

Kelly Chan - Learning From Lagos: Contemporary Architects Harvest the Slums for Design Inspiration

artinfo.com - June 2012 - A few days ago, architecture and design magazine [eVolo](#) published a conceptual proposal called “Favela Cloud,” a formal scheme to redevelop the Brazilian slums of Santa Marta. Renderings for the master thesis project by **Aalborg University** graduate students **Johan Kure**, **Thiru Manickam**, and **Kemo Usto** depict a massive, porous steel “cloud” made from interconnected polyhedral modules. The amorphous form is raised upon a forest of intersecting poles and made accessible by lift or by whimsically off-kilter spiral staircases. Perched high above the cinderblock shanties of Santa Marta and basking in the midday sun, “Favela Cloud” is meant to proclaim the dawn of a new age, one in which the long-neglected urban poor are both entitled to and empowered by progressive architecture.

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