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## Crab, Tender, Casa Galpón, Spiders

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This essay explores the intimate relationship between drawing, daily life, and the natural environment, reflecting on a series of sketches and watercolors that capture moments of personal experience. From the tidal shifts of Uruguay's Rocha Lagoon, where stranded crabs were rescued and later studied through drawing, to the confinement of pandemic lockdowns in Argentina, where everyday objects like a drying rack became subjects of artistic observation—

each image tells a story of connection and presence. The act of drawing extends to architectural explorations, as seen in the hand-drawn plans of "Casa Galpón," and to scientific curiosity, represented by magnified sketches of spiders found in a garden. Through these works, the essay highlights how drawing serves as both a method of understanding and a form of engagement with the world, blending personal history with artistic practice.

Image 1: Crab / watercolor on handmade paper

Watercolor of a Siri Crab from the Rocha Lagoon in Uruguay. Rocha Lagoon is linked to the sea, and the area in-between is flooded with fresh-water and sometimes with seawater. That creates an area with mixed fauna: different kinds of crabs, shrimp, etc. Many crabs get stranded in that in-between area when the lagoon water level goes down. When I went to the lagoon with my daughter Renata we rescued 17 stranded crabs. There were many dead ones. We took some of them to draw later.



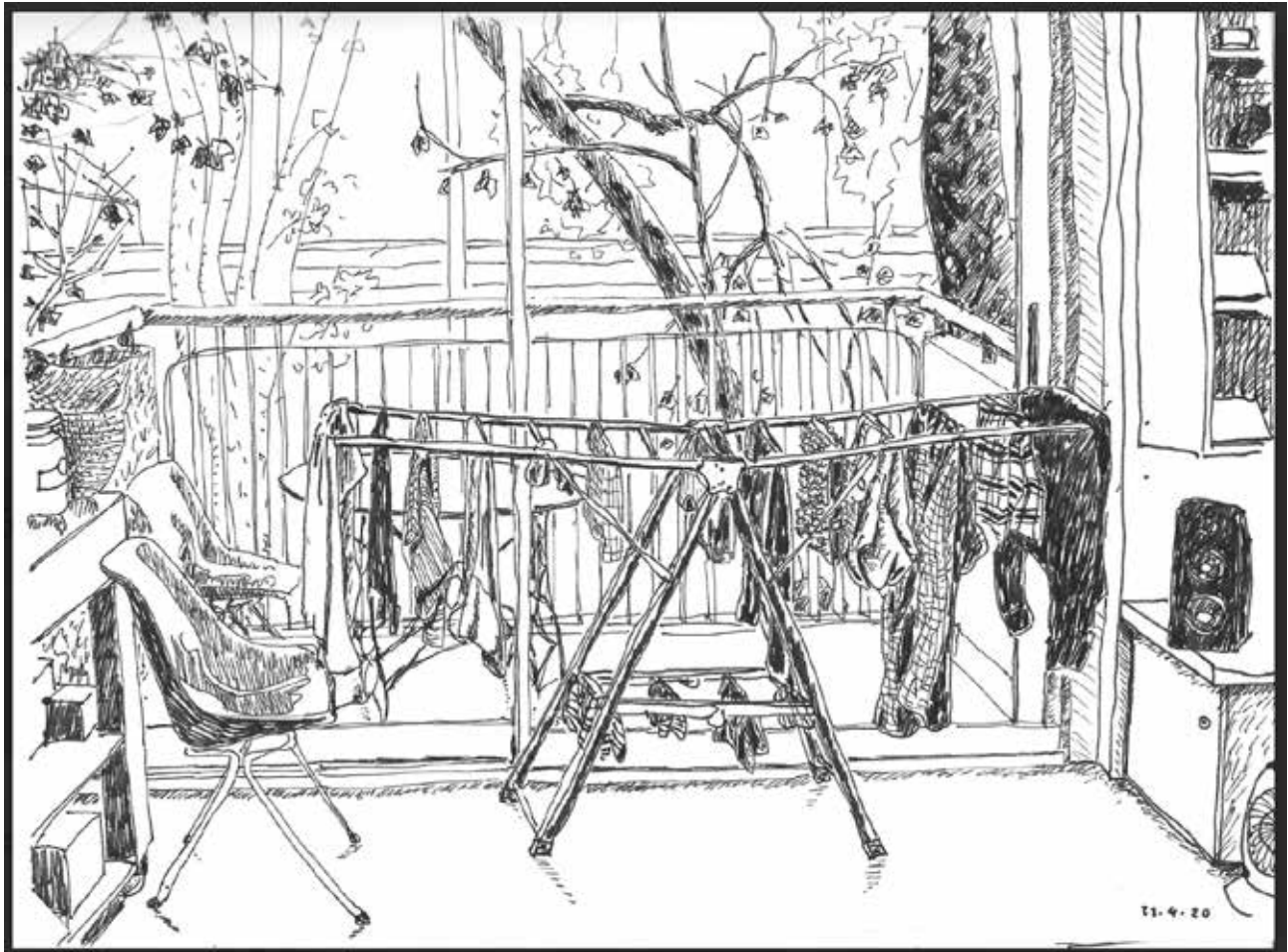


Image 2: Tender / pen on 250g smooth sheet block

During the pandemic, the lock down in Argentina was extreme. We were at home with heavy restrictions to go out. I spent a lot of time drawing everyday life moments: my daughters playing, the view from the balcony, the dishes, washed clothes drying, a regular landscape in our small apartment.

