

DESIGN IN THE CONVÍVIO: MAKING SPACE FOR LANDSCAPE IN SELF-BUILT COMMUNITIES

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Landscape Architecture,
Harvard University Graduate School of Design**

by

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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Student



Thesis Advisor

DESIGN IN THE CONVÍVIO



Making Space for Landscape in Self-Built Communities

with the power of . . .



and a lot of . . .



title

Design in the Convívio: Making Space for Landscape in Self-Built Communities

abstract

This thesis examines the roles in which a landscape architect can operate respectfully within dense, self-constructed communities. Piloting a design process within the context of the “convívio” -- a socially rich but spatially constricted network of communal open space -- demands a focus on the varied lived experiences of urban residents and a responsiveness to their stated needs. In collaboration with the community members of Chapada do Rio Vermelho in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, the work comprises remote interviews, auto-photography, and design conversations oriented around three feasible, site-specific landscape interventions. The thesis finds space for the landscape architect and design student to offer their skills as a listener, designer, facilitator, and advocate.

location

community of Chapada do Rio Vermelho,
city of Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

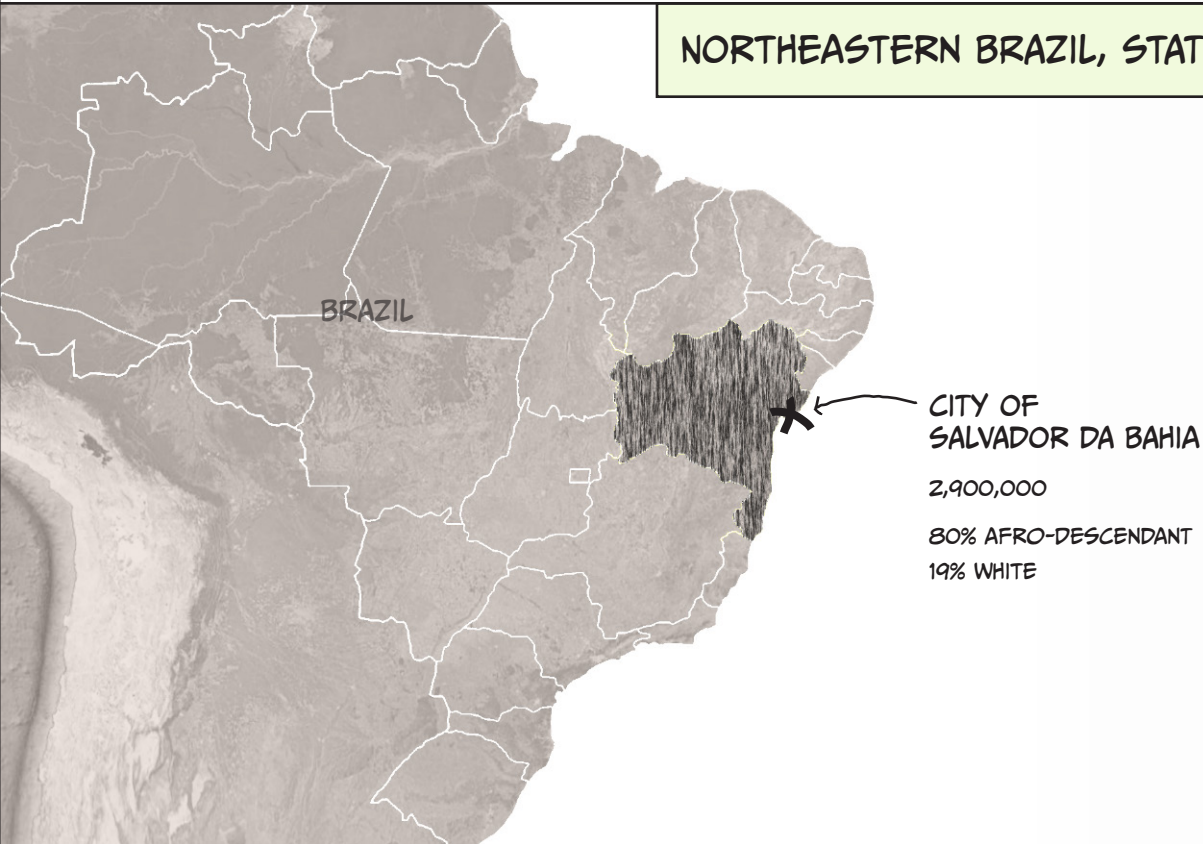
submitted

Sam E. Valentine
Harvard Graduate School of Design
May 19, 2021

LOOKING FAR FROM BOSTON, IN SO MANY WAYS...



NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL, STATE OF BAHIA



THE CONVÍVIO...LIVELY BUT CONSTRICTED, LEFTOVER SPACE



APPROACHING AN UNFAMILIAR CONTEXT...

THE PROBLEM... INFORMAL SETTLEMENT IS STILL OFTEN INTERPRETED 'THROUGH THE EYES' OF THE RESIDENT OF THE FORMAL CITY...
- A. CAVALCANTI

OUTDOOR AREAS OF POOR QUALITY... NECESSARY ACTIVITIES... GOOD ENVIRONMENT... BROAD SPECTRUM OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES
- J. GEHL

SIDEWALKS... UNIQUELY VITAL AND IRREPLACEABLE ORGANS OF CITY ...VITALITY AND STABILITY
- J. JACOBS

IN THE POPULAR NEIGHBORHOODS ... THE RESIDENTS ARE THE TRUE AGENTS OF TRANSFORMATION OF SPACE
- A. SERPA

SALVADOR... ENDOWED WITH A JOYFUL AND CAPTIVATING ENERGY ALTHOUGH PHYSICALLY WOUNDED
- A. SOUZA

Housing Shaped by Labour Ana Rosa Chagas Cavalcanti Jovis

LIFE BETWEEN BUILDINGS

JANE JACOBS THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR

ciade popular FAVELA Angelo Serpa

LIMITES DO HABITAR

IID 7387,06 B62 3144 3096

SALVADOR DA BAHIA, A 500-YEAR OLD CITY OF 3 MILLION...

BAY OF ALL SAINTS

...1 MILLION WITHOUT MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ATLANTIC OCEAN

"INFORMAL" SELF-CONSTRUCTED COMMUNITIES, TYP.

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF BAHIA (UFBA)

WHERE DO I FIND A CONNECTION?



FIRST THE LANGUAGE...AND THEN THE TERMINOLOGY



NÃO EM SALVADOR

HOW ABOUT THE WORD **FAVELA**?



AND I'VE SEEN THIS WORD **PERÍFERIA**?

NÃO É GEOGRAFICAMENTE PRECISA



BAIRRO POPULAR?

É MUITO TÉCNICO



SIM, VAI FUNCIONAR

WHAT ABOUT, SIMPLY **COMUNIDADE**?

CAN I USE... **COMUNIDADE AUTO-CONSTRUÍDA**?

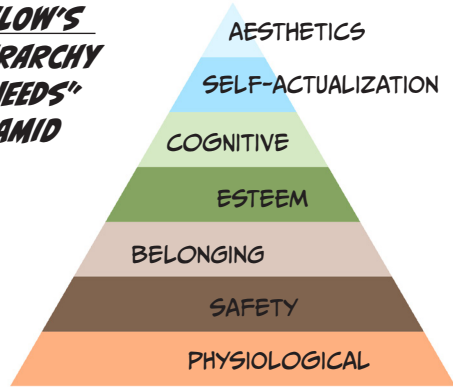
K-K-K-K, EU GOSTO, MAS NUNCA OUVI!

BIAS TRAPS OF AN OUTSIDER...



SEEKING A BALANCED VIEW...

MASLOW'S "HIERARCHY OF NEEDS" PYRAMID



ADAPTED PYRAMID FOR INVESTIGATING DENSE URBAN COMMUNITY LIFE

- AESTHETICS
- SELF-ACTUALIZATION
- COGNITIVE
- ESTEEM
- BELONGING

THE "GRAY AREA" VALUE-NEUTRAL ZONES IN AN URBAN SETTING

TARGET AREAS FOR INTERVIEW RESEARCH (QTY. 8)

SAFETY PHYSIOLOGICAL

"AUTOPHOTOGRAPHY" RESEARCH:

PLEASE SEND ME A PHOTO OF A PLACE WHERE YOU:

...SPEND TIME OFTEN?

...LEARNED SOMETHING RECENTLY?

...FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE?

