

Favelas in Pre-Olympic Rio de Janeiro: Renewal or Removal?

The elusive social legacy of Rio 2016

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Promises, promises

Beyond fostering sports, building infrastructure for the games, and programs to take on environmental concerns, Rio de Janeiro's Olympic Games were to leave a lasting social legacy:

- Transportation
- Security (UPP)
- Social inclusion
- urban upgrades

Morar Carioca

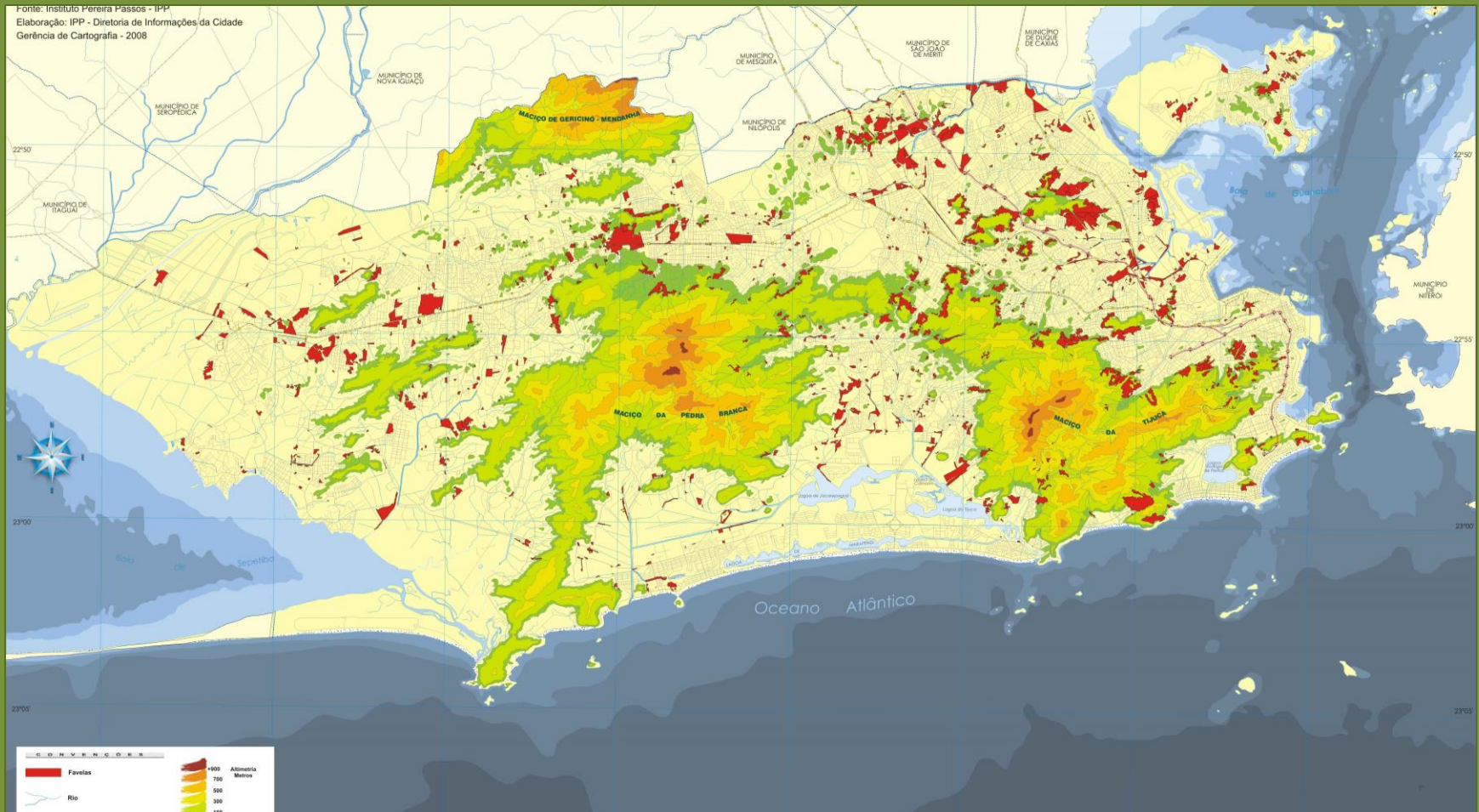


One of the principal manifestations of this was a favela urbanization program called Morar Carioca.



It's goal: **to urbanize all of Rio's favelas by 2020.**

Favelas in Rio, 2008. 25% of population





Mayor **Eduardo Paes**, TED Talk 2012:

“The city of the future has to be socially integrated.”

“Favelas can be the solution, not the problem.”

O Bota-Abaixo: Favela Removal 1960s-1970s



Political capital gained, program eliminated.