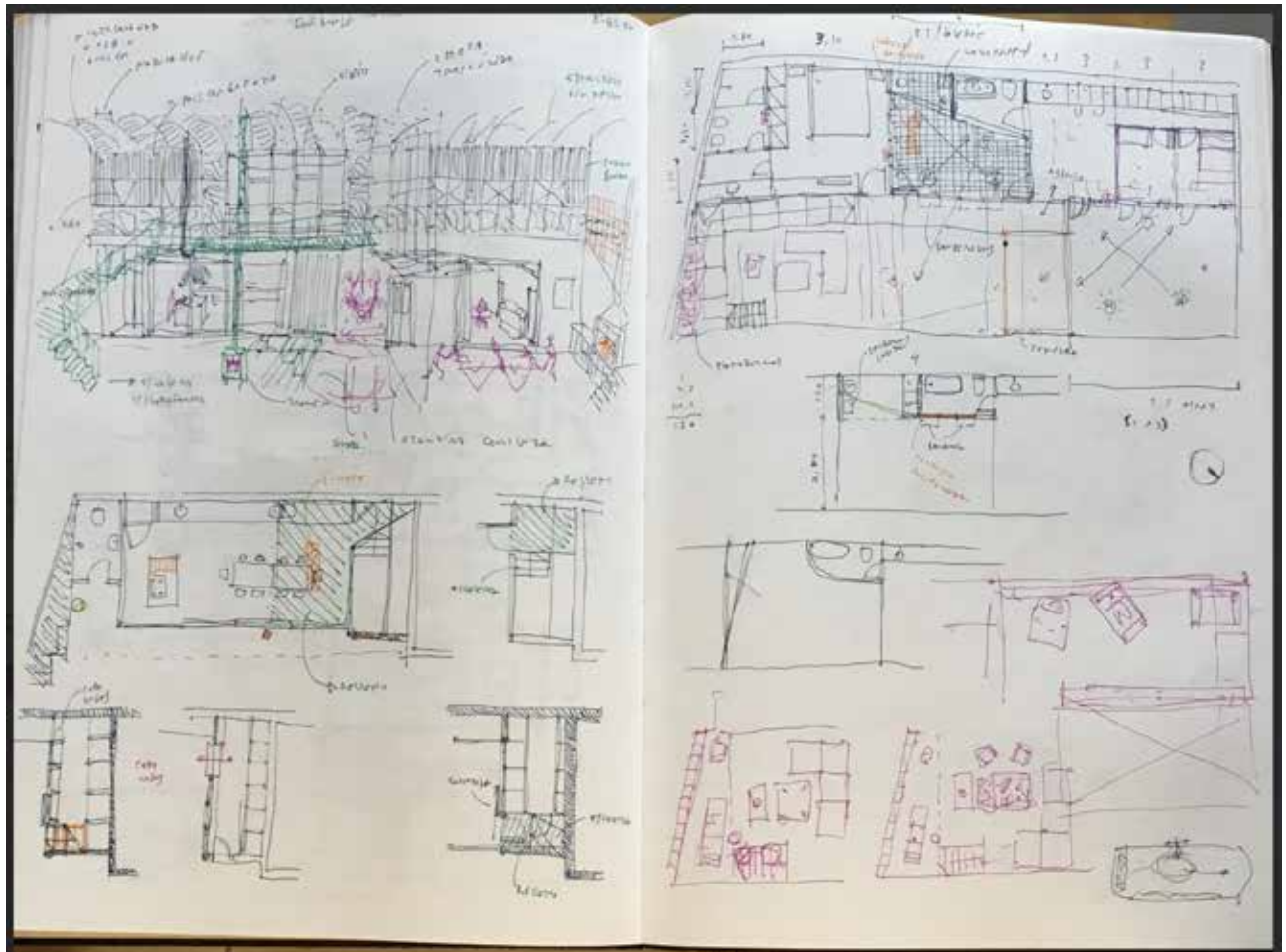


Image 3: Casa Galpón / Ballpoint pen in an Architecture drawing notebook

I stopped drawing on the computer, in CAD, more than 15 years ago. Of course there's people in the office still doing CAD, renders, etc. but I went back to croquis and hand drawing. So the first drafts and ideas are always the result of direct brain-hand communication. Sometimes as plans, sometimes perspectives and also details. This is a perspective section and plans of the "Casa Galpón" (shed house), the place where I live now.