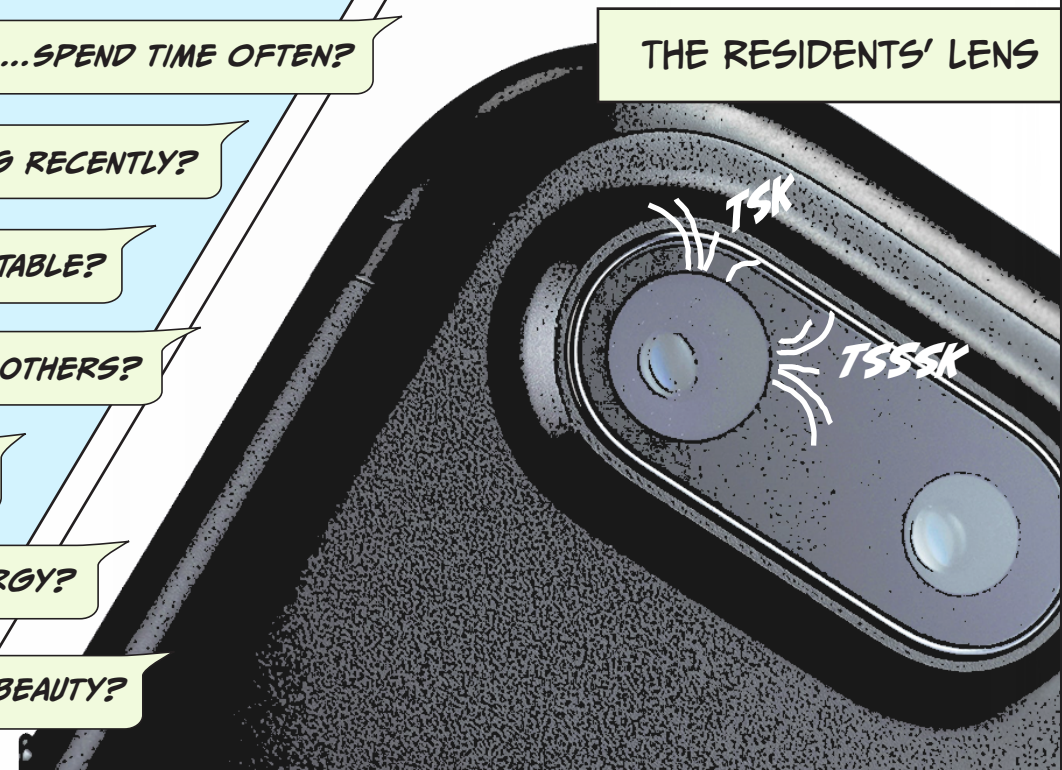
...FEEL RESPECTED BY OTHERS?

...FEEL UNSAFE?

...SENSE SPIRITUAL ENERGY?

...GO TO APPRECIATE BEAUTY?

THE RESIDENTS' LENS



THE RESIDENTS' WORDS



...A CONNECTION IS MADE!



GIL DE LEON, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER IN *CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO*

EXPRESSION IN THE PUBLIC REALM...



POLICE STATION...



...AND INSIDE, A COMMUNITY LIBRARY

WHICH OPENED UP TO AN EXPANSIVE VISTA I HADN'T IMAGINED!



...AND DOWN BELOW YOU
CAN SEE THE SCHOOL AND
THE HEALTH POST

IT'S LIKE WE'RE LOOKING
INTO THE SPATIAL HEART
OF THE BAIRRO!

CHAPADA ARTE CIDADÃO (ART CENTER)...