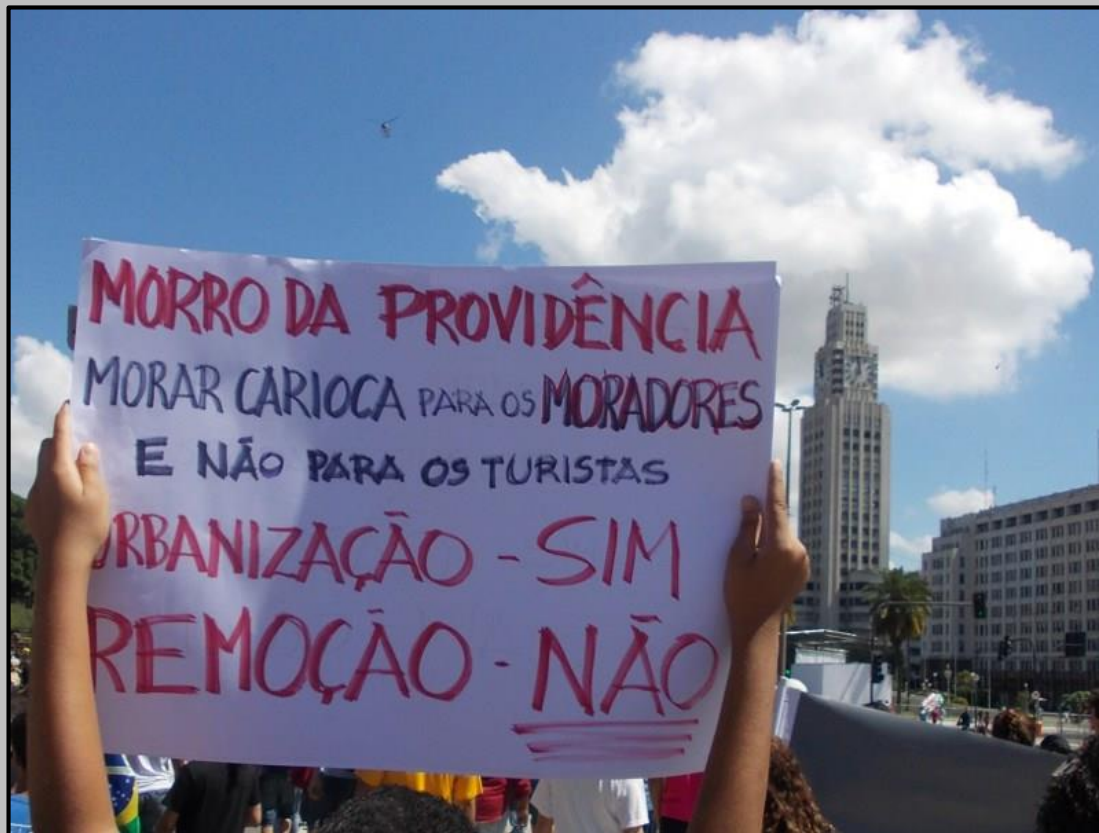
- Of the 40 architectural firms contracted, only a handful had their contracts honored.
- Project largely abandoned, yet the few, pre-existing cases of interventions still figure heavily in Olympic propaganda