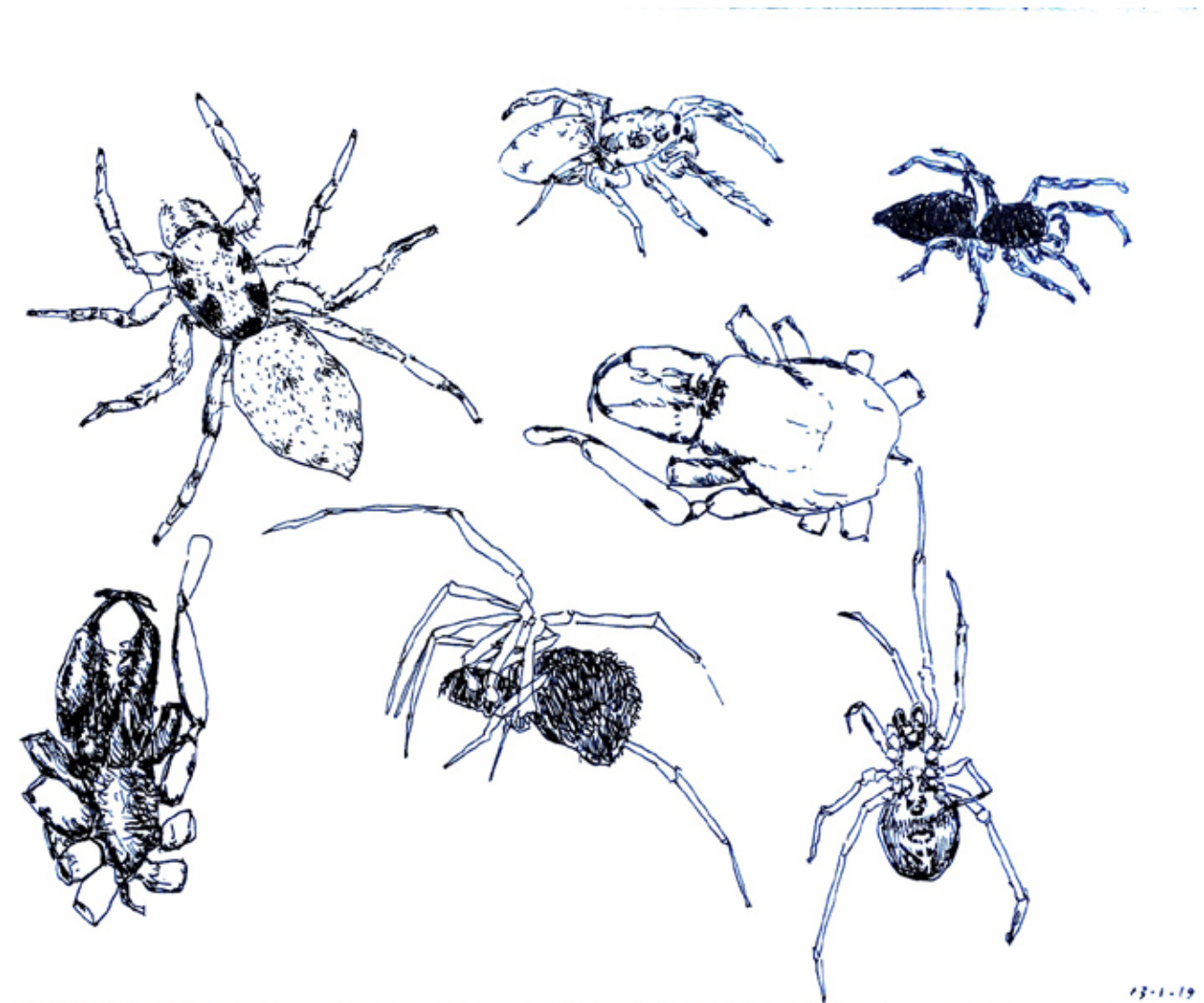


Image 4: Spiders / Pen on 250g smooth sheet block

All these spiders were found in the garden of our family home 40km outside of Buenos Aires city. I have an electronic magnifying glass that I use with my daughters to examine bugs, objects, plants in detail and learn from observation. Most of my drawings are related to daily life around me, and the nature we have around is no different than the urban environment as a source of inspiration or “muse” for my attention. Science was always one of my loves (along with drawing and table tennis). A couple of the spiders we found were dead, but the others were alive, and were released after being photographed.



Image 5: Flight / ballpoint pen in a travel notebook

Traveling alone in a plane. People sleeping. A trip to the south of Argentina, to stay with a friend who was waiting for me there. When I do a long trip I mostly read and watch movies. But I also like to draw on the move, in cars, buses and planes. People are mostly quiet and still, and it is easier to do portraits of them.



Image 6: CD music selection during pandemic / Pen on 250g smooth sheet block

I still have a big CD collection. During the pandemic I used to have a favorite playlist, and as I was drawing everyday moments, I drew my playlist from that time. This one is from just one month into the lockdown. Titas, Gilberto Gil, Nick Cave, Franck Black, Amadou et Marianne; Sumo, Marisa Monte.



Image 7: Meat / Watercolor on 250g smooth sheet block

In our countryside house (40km away from Buenos Aires) where we used to go in the summer, I would often barbecue. I painted these meat pieces while they were thawing in the sun.