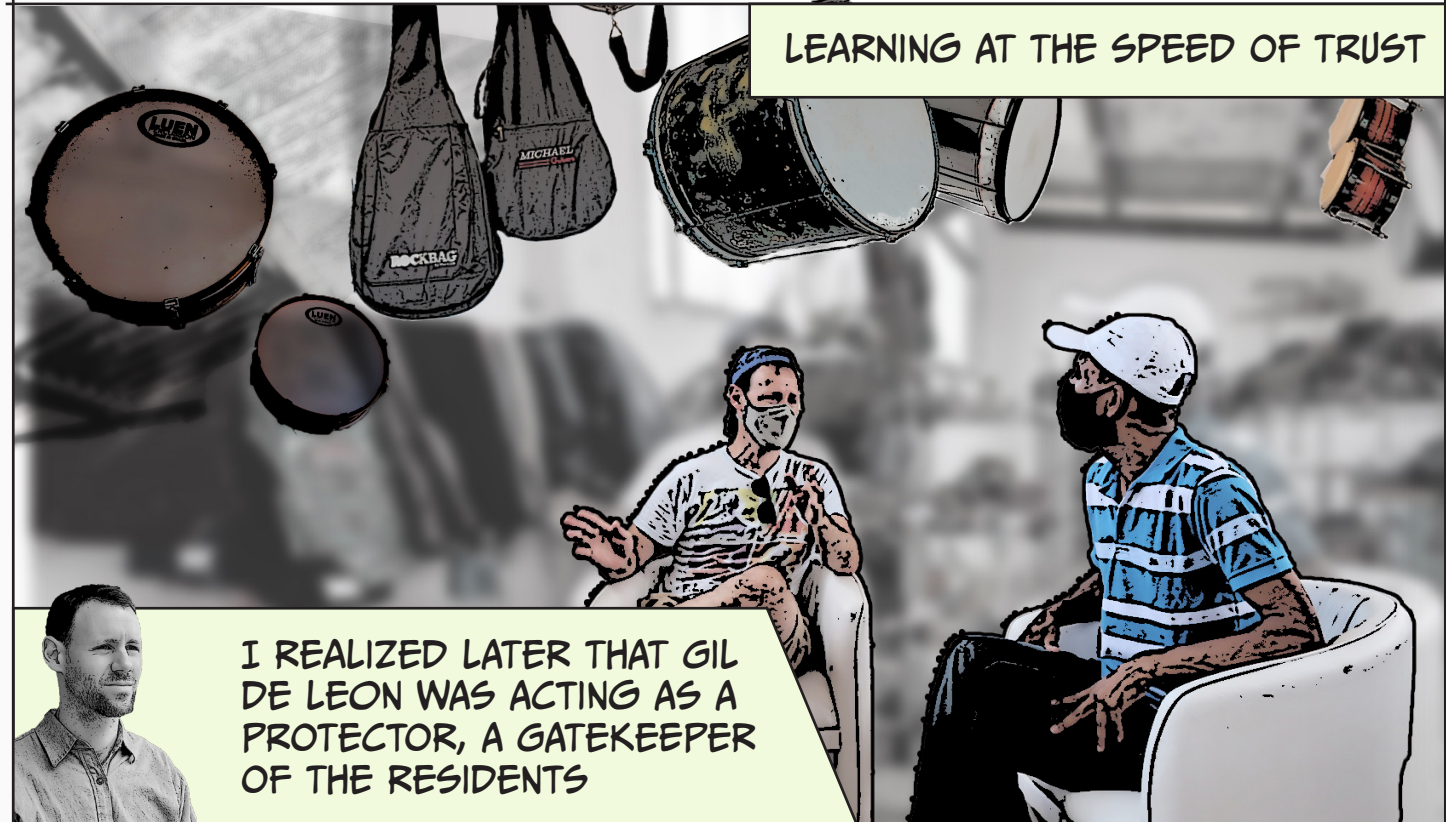


...TRANSFORMED IN MINUTES

MAPPING WITH LOCAL EXPERTS



LEARNING AT THE SPEED OF TRUST



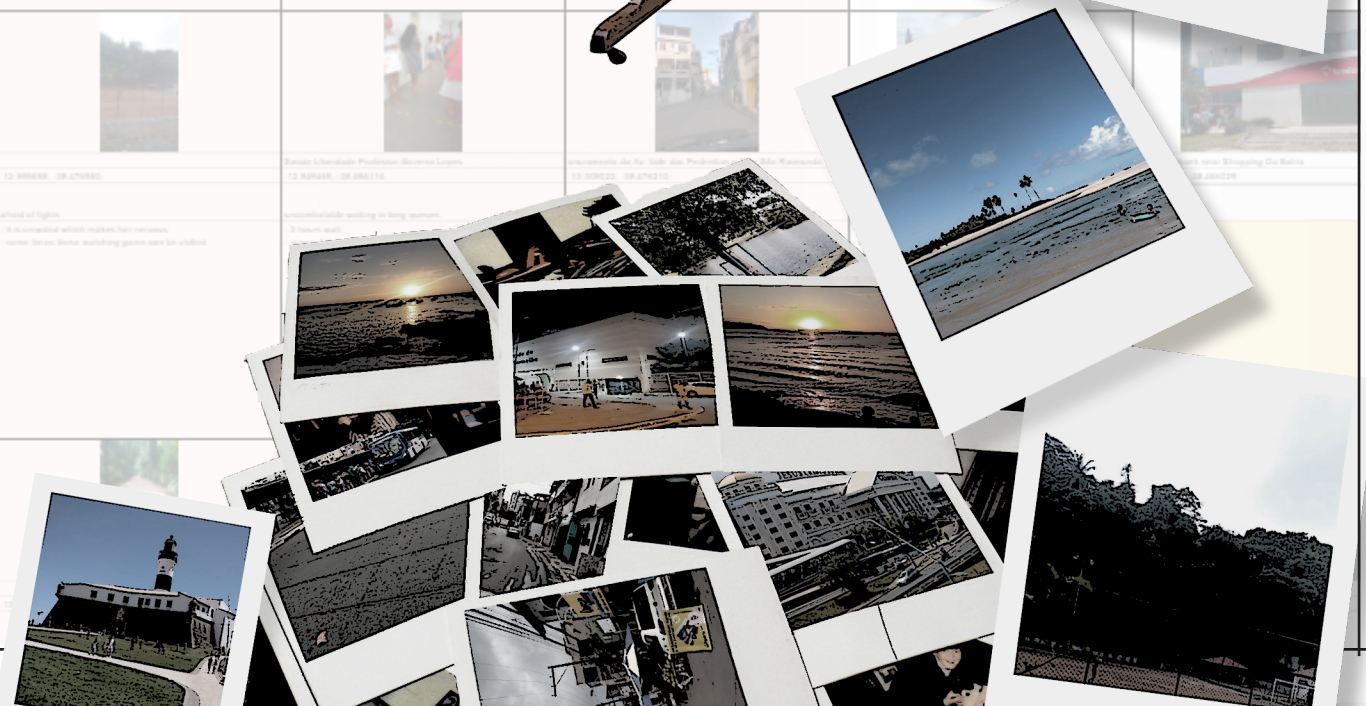
I REALIZED LATER THAT GIL DE LEON WAS ACTING AS A PROTECTOR, A GATEKEEPER OF THE RESIDENTS

RESIDENT-PARTICIPANTS...RESIDENT-PHOTOGRAPHERS

8
X 12
= 96 PHOTOS

12 PARTICIPANTS
AGES: 40-60
SEX: 75% FEMALE
25% MALE

> 60
X 12
≥ 1,000 TEXTS



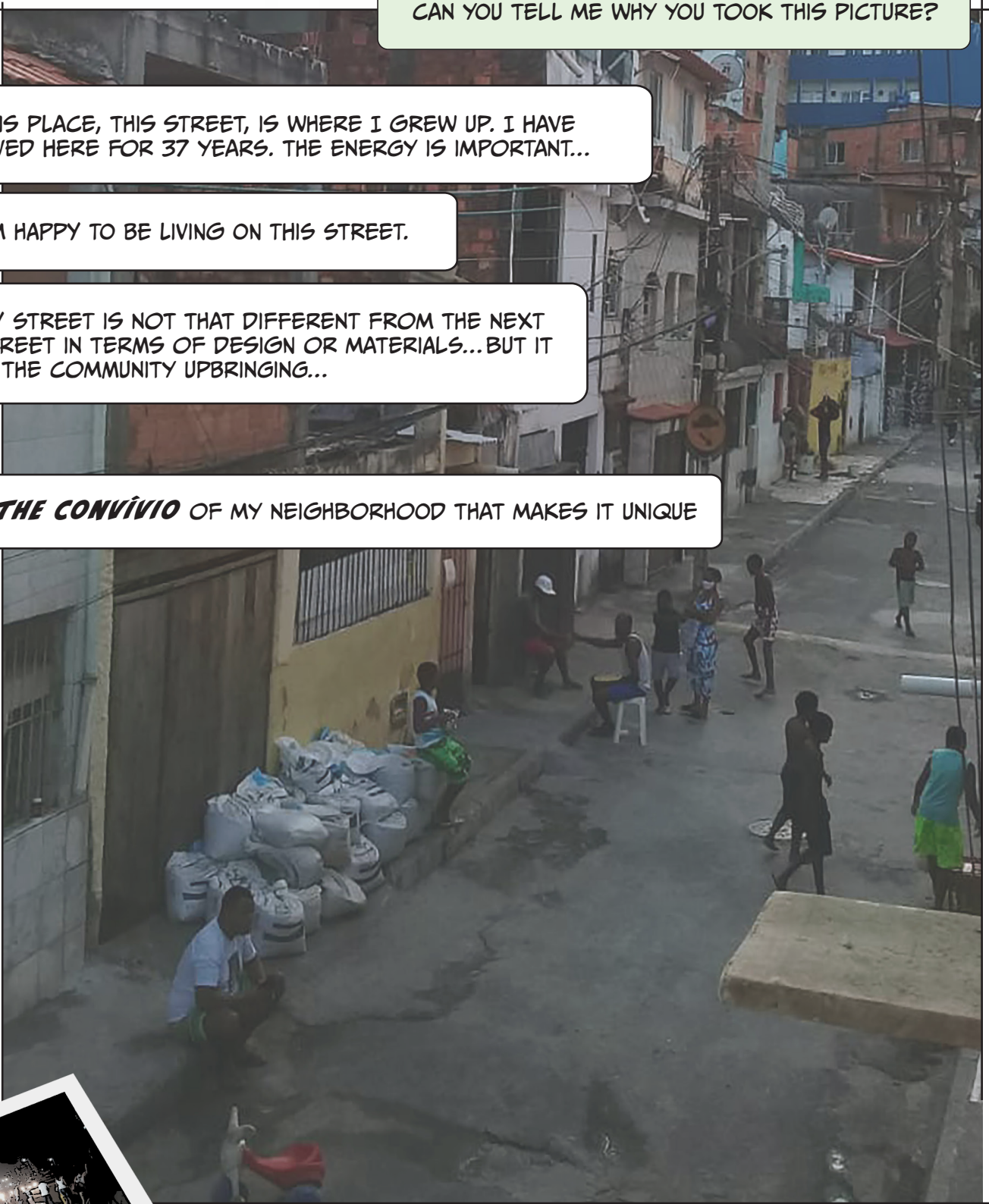
CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU TOOK THIS PICTURE?

THIS PLACE, THIS STREET, IS WHERE I GREW UP. I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 37 YEARS. THE ENERGY IS IMPORTANT...

I'M HAPPY TO BE LIVING ON THIS STREET.

MY STREET IS NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE NEXT STREET IN TERMS OF DESIGN OR MATERIALS... BUT IT IS THE COMMUNITY UPBRINGING...

IT IS *THE CONVÍVIO* OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD THAT MAKES IT UNIQUE

