



View from Corcovado Favela

## elias Duarte, ingenious gardener and artist, Lives and tourist guide of Santa Marta favela in Rio de Janeiro

by Magali LAFFOND, Landscape THE NATURAL REGIONAL PARK VEXIN)



Elias ingenious

"There's this magic place names ... we say, one day I will go there." Nicolas Bouvier.

I dreamed of going to Rio de Janeiro; I was 21 for my first trip to "work camp" in Angra dos Reis, south of the State of Rio. With the NGO IDACO we were a group of students in agriculture-landscape, gone to work alongside the "Movimento dos sem terra Brasil", the "landless farmers in Brazil Movement". And now, as soon as we can, with Celine, we go back! It was also known there in 2007: two landscape "bound" to 6 months in Brazil. And every year we meet new people, as in 2017 with Elias that we found in 2018 to know a little more. It is through the travel guide "unusual and secret Rio" we have contacted to discover the "path of graffiti" of the favela Santa Marta. And in addition to meeting a tour guide living in the favela since childhood passer culture to "demystify" the scene, we met a man engaged in the life of the city, a "Global Gardener" ingenious artist.

**Favela Santa Marta dominated by Botafogo Beach**

They are part of the image of the city, such as Corcovado, Sugar Loaf and Copacabana. Wherever one goes, wherever one looks, the favelas are there, imprinting their mark on the landscape of the hills of Rio de Janeiro.

Elias prefer to say that he was born and lives in the "Santa Marta community" for 44 years, and explains that the word "favela" comes from the word "bean". Celine had the idea to do a watercolor: the favela of 5000 inhabitants surrounded by forests on the "Morro Santa Marta" the hill of Santa Marta. The use of the word was then widespread in the 1930s to become synonymous with "area of illegal occupation and illegal." Elias tells us that there are about 1,000 favelas in Rio with 2.9 million inhabitants.

For several years, some favelas of Rio de Janeiro have undergone profound changes. The pacification program - the police against drug traffickers and installation of Peacekeeping Police Units (UPP)

- was generally a success. Public investment in the newly pacified neighborhoods are designed to integrate with the rest of the city: public sanitation connected to the city network was installed in 2013 in Santa Marta, and a cable car in 2008. Note the 788 steps we lowered!

Elias explained that the favela remains an economic space and structured policy: there is the "do Morro" law "of the favela and drug traffickers," and the law of Police. A group of directors to which he belongs is to maintain a dialogue with these parties.



**Art urban, view breathtaking and Community**

**Development**

The hill is called **Dona Marta** and can be read on the site **Corumbà** the bottom of the favela, the Santa Marta community supports the samba school "Sao Clemente" during the parade of Samba schools carnaval. Et with the pacification program, the art is in the Rio favelas service open to tourism. In Santa Marta, houses the colors of the rainbow sky show the world that the favelas are not confined to poverty and despair. Ten official guides as Elias inhabitants of the favela, are their families. And we must add that the favela of Santa Marta was known worldwide by filming a video in 1996 of Michael Jackson with the percussion group Olodum. His statue and a beautiful mosaic decorating a small square at the top of the favela.





Garden Street and kiosk

### Itinerary of a young boy growing up in a favela riO VA and go after her dreams

At 14, Elias began working with his mother; he sells "dolce", sweet, in the "barraquinha" the same place as his current shared garden.

Located in the heart of the neighborhood, the only input / output of the favela, this "barraquinha" Elias and his mother turned to offer several functions: still selling drinks and sweets but also barter clothing, shoes, bags, dishes ... well everything is allowed and that will be useful to someone.

This small "kiosk" is now used for the garden "above ground" that he backed and we'll explain how below. We talk to him Incredible Edible but he does not know yet; it will look on the internet! On a panel, Elias wrote: "organica Horta na Praça: creating an organic garden on the place collaboratively. Transformation of public premises to grow good food for everyone's health. Help us continue this idea, share and participate! "

Elias says he began 4 years ago, a hanging garden on the terrace of his house, in gutters and recovered in bottles of Coca Cola; mainly for growing herbs and plants that care in making herbal teas. He then kitchen gardens with children in different schools in the community.