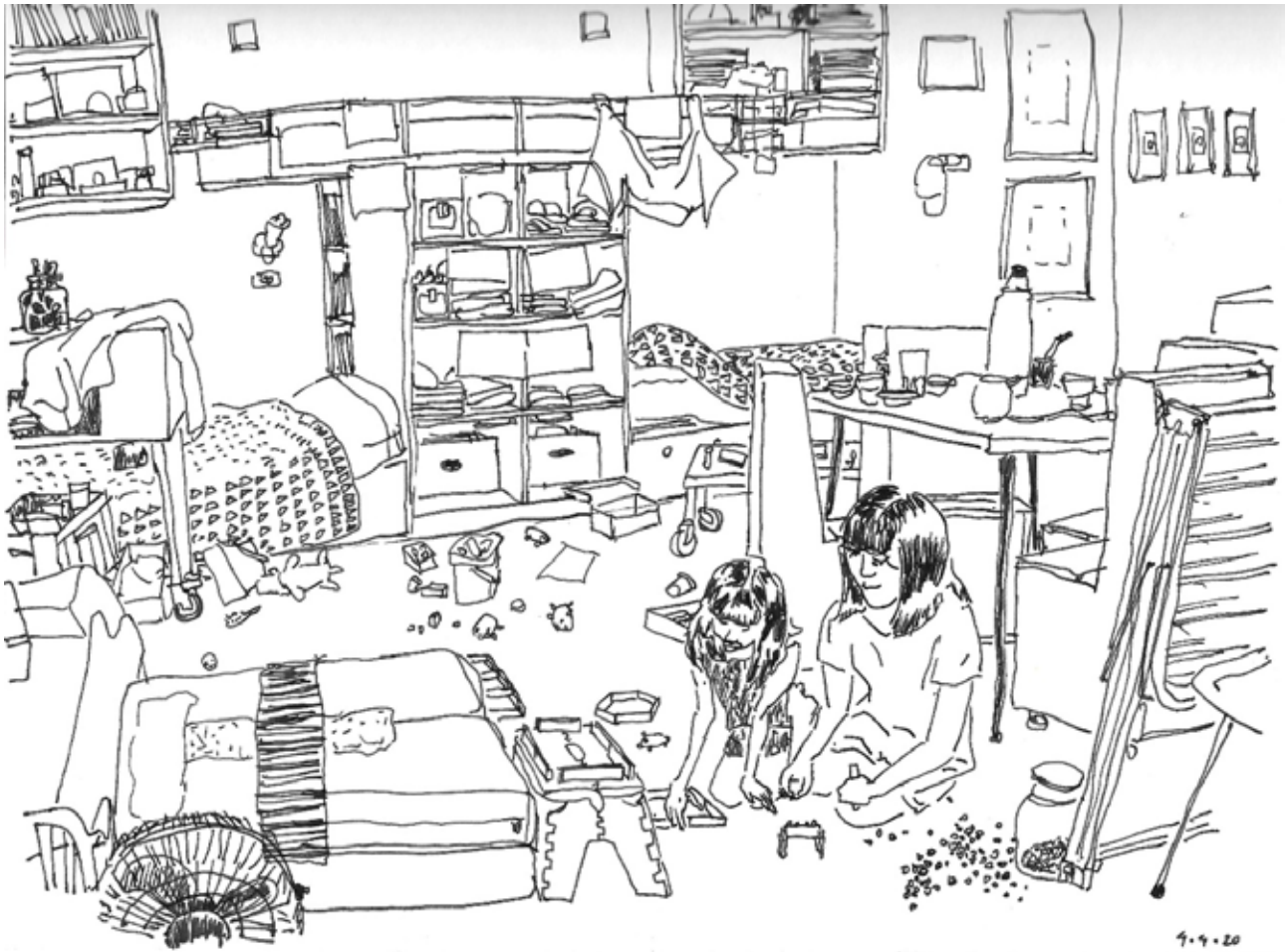


Image 8: Girls playing / Pen on 250g smooth sheet block

I like to draw scenes with many objects. My daughters making a mess while playing gave me a good scene to draw. This was 15 days into lock down, in our tiny apartment where the girls's room was also the kitchen, the dining and the living room; every square centimeter was colonized.