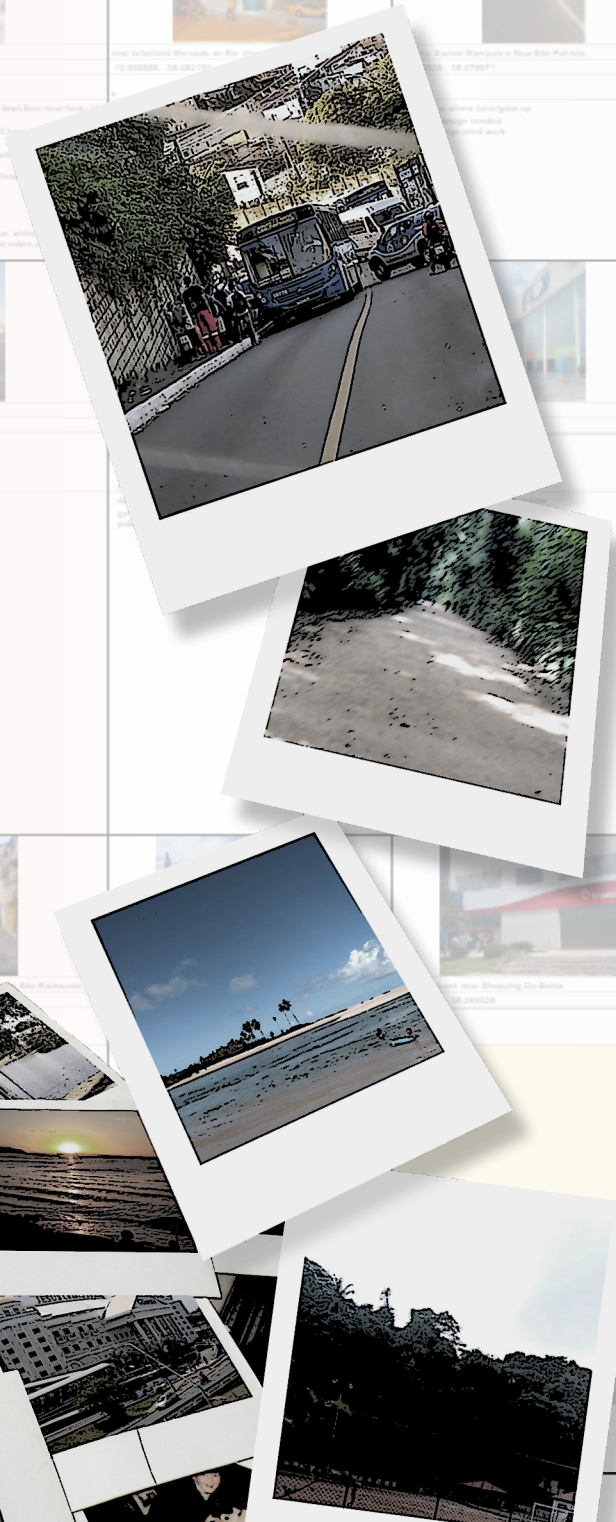


RESIDENT-PARTICIPANTS...RESIDENT-PHOTOGRAPHERS

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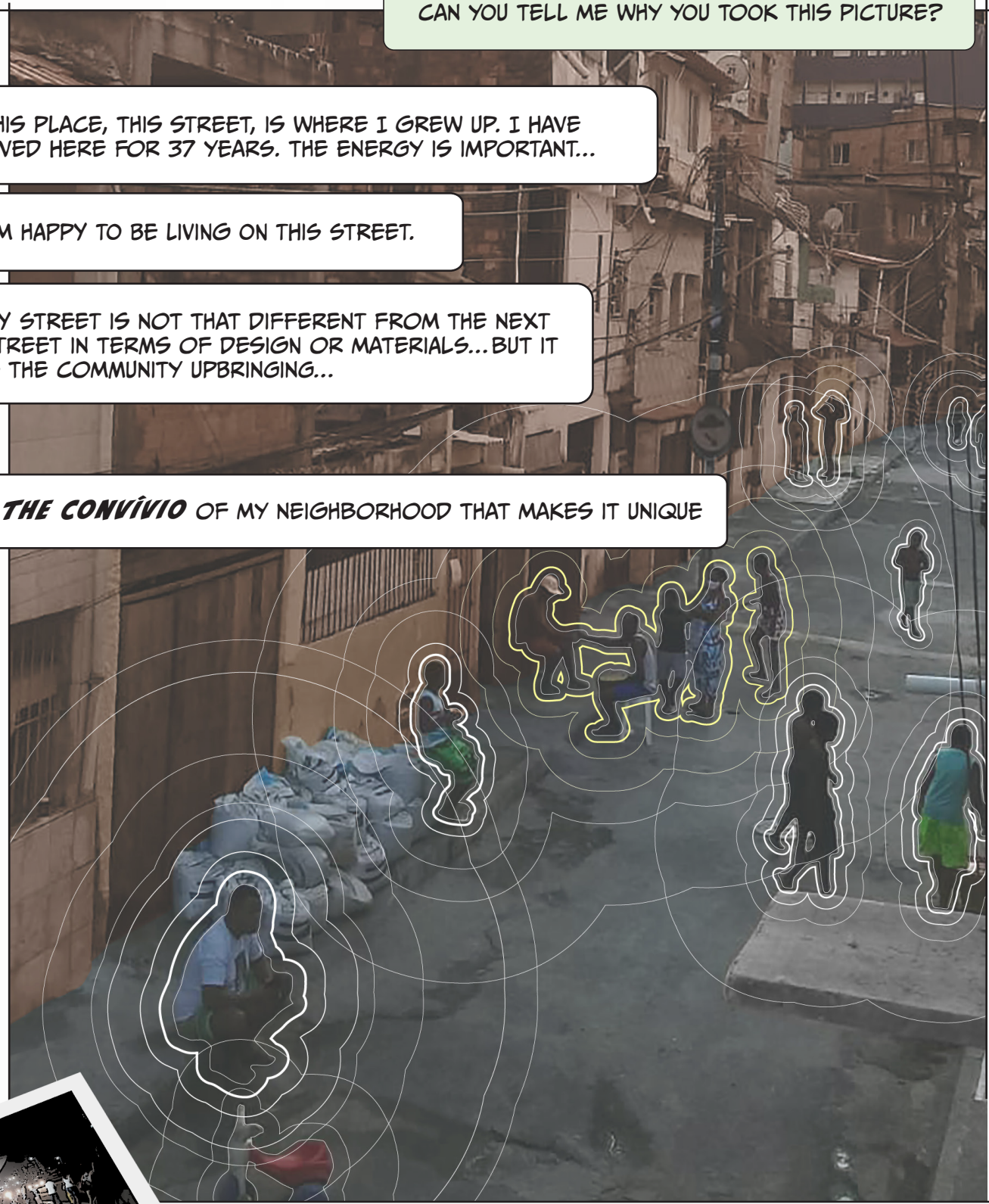
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IT IS **THE CONVÍVIO** OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD THAT MAKES IT UNIQUE



TERRAIN AS AN OBSTACLE TO LITERACY?

...ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?


I WOULD LIKE TO STUDY AT NIGHT...
WE NEED A SMALL NIGHT SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS...
UP HERE ON THE TOP OF THE HILL

I HAVE DIFFICULTY WALKING...

...THE STAIRS AND SLOPES

I HAVE
ASTHMA...

AND JOINT
PROBLEMS...



RESIDENT: HANDRAILS
WOULD HELP ON THE
STAIRWAYS... MANY
ELDERLY PEOPLE SUFFER!

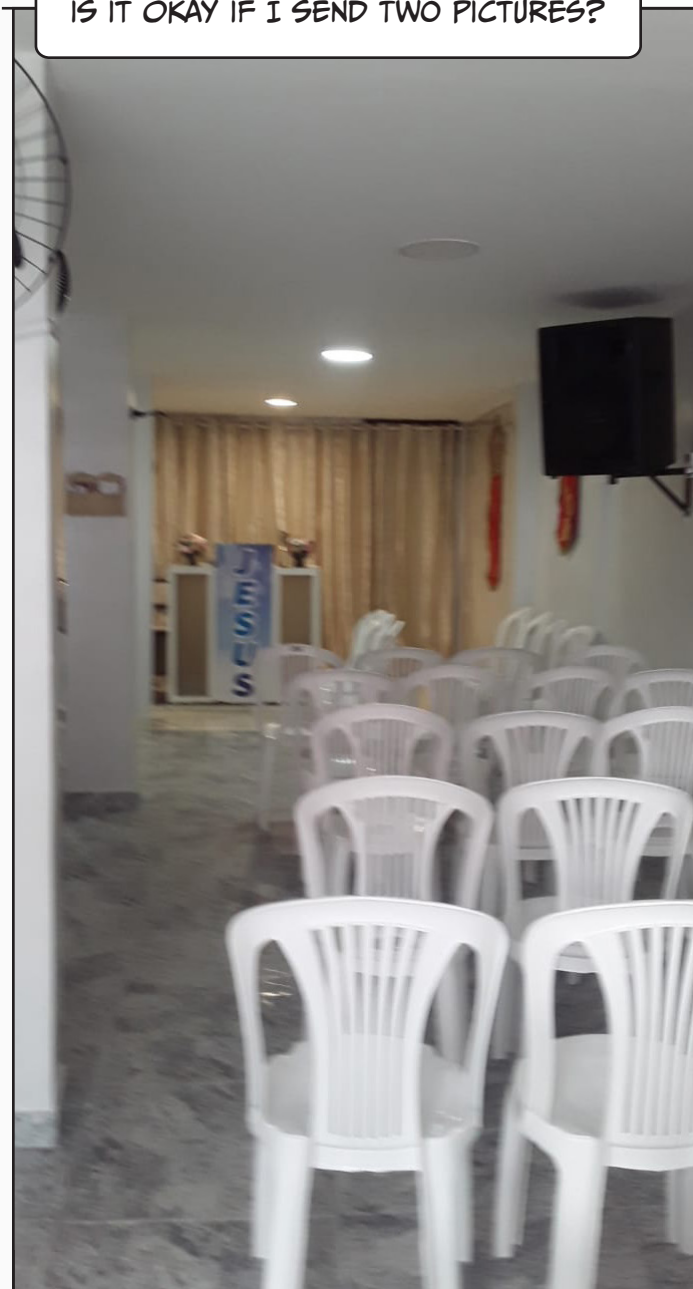
...AND ARTHRITIS IN
BOTH KNEES

WHEN MY HEALTH
PROBLEM GOT
WORSE, I WAS
FORCED TO
STOP STUDYING

CAN YOU PLEASE SEND ME A PHOTO OF A PLACE WHERE YOU SENSE SPIRITUAL ENERGY?

...

IS IT OKAY IF I SEND TWO PICTURES?