Showcase examples

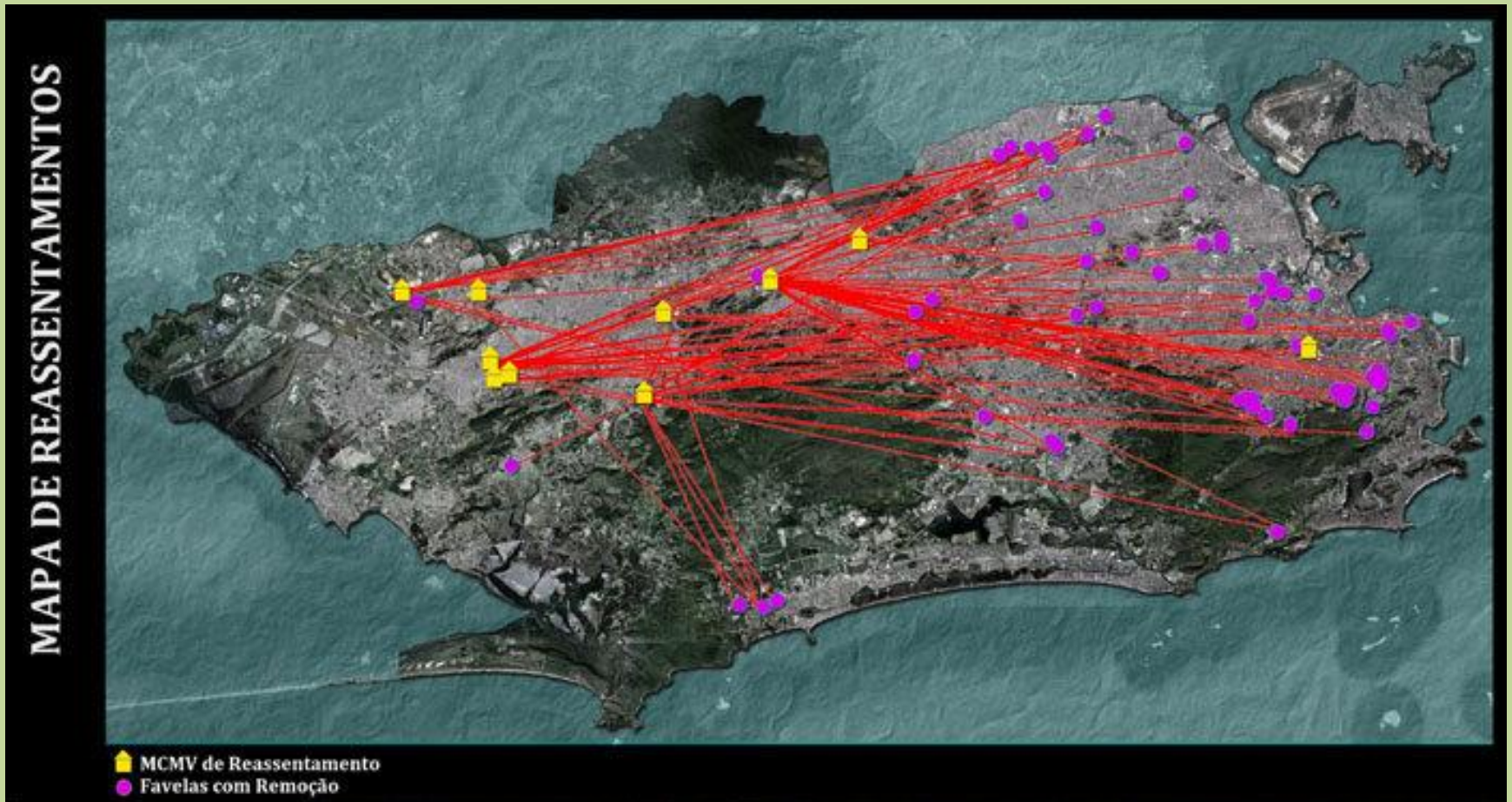


January 7, 2010

- “The city government will remove 119 favelas before 2012.” – Paes, in O Globo



From center to periphery



Reaction to city's removal plan





Threats and Intimidation



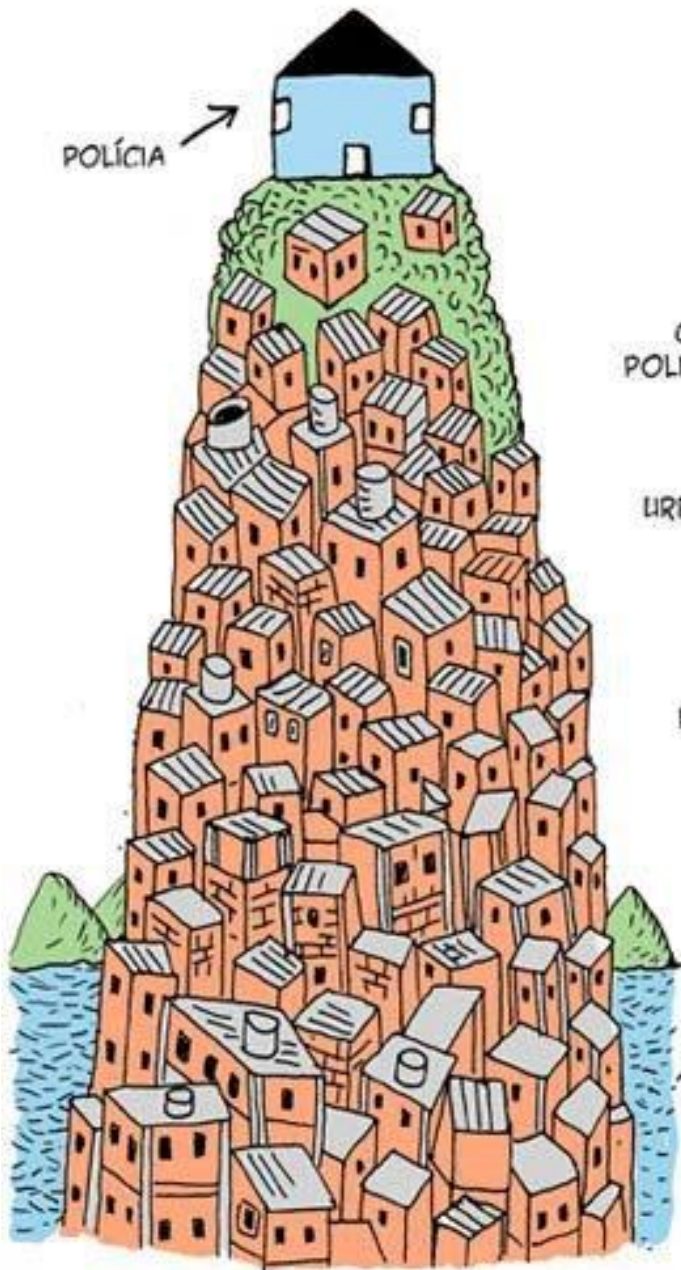
Forced Removals



Conclusions

- By 2015, more than 19,000 families had lost their home.
- Morar Carioca was abandoned once it was wrung of political capital.
- Olympics served as a tool for capital accumulation, land seizure and real estate speculation.

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