

## SUMMARY

Material and Immaterial Heritage in Brazil. Transition of two traditional cultural elements.

As example from Material Heritage (MT) is chosen for the 'Casas de taipa', humble mud-houses with their roots in Africa. For the Immaterial Heritage (IMH) we have chosen the Capoeira, a dance-sport nowadays very popular, but also with its roots in Africa

Mud-houses can be made from adobe, sundried clay bricks, or from a construction of stakes with clay-balls in between. In spite of the material clay, the name 'mud-house' for that *casas de taipa* as they are called in Brazil, is more common. The construction with stakes and clay is called *pica-pau*.

On the paintings of landscapes and rural villages of Frans Post (1612-1680) we meet many of those neat little dwellings, surrounded by local plants and fruit-trees. It is remarkable how little the shape and form of these houses have changed over the centuries. The same size, the same roof inclination, of which we distinguish four types. The sharper the inclination, the larger the roof. The same difference we see in 'official' architecture between the North-European and Mediterranean houses. Even the atmosphere on the paintings and villages of nowadays Brazilian interior seem, *mutatis mutandis*, the same. These nice looking houses, but primitive to modern standards, have to disappear because of an outbreak in 2003 from the Disease of Chagas, caused by a bug of the *Triatoma* family. The insect makes its nests in the crackly clay walls of the houses. A Federal Prevent Program offered the owners ordinary bricks to rebuild their houses. To save the knowledge and memory of these centuries old construction, reminiscent of the first time black slaves were transported from their home continent, MoWIC developed a project on behalf of the foundation of a Open Air Museum. Only four prototypes, as found on the Frans Post paintings will do to educate the youngsters and preserve the memory of the *casas de taipa* of their parents and grandparents. Some funds are available already but we look out for fellow enthusiastic sponsors!

In Sinthian, Senegal, a few years ago an Art and Medical Center, named 'Thread' has been founded by the North-American Joe and Anni Albers Foundation. Out of adobe a huge couple of buildings arose, covered with small stakes, harmoniously in the tropical landscape. The architect, Mrs. Toshiko Mori got the Aga Kahn Award for it, last year. Architect Martin Rauch from Schlins, Austria, builds farmhouses in a modernized *pau a pique*.

Capoeira is a sportive fighting-dance. It is developed in several types. The supposed to be most authentic form, Capoeira de roda, in 2014 has been implemented in the List of Safeguarding Immaterial Heritage of Mankind. As a combination of several African fighting-dances, the Brazilian slaves practiced Capoeira as a method to maintain strong and staying aware of their African identity. To fool their masters, where fighting was forbidden, they developed a system from no-touch movements and the players got nicknames. The relation with the slaves' own religions and ceremonies was very close. Candomblé and Capoeira was one package. The Fransican priests allowed the slaves to introduce their gods and goddesses into the Roman-Catholic liturgy. So, the *Orixas* took the habit and attributes of the Saints they looked alike. This syncretism is wide spread over Brazil, still. There are many variations, like Xangó, Macumba, Umbanda, and Candomblé itself has some different rituals, too.

Capoeira developed after the Abolition in two main styles. The so called traditional style, Capoeira Angola or C. de roda is slower and is connected to religious prescriptions with many deceiving movements. The other style, Capoeira Regional, became popular worldwide. It integrated aggressive and rapid elements, however without touching the other, as Batuque from Africa and Cabo Verde, and Maculélé, original from the sugar fields from Santo Amaro, Bahia.

The transition of these typical traditional Afro-Brazilian examples of Cultural Heritage will be clear. The modern mud-house architecture in Sinthian and Schlins, lifted the ancient materials in an evoking form to the highest level of today. The Open Air Museum for Casas de taipa alienate them from their original function to give them a new one. Preserving the pau a pique construction from oblivion and bringing some elements from the paintings of Frans Post alive.

The Capoeira is stripped of the original secrets and fully integrated in modern society, worldwide. There are many thousands Capoeira schools and Mestres. The style of Capoeira de roda is even regarded as most valuable Heritage of Mankind by UNESCO in 2014. And so is the yard where it is practiced every Saturday, the Cais do Valongo in Rio de Janeiro.

Although slavery is horrible, black slaves have brought the world some fantastic things we all can only feel grateful for.

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