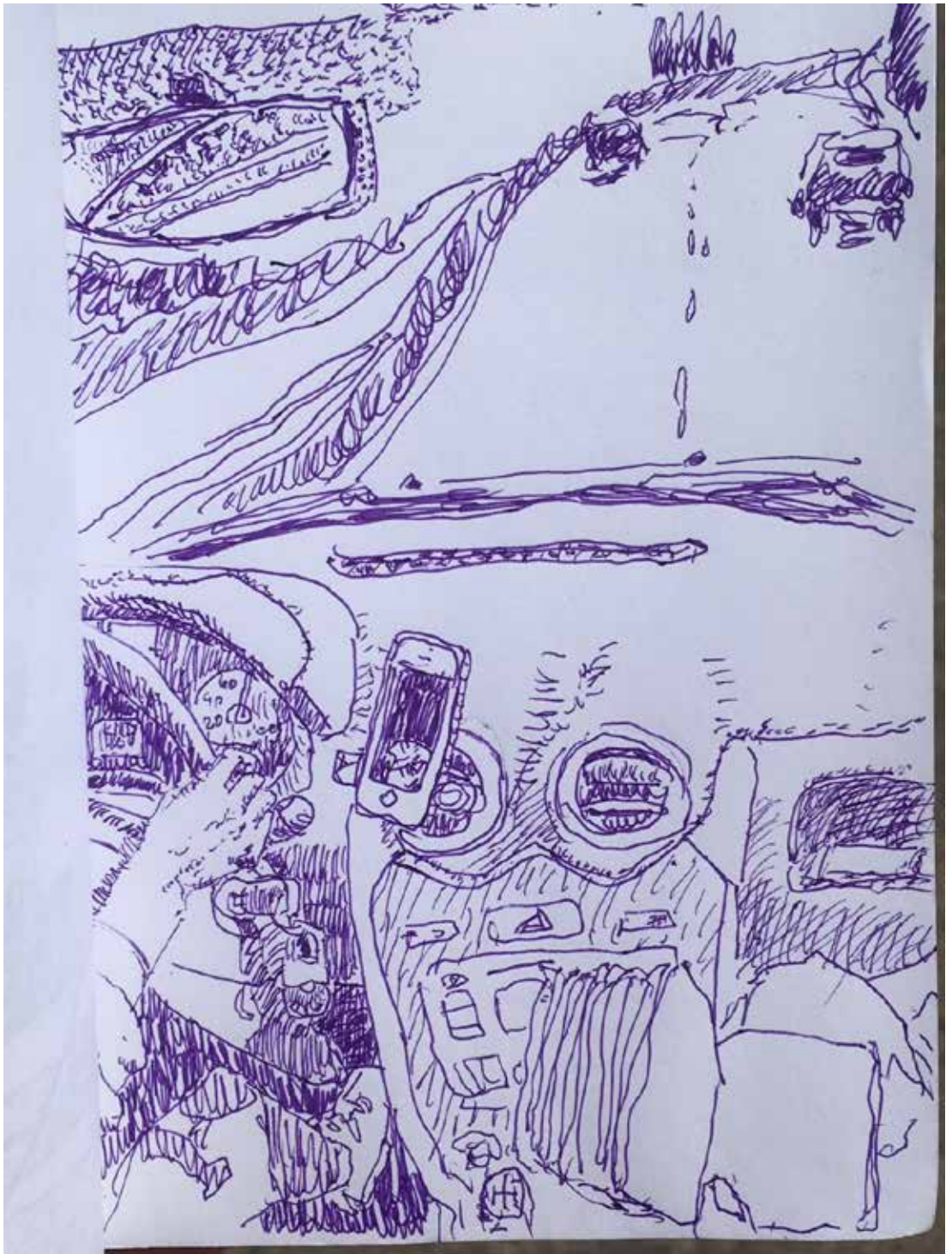


Image 9: Bumping / ballpoint pen in travel notebook

Another drawing on the move, as copilot on a trip to Uruguay with my partner. The road moves fast, the car bumps, and the hand has to manage all the changes happening. First I drew the fixed parts, like the cockpit of the car, then I chose a view of the road and tried to get a good view of the landscape. Lastly, I drew the car.



Image 10: Stairs Casa Galpón / Ballpoint pen & color pencil in an architecture drawing notebook

When I acquired the shed where we made our house, I did some sketches to imagine the use of space. This one resulted very closely to what the real design became. Actually the biggest difference was the colors. When I use colors on the *croquis*, the main intention is to create difference, contrast, to put something forward, and not to define the real color of a space/object.



Image 11: Bar in Berlin / ballpoint pen in a travel notebook

The sharp contrast and shadows cast by the backlight of the bottle's shelf was a good scene to draw in a very dark bar where I couldn't see the paper very well.



Image 12: My father / color pencil in a pencil portraits notebook

One of the notebooks I have is only for live pencil portraits. This one is of my father, while he was working on some ceramic pieces. Most of the time, when I work in pencil, I work on trying to focus on the shape, on the contrasts and shadows, making more stains than traces. I try not to make lines.



Image 13: Loli / pencil in a pencil portraits notebook

A few lines, to create special contrast, but mostly focusing on what's dark and light to define the traits and expression of the face.



