"PRAÇA DAS CRIANÇAS" - CHILDREN'S SQUARE

Self-Built Leisure Equipment

Recetas Urbanas
Santiago Cirugeda

Promoter:	Enxame Collective	Cost: - €
Building Company:	Self-Building	Start Design Date: March 2013
Location:	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.	Construction Start: April 2013
Area:	200 m²	Inauguration: April 2013

The technical and project solutions for the Vital Brasil favela were supposed to equip a residual space, both symbolically and practically. The chance was perfect to use architecture to bring together interests and create a working group, capable of carrying on this kind of collaborative projects. The project was designed with brainstorming, checking the construction ease, the materials' availability, the functionality and the good looking appearance. The mediation and the data gathering for the project developing was pretty fast but it included many children taking part with their suggestions: they even democratically voted for the square name, after being told to consider it as long lasting name, linked to their experience with the square and to themselves.

The clearing of scrubs, the cleaning, the structures' placing, the concrete grandstand benches, the graffiti, the anti-ball's hit fence, the wooden swing making children crazy about it, etc. were building a place, especially human, that will need to be improved and kept. While working, a water pipe broke and it turned into a party for the children. Similar accidents had been happening to the inhabitants building their own block, causing positive attitude and enviable joint, necessary stuff to face the process of building a common space.

An important spot in this experience was the chance to know people as Magrau, Carlos, José, Luana, and many more. Mentioning just these ones, it is useful to say that with them, they created the Enxame collective, that still is a platform for relations and common works when possible. This is another example of how an experience of collective building can generate new working groups, professional or friendship links to keep.