He then wanted to make a "standalone" garden and cheap to tempt others to install on the public space of the city. And this year, in the nursing home located at the foot of the favela, it transforms all possible nooks in vegetable garden with seniors. It produces its seeds and asked tourists who did visit the favela and its gardens to send him seeds from around the world! He said he wants to plant vegetable gardens, gardens foster "em todos os lugares posso as plantar": "in all places where it is possible to plant."



humidity sensor

### Le Jardin 2.0 developed by Elias

#### Autonomous irrigation system, ecological and economic with solar panel for power

Elias is proud to explain how he designed the irrigation system of the garden: a minimal cost (everything comes from recovery) and a standalone system with sensor and solenoid valve. While Celine draws to diagram the system, I note in Portuguese / French with Elias who looks the translation with google! And thank you to the smartphone! 2.0 The garden with solar electricity frees him time and the watering concern. He says that this system can be easily transferable throughout the world and the heart of the city !!

**explanations**

- The gutter collects the rainwater that is filtered and stored in a 100 liter tank. Ideally, to 8m would require a larger tank capacity.
- 12 Volt battery (recovery of a car battery) is housed to keep dry. It feeds a solenoid valve that opens and closes the water inlet.
- A sensor in the ground in plants measure humidity and sends information according to the degree of humidity so. If the plants need water, the red light is on and sends a signal to trigger the arrival of water in porous pipes installed in the ground surface and around plants.
- A black mesh sun protection (80% protection Sobrite: the sun's rays pass 20%). The green net is installed to protect animals outside.

He shows us what it cultivates now: alecrim (rosemary), Cove (kind of cabbage), Hortela (mint), kiabo, manjericão (basil), alface (salad), cebolima (onion), Chilean boldo ... and we, we brought her flower seeds, squash and herbs.



Vegetable gutter



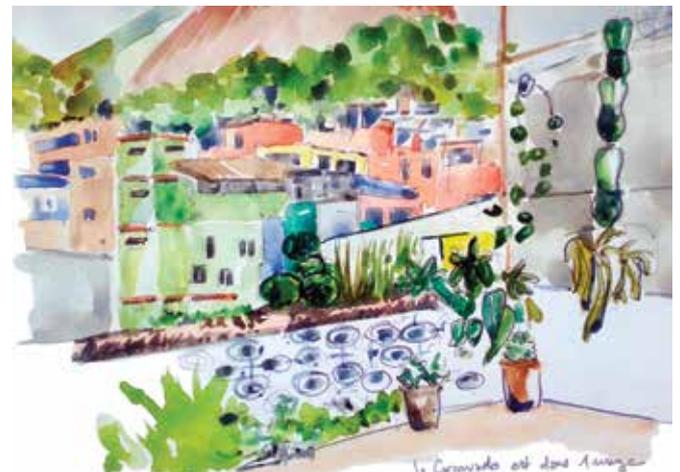
salads suspended

I confess that I remain with my nephew and his parents on vacation in Brazil for the workshop "caipirinha" (typical Brazilian cocktail made with cachaça) and talk to the parrot that does not stop to laugh, to believe that it also drinks! and we enjoy the delicious feijoada cooked by his mother and sister. Often in the favela, the whole family lives in one house with several floors. On the ground floor, her sister runs a salon "beleza" understand a hair salon and manicure.

Contact Elias Duarte from us! Guia de turismo [www.favelasantamartatour.com.br](http://www.favelasantamartatour.com.br) and go see the Facebook site: [www.facebook.com/hortanapracarj/](https://www.facebook.com/hortanapracarj/) [www.facebook.com/plantandoideiasrj/](https://www.facebook.com/plantandoideiasrj/)

**Day with Elias we enchants**

He reveals the community of life and all its activities to him the gardens he created and those he plans his educational work with children of the favela once a week (he received for his work the price of the city of Rio as "Fazedores do bem" "benefactor to people and the environment," and then his new passion, painting. He presents Jeanne, his professor and proposes an afternoon drawing. It great, Celine also painted and Benjamin accompanied us; his project is, 10 years traveling the world by bicycle, working and selling his paintings.



View from the terrace of Elias - Celine drawings Desmoulière