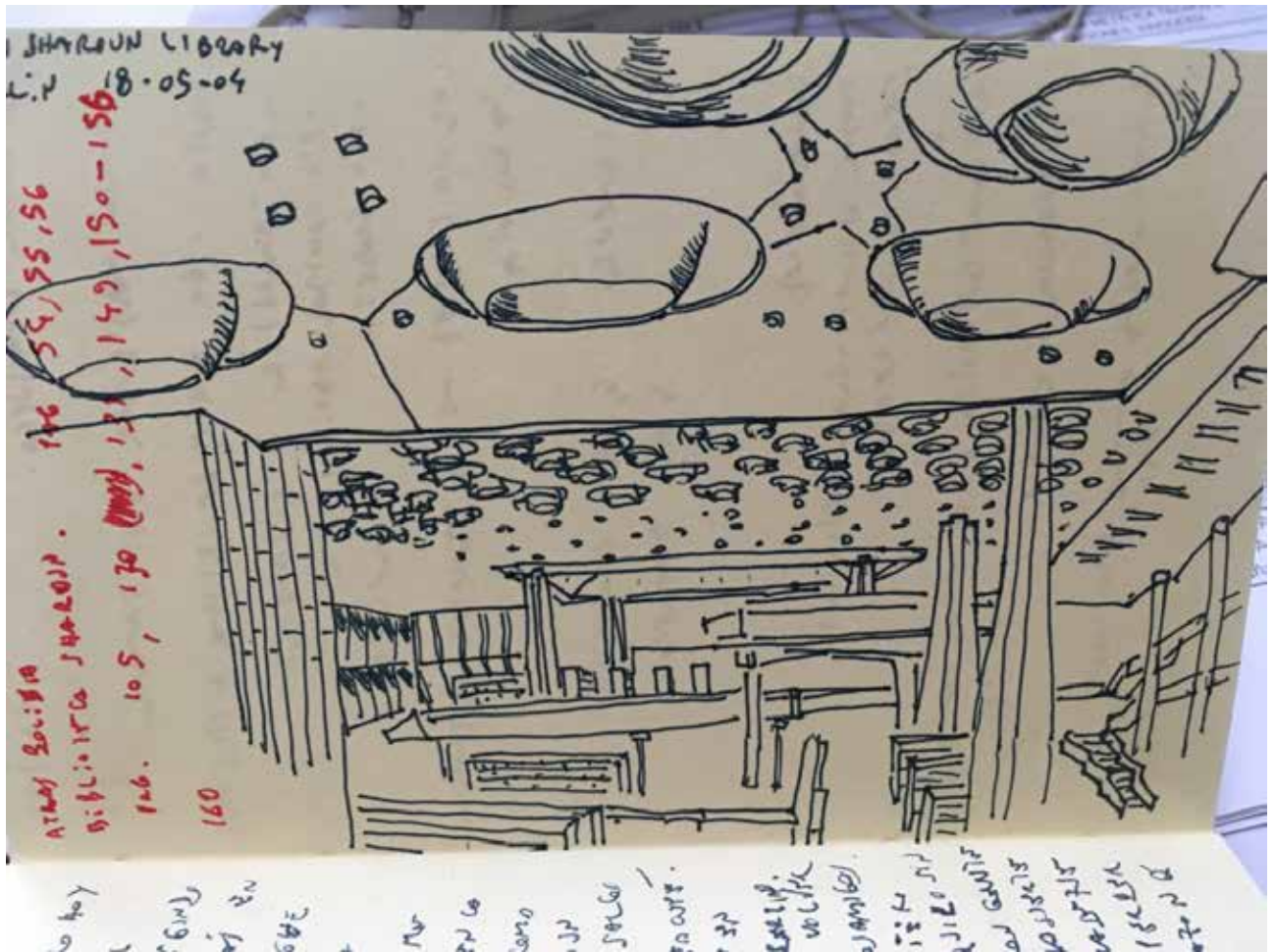


Image 14: Tree / ballpoint pen in a travel notebook  
 Drawing made in Santa Isabel, Uruguay, on a rainy day (I had to stop 2 times so that water didn't drip in the notebook). I was on holiday and had time to make more detailed work.

Image 15: Hans Scharoun library / ballpoint pen / notebook  
 Sometimes I don't have my "travel notebook" with me, as I hadn't intended to draw, but ended up in a situation where I wanted to draw something interesting, and used my "regular" notebook, where there is a mix of personal notes, working notes, design drawings, portraits and observation drawings.



Image 16: Zrigueya / Opossum / Ballpoint pen & color pencil in an architecture drawing notebook

For the new playground in the San Nicolás Ecopark, we designed play areas inspired by local fauna. First I drew the animal as I saw it. Then, I made a shape that could be transformed in simple volumes. I tried to capture animals in action, in this case, showing how they carry their pups.

