The Importance of a Garden and a Collection of Trees

The Marou Gardens are born from the knowledge of the people of Marou of their land and their natural landscape. The gardens surround the LAGI House of Energy and include spaces to admire the landscape, and to learn about the culture, plants and trees of the island. The Marou Gardens are crafted to provide shade and enjoyment for locals and visitors alike; a community project that produces an artistic statement of color and energy.

 A biodynamic plant management landscaping and agricultural system. Nutrients and water are continuously cycled through the system to promote plant growth, and to improve the quality of the earth.

• A large section of the garden is dedicated for a collection of native plants. These species are collected, planted and germinated with the instruction of the people of Marou. Native plants represent the biodiversity of the island, attract birds and other wildlife, and adapt perfectly to the landscape of the island.

• A second section of the garden is composed of flowering or fruit species of interest for the community. These plants are carefully picked because they are considered valuable by the people of Marou. Perhaps some oranges or limes would be a great ingredient for local dishes? Are there desirable plants with a beautiful scent? Local green thumbs can also add plants from their gardens.

 A third section of the garden has useful species for building like bamboo or fast growing soft-woods. These plants receive treated water from the septic system of the LAGI House of Energy, and greywater from the sinks, showers and wash stations.

• Native trees compose an important element of the Marou Gardens. A tree nursery is useful to sprout native species. Native trees are used to add shade to water features, and root support to prevent erosion from runoff.

• Every effort will be made to protect the trees that are already growing in the site. Trees are a long-time investment in time and effort, and large specimens are a valuable asset.

• Trees are placed to interact with the terrain features made during the land shaping process that creates the water features, the rest areas, and the pathways





• A small flock of sheep of about 15 to 20 animals helps to feed nutrients into the biodynamic cycle of the garden. Cut-grass or pasture is turned into manure, a valuable ertilizer for the garden, and collected daily from the space where the flock is enclosed at night. This decreases the dependence on imported fertilizers to mprove the quality of the earth. Villac compost and plant clippings can also b added to the mix as a source of nutrients

for the soil.

 Sheep are resilient and noble animals that can be herded with temporary fences in areas where grass grows naturally. Cut-grass from areas with continuous nowing or clearing becomes a valuable asset when fed to the animals. The flock produces a few animals during the year that can be cooked for a community event or gathering. Sheep meat is also a great source of high-quality protein.

• The pumps that water the Marou Gardens are powered with excess energy during the peak hours of production of the solar energy system.

• The community garden offers a great opportunity for learning and participating. Direct interaction with the living processes of the garden adds a unique experiential quality to the land art.

























Community Participation from Start to Finish

The involvement of the people of Marou is essential for every stage of the design process. The LAGI House of Energy and Marou Gardens are designed to provide valuable solutions to improve the quality of life for people in the village.

Marou is located in a natural paradise. The ocean, the tropical vegetation, and the rugged landscape are its main attractions. The people of Marou have been wise to preserve this natural location in such excellent

conditions. Their guidance will be essential to preserve the of farmers, the Marou Gardens are a place to share and biocultural assets of their community. Placement of paths learn. or water features, for example, has to involve community participation.

The design and creation of the Marou Gardens also need the input and knowledge of the community. What are the plants that are cherished by the community, and will be included in the garden? What plants would be useful to have? What is the best place to plant them? In a land

Other questions arise with the construction of the LAGI House of Energy. What kind of space does the community parts of the project like the native tree collection. want to develop inside each of the rooms? What are the community events or celebrations that could find a venue All of the elements and materials that have been included in the Main Hall of the LAGI House of Energy? In the construction of the LAGI House of Energy and

The construction of the LAGI House of Energy and Marou competitive prices. To provide quality services for the

Gardens will need workers and people that can be trained lowest cost of maintenance. to operate, repair and provide maintenance for the different systems that compose the project. Long-term community involvement is a necessity for slow-growing

The LAGI House of Energy

This multifunctional construction is a centerpiece The space can hold 5 large 1.5 m. wide floor asset for the Village of Marou. A high quality model freezers, a table and sink for processing food, and additional storage space. The meetings or celebrations. The creativity of the community freezer is also powered by energy produced during peak production times of the

> • A seawater desalination system is housed in a 4 m. X 4 m. room to provide bottled drinking water for the people of Marou during the panels during peak hours. A small desalination system can produce 1000 liters of drinking water per day; that is the equivalent of fifty 20 liter bottles. The room houses the desalination system, a washing station, shelves for water bottles, and additional storage space.

• The "Garden View Meeting Room" is 8 m. X 4 m. with a beautiful view of the landscaped ventilation from the large openings. Ceiling gardens. This air conditioned space can serve as after construction. It is a valuable investment a classroom, or as an area for the elderly to cool- in a permanent structure, with a low cost of off in extremely hot days. It could be furnished maintenance, that can save people's lives in an for medical check-ups, to house a community ry, or with computer stations to have a

public connection to the internet.

• The corner of the construction that is protected from the elements by the steel roof extension has a space allocated for a community mural. The 3 m. high and 8 m. wide of horizontal space is prepared as a canvas to make a mural in collaboration with the artists of Marou, that can serve as a statement, or message of their liking. The LAGI House of Energy is designed to most difficult droughts. This system works with be a space that promotes art and culture. Music, excess energy produced by the photovoltaic singing, painting or crafts are ideal activities for the community building

> • The concrete construction of the LAGI House energy and its steel doors make it a high quality storm shelter for the whole Village of Marou. Climate change on Earth is bringin stronger and more dangerous storms every year. The construction is designed to be a storm shelter that will remain usable for many decades emergency.

Marou Gardens are readily available in the market at

people of Marou, the design has been adjusted to obtain the maximum usage over a long period of time, with the

The LAGI House of Energy and Marou Gardens are designed to be expandable in the future as further needs surge in the community. Additional panels can be added to improve energy output, the community garden can be expanded to include new collections of plants, and the water harvesting features can be increased or expanded. The whole project is a living Land Art installation of endless possibilities for the people of Marou.