

Born on July 8th, 1979, I attended a day-care at the Minas Gerais Federal University School of Architecture (UFMG-EA), where my parents were still students. For most of my life, I have lived in Belo Horizonte, capital of the state of Minas Gerais and the third largest city in Brazil, with a population of 3.5 million. I spent my adolescence aspiring to be a physicist, and only as I was about to enter college admitted I could not escape from architecture. I thus returned to the School of Architecture in 1998, where I studied for 6 years.

I successfully diversified my activities during my academic career, having done research at the *Computer Graphics and Architecture Laboratory*, worked as an intern on final projects for Doctoral candidates and professors on the History of Architecture, worked on the projects for new buildings on campus as part of a program created by the School of Architecture, and participated in the group whose project received an Honorable Mention in the 4<sup>th</sup> *São Paulo International Architecture Biennial*. I later worked as an assistant at top photography studios both in Belo Horizonte and São Paulo and was a visiting student at the Illinois State University School of Visual Arts, in the United States.

As most classes at the School of Architecture take place in the morning, I was able to work in the afternoons, and for eight months I interned for the architect Álvaro Hardy, one of the most prominent architects in Minas Gerais. During this time I worked especially on computer models (the School of Architecture is very focused on the use of advanced computer technology in architecture) and soon after that I founded, along with Guilherme Canabrava, the *Estúdio Manual*, which produces computer models for architecture.

My affection for architectural themes that directly relate to social issues became evident when I had the opportunity to participate in the effort to build a plaza in an impoverished housing project on the outskirts of João Pessoa, the capital of Paraíba, one of the poorest states in Brazil. The enormous gratitude those humble people demonstrated further enhanced my desire to work on projects that concern them. The following year, 2002, I visited a settlement of the Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) in the southern state of Paraná, and was fascinated by their social and spatial organization. The idea which I developed into the *Escola de Bolso* (Pocket School), my graduation project, originated from this visit. The project has been nominated for two prizes – it is a finalist in *Opera Prima*, Brazil's most prestigious competition for final projects, and a finalist for the *Braskem* prize for projects innovative in their use of PVC. The results of these competitions have not yet been announced.

After graduating from the School of Architecture I joined a recently formed research group dedicated to the study of non-conventional housing and habitation technologies. Through *Estúdio Manual* I am developing, in conjunction with the Superintendence of Urban Cleaning of the City of Belo Horizonte, a study concerning the visual impact of the city's Solid Waste Treatment Center, in conflict with residents due to its constant expansion and its location in a residential area in the periphery of Belo Horizonte.