SCALES OF LANDSCAPE INTERVENTION:

"GLOBAL SOUTH"

NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

SALVADOR

CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO

SITE

DETAILS

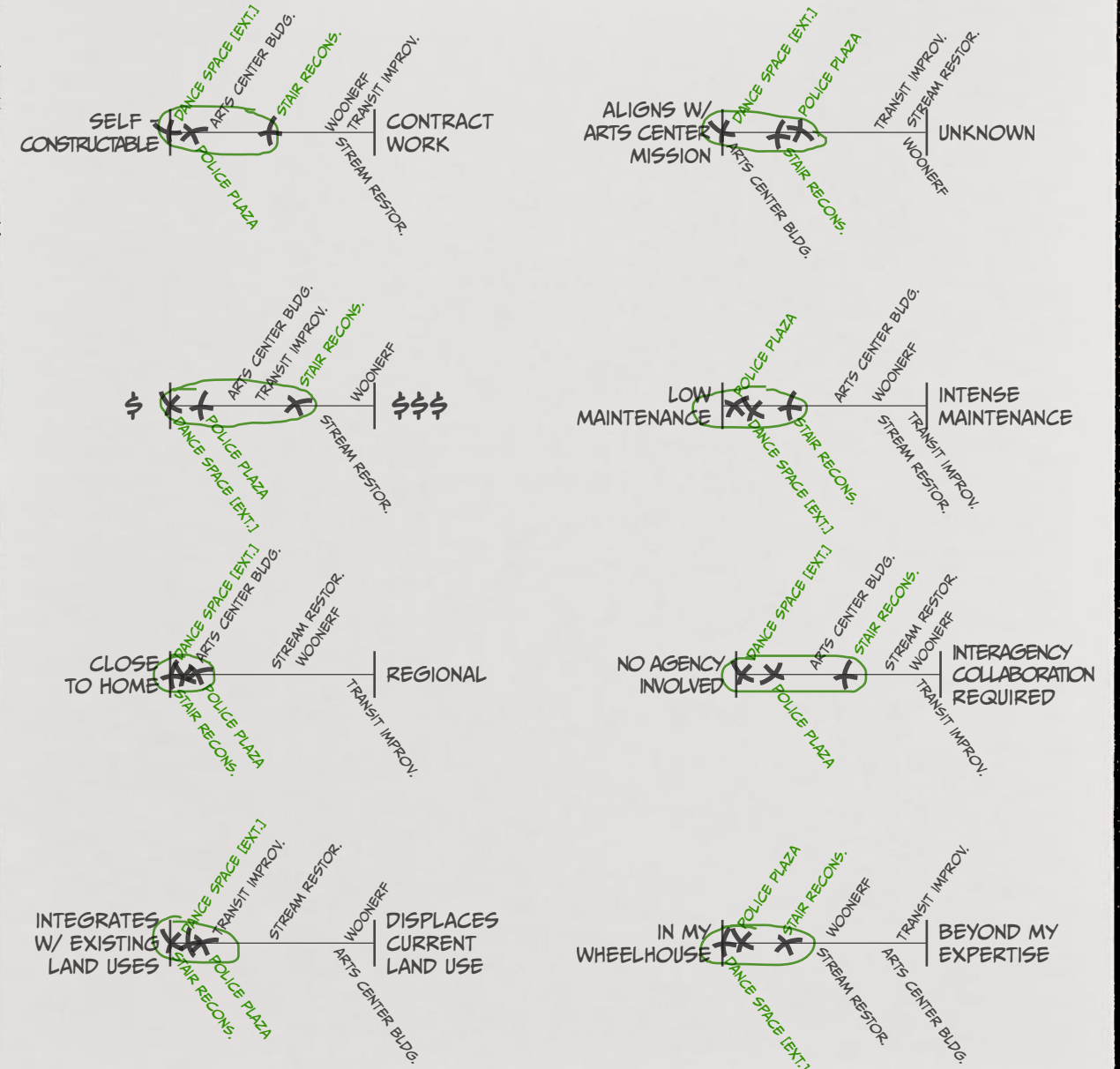
THIS THESIS

	GRAFFITI-GARDEN-STAIR	DANCE-SHADE-SIDEWALKS	WELCOME MAT	TERRACED CORRIDOR	COMMUNITY-NETWORK
PERMIT TO RESIDENTS AT LARGE	0	0	0	0	0
PHOTOGRAPHY RESPONSES	0	0	0	0	0
W/ PARTNER'S MISSION STATEMENT	0	0	0	0	0
LIKELY SUPPORTED BY ABUTTERS	0	0	0	0	0
WITHIN JURISDICTION OF MAYOR'S OFFICE (PREFEITURA)	?	?	0	0	0
OTHER FUNDING STREAMS (POLICE)	?	?	0	X	0
WOULD PROVIDE ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS	X	0	X	?	0
CULTURAL COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING	X	X	0	?	?
EXPANDS LOCAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	0	0	X	X	?
DEGREE OF PHYSICAL DISTURBANCE (CONSTRUCTION)	X	0	0	0	?
WITHIN MY SKILL (LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)	?	0	0	0	0
ENGAGES W/ LANDSCAPE DESIGN	0	X	?	?	0

IMPLEMENTABILITY MATRIX

JUST START DESIGNING...
"RESEARCH" AND "DESIGN" SHOULD OCCUR AS SIMULTANEOUS PHASES

DESIGN ENGAGEMENT...



SCALES OF LANDSCAPE INTERVENTION:

"GLOBAL SOUTH"

NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

SALVADOR

CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO

SITE

DETAILS

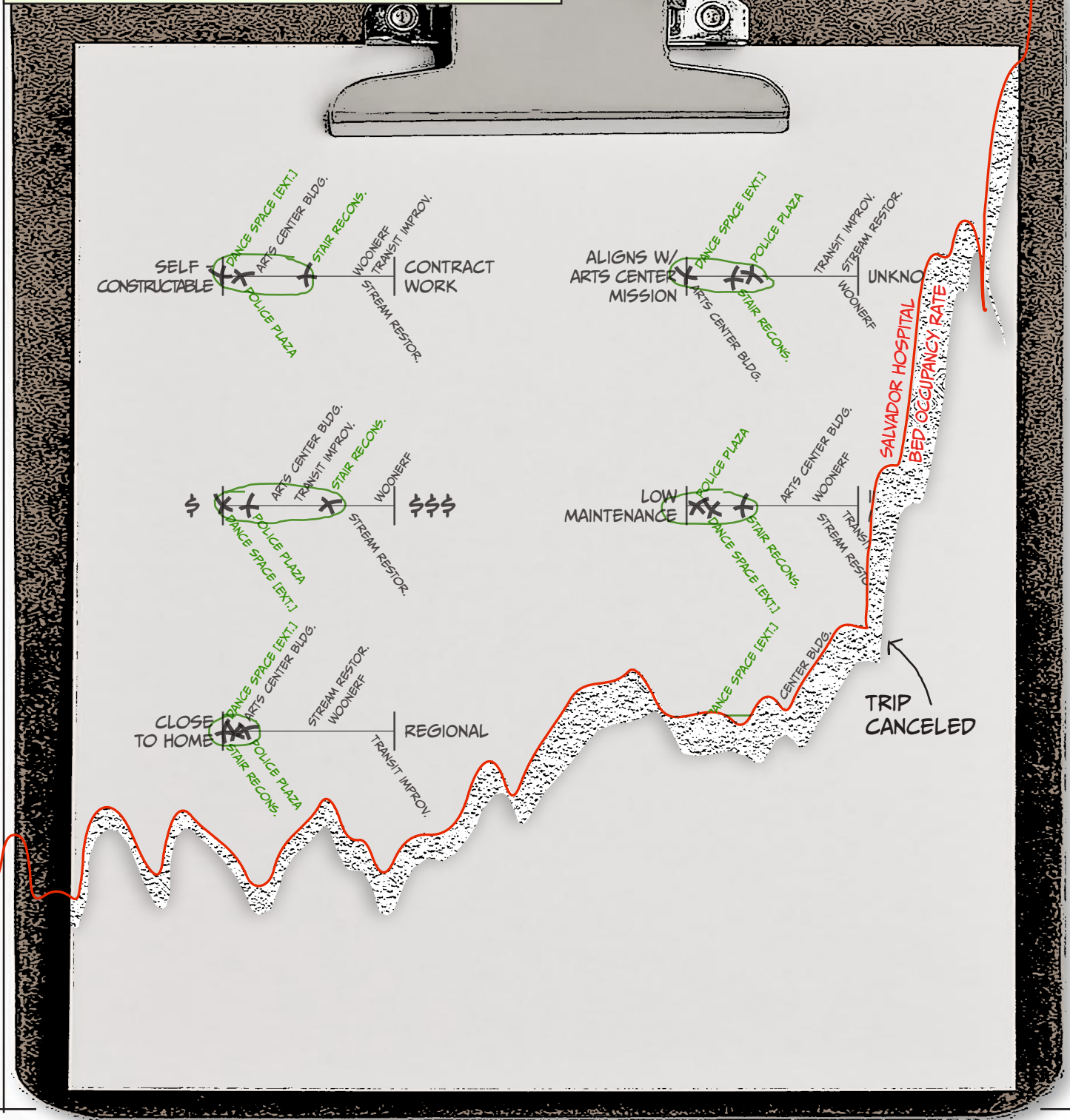
THIS THESIS

	GRAFFITI-GARDEN-STAIR	DANCE-SHADE-SIDEWALKS	WELCOME MAT	TERRACED CORRIDOR	COMMUNITY-NETWORK
PERMIT TO RESIDENTS AT LARGE	0	0	0	0	0
PHOTOGRAPHY RESPONSES	0	0	0	0	0
W/ PARTNER'S MISSION STATEMENT	0	0	0	0	0
LIKELY SUPPORTED BY ABUTERS	0	0	0	0	0
WITHIN JURISDICTION OF MAYOR'S OFFICE (PREFEITURA)	?	?	0	0	0
OTHER FUNDING STREAMS (POLICE)	?	?	0	X	0
WOULD PROVIDE ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS	X	0	X	?	0
CULTURAL COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING	X	X	0	?	?
EXPANDS LOCAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	0	0	X	X	?
DEGREE OF PHYSICAL DISTURBANCE (CONSTRUCTION)	X	0	0	0	?
WITHIN MY SKILL (LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)	?	X	0	0	0
ENGAGES W/ LANDSCAPE DESIGN	0	0	?	?	0

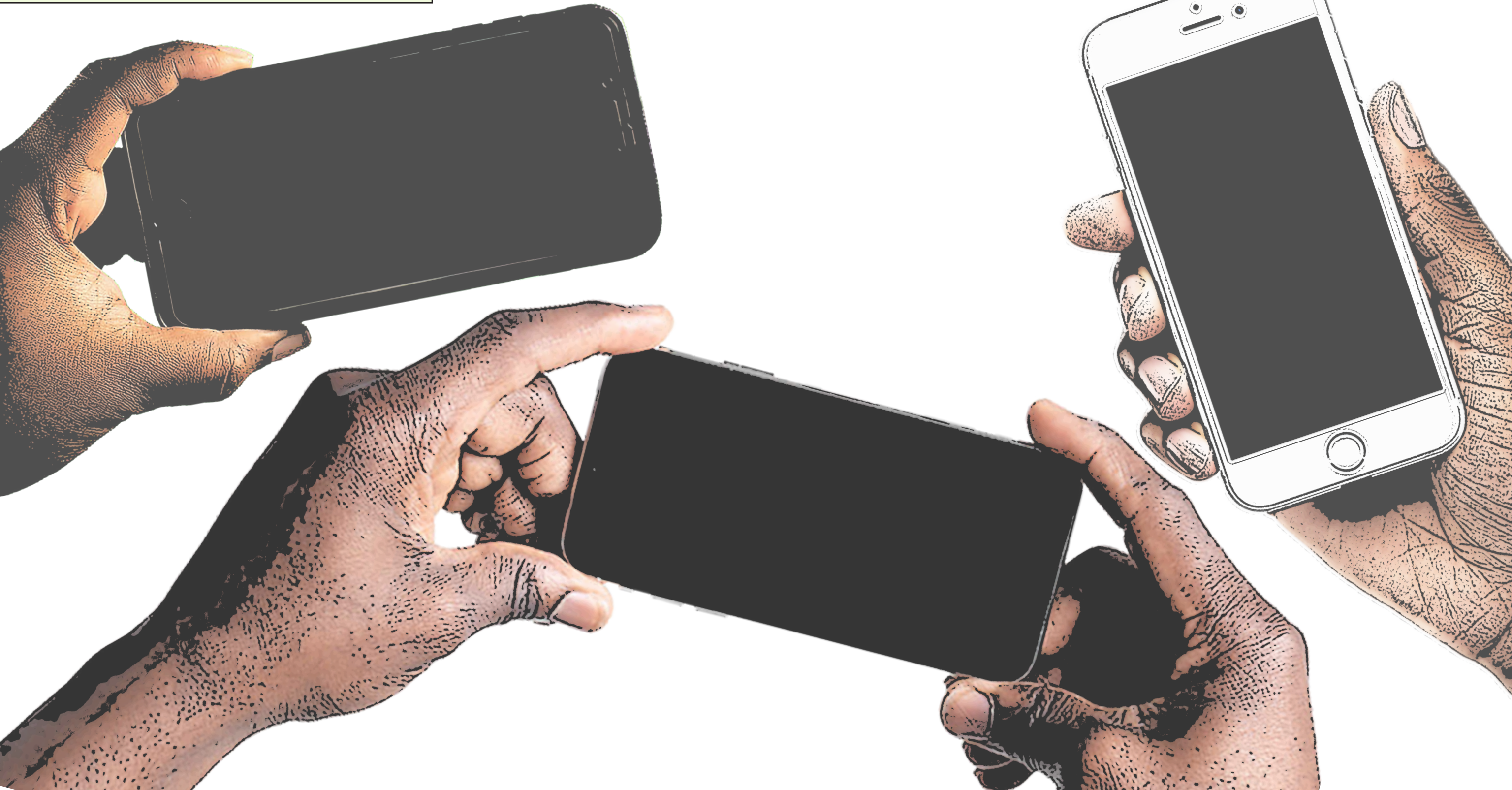
IMPLEMENTABILITY MATRIX

JUST START DESIGNING... "RESEARCH" AND "DESIGN" SHOULD OCCUR AS SIMULTANEOUS PHASES

DESIGN ENGAGEMENT... INTERRUPTED



THE RESIDENTS RECEIVE THREE VIDEOS...



DESIGN DIALOGUE...RESIDENTS RESPOND

pracinha de paz

I LOVE THIS SUGGESTION. THE COMMUNITY WOULD LOVE IT.

I FEEL MOST STRONGLY ABOUT THE PLAZA.

I IMAGINED RESTING UNDER THE TREE AND ON THE BENCHES

PEOPLE WALKING BY CAN SIT DOWN TO REST

WE ALREADY HAVE A SIDEWALK LIBRARY AT THE ARTS CENTER, BUT IN YOUR DESIGN THE AESTHETICS OF THE ENTIRE SPACE WILL HELP TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

THESE IDEAS WOULD IMPROVE THE SOCIAL LIFE AND COMFORT OF RESIDENTS

I LIKED YOUR THREE IDEAS VERY MUCH...VERY COOL!

THE ESCADARIA, THE BOSQUINHO, AND THE PRAÇA ARE CREATIVE IDEAS THAT WOULD BENEFIT MANY RESIDENTS

ONE WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT UNDER A TREE. I LIKE THAT A LOT.

I SUPPORT YOUR PROJECT

THE IDEA IS WONDERFUL.

THE GRAFFITI WILL MAKE THE CORRIDOR AND ENVIRONMENT MORE CHEERFUL

escadaria de vizinhos

I FOUND THE THREE IDEAS VERY GOOD

THE ESCADARIA IS THE ONE I LIKE THE MOST

THE COMMUNITY CAN ONLY GAIN FROM THIS!

bosquinho de dança

I LIKE THE BOSQUINHO...A PLACE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS TO FITDANCE OUTDOORS

LOVE IT

THE DANCE GROVE IS A GOOD IDEA.

