.

One of the benefits of this type of diagram consists of how simple it is for the spectator to follow the different generations that a family carries. The user just needs to focus on the grey rings to conduct a search of a specific generation to see how many members it has. For example, I think that this model would be very helpful when representing royal families.

Also, the use of lines to represent the descendants of a family helps the viewer to follow a particular branch in a very straightforward way.

Finally, this diagram might not be useful for those who are looking for to learn about the spouses' side of the family. As I mentioned before, this diagram represent just the generations related to the Marin last name. Adding the spouses would help illustrate where the second last name comes from. For example, my mother is Antonia Burgos Vaquera. The name Burgos came from her father, and she gave it to me as my second last name. This might be better explained if the spouses were included. This design also has the disadvantage of where to place the primogenitor of each family. In the third and fourth generations, the primogenitor can be listed higher up in the diagram, and each subsequent child listed in order from top to bottom. However, this does not work in the second generation, where all children are listed around the circle. No one child can be listed higher or lower than the other, and therefore one cannot tell who is the oldest or youngest of a group of children.

# DESCENDANT TREE

*Marín Family*

