

Assignment 2:
Bohio Interpretation

A poem at the opening of the book "When I was Puerto Rican" by Esperalda Santiago

*"El bohio e la loma,
bajo sus alas de paja,
siente el frescor mañarero
y abre sus ojos al alba.*

Under the palm frond wings the little house on the hill senses the freshness of morning and opens its eyes to the dawn.

*Vuela el pájaro del nido.
Brinca el gallo de la rama,*

A bird flies from its nest. The rooster jumps from his branch.

*A los becerros, aislados
de las teta de las vaca
les corre por el hocico
leche de la madurgada,*

From the nostrils of calves separated from the cows runs the milk of dawn.

*Las mariposas pululan
--- rubí, zafir, oro, plata...---:
flores, huérfanas que rondan
buscando a las madres ramas...*

Butterflies swarm
--- ruby, sapphire, gold, silver---
orphan flowers in search of the mother branch.

From "Claroscuro"
by Luis Lloréns Torres"

1. Do the first two readings: "Ancient Borinquen" and "Architectural Heritage."
2. Take another look at the images shared during the studio. You may see them at:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/professor_p/sets/72157625910093106/
3. Listen to this ballad, which is Cuban son, not Puerto Rican plena, but the mood is similar. The refrain of the weary pushcart vendor is "When will I arrive? When will I arrive at my bohio?"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgyM0xK60GA>
4. Based on these materials and others you may find independently, do a piece of plastic art (drawing, painting, collage, sculpture that studies themes of weaving present in the tectonics and material of the Bohio. Write a short text to accompany the study.

We're especially interested in how this ancient, and persistent, vernacular has been able to use different wall materials to supplement the palm-thatched roof. In doing your interpretation, you may want to think of more contemporary materials for the cladding - and the framing. You may also want to consider post-consumer waste materials.