TREES AND LIFE IN THE SHADE

THE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT WOULD ALLOW CONTACT BETWEEN CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY AND FAMILY MEMBERS

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE STAIRWAY STRUCTURE FOR PLANTS AND LIVING SPACE IS A GREAT IDEA

SPECIAL FEATURE: TEAR-OUT DESIGNS

COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION DRAWINGS

ATTENTION:

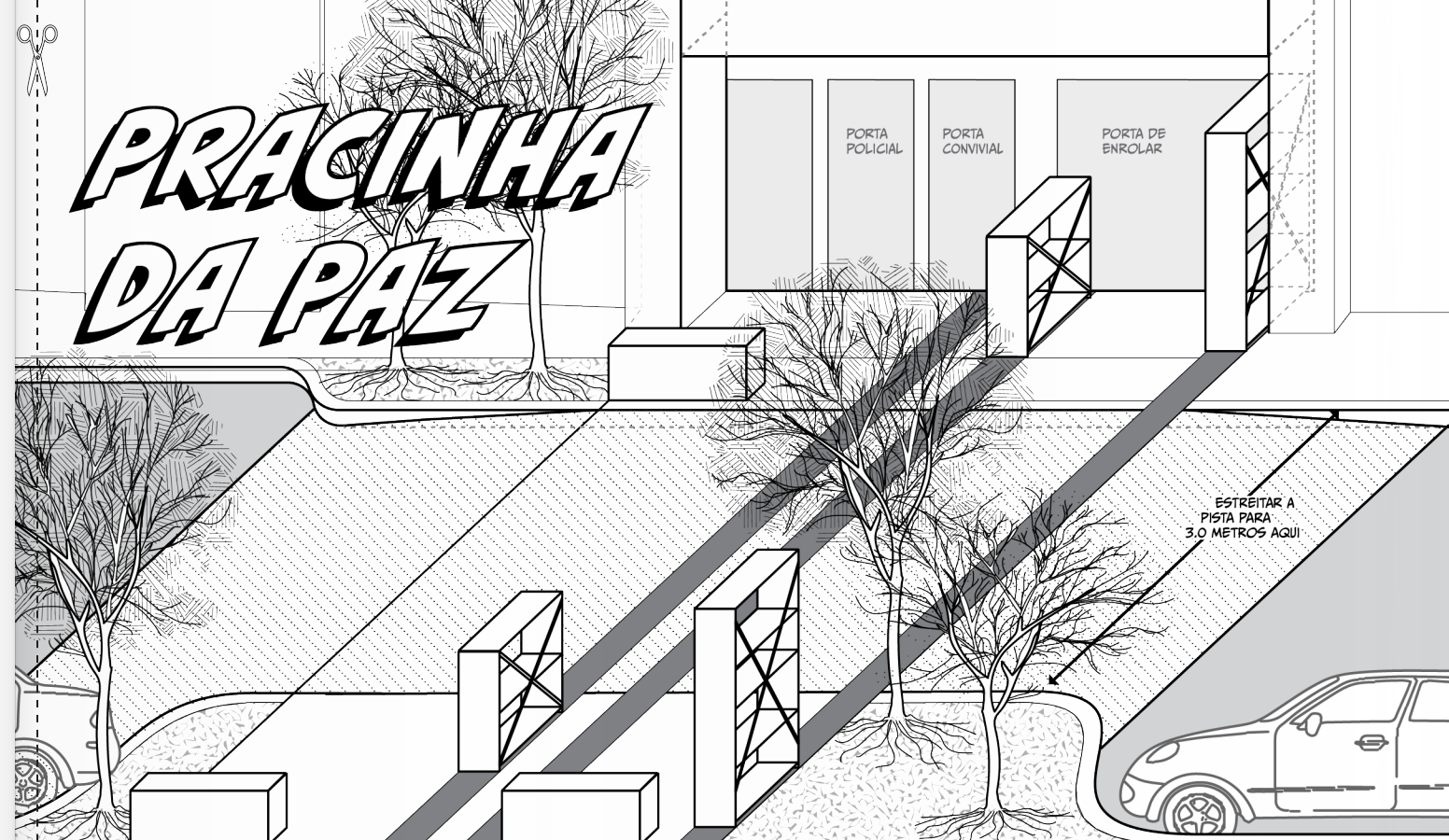
THE FOLLOWING DRAWINGS ARE REMOVABLE. PLEASE TAKE THEM OUT OF THE COMIC BOOK IF YOU'D LIKE TO. THEY BELONG TO YOU, AND THEY ARE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BUILDING IMPACTFUL NEW LANDSCAPES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO.

MY HOPE IS THAT EACH OF THESE DRAWINGS ILLUSTRATES THE VARYING AMOUNTS OF LABOR, MATERIALS, AND FUNDING REQUIRED TO MAKE EACH IDEA A REALITY.

#1 THE PLAZA OF PEACE

#2 THE NEIGHBORS' STAIRWAY

#3 THE DANCE GROVE



1 INFORMAÇÕES GERAIS

LOCALIZAÇÃO

RUA COREIA DO SUL, EM FRENTE DE BCS POSTO POLICIAL, BAIRRO DE **CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO**, SALVADOR DA BAHIA, BRASIL

OBJETIVO

CRIAR UM ESPAÇO DE LEITURA SOMBREADO NA CALÇADA

2 INSTRUÇÕES DE INSTALAÇÃO

FASES

1^o: CONSTRUIR NOVOS MEIOS-FIOS, ESTREITANDO A ESTRADA E ELIMINANDO 9 METROS DE ESTACIONAMENTO NA VIA

2^o: CONSTRUIR LOMBADA DE MEIO-FIO A MEIO-FIO; DEFINIR REDUTOR DE VELOCIDADE PLANO PARA ENCONTRAR CALÇADA EXISTENTE

3^o: PINTAR LISTRAS NO CONCRETO, COMUNIDADE SELECIONA CORES

4^o: ENCHER BOLSÕES DE MEIO-FIO COM SOLO DE PLANTIO E INSTALAR ÁRVORES

5^o: CONSTRUIR BANCOS E ESTANTES COBERTAS

3 MATERIAIS REQUISITADOS

X 2 GALÃO DE TINTA DE 5L

X 45 SACO DE CIMENTO

3 M³ ASFALTO

2 M³ SOLO DE ENCHER

X 4 ESTANTES COBERTAS

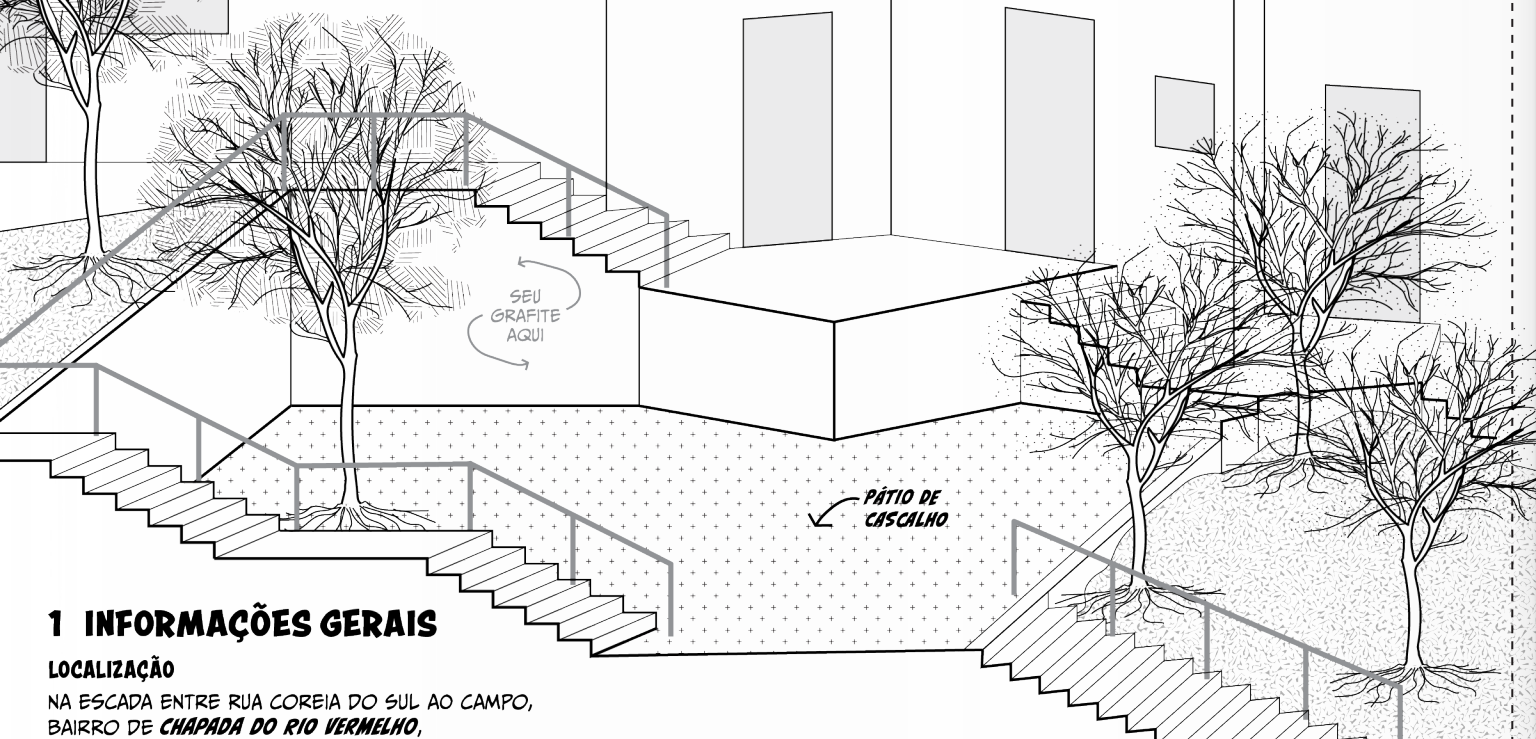
X 135 TIJOLO [PARA OS BANCOS]

X 3 ÁRVORES **TECOMA STANS**

X 2 ÁRVORES **FICUS BENJAMINA**

4 M³ DE SOLO PLANTIO

ESCADARIA DE VIZINHOS



1 INFORMAÇÕES GERAIS

LOCALIZAÇÃO

NA ESCADA ENTRE RUA COREIA DO SUL AO CAMPO, BAIRRO DE **CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO**, SALVADOR DA BAHIA, BRASIL

OBJETIVO

CRIAR UM ESPAÇO DE CONVIVÊNCIA ARBORIZADO

2 INSTRUÇÕES DE INSTALAÇÃO

FASES

1ª: CONSTRUIR NOVAS ESCADAS E RECONSTRUIR ESGOTOS ABAIXO

2ª: CONSTRUIR NOVOS MUROS DE TIJOLOS E SOLDAR CORRIMÃOS DE TUBO

3ª: INSTALAR PÁTIO DE CASCALHO, SOLO E ÁRVORES

4ª: CONVIDAR ARTE CIDADÃO PARA PRÁTICA DE GRAFITE

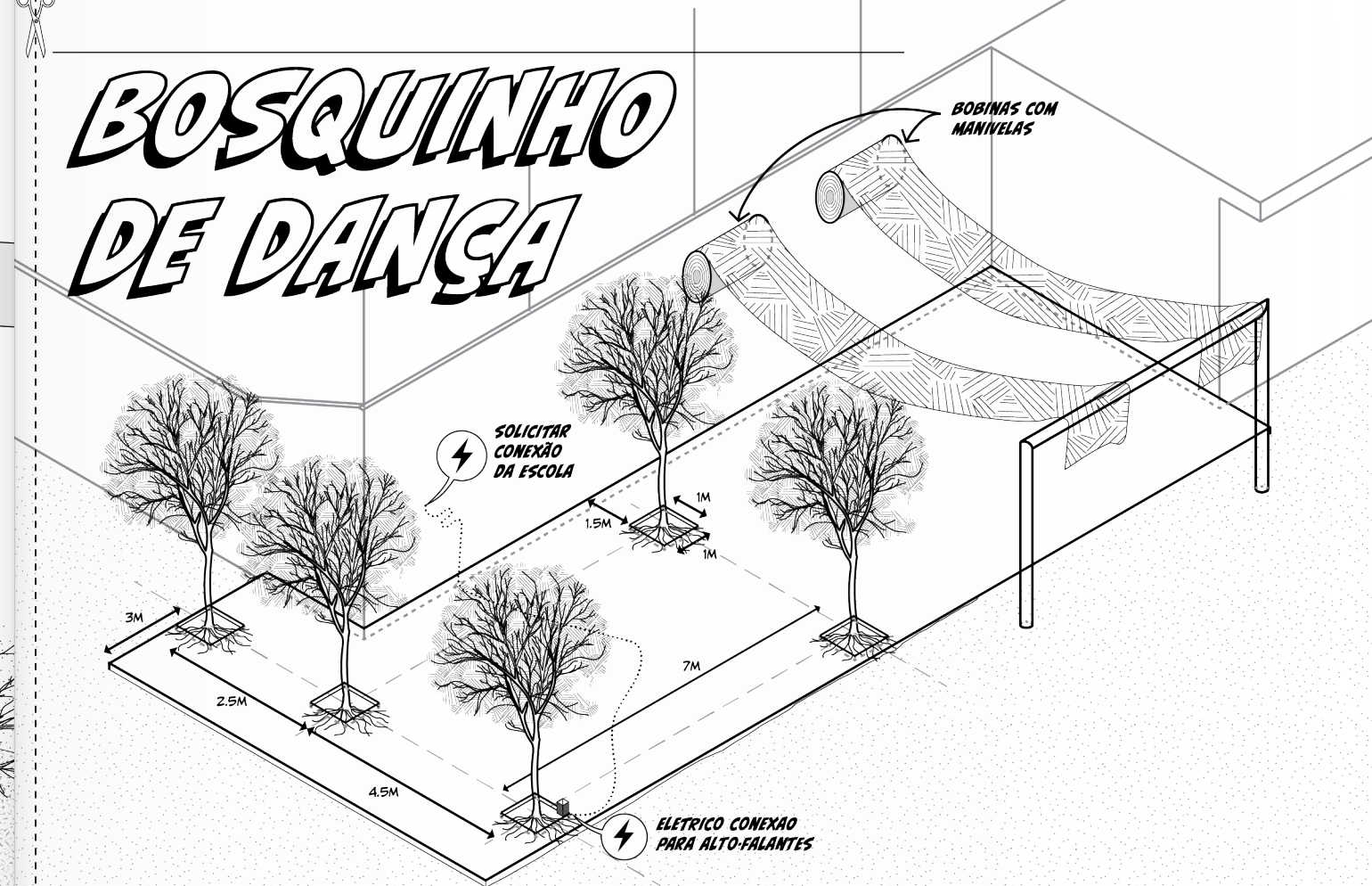
5ª: REGAR AS ÁRVORES SEMENALMENTE ENTRE MESES DE SETEMBRO E JANEIRO (PRIMEIROS DOS ANOS)

3 MATERIAIS REQUISITADOS

[ESSES VALORES CALCULADOS PARA UM SEGMENTO DE 20 METROS DE REFORMAS DE ESCADAS]



BOSQUINHO DE DANÇA



1 INFORMAÇÕES GERAIS

LOCALIZAÇÃO

EXTREMIDADE OESTE DO CAMPO, BAIRRO DE **CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO**, SALVADOR DA BAHIA, BRASIL

OBJETIVO

CRIAR UM ESPAÇO SOMBREADO PARA AS PRÁTICAS DE DANÇA

2 INSTRUÇÕES DE INSTALAÇÃO

FASES

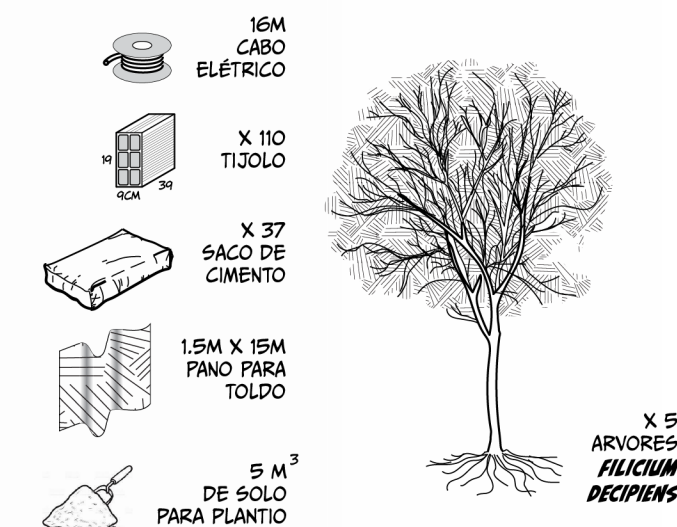
1ª: DESCOMPACTAR O SOLO NO LOCAL DE CADA NOVA ÁRVORE (X5)

2ª: INSTALAR O CABO ELÉTRICO DA ESCOLA PARA A NOVA CONEXÃO

3ª: PAVIMENTAR O PISO DE DANÇA COM QUADRO DE TIJOLOS; ESPALHAR E NIVELAR COM CIMENTO PARA ACABAMENTO

4ª: REGAR AS ÁRVORES SEMENALMENTE ENTRE MESES DE SETEMBRO E JANEIRO (PRIMEIROS DOS ANOS)

3 MATERIAIS REQUISITADOS



prepared by **Sam E. Valentine**
advised by Daniel D'Oca

WITH GRATITUDE TO:

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

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JOSANE OLIVEIRA, ANDRÉ O'DWYER, VÍLMA PATRÍCIA SILVA,
SÔNIA SILVA, FÁBIO VELAME (UFBA / ETNICIDADES)

BRITTANY GIUNCHIGLIANI

ANA CÉLIA DA ROCHA SANTOS

THE VALENTINE FAMILY + A FAMILIA ROCHA

DANIEL D'OCA

...E, PRINCIPALMENTE, OS MORADORES
DO BAIRRO CHAPADA DO RIO VERMELHO,
GIL DE LEON, E CHAPADA ARTE CIDADÃO

DESIGN IN THE CONVÍVIO

Making Space for Landscape in Self-Built Communities

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